

Sunday Worship Services 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM | Sunday School 10:00 AM

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

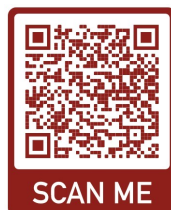
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- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- PRAYERS

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Friends,
 Every pastor has a great wedding story. Whether it is about something going hilariously wrong, or something going gracefully unexpected, wedding stories are always a topic of conversation when pastors get together. This Sunday, as we continue our worship theme of God making all things new, we hear about a wedding that Jesus attended. In this familiar story the wine runs out, and in his first miracle in John's Gospel Jesus turns water into wine. As the story unfolds the steward at the wedding voices his surprise by exclaiming, "Everyone serves the good wide first, and the inferior wine after the guest have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." This story begs the question of us today, when do we offer our best to God?

COPY AND PASTE LINK
 INTO YOUR BROWSER TO GIVE TODAY
 OR SCAN THE QR CODE



<https://give.idonate.com/st-marks-united-methodist-church/end-of-year-giving-2021>



As you know, we are spending January considering how God makes all things new. We have been reminded through our baptism that God works through us. Now we have to consider when do we bring out our best for God and God's kingdom?

Financially speaking, this is a question that we must all consider when we think about our giving to the church. Where in the conversation of our budget does our giving fall? Do we think about giving only after we have budgeted for our bills and expenses? Do we consider giving haphazardly and only when we have a few bills in our wallet? Or, do we put our giving first? Do we offer our gifts to the church as the first thing we do? Do we calculate our budgets after we consider how we give thanks to God for the gifts that come from God's grace? Similarly, have we made a commitment to give to the church consistently through electronic giving?

All of these questions, which can seem somewhat practical and pointed, are actually very theological and spiritual. Giving, generosity, and the stewardship of our resources tell us a great deal about what we believe and how we live out our faith.

Just as pastors always have stories about weddings, we also have stories about faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who give generously. And we have personal stories. This Sunday, I will tell you about generosity and my family. God is making all things new. What is your story? What would you like your story to be? Where is your best gift going?

In Christ,

Pastor Mills

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

Updating COVID-19 protocols in response to omicron

By: UMC.ORG

With the new omicron variant has come record spikes in new cases of COVID-19, leaving hospitals and health care workers increasingly strained. The omicron variant is more contagious than the original COVID-19 strain and has a higher chance of creating breakthrough cases among the vaccinated. Vaccines, however, remain the best defense against severe illness and the CDC encourages those who are able and eligible for original doses and boosters to receive their vaccinations as soon as possible.

Both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons are highly encouraged to wear masks during indoor gatherings while continuing to wash their hands frequently and avoid tight and poorly ventilated areas. Those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been knowingly exposed to someone with the disease should get tested and self-quarantine accordingly. For more comprehensive guidelines please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

Congregations may also need to take greater precautions to protect their members and guests. The CDC has guidelines for indoor activities and public gatherings that may help churches adapt their own practices. Churches should also check their annual conference's website to see if it has updated its guidelines or recommendations for worship and other church activities.

All church members should wear masks and social distance when worshipping indoors. Some congregations may decide to return to digital worship or offer hybrid experiences to ensure those unable to or uncomfortable with worshipping in-person continue to feel included. Phone ministries may be another way to connect with members less comfortable worshipping via computer/smart device. Churches might also send care packages to members and families self-quarantining at home.

The COVID-19 pandemic has lasted longer than most of us could have imagined and upended ministries everywhere. Even so, United Methodists remain committed to making disciples and continue to respond to the unique challenges of COVID in innovative ways.



Learn More at UMC.ORG

Joey Ayoub

Monday, January 10th 2022

Gene Karam requests prayer for Joey Ayoub who's healing from pneumonia caused by COVID.

Jim Forbes

Monday, January 10th 2022

Lori Plummer says please pray for Steve's brother, Jim Forbes. He is fighting health issues after getting COVID.

Jan Bergamini

Monday, January 10th 2022

Joann and Ed McElroy asks for prayer for Jan Bergamini who lost her husband.

Stan Serwatka's brother-in-law

Monday, January 10th 2022

Stan and Nancy Serwatka request prayers for Stan's brother-in-law who had a stroke and is in ICU in Cleveland, Ohio.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday!

Nicole Kowalczyk, Jan 16th

Nathaniel Brent DeMeritt, Jan 17th

Scott Crowder, Jan 17th

Donna Neessen, Jan 19th

Linda Douglas, Jan 19th

Kristen Sondgeroth, Jan 20th

Stephen White, Jan 20th



SCAN ME

\$2 MILLION
AWARDED ANNUALLY

**UNITED METHODIST
SCHOLARSHIPS**

UNITED METHODIST
HIGHER EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

APPLY NOW ►

Jan. 16- Jan. 22 Next Week at St. Mark's

Sunday, January 16

8:00 am Nursery (Ages 6 Weeks - 2 Yr)
9:00 am Kids Church
9:00 am Praise Worship Service
10:00 am NUDGE Youth Sunday School
10:00 am Agape Class
10:00 am Sunday School (Ages K - 6)
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
4:30 pm Kids Night Out
9:00 am Praise Service

Monday, January 17

St. Mark's School MLK Holiday

5:30 pm Leadership Team
6:00 pm Traditional Service Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 59

Tuesday, January 18

12:00 pm Needlework Group
6:00 pm Jazz Band Rehearsal
6:30 pm Grief Share

Wednesday, January 19

8:30 am Elementary School Chapel
St. Mark's School Report Cards go home
6:00 pm MOPS "Mothers of Preschoolers"

Thursday, January 20

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 pm Weight Watchers

Friday, January 21

6:30 pm NA - Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, January 22

8:30 am Weight Watchers

St. Mark's 2021
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To receive our weekly email version,
go to loveroad.org
Click Messenger

Our mailing address is:
5005 Love Rd. El Paso, TX, 79922 Phone:
(915) 581-4444



SHARE PRAYER

New things: baby Jesus, baby year,
baby church Not baby church? Maybe, but
we are learning new ways to be the church.

Baby Jesus grew. "the Child continued to
grow and become strong, increasing in
wisdom; and the grace of
God was upon Him.

Luke 3:40

Pray that we, the church, led by God,
will do the same.

Our work together is to pray, listen, and
follow.

How to Share Prayers:

Send your prayer requests to prayer group
leader Ruth Lindstrom at
ruthlindstrom@yahoo.com.

Call the church office at 915-581-4444
during office hours.

Contact one of our Chaplains (see St.
Mark's Chaplains tab on the website).

You can ask that your prayer requests be
published to groups or kept private.

<https://www.loveroad.org>





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on the printed version]*

*St. Mark's United Methodist Church 5555
Loveroad, El Paso, TX 79922
(915) 581-4444 | email: admin@loveroad.org*

St. Mark's Church Staff

Senior Pastor – Rev. Douglas Mills
to schedule an appointment with Dr. Mills

[Schedule Now!](#)

<http://meetme.so/WDouglasMillsmaster>

Business Office Manager - Laura Ronald

Cheri Bridges - Office Assistant

Traditional Music Director - Stephen Jackson

Children's Ministry Director - Bianca Milan Analla

Communications Director - Bill Wilkson

Praise Team Director - Lawrence Brown III

Facilities Superintendent - Bunnie Betancourt Head

Head Kitchen Chef - Miguel Guillen

St. Mark's School Principal - Linda Smith