



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church
1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213
210-344-8393

Things to Remember:

- † Praise, Bible Study, & Communion, Wednesday, Dec 5 @ 6:00 pm
- † Children's Church, Sunday Dec 9 @ 10:45 am
- † Praise & Bible Study, Wednesday, Dec 12 @ 6 pm
- † Children's Message, Sunday, Dec 16 @ 10:45 am
- † Praise, Bible Study, Potluck Wednesday, Dec 19 @ 6 pm
- † Children's Church, Sunday Dec 23 @ 10:45 am
- † Candlelight Communion Service, Monday, Dec 24 @ 5 pm



Ladies, Mark your calendar for the Annual Christmas Brunch & Bunco Saturday, DECEMBER 1, 2018, 10 am - 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall



"Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Let be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You.
~ John Wesley

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SUNDAY SCHOOL	10/21/2018	10/28/2018	11/4/2018	11/11/2018
Youth	4	3	2	3
Adults	13	14	12	13
Total SS	17	17	14	16
WORSHIP				
Sunday	53	64	45	51
Wednesday Night	8	7	7	7



Kathy Jack, Sue Horner, Susan Philbin, Sharon Somerville

Altar Flower Calendar

We had a wonderful response this year from many of you who helped adorn the sanctuary with flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one. We get to do it again in 2019. Joanne Green will continue to maintain the altar flower calendar. Cost remains at \$30.



December 9 - Lillian Herrera

December 23 - Brianne Somerville



- December 2** **Melinda Molina**
- December 9** **Susan Philbin**
- December 16** **Cynthia Ramirez**
- December 23** **John Williams**
- December 30** **Leticia Mercado**

With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference

SMALL BLESSING BOXES CAN MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.

The nation is in need of communal altruism now more than ever, and a popular charity trend spurred by Facebook and other social platforms, has been sweeping across communities around the country.

[Decaturville First UMC](#) engaged with its neighborhood last summer, offering blessing box & free meals.

Wooden boxes filled with food are beginning to pop up around Decatur County, encouraging residents to take whatever they need. These miniature pantries are called Blessing Boxes and are filled with nonperishable food such as canned corn, pasta, juice and snacks and placed in a highly visible area for pedestrians.

No matter how good life may be, there's always a time when someone needs things in their lives. If we're not helping other people, especially the less fortunate there's really no purpose to life. These boxes are a blessing for those who give as well as those who receive the gifts given to them.

The success of the boxes depends on the generosity of the community around them. The pantries are not stocked regularly, but people can stop by at any time to drop off food, toiletries or other items that can help and allow people struggling to feed themselves or their families. Each box reads: "Take what you need, Leave what you can, Above all else, Be blessed of God"

The motto itself is enough to lift the spirits and feed souls of the weary and broken, and with food to nourish their bodies, this simple box can bring a new outlook into the lives of those who are in need.

"Food insecurity is still a big problem for a lot of people in Decatur County, and there are resources in place to help. But there aren't any emergency food providers right now except for the thinly stretched

Shepherds Fund. But sometimes the need is greater than the assistance available and accessible. Food pantries have limits on the number of days you can come by. Sometimes, people might be hungry late at night or early in the morning when no other resources are open.

We are blessed to live in a community where giving comes as second nature to most, and we are given many opportunities to be involved in the giving process.

Blessing Boxes are changing people's lives. The people who visit the Blessing Boxes are blessed, not only by the groceries, but also by the realization that people actually notice their struggle and have taken the time out of their busy schedules to care for them.

The volunteer who brings the food is blessed because they helped someone and it makes them complete. We were meant to care for one another in times of need.

These small acts of kindness are creating ripples across the United States, showing people how something as simple as a canned good can make a difference in a family's life that day.

One of seven apportioned giving opportunities of The United Methodist Church, the [World Service Fund](#) is the financial lifeline to a long list of Christian mission and ministry throughout the denomination. Through the Four Areas of Focus churches are engaging in ministry with the poor with their communities in ways that are transformative. www.umcgiving.org



From Rev. Maria Soto's Desk



December 2018



O Holy Night. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Noel, Noel, O Night, O Night Divine!

The Season of Advent is an invitation to meditate on the promises of God. Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of Jesus. It is a time of "getting ready" for the celebration of Christmas. The wreath, because it is a circle, symbolizes God's never-ending love. The wreath, because it is green, symbolizes life.

