

SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL UPDATES  
[stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com](mailto:stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com)



SEE POSTS ON FACEBOOK  
St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE

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



YouTube  
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: <b>August 2025</b> Worship Service: <b>51</b>  Online Service: <b>38</b>  Bible Studies: <b>37</b>	Month: <b>August 2025</b> <b>Total = \$52.00*</b> <b>\$26.00 - Good Neighbor Settlement House &amp; \$26.00 - La Posada Providencia</b> <small>*amount does NOT include Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> Communion Rail Offering</small>	Month: <b>July 2025</b> Income: <b>\$15,493.98</b> Expenses: <b>\$19,733.34</b>  Months: <b>Jan. - July 2025</b> Income: <b>\$136,933.77</b> Expenses: <b>\$147,747.76</b>

# St. Mark Events

## September 2025



So let us not grow weary in  
doing what is right, for we  
will reap at harvest time, if  
we do not give up.

**-Galatians 6:9 (NRSV)**



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

**Email**  
**[stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com](mailto:stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com)**

**Follow St. Mark UMC:**

**Facebook -**

**St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX**

**YouTube -**

**St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)**



# Events this Month!

# September 2025

**Saturday Sept. 20th 11 a.m.**

**St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY**

**Food Pantry Needs**

**ITEMS NEEDED:**  
CRACKERS  
JELLY  
CANNED VEGGIES  
CANNED FRUIT  
TOMATO SAUCE  
PEANUT BUTTER

**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.

**Faith Sharing Group**

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

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

**ST. MARK KIDS**

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm  
St. Mark UMC Children's Room

**YOUTH GROUP**

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

**One Board Meeting**

Tuesday, September 19th at 7pm

**Happy Grandparents Day!**

September 7th, 2024

**Patriot Day 9-11**  
Never Forget

**St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL**

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

**Happy Labor Day!**

St. Mark UMC Office and Preschool will be closed Monday, September 1st, 2025 in observance of Labor Day.

**1ST DAY OF AUTUMN!**

September 22nd, 2025

**Staff Meeting**

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

**Mexico Independence Day**

September 16th

**Happy Rene Birthday!**

September 3rd!

**Now Hiring Preschool Teachers**

- High-School Diploma or GED
- Clear Background Check
- Paid Holidays & Sick Days

**Call 956-686-2650**

**Pumpkins are Coming!**

Saturday, September 27th at 9:00 am  
Help us unload and set up!  
Contact the Church Office or Jessica Flores for more info

**St. Mark UMC Prayer & Hospitality Ministry**

New ministry to connect the families of the sports groups who rent our gym during the week. We will have prayer volunteers to welcome and greet the families and offer a time of prayer for those who might need it. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers. We will begin on Monday, September 15th, providing this ministry Monday through Thursday from 5pm to 7pm. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Pastor Joe.

**Happy Rene Birthday!**

September 3rd!

**Happy Birthday! Jessica!**

September 29th

**New Leaves for the St. Mark UMC Tree of Life!**

In Loving Memory of DORIS GRAY 02/11/1929 - 06/14/2025  
In Loving Memory of TIMOTHY WAYNE TREWIN 09/21/2460 - 06/24/2025  
In Loving Memory of Doris Gray and Timothy Wayne Trewin

**UPPER ROOM SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**

AVAILABLE TODAY  
INSIDE NARTHEX ENTRANCE  
ENGLISH SPANISH LARGE PRINT

**Holy Communion**  
Every Sunday

**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.

**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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

Sept. 28th to Oct. 31st

**St. Mark UMC Pumpkin Patch NEEDS your help to make this year a success! We NEED VOLUNTEERS to help in the patch. Greet people from our community, sell our colorful pumpkins & delicious bake goods, and enjoy beautiful evenings in the patch with other volunteers! The Volunteer Sign-up book can be found in the Narthex.**

