

# St. Mark's Messenger

October 20, 2020

3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

Vol. 47 Issue 42



**Rev. Jeri Newell-Davis**  
Associate Pastor



**Sunday, October 25, 2020**

9:30 a.m. Streaming at  
[vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego](https://vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego)  
and on our  
Facebook page.



858-273-1480

## Keeping In Touch

Dear friends,

When I reflect on the theme of our Stewardship Campaign for this year, *Seeds of Hope*, I am reminded of my grandpa's backyard garden. It was a piece of art. There were rows of dirt in perfectly mounded, bean poles set with precision, tomato cages creating a webbed design, and long furrows for irrigation. My grandpa took his gardening very seriously because it would yield crops for the pantry, plus it gave him joy in his retirement years.

One year, he and my grammie decided to do their own composting to save money. Coffee grounds went into the barrel. Bits of leftovers went into the barrel. Peelings from potatoes and zucchini went into the barrel. You get it, any food product not consumed went into the barrel, which was then faithfully rotated to insure proper mulching. Grandpa began using the mulch as soon as the snow thawed to prepare the soil for planting, which was a big occasion at their home and usually done over Easter vacation when I was there to help carry the individual seed packages.

When I arrived that summer for vacation, grandpa's garden was in full growth but there was something different about my grandpa's demeanor towards his garden. He wasn't as pleased as in years gone by, and my grammie gave him plenty of space to sort it out. What I later learned was that during the composting, my grammie had also scooped the cantaloupe seeds into the mixture and now my grandpa had cantaloupe runners weaving their way through his meticulous plantings. His sculpted garden had been infiltrated by an unexpected crop. Grandpa did not pull these vines but instead tended them with great reluctance, and yes, they had a bumper crop of melons that year. They also decided that maybe composting wasn't that important.

It is easy to chuckle about this story, but I wonder how we react to unexpected changes in our hopes and plans. God sees our plans and often will add surprises which can confound us. It's okay. One day we will find the joy as we look back at what God has done, so let us not give up planting seeds of hope in our future.

Jeri



# Seeds of Hope



“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,  
for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

## **The Marking of Time** By Karen Scanlon

“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.”—American Journalist, Jim Bishop 1907-1987

Interestingly, God devised seasons early on. “Let lights appear in the sky... and let them be *signs to mark the seasons...*” We know them as winter, spring, summer, and autumn.

And, of course, the United Methodist Church has its time marked, too. Church seasons include Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost, and Kingdomtide or Ordinary Time. (Don't let the notion of ordinary time fool you, these are the days we are given, dote on them.)

Within these devised seasons comes our annual Stewardship Campaign. A time when we clink the gold in our 'pockets' to consider what we'll give to the operation of St. Mark's in the coming year. Our mission during the pandemic remains the same: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. St. Mark's is not closed nor is it dormant. Let us all pray for our collective generosity. What does St. Mark's mean to you? Be blessed, all.



## **Hope: A Feeling of Trust** - By Michelle Herman

Pastor Darin has asked the staff to contemplate what we might hope for the community of St. Mark's as well as for ourselves within this community as part of the stewardship campaign.

As I was looking for guidance to write this, I heard, “*Hope is what happens when I let go of the insistence that what I believe is correct.*” OUCH! That's a big ask in the context of COVID-19, the upcoming election and the issues facing St. Mark's in pandemic.

So, in hope, I attempt to trust in a God that knows what I do not, that has the complete understanding. Can I be open to the understanding that God would offer me? Or do I take bits and pieces of God and sit in judgement of the very people that God loves and sees as no different than me? Gulp.

In contemplating what it means to release my insistence that what I believe is correct, I REMEMBER! And that is what I hope for myself and for St. Mark's. I hope we always remember that the only peace is the peace of God. I hope to remember that God offers everyone everything always. The rest? It is all barriers to God of our own creation. Am I a bully president, a murderous racist, a virus on the rampage? In a way, yes. Because I insist on thinking all of that is wrong and should change. At times, I choose to hang on to that feeling over the peace of God. I get worked up in righteous indignation. I hope I can REMEMBER: God has complete understanding and will let me know what action to take when I have the courage to listen to him. And when many dare to listen, then many will remember that love is the answer, there is more than enough and peace is all there really is because God is all there really is.

