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 St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



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www.stmarkumcmcallen.org



YouTube
 St. Mark UMC
 (McAllen, TX)

Regular Church Schedule

Sunday:	Worship Service	10:45 am
	Live Stream (via Facebook)	10:45 am
Wednesday:	Prayer Time	11:30 am
	Youth Bible Study	06:30 pm
	Young Adult Bible Study	06:30 pm
	Faith Sharing Group	06:30 pm

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING	FINANCIAL REPORT
Month: February 2025 Worship Service: 63 Online Service: 13 Bible Studies: 28	Month: February 2025 Total = \$210.00 Project Transformation Rio Texas	Month: January 2025 Income: \$22,815.31 Expenses: \$21,030.23 Months: Jan. 2025 Income: \$22,815.31 Expenses: \$21,030.23

St. Mark Events

March 2024



Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

~James 1:12 (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

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Website
www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

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stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com

Events this Month!

March 2024



Embracing Our Differences

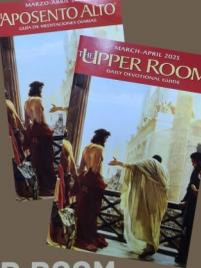
An Interactive 1 day Training Event
Saturday, March 29th
8am-4pm
 \$15.00 Per person
 at St. Mark UMC, 301 W. Pecan, McAllen

Please register at the link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/embracing-our-differences-a-path-to-equity-registration-1203572841769?aff=oddttdcreator>



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 -Matthew 6:21

Holy communion Every Sunday



AVAILABLE TODAY

INSIDE NARTHEX ENTRANCE

ENGLISH SPANISH LARGE PRINT

UPPER ROOM MARCH - APRIL

POTLUCK Luncheon

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, **March 30th** in the gym for a luncheon. Please see side list on what to bring if you like!

A-E ----- Dessert
 F-J ----- Clean Up
 K-O ----- Main Dish
 P-R ----- Side Dish
 S-Z ----- Salad

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5th
6:30pm

St. Mark UMC
 301 W. Pecan Blvd, McAllen, TX 78501




Daylight Savings Begins
 Don't forget to spring forward an hour Saturday Night, March 8th

St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Saturday March 15
11:00 a.m.

Gather up your Coins

Noisy Offering
Sunday, March 30th



Items Needed	Items Needed
Rice	Canned Veggies
Crackers	Peanut Butter
Tomato Sauce	Beans
Canned Fruit	Jelly

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.

1st Day of Spring!
 March 20th



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

One Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th at 7pm



Young Adult Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm
 in the Duplex Room (East Side of building)



YOUTH GROUP

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




BE SMART & INFORMED

STAY SAFE

ALL people who work with and are around children, youth, & elderly **NEED** to have safe gatherings backgrounds done.

Go to safegatherings.com to start your application. You can also call the church office to schedule a time to do it at our computer in the church office.

Staff Meeting

Staff meeting with Pastor Joe
ONLY 3rd Wednesday this month following Prayer Time in Narthex.



Faith Sharing Group

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



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.

St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary



WE ARE HIRING

PRECHOOL TEACHERS

- High-School Diploma or GED
- Clear Background Check
- Paid Holidays & Sick Days
- For information: 956-686-2650

SEND RESUME TO
stmarkumcpreschool@yahoo.com



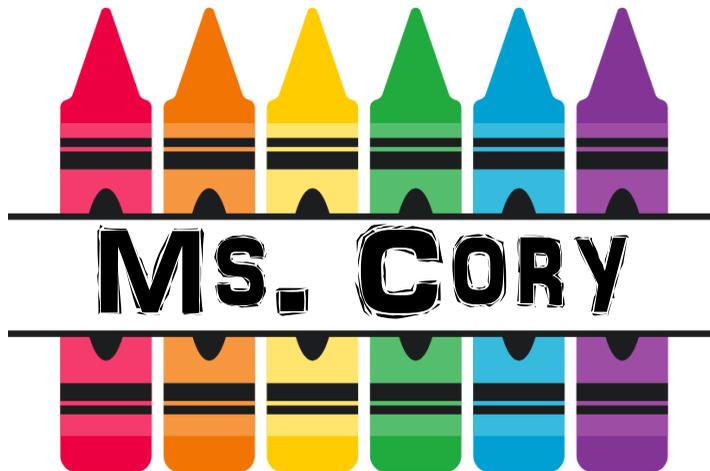
Meet the St. Mark UMC Preschool Teacher

Hello! My name is Ms. Cory. I am the Infant Room Teacher. I have five amazing infants in my classroom that I enjoy spending my days with.

About Me: I like to spend my time outside of work with my mom and friends. Some of the things I like to do when I'm not working are taking trips to San Antonio, TX or South Padre Island to fish. When I can't travel I enjoy spending my time playing video games on my PlayStation 4, reading, or drawing and painting. I also like to crochet and sew. I craft my own anime outfits to wear for cosplay when I attend Anime Conventions in the McAllen area.

Some of my favorite things are: Color-Black & Red, Flower-Sunflower, Drink-Sprite, Food-Chinese, Movie-Spawn, Book-Twilight, Place to Visit-San Antonio, TX, Number-7, Hobby-Going to Anime Conventions and dressing up as a Anime Character, Candy-Hershey's, and Shape-Diamond.