Contact Jessica Flores or Hollie Landis for more info



# Meet the St. Mark UMC Preschool Teacher

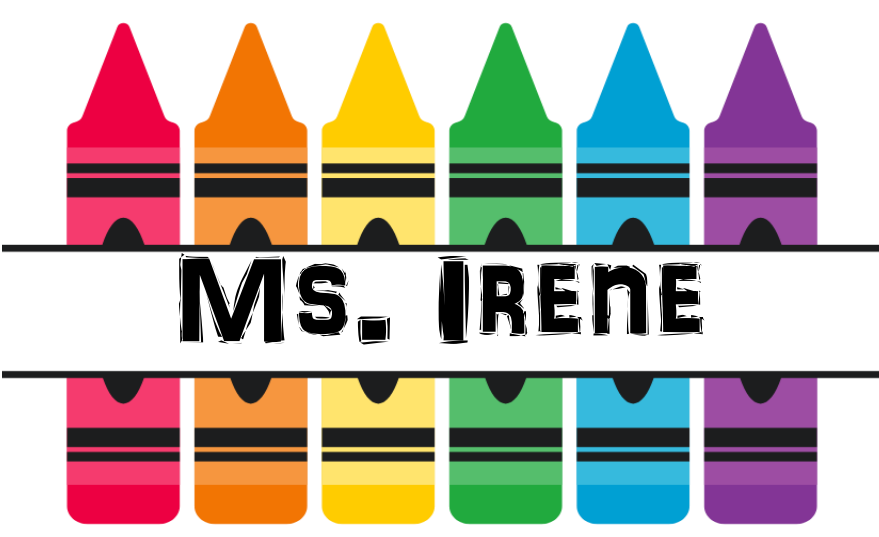
Hello! My name is Ms. Irene I am the PreK-1 Classroom Teacher. I have three amazing kids in my classroom this new school year for 2025-2026.

About Me: When I am not working I love to spend my time with my four daughters and my husband. I enjoy cooking for my family. When holidays come around, I enjoy cooking the special foods we like to eat for the holidays.

Some of my favorite things are: Color-Nude Colors, Flower-Peonies, Drink-Red bull, Food-Steak, Movie-The Little Rascals, Place to Visit-San Antonio, Number-7, Hobby-Shopping, Candy-Sour Patch Kids, and Shape-Heart.

One of my favorite memories at St. Mark UMC Preschool is getting to see the kids grow. Kids at this age grow and learn so fast and it is amazing to see how much they grow & learn from the first day of school to the last day of school before summer classes begin. It is a joy to be their teacher and help them grow & learn while they are in my classroom.

What I love about being at St. Mark UMC Preschool is the KIDS! I love when they tell me “I Love You Ms. Irene and I Miss You”. Best feeling in the World!!!



## Pastor Musings

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

#### Truth & Life, Sports & “Tribe”

*“For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.” –2 Timothy 4:3-4, NRSV*

Justin Giboney<sup>1</sup> has jokingly promoted what he calls the “tribal theorem of sports.” Giboney sees sports as an outlet for our most basic us-vs.-them instincts. For example, my 49ers are winning the Super Bowl this year! Never mind that they offloaded much of their best talent, and their players are significantly older than even two years ago. They’re my team, so I’m right and the facts are wrong, they’re winning the Super Bowl this year!

Giboney light-heartedly promotes this “theorem” to highlight a major problem in churches and the broader societies we live in. Too often, when it comes to current events and religion, we only want to listen to perspectives and voices that confirm “our side,” whatever that “side” might be—political party, denomination, faction, etc. Christians will sometimes even cloak this attitude in the language of faith, that one must be “certain” they are on the “right” side, and thus, any information that doesn’t help one’s “side” must be discarded as false.