## Veterans Day Special Offering – Sunday, November 15, 2020



**THANK YOU!**

St. Mark's is taking a special offering this year to support The Stephen A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Veterans Village San Diego. The care provided to individuals and families is customized for a variety of mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, transitional and relationship issues for post 9/11 veterans and their family support system.

Thank you for your financial support to our veterans and military families. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's UMC with Veterans in the memo line.

## United Methodist Women's Virtual Bake Sale Round-Up

Our virtual bake sale is complete! We want to thank everyone who helped get it done.

From the bakers to the sorters/packers, and the people who delivered the goods—We appreciate you so much. I know you put in a lot of time and resources to get it done. We couldn't have done it without you.

We especially want to thank everyone that ordered the wonderful baked goods from us and then paid over and above the prices asked. We received a lot of great tips and donations.

Our final total was \$757.00

Thank you all so much,  
Sandi Johnson & Pat Comer, Co-chairs

# MAIL BALLOT DROP-OFF @ SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

*for the 2020 Presidential General Election*

October 6 – November 2, 2020

All SDPL sites · 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

November 3, 2020 Hours

All SDPL sites · 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



## Grief During the Holidays – Zoom Gatherings

November 18, December 2 and 9, 2020

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Grief can often feel more complicated during the holiday season with the expectations of family gatherings and seasonal joy. But grief is not a respecter of time or season and can leave some people feeling sad, depressed, or isolated. However, studies show that sharing your feelings can help.

Pastor Jeri and Diane Moreno, St. Mark's Visitation Minister, will be leading three conversations for those who are experiencing grief during this holiday season. If you would like to participate in one or all three of these conversations, please contact the church office to register. A Zoom link will be sent the morning of the session. And if you need pastoral care before these conversations, please contact us at the church office 858-273-1480. We are here for you.

## Pastor's Bible School Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.

Join Rev. Jeri on this Wednesday at 1 p.m. via Zoom as we explore the Lectionary Passages of the week. A Zoom link will be sent by email each Wednesday morning. Here are the passages for

### Wednesday, October 28, 2020

- Revelation 7:9-17
- Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12

## In Our Prayers

*Please keep all those in prayer who are experiencing grief, chronic illness, addiction, loss of direction and disenfranchisement. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Our military personnel:**

- ♡ Brook Bossen, Coast Guard
- ♡ Kris Brendal, Army
- ♡ Robert S. Chisholm, Navy
- ♡ Craig Clemans, Marines
- ♡ Paul Clemans, Air Force
- ♡ Blake Cross, Navy
- ♡ Nathan Streeter, Navy
- ♡ Lenny Hezelett, Navy
- ♡ Henry Hoadley, Navy
- ♡ Milo Riegler, Marines
- ♡ 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 Carol Brown at [carol.brown@cst.edu](mailto:carol.brown@cst.edu).**

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## Additional Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.

If you would like to be added to Bill Galante's Wednesday late afternoon Bible Study, please contact Charles Ballinger who arranges the Zoom link (619-275-2245 or [cballin1@san.rr.com](mailto:cballin1@san.rr.com)).

## Next Week @ A Glance

### Wednesday, October 21, 2020

9:00AM Rev. Jeri's Preschool Chapel/Facebook  
1:00PM Bible Study w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom

### Thursday, October 22, 2020

3:30PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom

### Sunday, October 25, 2020

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's  
12:00PM Youth Group/Zoom

### Tuesday, October 27, 2020

7:00PM Trustees/Zoom

### Wednesday, October 28, 2020

1:00PM Bible Study w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom

### Thursday, October 29, 2020

3:30PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom

### Sunday, November 1, 2020

All Saints Day  
9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's  
11:00AM Sunday School/Zoom

## 2020 Charge Conference Details

Our District Superintendent, Rev. John Farley, will preside over this year's Charge Conference to be held on Thursday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom. Rev. Farley will meet with the SPRC briefly at 5:30 p.m. also by Zoom.

Anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend Charge Conference.

If you have reports to be presented at the Charge Conference, please have them to Michelle no later than Monday, November 2. Reach out if you need help accessing your form. Thank you!