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 St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



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[www.stmarkumcmcallen.org](http://www.stmarkumcmcallen.org)

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 St. Mark UMC  
 (McAllen, TX)

## Regular Church Schedule

Sunday:	Sunday School	09:30 am
	Worship Service	10:45 am
	Live Stream (via Facebook)	10:45 am
Wednesday:	Prayer Time	11:30 am
	Youth & Young Adult Bible Study	06:30 pm
	Faith Sharing Group	06:30 pm

### ATTENDANCE AVERAGE

Month:	<b>April '24</b>
Sunday School:	<b>10</b>
Worship Service:	<b>64</b>
Online Service:	<b>7</b>
Bible Studies:	<b>22</b>

### Communion Rail

**Offering**  
 Month: **April '24**  
**Total = \$75.00**  
**Native American Ministries UMC**

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Month -	<b>March 2024</b>
Income:	<b>\$21,415.64</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$16,969.45</b>
<hr/>	
Year to Date -	<b>Jan. - Mar. 2024</b>
Income:	<b>\$68,728.62</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$72,082.50</b>

# St. Mark Events

## May 2024



*Her children arise  
 and call her  
 blessed!*

**Proverbs 31:28 (NIV)**



**Pastor**  
**Rev. Joe Tognetti**  
**210.380.4821**

301 W Pecan Blvd  
 McAllen, TX 78501

Church Office (956) 682-1481  
 Office Hours  
 Monday to Friday  
 8am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm

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# Events this Month!

# May 2024

**Saturday  
May 18th  
11 a.m.**

**Items Needed**  
Beans  
Rice  
Cereal  
Tomato Sauce  
Canned Fruit  
Canned Veggies

**St. Mark FOOD PANTRY**  
MINISTRY

**Rio Texas  
United Methodist Church  
2024 Annual Conference**

Wednesday, June 5th, 2024 @ 1pm to  
Saturday, June 8th, 2024 @ 12pm

Location is at American Bank Center  
1901 N. Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Registration is open from April 15th to May 27th online  
at [riotexas.org/ac2024](http://riotexas.org/ac2024)

If you are interested in attending please contact the church office.  
Agenda info and more can be found at [riotexas.org](http://riotexas.org)

**Prayer Time**

ALL are Welcome!

Pastor Joe will be leading a brief prayer service in the Narthex. Prayer Time is every Wednesday at 11:30am.

**Young Adult Bible Study**

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Duplex Room (East Side of building)

*Happy Mother's Day*  
to all our St. Mark UMC Moms!

**Cinco De Mayo**  
Sunday, May 5th



**Campus Ministry Finals Week**

Finals at UTRGV May 2nd - May 10th

St. Mark UMC will like to donate a basket full of snacks for the college students at UTRGV. There will be a basket in the Narthex for anyone who would like to give a donation.

St. Mark UMC will also be providing breakfast and lunch for them on May 7th



**Staff Meeting**

Staff meeting with Pastor Joe 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month following Prayer Time in Narthex.

**One Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 7th at 7pm

**EL VALLE DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Saturday, May 11th 2024 11:30am at St. Mark UMC

Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez - will be providing important information regarding our upcoming Annual Conference.

Priscilla Patterson - will be providing us a report about all that has transpired at General Conference.

**Faith Sharing Group**

Join us in the Narthex at 6:30pm Wednesday night for a light meal followed by faith sharing time at 7pm.

**Armed Forces Day!**  
May 18th



*Holy communion*

Every Sunday



**Women of Courage Lunch**

will meet after Worship service the 2nd Sunday of each Month

for more information please call the church office at 956-682-1481



**SENIOR SOCIAL**

2nd & 4th Thursday every month we will get together at 5:30pm at a place decided ahead of time.

If you are interested, there is a signup sheet in Narthex or call the church office.

**St. Mark UMC Sunday School**

Sunday School groups meet at 9:30am to 10:30am. We have Sunday School for children, youth, young adults, and adults!



**Project Transformation 2024**

We are excited for our 3rd year working with Project Transformation to help the children in our community!

Online Registration Is Open for children entering grades 1st to 6th in the fall of 2024

Online at [www.PTRioTexas.org](http://www.PTRioTexas.org)

Partners in Transformation Luncheon  
Friday, May 3rd 2024 at St. Mark UMC

Info about tickets please contact the church office

*Relationships Grow Leaders Emerge Communities Change*

Project Transformation Rio Texas

**Reading Camp**  
June 5th to July 25th

**National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 2nd



**MEMORIAL DAY**

Honoring ALL Who Served

Church Office will be CLOSED for Memorial Day! May 27th 2024




**ALOHA**

**ST. MARK PRESCHOOL PRE K 3/4 GRADUATION!**

Friday, May 24, 2024 @ 6:45pm-8:00pm

St. Mark UMC Sanctuary



**St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL**

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary



**MAY 6TH - MAY 10TH**

**THANK YOU TEACHERS!**

Teacher Appreciation Week!



