



Concert Series: Four Hands Jazz Piano

Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi, pioneers in the use of four-hands jazz piano, will perform from the stride -- piano, ragtime and boogie-boogie repertoires along with the swing era at St. Mark's UMC on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Invite your family and friends to the concert and to the reception following the concert to meet and greet the performers.

Young People's Ministry Offering February 10

This special offering is a request of the California Pacific Annual Conference. The funds collected are used for programs and projects throughout the Conference that support youth and young adults in their Christian walk, to nurture their faith development, to equip young leaders, and to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ.

2019 Women's Retreat

2019 Women's Retreat is scheduled for March 22-24, 2019. Please plan to join us. More information and Sign-ups will begin next month.



Mindful Money Management 1

A Four Week Course on Financial Literacy for Teens & Tweens

Mindful Money Management 1

Based on the University of California's "Money Talks! Are You Listening?" Series 6th-12th graders! Get helpful tools for your future! Explore how to budget, save, & spend in a way that matches your personal goals, and how emotions, advertising, and credit cards impact our buying choices.



Tuesdays, Feb. 19 - March 19, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm
\$25 (non-refundable) Registration Fee for Entire Course
Light Dinner Included
Rooms 9 & 10, 2nd Floor of the Education/Preschool Bldg.
St. Mark's UMC, 3502 Clairemont Drive

Register Today- Space Limited!
Contact Instructor Kris Nieder, M.Ed.
Kris@StMarksUMCSD.org
858-273-1480

A secular (non-religious) class generously sponsored by St. Mark's UMC to help our community thrive!
Piggy Photo from FreePik

Happy Birthday, St. Mark's: A celebration on March 17

Our beloved St. Mark's is at the edge of a 65th birthday, and plans are well underway to commemorate the church's beginning. Mark your calendars now for a sloppy Joe lunch and some fancy flying. And, be watching for history reviews in upcoming issues of the *Messenger*. Don't miss the *Flights of Faith* celebration on Sunday, March 17. We are St. Mark's!

LGBTQIA Questions?

Join Dr. Colette Lord and Rev. Jeri

Who? Anyone wanting to understand the LGBTQIA community

What? Dr. Colette Lord will answer questions about gender identity and what it means to be transgender or non-binary.

When? Third Monday of each month, 6-7 PM
January 21 - June 17, 2019

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 18

Why? To increase the understanding, compassion, and empathy for LGBTQIA folks so our community is loving for all.

Where? Room. 10

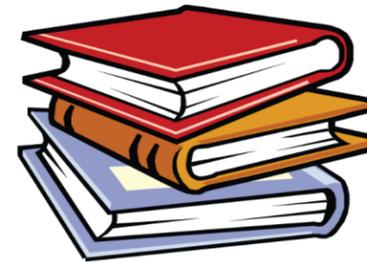
Sunday Morning Hospitality Help Needed



Plan to Join a Small Group!

St. Mark's Book Club

The January book selection for St Mark's Book Club is *Can't Wait To Get To Heaven* by Fanny Flagg. We'll meet on **Friday, Feb 8th, 10:00 a.m.** for fellowship and discussion at Joy Lewis' home: 4904 Mt. Hay Dr, San Diego. Everyone welcome.



Where Is God? Monday Lenten Study

More than 10 years ago, Rev. Craig led a study at St. Mark's called "How Have TV and the Internet Changed Us?" A lot has changed since then, especially with the ubiquity of smartphones, fast wireless, Facebook and Twitter. So it's time for a new study!

We will look once more at Neil Postman's brilliant and prescient 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, in addition to Brooke Gladstone's bestseller *The Influencing Machine*, Nicholas Carr's *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*, and several essays reflecting on the uses and abuses of Facebook and Twitter.

This Lenten study is called *Google, TV and Twitter Are Everywhere: Where is God?* It will meet on **four Mondays in Lent: March 25, April 1, 8, and 15, from 1 to 2:15 p.m.** in the New Room. Sign up by e-mailing, calling, or visiting the church office. Study materials will be available in March.

Coming soon

Counseling Psychologist Megan Divine lost her partner in a tragic accident in 2009. In her work and personal life in the years that followed, she learned that our culture just doesn't understand grief and loss. As a result, she has written a book that offers a new and deeper approach to grief, entitled *It's OK That You're Not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand*. In May, plan to join us for a three-week study and reflection, on **Monday May 6, 13, and 20th, from 1 to 2:15 in the New Room.**

How can our failings be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth?

Rev. Jeri will lead a six-week book conversation on Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward, A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* beginning **Thursday, March 7 at 6 PM** in the New Room. All ages are invited to join in the conversation.

Almost Everything—A 3 Week Study

In her new book *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*, bestselling author and spiritual seeker Anne Lamott attempts to write down some "big" truths she has learned about life and God. In her Prelude (she calls it that instead of a "Preface") she writes, "In general, it doesn't feel like the light is making a lot of progress. It feels like death by annoyance."

But then she says, "Love and goodness and the world's beauty and humanity are the reasons we have hope. Yet (no matter what we do) we see that our beauty is being destroyed, crushed by greed and cruel stupidity. And we also see love and tender heart carry the day. Fear, against all odds, leads to community, to bravery and right action, and these give us hope."

Rev. Craig will lead a three-week study of Lamott's readable, funny, and insightful book on **Mondays, Feb 25, March 4 and March 11 from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room.** Books will be available from the church office for \$14, starting Sunday, February 3. It is very helpful if you sign up by emailing, calling, or visiting the church office. Book payment may be made by check, or online via the secure link on the St. Mark's Giving page.

