



Messenger

St. Mark's
United Methodist Church

1902 Vance Jackson San Antonio, TX 78213
210-344-8393

Regular Weekly

Activities:

† We are now meeting
in-person for worship.



During this unique and challenging time in the history of our world, our leadership is very important, especially to the communities we serve. We know it isn't easy, and are extremely grateful for all that you have been doing and will be doing as we remain hopeful.

Thanks to...

- those who helped with liturgist ministry.
- those who helped with usher ministry.
- those who helped with music ministry.
- those who helped with altar flower ministry.
- those who participated in decorating the sanctuary.
- those who helped with drive-thru food distribution.
- those who have faithfully continued to support St. Mark's financially.
- those who helped count tithes/offerings and make bank deposits.
- those who helped keep everyone safe by following health/safety protocols.
- those who prayed for each prayer concern and for each other.
- those who have been flexible and patient as we continue to be the church during COVID-19.
- those who lovingly supported those who have lost a loved one.
- those who helped with the Angel Tree Project, those who made donations, and those who delivered the gifts.
- those who reached out to church family with phone calls, cards, texts, and emails.
- those who attended meetings, took minutes, prepared reports, etc.
- those who kept things clean in the buildings and church grounds.
- those who made various pick-ups and deliveries.
- those who helped with unexpected repairs.

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THANK YOU!



Follow us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marks-United-Methodist-Church/217072428313881?ref=hl>



Everyone is invited Christmas Eve for a candlelight service in the sanctuary. Rev. Greg Hackett, District Superintendent, will deliver the message "Putting a Face to a Name."

In case you're wondering if this year's candlelight will be a bit different...yes. It's important we remain focused on staying safe. We will wear masks, follow safety guidelines, keep our distance. Candles will be provided.

HOLIDAY GIVING - SUMMER RAYS LEARNING CENTER

As a means for teaching the concept of "giving" during this holiday time, the owners, staff, families, and students of **Summer Rays Learning Center** gathered and generously donated several boxes of canned and packaged food to the Food Pantry at St. Mark's. This food will now be placed on Pantry shelves and given out to neighbors and passers-by who are in need. Owned by Margaret and Adreall Ray, and directed by Jennifer Aguilar, previously a director at the St. Mark's UMC Christian Learning Center, Summer Rays Learning Center offers before-and-after school care, summer camp, part-time, full-day, and extended Saturday care.

If you have childcare needs, please give Summer Rays a call at 726-444-0758 to arrange for a visit to their facility at 5450 Babcock Road, Suite 128 (near Babcock & Hamilton Wolfe).

You may also visit their website at www.summerrayslc.com.



PASTOR: Rev. Jose David Mercado 816-752-2476
Pastor Email: jmercado@riotx.org

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera

CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza

WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda

Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

EMAIL: stmarksumc@grandecom.net

WEBSITE: www.stmarksumcsa.com

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE HOURS MAY VARY DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS.



With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference

COVID-19 DOESN'T STOP AFRICAN HEALTH CARE WORKERS

When Elisha Friday Ishaya, Allen S.D. Zomonway and Elalie Tshipeng Kambaj graduated from Africa University, they were excited about providing the best health care possible. They looked forward to working with patients, serving with competent medical teams, garnering financial support from generous donors and improving health outcomes for the communities they serve.

Then COVID-19 hit. By Aug. 9, the 55 African Union Member States reporting COVID-19 data had recorded more than a million cases and 22,966 deaths. According to the World Health Organization (July 29), more than 10,000 health workers in the 40 African countries that report such data had been infected.

“Despite the fact that the pandemic has been ongoing globally for over five months,” Elisha said, “many still don’t believe that the coronavirus exists. All over the major cities, people can be seen not adhering to social distancing guidelines, not using masks, and not wearing gloves or sanitizing their hands.” A 2015 AU alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, Elisha serves as a perioperative nurse at Federal Medical Centre Keffi in Nigeria. When his hospital became an official care center for the pandemic, the number of patients admitted for

treatment and emergency surgery increased significantly. “Most of the [other] hospitals,” he said, “are no longer accepting patients due to fear of COVID-19.”

Allen Zomonway, a registered nurse and the hospital administrator at Ganta United Methodist Mission in Liberia, holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from AU. He recently earned a master’s degree in Leadership from Oklahoma City University in the United States. Focusing on community health, Allen ensures that the entire staff, from medical doctors to cleaners, wear masks and take other necessary precautions. Everyone entering the hospital must be masked.

As COVID-19 cases are diagnosed, patients are referred to county health-isolation centers. “Diversified support,” Allen said, “helps us to strengthen our Infection Prevention and Control measures, positioning Ganta Hospital as a providential safety net.”

One of seven apportioned giving opportunities of The UMC, the Africa University Fund transforms Africa by educating and empowering students from across the continent through Africa University, the first fully accredited, United Methodist-related educational institution on the continent.
Umcgiving.org



Apportionments

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER- 2020

Operating Cash Balance on October 31, 2020	(9,071)
Non-Designated Contributions - November	9,137
Operating Expenses	15,546
Other Income/(Expense)	17,166
Operating Cash Balance on November 30, 2020	1,686

November receipts were lower than budgeted. November operating expenses were lower than budgeted. Trustee expenses were favorable due to timing of maintenance expense and lower utilities.

