



# Messenger

St. Mark's  
United Methodist Church

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

## Regular Weekly

### Activities:

† Calendar of regular activities will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

<sup>13</sup> *"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."*

<sup>14</sup> *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."*  
<sup>15</sup> *No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."*  
<sup>16</sup> *In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*

**Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)**

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## Making the Difference

When we read these verses, it becomes clear to us that being different is part of our nature as Christians. The only way to discover the flavor salt gives, is through taste. In the same way, the Christian faith is not demonstrated by words alone, but by actions that manifest through God's grace and mercy towards others.

Light is another of the wonders that God has created for our enjoyment. We can see and enjoy flowers, mountain landscapes, the ocean, rivers, valleys, and all living things. At the same time, God gives us the ability to see our children and grandchildren grow. Without light, we would not be able to see what God created for our enjoyment. Similarly, the Christian who receives God's light, brings and shares the light of Christ into their home, work, and wherever they go. A light that cannot be hidden or covered, is one that comes from Jesus our Redeemer and Savior.

Jesus tells us: <sup>16</sup> *"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*

Church, making a difference is something that is in the very

nature of every Christian and shining His light is part of what Jesus has placed in our hearts. St. Mark's was established in our community as a luminary and as salt with the purpose to bring the flavor of Christ. God calls us to make a difference in our community, but above all, God wants to bring His light into our lives.



*In Christ's love, your pastor, JD Mercado*



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

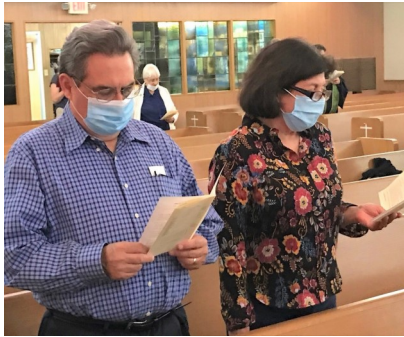
# SERVE

Although our buildings were closed for several months, they re-opened for in-person worship June 14 through July 5. A lot happened during that time. We had Holy Communion twice, lifted up prayers for Father's Day, heard beautiful solo music, said goodbye to Pastor Soto, welcomed Pastor Mercado, and now. . . we are back to staying at home during Sunday morning worship time.

For now, Pastor Mercado will be providing a videotaping of worship weekly, which will follow the order of worship at our morning services. You may experience this worship from the safety of your homes, backyard, or favorite quiet time/reflection spot.

Pastor Mercado will continue to find ways to reach out to those who do not have video access. We are all trying to do our best to find ways to support one another.

Thank you all for your patience during these difficult times. Feel free to offer any feedback or suggestions to Pastor Mercado or to the Church Office.



Due to the COVID-19 virus and the need to practice “social distancing,” the St. Mark’s Food Pantry has been closed for several months and will continue to remain closed at this time. Thanks to staff and volunteers from Project Transformation (our new neighbors in the Lovely Lane building) food bags continued to be handed out for a few weeks. Several of our regular clients were fed, while many new people from the neighborhood also learned of the food giveaway.

St. Mark’s will continue to monitor the governor’s and mayor’s requests for limiting physical interaction and will determine when it is as safe as possible to resume the distribution from our Food Pantry. Please watch “The Messenger” church newsletter for further information.

**PASTOR: Rev. Jose David Mercado 816-752-2476**

Pastor Email: [jmercado@riotx.org](mailto:jmercado@riotx.org)

SECRETARY: Lillian Herrera  
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Carolyn Hahn

CUSTODIAN: Johnny Mendoza  
WESLEY NURSE: Rose Miranda

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday Closed Friday

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WEBSITE: [www.stmarksumcsa.com](http://www.stmarksumcsa.com)



**With Your Help The United Methodist Church is Making a Difference**

**STUDENTS PUSH ENVELOPE ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BUILD COMMUNITY**

A group of female students at Africa University have established a scholarship fund as a way of celebrating their diversity and unity. Your support of the Africa University Fund apportionment supports the general operating expenses of Africa University including faculty and staff salaries and vital infrastructure.