However, God’s “ways are higher than your ways, and [God’s] thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9). Jesus himself brought together apostles from varying “sides,” such as a Roman-supported tax collector and an anti-Roman zealot (Matthew 10:3; Luke 6:15). Finally, the Apostle Paul reminds us that on this side of eternity, “we see in a mirror dimly” (1 Cor. 13:12). So go ahead, root for your sports team irrationally! You might even think the Cowboys will win the Super Bowl this year if you’re a Cowboys fan! But in all other areas of life, don’t try to satisfy your “itching ears,” but instead seek what is true, regardless of how convenient it is for your “side.”

<sup>1</sup> Giboney is a leader of a continuing education cohort I’ll be part of this year, called the J29 Cohort. You can learn more about it at [j29coalition.com](https://j29coalition.com).



# St. Mark UMC Pumpkin Patch

It is that time of year to start planning and getting ready for the St. Mark UMC yearly Pumpkin Patch! This is a HUGE fundraiser for our church and we need lots of volunteers to make it a successful one. Our pumpkins will be arriving on Saturday, September 27th, at 9am. Before they arrive we have some work to do to get everything ready for the pumpkins. We will need to start setting up the front yard of the church by placing the fence and pallets (mid Sept.). We need to decorate the patch for some great photo areas for the community to take their yearly pictures. This is also the time our bakers to begin baking some delicious pumpkin bake goods for the patch. And of course, lots of prayers for a blessed season and getting to reach out to those in our community.

This year our Pumpkin Patch will be open to the community from September 28th to October 31st. We will need volunteers to cover two hour shift times to help in the patch on evenings during the week (2pm to 7pm) and weekends (1pm to 8pm). In the next few weeks (and all of October), you can find the Pumpkin Patch signup binder in the Narthex. Being a volunteer is a great way of meeting people from our community and hearing their stories about our patch and for church members to get to know each other while working together in the patch. If you have any question please reach out to Jessica Flores or Hollie Landis.

Now for a little about our pumpkins. It is a partnership of trust! Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers began their journey in 1974 with 3 acres of pumpkins and a partnership with one church. They now have over 1,000 non-profit organizations covering the Continental US, representing 25 denominations of churches and youth groups, schools, Scouts, and other non-profit organizations. Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers are responsible for all of the costs associated with growing, harvesting, and shipping. It is the organizations trust to open their patch and sell as many pumpkins as they can, report their sales, and send them their percentage of sales. Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers makes it easy to volunteer in the patch by suppling a measuring tape to measure out the price for the pumpkins. The pumpkins are grown in Farmington, NM on the Navajo Indian Reservation. They now grow 35 varieties of pumpkins on 1,200 acres of land and over 700 Native Americans employed. You can read more about their story online at [pumpkinsusa.com](http://pumpkinsusa.com). If you are able, please think about signing up to volunteer. Invite your friends and neighbors to come volunteer with you or make if a family event!



# St. Mark UMC Children & Youth

Dear St. Mark Family,

As the days of summer fade and the new school year begins, we give thanks for a wonderful season of ministry and fellowship. Our youth and children were so active this summer, and we are incredibly proud of all they accomplished. The youth gave their time and hearts by volunteering at Project Transformation and Vacation Bible School. They also grew in faith through summer camp, bible study, and shared moments of fun at concerts. Our children had a blast at VBS and enjoyed their own special fellowship events.

Looking forward, we have some exciting things on the calendar! Our Tuesday night Youth Bible study continues from 6:30pm to 8pm as we watch *The Chosen*. We are also launching a new children's program specifically geared for 4th through 8th graders (though all are welcome) on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8pm. Most importantly, our beloved pumpkin patch is just around the corner! The pumpkins will arrive on Saturday, September 27th, at 9am, and we need your help to make it a wonderful experience for our church and community.

From unloading the truck and counting pumpkins to baking pumpkin-themed treats and staffing the patch in September and October, there are many ways to get involved. Donations of bottled water are also welcome.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can serve. Your gifts of time and talent are what make St. Mark such a special place.

Praying for many Fall blessings,  
Jessica Sargent Flores  
Director of Family Ministries