In Our Prayers

- ♥ Forrest Sedgwick
- ♥ Phyllis Drewett
- ♥ Sherry Forrest
- ♥ Vera Morrison
- ♥ Al Johannesen

Our military personnel:

- ♥ Brook Bossen, Coast Guard
- ♥ Kris Brendal, Army
- ♥ Robert S. Chisholm, Navy
- ♥ Craig Clemans, Marines
- ♥ Paul Clemans, Air Force
- ♥ Blake Cross, Navy
- ♥ Samuel England, Navy
- ♥ Lenny Hezelett, Navy
- ♥ Amanda Hoadley, Navy
- ♥ Michael Hunter, Navy
- ♥ Brady Jackson, Army
- ♥ Jeremy Munson, Navy
- ♥ Milo Riegle, Marines
- ♥ Casper Stalnaker, Navy
- ♥ Nathan Streeter, Army
- ♥ Robert Tarango, Navy
- ♥ Dylan Weitzman, Army



You are invited to participate in the St Mark's prayer chain via email. Prayer requests will be sent to you via an email account you provide; you will not be asked to do anything other than offer your private prayers for requests you receive. To participate, please email Donna Newby at donewby@san.rr.com.

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Volunteer Opportunities

- **Join the Pew Crew!** If you have 1.5 hours to give once every 8 weeks, time of your choosing, to prepare one half of the pews for services, please contact Martha Hilker at 858-273-4393.
- **Front desk help needed** Monday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. For more information contact Michelle in the office at 858-273-1480.



there is more information on our website and in the email Messenger? If you don't want to miss a thing, subscribe to the email Messenger at www.stmarksumcsd.org.

Pastor's Sunday School

In Pastor's Sunday School we study the lectionary texts which follow the church calendar. For Sunday, February 3:

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Luke 4:21-30

It's an informal study, **always open to all**, at 8:30 AM in the New Room.

Next Week @ A Glance

Sunday, February 3, 2019

8:30AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30AM Service & Communion/Sanc
12:00PM Tongan Fellowship/Sanc

Monday, February 4, 2019

6:00PM Carillon Bells/SH
6:45PM AA Meeting-Wmn/RM 9

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

7:00AM Men's Breakfast/Waffle House
4:00PM I/WE Committee/Lib
6:30PM CCSA Advisory Mtg/CR
7:15PM AA Meeting/RM 9

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

5:30PM Bible Study/NR
6:00PM Glory Ringers/SH
6:30PM Discover Your Calling/NR

Thursday, February 7, 2019

10:00AM CARE Corp Mtg/NR
12:00PM Midday Mindfulness/NR
4:15PM Cherub Choir/CR
5:20PM Hallelujah Chimes/SH
7:00PM Chancel Choir/CR
7:00PM Boy Scouts/SH & NR
7:15PM AA Meeting-Wmn/RM 9

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Young People's Ministries Offering
8:00AM Pancake Breakfast/SH
8:30AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30AM Service/Sanc
12:00PM Tongan Fellowship/Sanc
4:30PM Concert Series/Sanc & SH

CR=Choir Room Sanc=Sanctuary
Lib=Library SH=Social Hall
NR=New Room

**If you have any questions about or would like to add an event to the church calendar, please contact the church office at 858-273-1480 or by email at office@stmarksumcsd.org.*



St. Mark's Messenger

January 29, 2019

3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

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Rev. Jeri Newell-Davis
Associate Minister

Sunday, February 3, 2019

9:30 AM Service
Rev. Jeri

Child Care, Room 1

Sunday School
Rooms 6, 8 & 10



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
155



Keeping In Touch

Welcome to Super Bowl Week! For those who are praying for the New England Patriots to win, I hope your team wins. For those who are praying for the Los Angeles Rams to win, I hope your team wins. Honestly, I don't care who wins, I just hope it's a good game. But the truth of the matter is that people choose sides and some people will be angry if their team loses. After all, they have invested so much in *their* team winning the coveted trophy and rings. They wear the team jersey or colors, watched all or most of the games, and in some cases, stayed loyal to the team in the losing seasons. It's a transactional mindset; I did this for you, now you do this for me.

Now before you claim, "that's not me", be assured we all live in a transactional world. If I need a loaf of bread, I pay what the store charges. Even if I make the bread myself, I still have to buy the ingredients. If I want a pair of shoes there are a host of bargain and specialty stores waiting for me to open my wallet. We give something, we get something. Lately even our politics have become more transactional. Instead of forming a more perfect Union, establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, which are the goals outlined in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, we hear rhetoric that says, "It's my way or the highway." "It's all or nothing." I don't think this is what the founding fathers had in mind when they crafted and signed this document. I think they really hoped we would forge ahead for a more perfect Union.

Recently I read a devotional prayer in which the author wrote, "Dear God, thank you for your abundant grace. If we lose our way, help us to find the path back to your love and forgiveness. Amen." When I read it, I was struck by the way the author acknowledges God's grace and then infers that with God's help we can find our way back to God's love, implying that we can ever live outside of God's love. I don't believe this is how God works; it's God's way or the highway. Sadly, many people feel this is how God's love works. They think, if I don't give to the food bank, God won't love me. If I don't care for the environment, God won't love me. If I don't wear the right clothes, say the correct prayer, or if I yell at my spouse, kids, or the driver in front of me, God will withdraw God's love. Nothing can be further from the truth. God's love is not transactional. God is love and we are made in God's image, meaning, we too are love and always in God's love. We are part of a perfect Union.

This week we will be exploring love from the famous passage, 1 Corinthians 13. I will be working from The Message translation which is different than some people are accustomed to, so I invite you to read it yourself before Sunday. Explore how these different words and phrases make you feel. And together perhaps we will gain a new perspective on God, on ourselves, and our neighbors. And if this isn't enough to entice you to join us, we will also share Holy Communion together. It is a winning Sunday! I look forward to seeing you in church.