It's a university tradition for the students housed in the various residence halls on the campus to plan and host a community-building event at the start of each academic year. So, 72 young women decided that their 2019 community building initiative would change a life and inspire others. "We wanted to do something different and to have a positive impact on someone's life...our intention was to motivate the other women in our hostel to see the value and importance of community work," said Nyarai Mungure, who serves as resident assistant in the Ben Hill dormitory.

More than 50% of the women contributed to the initiative. Students pooled their financial resources and identified a family in need. They selected a child in that family, 10th grader Helen Murinda, to receive medical supplies, school tuition fees, and encouragement.

For the Murinda family, the essentials of life—food, housing, education and medical care are a challenge. Helen's father, a painter by profession, was retrenched by his employer in 2017. The following year, her mother died of cancer. Currently, keeping up with her school work is a struggle for Helen because an old injury to her leg has not healed properly and is causing her a great deal of pain.

The students are collaborating with the staff of the Bishop Alfred Norris Health Clinic and Africa University Peer Educators Network to provide Helen with ongoing care and supplies. They have also committed to paying Helen's tuition fees until she graduates from high school. "I do not want this initiative to end with us but to be something continuous that we as a (dormitory) adopt as a part of our community building because building a community does not only imply the Africa University community but also the larger community in which we live," said Mungure.

One of seven apportioned giving opportunities of The United Methodist Church, 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. The Africa University Fund supports the general operating expenses of Africa University including faculty and staff salaries and vital infrastructure. [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)



Apportionments

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

Operating Cash Balance on April 30, 2020	2,820
Non-Designated Contributions - May	12,735
Operating Expenses	16,615
Other Income/(Expense)	12,608
Operating Cash Balance on May 31, 2020	13,159

May receipts were lower than budgeted. May operating expenses were \$5,049 lower than budgeted. Mission Giving was favorable to the budget as we are only paying amounts specifically donated for apportionments and there was no payment made in May.

Other expense categories were lower than budgeted as a result of the church being closed due to COVID-19. Pastor compensation was higher than budgeted as a result of paying April and May benefit expense in May.

In May, TMF donated to congregations they have a relationship with to help pay the expenses of the church impacted by COVID-19. We were given \$1,500.

Our operating cash balance on May 31, 2020 was positive. This resulted from a transfer from TMF of \$10,000.

It is important to remember that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, services were not held during May.

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 you all.

# From Rev. Jose David Mercado

July 2020

I am originally from Puerto Rico, where I lived until I was 25 years old. Then I moved to Kansas City, where I got married and met the Lord. I have been married to my wife, Marilu, for 13 years. We have two girls, Marina (7) and Mariani 12 years old.

I have fond memories of our time in Kansas/Missouri, as well as of our first church, St. Mark UMC in Overland Park, Kansas. There I received my pastoral call and where I served in many areas of the church, such as:

- St. Mark UMC Committee of Trustees
- Preached once a month.
- San Marcos PPRC member, covenant group member, Hispanic community outreach in Desoto, Kansas, Sunday Bible study leader, discipleship leader
- Leader of the Music Ministry: preparing musical arrangements and messages from ministers during Sunday services with the leadership support of my spouse.
- Administrative Support: Assist the local Hispanic Ministry pastor in all day-to-day administrative tasks, support communication between Hispanic and Anglo congregations; plan, direct, and run various church events with spousal support.
- Led study groups
- Marriage counseling support
- Organize and lead retreats based on the needs of the church
- Youth leader



I went to licensing school in Perkins and graduated from the Basic Course of Study. I am currently a full-time seminarian at Fuller Seminary. I served 7 wonderful years at Emanuel UMC. It has been a privilege to be part of Emanuel UMC's spiritual growth and to be part of the services and spiritual guidance provided to the community.

My calling is focused on community outreach and creating healthy relationships with the church and community. I am a pastor who loves family events with a youth focus. I believe faithfully that God works in the lives of young people to attract the entire family to the feet of Christ. Primarily, I have worked with the Hispanic community which I consider to be my strength in the ministry. But I consider challenges as a blessing from God and it is where He glorifies himself through us.