**YOUTH GROUP**

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm  
St. Mark UMC Youth Room



**SAFE GATHERINGS**

BE SMART & INFORMED **STAY SAFE**

ALL people who work with and are around children, youth, & elderly **NEED** to have safe gatherings backgrounds done. Go to [safegatherings.com](http://safegatherings.com) to start your application. You can also call the church office to schedule a time to do it at our computer in the church office.

**POTLUCK Luncheon**

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, **May 26th** in the gym for a luncheon. Please see side list on what to bring if you like!

- A-E ----- Side Dish
- F-J ----- Salad
- K-O ----- Dessert
- P-R ----- Clean Up
- S-Z ----- Main Dish



# What is Safe Gatherings?

By: Hollie Landis

Safe Gatherings is an organization that provides Churches and Schools training and resources to help ensure the safety of children, youth and vulnerable adults. It focuses on preventing and addressing issues such as abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

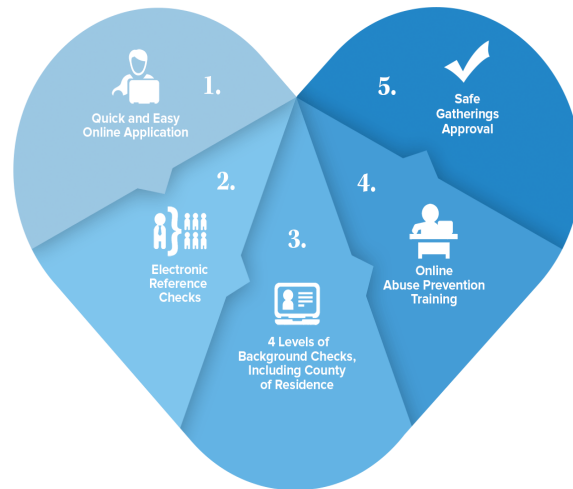
Safe Gatherings Mission - Screen and educate staff and volunteers to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Safe Gatherings Vision - A world in which all children, youth, and vulnerable adults are protected and feel safe.

Parents want to know that their children are safe when they are attending church or other places in the community and schools. To help these parents who bring their children & youth to St. Mark UMC we ask all staff and volunteers who will be working around children & youth to be Safe Gatherings Certified.

Safe Gatherings is simple and is done all online. It teaches abuse prevention training, background checks, reference checks for all staff and volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. If you plan to help and volunteer at any of St. Mark UMC children or youth events please go to [safegatherings.com](https://safegatherings.com) and start your application process. Once you are Safe Gatherings Certified you are good for 2 years then you will have to renew every 2 years. Any questions you can contact the church office at 956-682-1481.

Source taken from [safegatherings.com](https://safegatherings.com)



## Pastor Musings

From Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, May 2024

**Circling Back: Generosity, C3, United Methodist Church, & Jesus' Victory over Satan**

*"What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun." - Ecclesiastes 1:9 NRSV*

While I'm not usually as pessimistic as the lament expressed in the Scripture passage above, there is, in fact, very little new per se in my newsletter article this month. It has been an action-packed four months, so I thought I would simply follow up with what I've written in each month's newsletter so far:

**Generosity (January):** It has been such a joy to experience and celebrate the generosity of this congregation! Our revenues have surpassed last year's revenues at this point in the year. Additionally, even as circumstances have limited our ability to engage fully in fundraising for the Capital Campaign, we already have over \$12,000 for the Campaign. THANK YOU!! Remember, this year, Campaign funds will go toward Trustee and General Reserves; next year, we will seek to re-pay our financial debt to the Foundation to enable the Foundation to expand outreach ministry investments; and the following year, we hope to raise funds for specific capital improvement projects. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND KEEP IT UP!

**Courageous Congregations Collaborative (February):** This small cohort (Me, Ed Keebaugh, Nancy Murray, Jessica Flores, Moises Liñan, Lisa Gonzalez, & Romeo Robles Jr.) has met several times since January by Zoom with cohorts from First UMC-Corpus Christi & Sulphur Springs UMC, to explore together what it means to "exercise muscles" of vital congregations. In the process, a few of us will go to Houston in a few weeks for a Learning Experience. We have also received a **\$5,000 microgrant** to launch a new outreach ministry. **As of now, we are drafting a grant application to expand our sports ministries, so that Moises & Aleythia would have start-up funds to engage in St. Mark-sponsored sports ministry in the broader community.** Please pray for this endeavor!