Pastor compensation was favorable as a result of the Conference paying pastor benefits due to COVID-19. For the month Mission Giving was slightly higher than budgeted but year-to-date we are lower than budgeted by \$18,000.

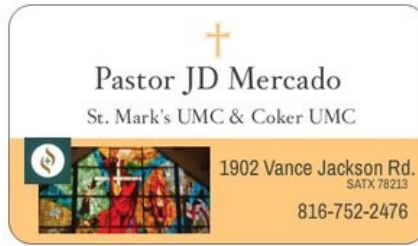
In November we recorded a cash outflow of \$4,128. This is a great concern as we are spending our reserve funds to pay our operating expenses. Our operating cash balance on November 30, 2020 was a positive \$1,686..

We continue to spend more each month than we receive in contributions. This will result in our need to use reserve funds to pay our monthly obligations. If you have any suggestion on how we can increase our monthly contributions, please let us know. The Finance Committee thanks you for your support to St. Mark's. God Bless



From Rev. Jose David Mercado

**December
2020**



Hello family,

This year (2020) has been one of the strangest years of our time, but we have still persevered and affirmed our faith. The new year is approaching and it will also bring new challenges to face. However, this December reminds us that calm comes after the storm. The event that changed the history of the world and brought new hope to those who suffer injustice and marginalization. Furthermore, it caused the darkness to disperse and brought a new dawn to the world.

This December, let us remember that the birth of our Savior was God's answer to our prayers and it still continues to be God's answer to the world. Let us celebrate with great joy that Jesus Christ was born and will continue to be born in the hearts of the afflicted, despised, defenseless, sick, and in all those who have cried out to him for salvation.

So let's not allow these difficult times rob us of the joy of celebrating Christmas with our loved ones, even remotely, by phone or by video call. Let us also accompany those who may have lost a loved one to the Covid-19 pandemic. A call, or a Christmas card is always very well received by those who feel heartbroken. May everything we do during this season, transpire God's love and hope to those around us.

I pray that this December, the Light of the World, our Savior Jesus Christ, will illuminate the hearts of humanity. And may the grace, the blessing and the mercy of the Lord, Father-Son and Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Pastor Jose David Mercado



Diciembre 2020

Hola Familia,

Este año 2020 ha sido uno de los años más extraños de nuestro tiempo, pero aún hemos perseverado y afirmado nuestra fe. Se acerca el nuevo año y también traerá nuevos retos a afrontar. Sin embargo, este diciembre nos recuerda que después de la tormenta llega la calma. El evento que cambió la historia del mundo y trajo una nueva esperanza a quienes sufren la injusticia y la marginación. Además, hizo que la oscuridad se dispersara y trajo un nuevo amanecer al mundo.

En este diciembre, recordemos que el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador fue la respuesta de Dios a nuestras oraciones y que aún sigue siendo la respuesta de Dios al mundo. Celebremos con gran alegría que Jesucristo nació y seguirá naciendo en el corazón de los afligidos, despreciados, indefensos, enfermos y en todos los que le han clamado por salvación.

Así que no dejemos que estos tiempos difíciles nos roben la alegría de celebrar la Navidad con nuestros seres queridos, incluso a distancia, por teléfono o por videollamada. Acompañemos también a aquellos que han perdido a un ser querido por la pandemia de Covid-19. Una llamada, o una tarjeta de Navidad siempre es muy bien recibida por aquellos que se sienten desconsolados.

Oro para que en este mes de diciembre la Luz del Mundo, nuestro Salvador Jesucristo, ilumine los corazones de toda la Tierra. Y que la gracia, la bendición y la misericordia del Señor, Padre-Hijo y Espíritu Santo esté con todos nosotros. Amén.

Pastor Jose David Mercado



PRAYERS & PRAISE



Bob Ailerson
 Jill Anderson
 Kennedee Bailey
 Kylee Brown
 Bucky Coley
 Esdras Cuervo
 Alice Logan

Michael Mendoza
 Eric Miletti
 Will Schuetze
 St. Mark's Shut-ins &
 homebound friends
 Roland Canales
 Janice Coley

Pat Keller
 Those suffering from
 coronavirus
 Those who have lost a
 loved one recently
 For justice and peace
 For each other



*The Harvey Family on the passing of
 MAX HARVEY, November 16, 2020 at the age of 92.*

*The Pe'vey Family on the passing of
 ROSS PE'VEY, November 6, 2020.*



DEC 2 Eddie Rodriguez
 DEC 3 Roland Dullnig
 DEC 5 Johnny Mendoza
 DEC 9 Sanjuana Allen
 DEC 9 Lynn Swatzell
 DEC 17 Tom Jack
 DEC 17 Vanessa Pe'Vey
 DEC 18 Brianne Somerville
 DEC 28 Gabriel Cruz

May God bless you with unconditional love and abundant joy! As you celebrate your special day, rejoice in knowing that God will be with you each and every step of the way.

Happy birthday!



December 3 - Malcom & Patti Austin
 December 10 - Charles & Sanjuana Allen
 December 25 - Hubert & Melinda Molina