Advent is a time when we can clean out the inner stables of our lives so that new life can be born, our spirits may be refreshed, and our lives may be renewed in the joy of salvation. Christmas is intended to be a transforming event, not a lovely interlude in business as usual. What we do in Advent in preparation for Christmas will be our means of getting ready for a new way of looking at life -- a new way of living. How then do we live as those who believe that the promises of God will be fulfilled? . . . as those who lift up their souls to God? . . . as those who walk a path of love and faithfulness? . . . as those who work for justice and righteousness? . . . as those who live in the light of hope? One cannot escape the prophetic vision in the season of Advent. We see it in the selections from the Old Testament, and we encounter it in Mary's Song of Rejoicing. In this birth, God is intent on changing the priorities of the world: If we prepare ourselves by renewing our covenant with God, then we will be truly transformed as Christ comes again into our lives. (This article was taken from gbod.org)

May you have a very Merry Christmas!



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>Nov 2018</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>Jan 2019</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		S	M	T	W	T	F	S								6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			1 8:00AM Saturday Morning Reunion 10:00AM Bunco Brunch (FH)
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"LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME"

Children at St. Mark's UMC are very much a part of our worshiping community. Here are opportunities for age-appropriate worship, Bible lessons, activities, praise music, and fun!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of each month at 10:45 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE on the third Sunday of each month during Sunday worship. All children are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a brief, simple message (or mini sermon) keeping our younger worshipers in mind.



On November 11, 2018, Marcos & Samantha Barrientos made the decision to join St. Mark's UMC. They have been attending for several months now and are a wonderful addition to St. Mark's. Marcos has been an important part of the Food Pantry distribution team and has also helped in several church activities. We are very excited to welcome Marcos & Samantha to our church family!



NOTES AND NOTICES

Don't forget our Food Pantry!

- ♥ Rice, Beans,
- ♥ Spaghetti, Pasta Sauce
- ♥ Macaroni & Cheese
- ♥ Cans of Tuna, Chicken, Spam
- ♥ Cans of Fruit
- ♥ Boxes or bags of Cereal
- ♥ Cans of Soup, Stew, Chili...
- ♥ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ♥ Canned Vegetables
- ♥ Cooking Oil



Noisy Offering the last Sunday of every month!



A huge thanks to everyone who participated in this year's prayer vigil, Commitment Sunday Luncheon and for turning in your 2019 commitment cards. You may still turn in cards by placing them in the offering plate or by mailing to the church office. God Bless you!

A church wide Rummage Sale was held in the gym November 27. Lots of sales and interesting items. We were able to raise almost \$900. Thanks to all the volunteers for their support and help!



WALL CALENDAR



CHRISTMAS CARD SET

Calendars and Christmas cards are now available at \$7 for each item.

See Susan Philbin or any of the young adults to purchase.



Boy Scouts & their leaders

Sandy Sanchez
Pastor Soto
Letty Mercado



Kathy Jack, Bob Bailly





Please join us Christmas Eve for **Carols, Candlelight and Communion** as we celebrate the birth of JESUS! Come, let us adore Him
Monday, December 24, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

FROM YOUR STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE . . .



The SPRC would like to take time to thank St. Mark's staff for their faithful service in the past year. We would like to be able to give a monetary Christmas gift to the staff. The SPRC recommended that a free-will donation be taken for three weeks in December.

If you choose to participate, your donation can be placed in the offering plate on December 2, 9, and 16 OR mailed to the church office any time before December 16. Please mark your check **Staff Christmas Gift 2018**.

Have a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas season!

Yours in Christ,
Sue Horner
SPRC Chairperson

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

As recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Administrative Council, beginning January 2019 there will be a change to the delivery of the monthly newsletter. Here is how you can view the newsletter or get a paper copy:

1. You may view the newsletter on the website <http://stmarksumcsa.com>
2. You may pick up a paper copy that will be available in the sanctuary or in the church office.
3. If you are not able to view online or secure a paper copy, you may request to have it mailed to you. Call the church office with your request at 210-344-8393 OR turn in this form with your correct mailing information:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____



Thank you for your support during the transition to this new format. It is our goal to continue to provide information on important dates, events, celebrations, notices, and announcements.



Celebrating with JOE PRICE at the Commitment Luncheon November 11. It happened to be his **90th** birthday. May God continue to bless Joe with His boundless love and heavenly joy!

