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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

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Month: | March '24 |
| Sunday School: | 12 |
| Worship Service: | 75 |
| Online Service: | 11 |
| Bible Studies: | 28 |

Communion Rail Offering

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Month: | March '24 |
| Total = \$411.00 | |
| UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) | |

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Month - | February 2024 |
| Income: | \$21,478.97 |
| Expenses: | \$21,962.18 |
| <hr/> | |
| Year to Date - | Jan. - Feb. 2024 |
| Income: | \$47,309.26 |
| Expenses: | \$55,113.05 |

St. Mark Events



April 2024

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him.

-Psalm 37:7



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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Website
www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

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Events this Month!

April 2024

POTLUCK Luncheon

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, **April 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

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)

EARTH DAY

April 22nd

St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Saturday April 20 11 a.m.

Items Needed:

- Rice
- Beans
- Crackers
- Canned Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Tomato Sauce
- Canned Veggies

St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

He is Risen!

YOUTH GROUP

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

Happy Birthday Drucilla!

April 22nd

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.

Women of Courage Lunch

will meet after Worship service the 2nd Sunday of each Month
for more information please call the church office at 956-602-1481.

Preschool Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 9th at 6pm

CHURCH OFFICE

CLOSED
St. Mark UMC office will be closed Monday, April 1st In observance of Easter Monday!

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, April 16th at 7pm

Happy BIRTHDAY Hollie!

April 25th

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!

RELATIONSHIPS GROW
LEADERS EMERGE
COMMUNITIES CHANGE

Online Registration Is Open for children entering grades 1st to 6th in the fall of 2024
Online at www.PTRioTexas.org

Partners in Transformation Luncheon
Friday, May 3rd 2024 at St. Mark UMC
info about tickets please contact the church office

Reading Camp
June 5th to July 25th

Happy Birthday PASTOR JOE!

April 11th

Administrative Professionals Day!

Thank you! April 24th, 2024

Holy communion

Every Sunday

Staff Meeting

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

Project Transformation, Rio Texas

By: Hollie Landis, Tera Quintero

St. Mark UMC is hosting Project Transformation for a 3rd year this summer! This is a wonderful program that helps children in our community who will be entering 1st - 6th grades in the fall. The focus is to help children improve their reading skills. So many children forget their reading skills over the summer break that when they start school in the fall they struggle. Registration is open now online. Go to projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/, click on [Our Programs](#) (top of page), then click on [Elementary Program](#) (on the right in green box), click the link to register. Summer Reading Camp will begin June 5th and end July 25th!

The new RGV Project Coordinator for Project Transformation is Tera Quintero. She will be reaching out to schools and the community to get them involved and teach them what Project Transformation is. It is not just the community who can help make this summer great. We, as a church, can get involved and help. There are many ways to help. First one is to always pray! We know praying can make a huge impact on this program. Second is volunteering to make a meal for the college interns that lead the program during the summer. If you plan to make/buy a meal for them please plan to stay and enjoy some bonding time with them. Some of these interns are not from here and would love to get to know us better.

If reading is your thing then become a Reading Buddy! It is not hard at all. You sit with a child during the reading time and listen to them read to you. This is a great way to meet some children in our community. When you volunteer to work with the children, you will need to be Safe Gathering Certified. And last way to help is by donations of supplies needed for the summer, monetary donations, and/or becoming a sponsor at the Partners in Transformation Luncheon on Friday, May 3rd 2024. St. Mark UMC will be hosting this event.

Any question please reach out to RGV Project Coordinator: Tera Quintero or call the church office.

Pastor Musings

From Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, April 2024

Atonement Theories: How does Christ save us by his life, death, & resurrection?

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." —Matthew 1:21, NRSV

Believing that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead is central to the faith of all Christians. During Good Friday and Easter, we remember Christ's death and celebrate his resurrection. But how does Jesus Christ's death and resurrection save us? This question has led theologians and regular Christians to articulate what are called "atonement theories." Christianity has never settled on one "atonement theory." Yet a few atonement theories have emerged as the most common descriptions of the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Here are the three most common atonement theories, with biblical and scholarly references if you feel led to learn even more!