## **Haciendo la Diferencia**

<sup>13</sup> »Ustedes son la sal de la tierra. Pero ¿para qué sirve la sal si ha perdido su sabor? ¿Pueden lograr que vuelva a ser salada? La descartarán y la pisotearán como algo que no tiene ningún valor.

<sup>14</sup> »Ustedes son la luz del mundo, como una ciudad en lo alto de una colina que no puede esconderse. <sup>15</sup> Nadie enciende una lámpara y luego la pone debajo de una canasta. En cambio, la coloca en un lugar alto donde ilumina a todos los que están en la casa. <sup>16</sup> De la misma manera, dejen que sus buenas acciones brillen a la vista de todos, para que todos alaben a su Padre celestial.

**Mateo 5:13-16 (NTV)**

Cuando leemos estos versículos, nos queda claro que ser diferentes es parte de nuestra naturaleza como cristianos. La única forma en que se descubre el sabor de la sal es a través del gusto. Del mismo modo, la fe del cristiano no se demuestra con palabras, sino también con acciones que manifiestan la gracia y la misericordia de Dios para con los demás.

La luz también es una de las maravillas que Dios ha creado para disfrutar lo que Dios ha hecho. Podemos ver y disfrutar las flores, paisajes montañosos, el océano, ríos, valles y todos los seres vivos. Así mismo, Dios nos da la oportunidad de experimentar y ser capaz de ver crecer a nuestros hijos y nietos. Sin la luz no podríamos ver lo que Dios creó para nosotros. Consecuentemente, el cristiano que recibe la luz de Cristo, la comparte en su hogar, trabajo y donde quiera que vaya. Una luz cual no está oculta, cubierta ni tapada con nada, es la luz que solo proviene de Jesús nuestro Redentor y Salvador.

Jesús nos dice: <sup>16</sup> *De la misma manera, dejen que sus buenas acciones brillen a la vista de todos, para que todos alaben a su Padre celestial.*

Iglesia, hacer la diferencia es algo que esta en la naturaleza misma del cristiano y brillar es parte de lo que Jesús ha puesto en nuestros corazones. St. Mark's fue fundada en nuestra comunidad como lumbrera y como sal para traer el sabor de Cristo. Dios nos llama a hacer la diferencia en nuestra comunidad, pero sobre todo, Dios quiere traer su luz y su sabor a nuestras vidas.

Con aprecio y amor su pastor, *JD Mercado*

## **From Rev. Jose Mercado**

Soy originario de Puerto Rico, donde viví hasta los 25 años. Luego me moví a la ciudad de Kansas, donde me casé y conocí al Señor. Casado con mi esposa Marilu de 13 años de matrimonio con dos niñas Marina (7) y Mariani de 12 años.

Tengo muy buenos recuerdos de esa ciudad y de nuestra primera iglesia St. Marks en Overland Park, Kansas. Allí recibí mi llamado pastoral y donde serví en muchas áreas y ministerios de la iglesia, tales como:

Comité de Síndicos de UMC de St. Mark > Predicación una vez por mes > Miembro del PPRC de San Marcos, miembro del grupo del pacto, alcance comunitario hispano de Desoto, Kansas, líder de estudio bíblico dominical, líder de discipulado > Líder del Ministerio de Música: preparar arreglos musicales y mensajes de ministros durante los servicios dominicales junto con el apoyo de mi esposa > Apoyo administrativo: asistencia al pastor local del Ministerio Hispano en todas las tareas administrativas diarias, apoyo en la comunicación entre las congregaciones hispanas y anglo, planificación, dirección y ejecución de eventos de la iglesia con el apoyo de mi esposa > Grupo de estudio basado en el libro *Una Vida con Propósito* > Apoyo de clases matrimoniales > Organizar y dirigir retiros basados en las necesidades de la iglesia > Líder de Ministerio de jóvenes

Completé la escuela de licencia en Perkins y me gradué del Curso de Estudio básico. Actualmente soy seminarista en el Seminario Fuller. He servido 7 años maravillosos en Emanuel UMC. Ha sido un privilegio ser parte del crecimiento espiritual de la Iglesia Metodista Unida de Emanuel y el servicio que le brinda a la comunidad.

