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St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



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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	COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING	FINANCIAL REPORT
Month: July 2025 Worship Service: 78 Online Service: 17 Bible Studies: 31	Month: July 2025 Total = \$24.00 El Valle Border Ministries	Month: June 2025 Income: \$13,991.50 Expenses: \$18,260.52 Months: Jan. - June 2025 Income: \$135,427.09 Expenses: \$146,274.94

St. Mark Events

August 2025



*Start children off on the
way they should go, and
even when they are old
they will not turn from it.*
~Proverbs 22:6 (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

Website
www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

Email
stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com

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St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)

Events this Month!

POTLUCK Luncheon

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, **September 28th** in the gym for a luncheon. Please see side list on what to bring if you like!

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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS now available



You can pick up an Application this Sunday. They will be available in the narthex

Deadline is August 31st, but please submit your application ASAP to avoid any delays

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



Preschool Team Meeting
Monday, August 11th at 6pm



ALL people who work with and are around children, youth, & elderly **NEED** to have safe gatherings backgrounds done. Go to 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.



Confirmation and New Members

St. Mark UMC will be starting classes for anyone interested in joining the St. Mark UMC Family. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to register by September 7th. Classes/Meetings will start the week of September 14th. Please speak with Pastor Joe or call the church office for more information.

UPPER ROOM JULY - AUGUST
AVAILABLE TODAY
INSIDE NARTHEX ENTRANCE
ENGLISH LARGE PRINT

YOUTH GROUP
Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
St. Mark UMC Youth Room

Back To School Party
St. Mark UMC
Children & Youth
Sunday, August 10th
@ 6pm at St. Mark UMC

Blessing of the Teachers & Backpacks!
Sunday August 10th
St. Mark United Methodist Church
during our 10:45am Worship Service

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

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.

One Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 12th @ 7pm

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

Saturday August 16th 11 a.m.
St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY
ITEMS NEEDED:
CEREAL
RICE & BEANS
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED VEGGIES
CANNED MEAT
TOMATO SAUCE

Teacher's Prayer
Lord, Please BLESS my students and help them as they GROW. May I TEACH them faithfully the things, they NEED to know. So they may face the FUTURE knowing THEY'RE prepared, and when they THINK of SCHOOL days, may they know their Teacher CARED!
Amen
Gather up your Coins Noisy Offering Sunday, August 31st

WE ARE HIRING
PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
• High-School Diploma or GED
• Clear Background Check
• Paid Holidays & Sick Days
• For information: 956-686-2650
SEND RESUME TO
stmarkumcpreschool@yahoo.com

Back to School
St. Mark UMC Preschool Open House
August 29th @ 6:30pm

Report on Annual Conference

by: Fernando Garza and Katie Klein Garza

Fernando Garza, St. Mark Delegate and Katie Klein Garza, District Delegate attended the Annual Conference in June, 2025 and presented a short report in worship on June 22, 2025.

The Annual Conference was quite interesting and demonstrated certain aspects which were new and different in light of the new Bishop, Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey. She is very energetic and spiritual. She led an enriching and spiritual conference.

There was a special speaker, Michael Beck, who came from a rough background including drug addiction, prison time and a period of feeling lost from God. The Lord reached him in jail and caused him to want to serve the Lord. He has an active ministry and is reaching out to others in unusual ways in unusual places. He is holding worship in numerous manners including worship for homeless, worship in a tattoo parlor and even gave up his office and a large part of the physical plant of the church for a rehabilitation - type location or housing for addicts. His message was to go out from familiar places and be willing to surrender to the will of the Lord in ways never anticipated. He had a great sense of humor and was entertaining and inspiring. He spoke twice and really emphasized the nurturing of people who are lost and bringing them back to the Lord.

There also was a workshop on communicating with those who have different opinions that oneself, including those who have different political or religious views. The training centered around listening to the view of a person and then asking the person "I'd be curious to know... to allow the person to expand upon the views rather than refusing to engage with the person. It proved to be a very helpful strategy rather than attempting to listen to oneself and project one's opinions on another.

Finally, there were business meetings and discussions of finances as usual. One very disturbing subject was the cancellation of student visas which could endanger the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. Because the student visas have been cancelled, students from Ciudad Juarez cannot cross to attend Lydia Patterson, a longtime ministry of the United Methodist Church. There was discussion of attempts to offer school on the Mexican side to continue the work of the church. All in all, the music was great and worship dynamic. This was a conference full of joy and learning.



Pastor Musings

Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, August 2025

Baptism & Membership

"They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house...then he and his entire family were baptized without delay." --Acts 16:32-33, NRSV

United Methodists believe that we are surrounded, corrected, forgiven, and empowered by God's grace in Jesus Christ. So many of our experiences of God's grace are immeasurable, intangible, and often inexplicable. But as a church community, we believe and practice our faith in ways that helps us all notice and experience God's grace in all parts of life.