- 1. Christus Victor:** emphasizes Christ's victory over the powers of sin, death, and evil.
Colossians 2:15 - "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."
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."
More: Gustaf Aulén's "Christus Victor" (1931); Athanasius' "On the Incarnation" (4th century)
- 2. Substitutionary Atonement:** Jesus Christ took the place of humanity, bearing the punishment for sin on their behalf. This theory has also branched out into sub-theories, like "Satisfaction" (Christ's death satisfies the honor and justice of God) & "Ransom" (Christ's death is a ransom that redeems humanity from Satan's bondage)
Isaiah 53:5 - "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."
Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
More: John Stott's "The Cross of Christ" (1986); Anselm's "Cur Deus Homo" (11th century)
- 3. Moral Exemplar Atonement:** Jesus Christ's death is a demonstration of God's love and an example of selfless obedience to God, rather than a transaction or satisfaction of divine justice.
John 13:15 - "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."
Philippians 2:6 - "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."
More: Jürgen Moltmann's "The Crucified God" (1973); Peter Abelard's "Yes & No" (12th century)

Thank you for humoring your pastor's desire to justify his seminary education (ha-ha). In all seriousness, I hope this is a starting point for some of you to reflect more deeply on how and why our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead for our salvation.

In Christ,
Pastor Joe Tognetti

Note: While Pastor Joe learned these concepts in seminary and has studied them since, he did utilize Chat GPT to write this article more efficiently.

History of St. Mark Continued.....

Continued by: Helen Balsley (Drucilla Vinger - Finance Administrator)

On October 24, 1954, a program sell \$65,000.00 in church bonds to finance construction of a Sanctuary was launched. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on November 4, 1954. The proposed building was to include a Sanctuary seating 320 people, choir space for 30, a choir room, two offices, restrooms and three classrooms. A service of consecration was held on June 5, 1955.

In 1957 the Zirkels were appointed to the First United Methodist church in Edna, Texas. Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Brink were appointed to St. Mark. During the three years they served St. Mark, the church grew in membership. Our physical plan was increased by the addition of a large Fellowship Hall, kitchen, social room, restroom, and several more classrooms.

The Dale Hassons and their two sons were our parsonage family from 1960-1963. With McAllen growing each year as a tourist center, we were outgrowing our seating capacity, so a second service was added between October and Easter.

A pre-school kindergarten was approved in June 1960 and Mrs. Hope Troutman was elected as teacher. Under Hope's leadership the kindergarten continued for 20 years. "Hope Troutman Day" was celebrated on April 27, 1980, on her retirement.

In 1963 Rev. and Mrs. Harold Goodenough, Jr were assigned to St. Mark. They were here for eight years. They had 2 daughters and a son.

During this time St. Mark was involved in several missionary projects. We helped provide and equip a clinic in Reynosa and pay the salary of the nurse. We bought a small, unused church building in the country and moved it south of Pharr to the Las Milpas area where Sunday School was held and a minister secured to whose salary we contributed through the conference and to missionary work in Bolivia. When the Mexican Methodist Church at Camargo was swept away during flooding of the Rio Grande River, we helped finance the building of a new church there.

A larger, more suitable house was offered to us and we bought the parsonage at 1916 N. 4th. St. Mark continued to grow in membership. A third worship service was held during the tourist season.

The third phase of our building program included a chapel and educational wing, enclosing the quadrangle.

The Goodenoughs were followed by Rev. and Mrs. Doyle Morton and their daughter.

The Rev. and Mrs. Howard McAllister served St. Mark from 1973 to 1977. With increased membership and winter visitors we decided we were in need of an Associate pastor, that's when Rev. Glen Marshall, a retired Methodist minister and District Superintendent from Nebraska, came to spend the winter in McAllen. He continued to spend summers in the North but then decided to serve as our full-time assistant pastor.

To be continued next month.....Drucilla