Mi llamado está centrado en el alcance comunitario y crear relaciones saludables entre la iglesia y la comunidad. Soy un pastor que le encanta los eventos familiares con un enfoque a la juventud. Creo fielmente que Dios obra en la vida de los jóvenes para atraer a la familia entera a los pies de Cristo Jesús. Primordialmente he trabajado con la comunidad hispana la cual considero que es mi fuerte en el ministerio. Pero considero los retos como una bendición de Dios y es donde Él se glorifica a través de nosotros.



## **Community Isn't Cancelled this Summer for Project Transformation**

### **An Update on Project Transformation Housing and Home (Kercida McClain)**

This spring, when Project Transformation (PT) realized that their in-person summer program would not look like past summers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff quickly pivoted to make sure their families and children were still able to receive services. In just a few short weeks, the organization moved to offer virtual programming and in-person supply distribution instead of their typical summer day camp for summer 2020. This re-envisioned program, which kicked-off June 1, includes distribution of educational resources and supplies, food, books, and engaging videos focused on social-emotional learning, reading, and camplike enrichment activities.

One of the changes included not having summer interns live in community. The PT Home is nearing completion. In order for the building to stay active and in use, it will be the home for the PT offices for the upcoming year. PT is so excited to continue the partnership with St. Mark and the Dellview neighborhood. We will consecrate and celebrate this new home September 24th and we hope you will be there.

As PT begins week five of their eight-week summer program, the organization is happy to report that community has definitely not been cancelled this summer. To date, 260 children have registered for the virtual summer program, with 85% of the children receiving meals/food distribution at six site churches. Many donors and churches have contributed books and supplies for weekly resources kits, and over 100 volunteers have stepped up to help with meal and supply distribution, volunteer as virtual Reading Buddies, and write letters to PT's 5th-8th graders through the organization's Pen Pal program. The six site churches all located in the Rio Texas conference, have been gracious partners, opening up their doors to our summer interns and staff to house the supplies and host meal and supply distributions. The six churches include Laurel Heights UMC, Northern Hills UMC and Westlawn UMC in San Antonio, First United Methodist Church of Georgetown and Leander UMC in the Austin area, and El Divino Redentor in the Rio Grande Valley.

The pandemic continues to highlight and widen societal inequities, further marginalizing already vulnerable communities. Families with fewer financial resources are being impacted disproportionately as they struggle with food insecurity, unemployment, and insufficient digital access and learning opportunities for their children. This is why Project Transformation is prioritizing the distribution of food, books, fun and educational activities, art supplies, as well as virtual mentoring and peer-to-peer support focusing on social emotional interventions wherever possible. "We are committed to providing interventions for summer learning loss more than ever to reach as many children as possible. Our delivery is different. Our mission is the same," says Kercida McClain, CEO of Project Transformation Rio Texas.

*To learn more about Project Transformation, please visit [www.ProjectTransformation.org/Rio-Texas](http://www.ProjectTransformation.org/Rio-Texas).*

Questions about Project Transformation may be directed to the Trustees Chairperson,  
John Williams.

# PRAYERS & PRAISE



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

Eric Miletti  
 Will Schuetze  
 Warren Dunetz  
  
 Durick Family  
 Orlando Canales  
 Ruben Ellis

St. Mark's Shut-ins &  
 homebound friends  
 Those suffering from  
 coronavirus  
 Those suffering from  
 job/economic loss  
 For justice and peace



*the family of Tracy Hanna Jack.  
 Tracy passed away July 4, 2020.*

*the family of Robert Smith.  
 Robert passed away July 5, 2020.*



July 3 Frances Mendoza  
 July 9 Diane Williams  
 July 21 Mary Sue Mahaffey  
 July 26 Joan Schott  
 July 30 Janice Coley

*May you enjoy God's  
 shower of blessings,  
 good health, peace,  
 and joy. Happy  
 Birthday!*

July 11 Jerrold & Joan Schott  
 July 13 Jake & Kim Durick  
 July 22 Bob & Mary Bailly  
 July 25 Bob & Dorothy Mace