One of my favorite memories at St. Mark UMC Preschool is getting to see the babies in my classroom grow. It is the thing that I love about being an Infant Preschool Teacher. I love coming to work and seeing my kiddos faces and spending time with them all!



Pastor Musings

Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, March 2025
Why Lent?

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished."—Matthew 4:1-2, NRSV

For much of global Christianity, Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year) marks the beginning of a "40 day" season called "Lent," leading up to Easter Sunday (April 20 this year). If you look at a calendar, it's actually a 46 day period, but since Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and critical self-reflection, Sundays are excluded from the count of "Lent" days, because we always celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Sunday. The vast majority of United Methodist congregations, along with other liturgically focused Protestant denominations (Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian/Anglican, Disciples of Christ, etc.), join our Catholic and Orthodox siblings in Christ in observing these "40 days," with a particular focus on the weight of sin and our need for the cross of Christ for forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, which began his public ministry after his baptism, is not the only time we see 40 associated with repentance, renewal, and spiritual growth in the Bible. Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai with the Lord to receive instructions for the new worship space, the tabernacle (Exodus 24:18). God commanded the Israelites to spend 40 years in the desert prior to entering the Promised Land, in response to their attempted rebellion (Numbers 14:33-34). The prophet Elijah, in despair and exile despite a victory over Baal worshipers, spent 40 days fasting prior to encountering the Lord on Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). The sinful people of Nineveh spent 40 days in repentance and fasting to avoid God's punishment (Jonah 3:4-5).

During this season of Lent, may we find ways to repent of our sins and failings, and seek the unconditional and extravagant grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ, by the power of that same Holy Spirit that sent Jesus into the wilderness almost 2,000 years ago.



A BIG Thank You!

by: **Hollie Landis & Jennifer Rodriguez**

Our 33rd year of Affair of the Heart (AOH) has come to an end! We had another blessed year and could not have done it without **YOUR** help. This event is so much more than a one day market event. It takes so much time to plan it, setup, host it, and cleanup after. So many wonderful people from our church and their friends help organize and plan each years event. AOH means so much to our church, community, AOH committee, our sponsors, and our vendors. It is more than a fundraiser!

Over the 33 years we have had AOH at St. Mark UMC, our vendors have become family. Several vendors that have been with us so many years that we have watched their children grow up and they have watched ours grow up also. Jennifer R. takes a selfie with one of the vendors every year and then sends it to her son, Alex, so the vendor lady can say hi to him. When Alex was little at AOH, he would watch this vendor's booth for he so she could go to the restroom and she remembers his kindness all these years later. Another vendor, our beloved Pearl Lady, will be having cardiac surgery in the upcoming months and will be moving to be closer to her children. We all experienced sadness as we heard the news. We build such a special bond with each of our vendors each year they come.

AOH auction brings in the most money from the event. It is so important to get as many wonderful items for the auction. We have church members from years ago who still donate to the auction. Doug Timmer created a handcrafted wooden pen for the auction this year and reached out to us. Becky Williams always donates something and will message Jennifer to find out what our theme is to help with décor ideas. Mandie & Micah return for a few days, after moving a few hours away, to help run the auction. Even our preschool children and teachers create beautiful auction items which go as some of the hottest items of the auction.

Mary also moved away and returns to help run the Tea Room. She arrives the day before to buy the supplies and start preparing the delicious food that EVERYONE talks about. We are asked every year for the recipes to the items on the menu.

Even though some of our committee members have moved away they still are a big help. Sara S. lives in Rio Grande City and can't make it to our meetings in person. So She and Mandie would attend our meetings on speaker phone to still be connected to the group. They do miss out on Doris's cookies, but they had many contributions to help make it a successful event. We are happy to have new people join our group to help. Don't be afraid to step up and help. Some of us are getting a little older and many hands make for lighter work. If you are interested in helping with our 34th AOH, please reach out to any of our AOH committee members.

We thank our sponsors for their donations to our event. Half of our sponsors come from members of St. Mark UMC or children of members. Speaking of children of church members. A big shout out to all the family efforts we saw this year. From father-daughter combinations to grandmother-mother-daughter, son, daughter-in-law combos, and many mother-daughter groups. It is so fun to see us work together as not just a church family but individual families making it an affair to remember.

These are just a few stories about how AOH touches the community. We could never put this together without each and every one of **YOU**. Your contributions matter, makes a difference, and does not go unnoticed. This event is more than a fundraiser! AOH is opportunities to make connections with people, for service, for fellowship, to build bridges, for family bonding, and to join generations of community members. From our whole heart, **THANK YOU!**

2025 Affair of the Heart brought in \$9, 286.74 as of Sunday, February 23rd. This gives us ways to assist ministries in the church that would not be possible without this event. We always tithe first our 10% to the church and then we write a check of \$1,000.00 to the St. Mark UMC food pantry.

Again, **THANK YOU** for all your efforts, putting up with the constant reminders and your generous spirits as we do this incredible event each year. Huge shout out to the AOH committee. Each person takes such care in their assignments to make sure it is the best day possible.