Baptism, one of the two "sacraments" of the church (the other being Holy Communion), is an experience of the fullness of God's grace, for the individual and the community. In formal theological language, God's grace is often described as **prevenient** (coming before conscious faith in Christ), **justifying** (bringing us to a place to choose faith in Christ), and **sanctifying** (helping us become more like Christ). In baptism, one experiences the unconditional love and blessing of God, which leads to forgiveness of sins and faith in Christ, and the community of those baptized are renewed as they participate in and observe the baptism. We baptize a person at any age, because God loves and pours out God's grace upon us at any age.

But what about church membership? While joining a church is not a "sacrament," it is a commitment to the church community made by those who (1) either have been or are being baptized, and (2) either have, or are, professing their faith in Jesus Christ. It is an acknowledgement of not just the grace God pours out upon us, but our affirmative, committed response to that grace in the community of believers, the church.

So if you or your children have never been baptized, and if you aren't a member of St. Mark UMC, please consider reaching out to me to sign up for our New Member Class. It's not just a class and a certificate, but a way of responding to the reality of God's love and grace that is present among us here at St. Mark UMC.



Meet the St. Mark UMC Preschool Teacher

Hello! My name is Mrs. Nancy. I am the PreK-3&4 Classroom Teacher in the afternoons. I have nine amazing kids in my classroom. I always enjoy working with them on their Math and Science skills.

About Me: I am married, and I have a son who lives in Austin, TX. When I am not working, I enjoy trying out new recipes, whether it be cooking or baking. I also like to watch animated and rom-com movies. If an opportunity to travel presents itself, we often like to travel to San Antonio, TX.

Some of my favorite things are: Color-Purple, Flower-Gardenia, Drink-Decaf Green Tea, Food-Grilled Chicken, Movie-The King of Kings, Book-Jesus Calling by Sarah Young, Place to Visit-San Antonio Zoo, Number-7, Hobby-baking & crafting, Candy-All things Chocolate, and Shape-Heart.

I have two favorite memories at St. Mark UMC Preschool. The first was our Christmas Program of 2019. It is most cherished by me, because that was the year we had our kiddos act out The Nativity Story. The second was our graduating class of 2020. It was the most memorable graduation to me, because it was the year of COVID, we were not allowed to host a traditional ceremony, so instead, we had a parade, in which, we had our parents do a drive-by through the parking lot of our school with our graduates.

What I love about being at St. Mark UMC Preschool is you feel a sense of belonging that you are part of an extended family. I guess that is why, when we merge classrooms at the end of the day, the kiddos are genuinely so happy to see each other and be with one another. On a final note, I truly love the fact, that we have the cutest kiddos enrolled at St. Mark UMC Preschool.



St. Mark UMC Preschool

by: Evelyn Callaway - Preschool Director

I'm sitting here at my desk on a Wednesday morning watching our families walk by and wave and I think about all of the hundreds of families that have walked through our gate over the years. I've been here at St. Mark for twelve years now and have watched many of the children go from tiny babies to PreK, ready for big school, kids. I love watching the families grow and move on even though it is such a bittersweet moment for all of us involved in the Preschool. One thing I know for sure is that all of us here at the Preschool work hard to make sure the children have a safe learning environment. Our families entrust us with their children and they are so appreciative of the staff. Our families let us know almost daily how much we mean to them by just telling us or bringing gifts for us. It is such a great feeling to know that we are cherished for doing a great job. I work with some lovely ladies who work so hard to make a fun curriculum. Along with the usual math and literacy we teach science and most importantly we help introduce God to the children. Ms. Hollie has been such an important part of the Preschool team. Her weekly Bible lessons are something the children look forward to participating in and she always has a way of encouraging the children to learn and be excited about the Bible.

St. Mark Preschool has always believed that learning should be fun. This summer was no different. We enjoyed holiday party days, celebrated birthdays, ice cream days, had fun in the sun and of course VBS. Parents and children always look forward to St. Mark's VBS. The children love to watch the video screen and dance along with the music and watch videos about God and all of His Creations.

The next couple of weeks will be filled with some fun and many changes for some of our children and staff. We will welcome new families and say goodbye to our summer friends. Children will move up a class and continue and improve the skills they have already learned and also learn new skills in their new classroom. After a few weeks we will fall into a routine for the rest of the year and continue another year full of fun and surprises. We will begin the year learning "All About Me", school rules, reviewing what we have already learned and some new skills. We will also continue to offer dance classes and soccer classes to our families as well as making sure we have plenty of chances for us all to be to get and enjoy each others company.

Such exciting times ahead! Teachers have already started preparing their classrooms and lesson planning. We are ready to start making new and wonderful memories.