**United Methodist Church (March):** The General Conference of the UMC ends on May 3. While not all legislative work has been completed, we know that the fruit of this work will be **a world-wide denomination that will clarify the essentials of the United Methodist tradition while granting freedom to United Methodists in North America, Africa, Europe, and Asia to engage in ministry that best suits their context. We will also be a denomination that is more inclusive of our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ.**

**Atonement (April):** There is literally nothing new to report here, except that **our celebration of Christ's resurrection continues through May 19, which is Pentecost Sunday.** Also, for those who are curious, the "atonement theory" I appreciate the most is Christus Victor, as summarized by 1 Corinthians 15:54-57: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

**What I've been reading:** 1 Corinthians (Bible, NRSV), *Abuelita Faith* (Kat Armas), *Unsettling Truths* (Mark Charles & Soong-Chan Rah), *Holding Faith* (Cynthia Rigby)

# St. Mark UMC Preschool

By: Evelyn Callaway

The end of the school year is near and with it comes bittersweet moments for the Preschool Staff. We have experienced the joy of watching children grow and mature this year and in some cases we have been teaching them from the age of 6 weeks old.

Our PreK teacher Ms. Murillo spent the entire school year planning out fun activities to teach concepts and make sure our graduates are well prepared for the big, big world of elementary school.

The Preschool graduation this year will be Friday, May 24th starting at 6:45pm in the St. Mark UMC Sanctuary. A small reception will follow afterwards in the St. Mark UMC Music Room. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of the children and to wish our newly graduated students Good Luck next year and beyond.



PreK 3/4  
Ms. Murillo



# St. Mark UMC Children & Youth Ministries

By: Jessica Flores

It has been an exciting Spring filled with opportunities for worship and fellowship. Many of our children and youth were involved with Upward Basketball and Cheer. We are planning for expansions of all Upward programs including a camp this summer. Please keep this in your prayers as we move forward.

Our family ministries (youth, children, and young adults) had the opportunity to attend two worship concerts, Colton Dixon & Jordan Felix and We The Kingdom & Katy Nichole. It was a great experience to worship together with others in the RGV. If you didn't have a chance to attend please prayerfully consider attending the Newsboys/Casting Crowns concert June 29th. The young adults sponsored a child named Ana at the We The Kingdom & Katy Nichole concert.

The end of school year and summer bring more opportunities for service and fellowship with Vacation Bible School (July 8th - 12th) and Youth Summer Camp (July 14th - 19th) in Palacios, TX. Project Transformation also begins the beginning of June. We plan many other youth oriented opportunities for fellowship and service as the time gets closer.

If you have any questions about how you can get involved in Family Ministries please call or text Jessica at 956-534-7880. We are called to be His hands and feet. Please prayerfully consider how you can be His hands and feet to our youth and children and the community families we serve in the RGV.

World Vision

Hi, my name's **Anna Maiko**

I'M A **2** YEAR OLD GIRL who shines brightly

June 3, 2021

Tanzania

Believe in me and my community!

**Get to know her!**

Anna Maiko lives with her parents and has no brothers or sisters. Her parents struggle to provide for the family. Her father is unemployed and her mother is unemployed. Despite their efforts, it is difficult to meet the family's needs.

Anna Maiko lives in Naberera, a region in northeast Tanzania with plains, scattered ridges, and rows of hills. Wild animals, such as elephants, lions, and leopards, can be seen in this area. Livestock herding and agriculture are the primary sources of income. The climate is semi-arid with low rainfall. Due to frequent droughts, Naberera has no rivers or streams, so women and children must travel long distances to get water from wells. Families in this region struggle to access clean water, healthcare facilities, quality education, and proper nutrition.

Anna Maiko is not in school at this time. She helps at home by being good. She likes to play outside. She is in satisfactory health.

Your sponsorship commitment will help Anna Maiko and her community get better access to resources and support that will empower them to break the cycles of poverty. Together we'll see clean water become consistently accessible to vulnerable families, which will help prevent disease. Families will partner with educators, ensuring a classroom experience for children from kindergarten through grade 12. We'll also raise awareness about children's rights and increase protection against abuse and child marriage. Through it all, staff will show God's love as we care for the most vulnerable children and families.

**You're improving the well-being of children in areas like:**

- CHILD PROTECTION
- CLEAN WATER
- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
- SPIRITUAL NURTURE