SOUNDS FROM THE BEANCOUNTERS

The following provides the financial overview for the month of October 2018.

Operating Cash balance at 9/30/2018	922
Non-Designated Contributions - October	11,316
Operating Expenses:	
Council on Ministries	125
Special Mission Giving	0
Mission Giving	3,299
Administration Expense	157
Trustees	7,760
Pastor's Compensation	4,909
Lay Personnel Compensation	<u>5,162</u>
	21,412
Other Income/(Expense)	<u>13,119</u>
Operating Cash balance at 10/31/2018	<u><u>3,945</u></u>

Comments:

October receipts were \$365 lower than budgeted, and \$3,476 lower than October 2017. Year-to-Date receipts are \$12,004 higher than budgeted, and \$3,175 lower than 2017.

October operating expenses were \$718 higher than budgeted and \$2,409 higher than October 2017. In October, all expense categories were favorable to the budget except Trustees and Mission Giving. Trustees were higher due to A/C repairs. Mission Giving, while higher than budgeted, is right on target.

Through October our apportionment payments are higher than budgeted by \$448.

Other income in October was \$3,455, \$1,139 higher than budgeted. Year-to-Date other income is unfavorable \$6,885.

Our operating cash balance on October 31, 2018 was a positive \$3,945. In October \$10,000 was transferred from the TMF operating account. We also received \$3,000 in life insurance from one of our departed members. A rummage sale was held in October which resulted in \$862 which is currently in a reserved account until it is determined where to apply this amount.

The Finance Committee asks you to review your level of support to St. Mark's, and asks that you keep St. Mark's in your prayers. As we enter the Christmas season, we ask that St. Mark's be on your Gift giving list!!

God Bless you all.

PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson	Alice Logan	Allison Williams
Jill Anderson	Michael Mendoza	Becky Ries
Kennedee Bailey	Eric Miletti	Robert Saucedo
Kylee Brown	Will Schuetze	Rita
Bucky Coley	Kirk Tomerlin	Those impacted by
Esdras Cuervo	Rudy de los Santos	wild fires in CA
Sylvia Gonzales	Warren Dunetz	

Please keep us in your prayers as we make the trek to Israel December 4-11. This trip has been two years in the making and even though I am the only one going representing St. Marks, there are 12 other disciples of Christ making this trip with me! Most of the participants are members of the Texoma Emmaus Community. We have 9 women and 4 men going on this adventure. We covet your prayers while we make this journey. I will send pictures!! Thank you and God Bless! I miss you all!!
Patti Gardner

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

HELEN K. SETTERFIELD born, October 10, 1919 passed away November 13, 2018. The Setterfield's were members at St. Mark's many, many years ago.

Dec 2 Eddie Rodriguez		Dec 17 Judy Miller
Dec 3 Jacob Wilke		Dec 18 Carolyn Brown
Dec 5 Johnny Mendoza		Dec 18 Brianne Somerville
Dec 9 Sanjuana Allen		Dec 19 MacKenzie Hoffman
Dec 9 Val Korzekwa		Dec 20 Sandy Molina
Dec 9 Lynn Swatzell		Dec 20 Patsy Rolirad
Dec 10 Bruce Schmidt		Dec 23 Lynn Swatzell
Dec 11 Billy Kiesel		Dec 26 Christa Colunga
Dec 13 Christina Leavitt		Dec 26 Joseph Scutti
Dec 16 Cody Black		Dec 28 Gabriel Cruz
Dec 17 Tom Jack		Dec 29 Katie Wilke
Dec 17 Vanessa Pe'Vey		Dec 31 Jerry McDuff

May God almighty bless you with a life full of joy and happiness.
 And may you always find favor in His eyes. Happy Birthday!



Charles & Sanjuana ALLEN	(December 10)
Hubert & Melinda MOLINA	(December 25)

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 stmarksumc@grandecom.net


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MISSION STATEMENT

- TO HELP ALL PERSONS DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST
- TO NURTURE THEM IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, AND STUDY
- TO STRIVE TO IDENTIFY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES



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 Email: stmarksumc@grandecom.net
stmarkspastor@grandecom.net

OFFICE HOURS
 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday—Thursday
 CLOSED on Friday

PASTOR Rev. Maria Soto
 SECRETARY Lillian Herrera
 CHOIR DIRECTOR Carolyn Hahn
 ORGANIST
 WESLEY NURSE
 CUSTODIAN Johnny Mendoza