

trusting in a wisdom higher than our own.

Pastor Jeri taught me a new phrase or image this week about trusting God and allowing ourselves to be guided by the Spirit: "Roll over and float."

In this season when so much is unknown, when so much is new or changing, when our relationships shift and our rituals take a different shape, and we feel tempted to battle the current—to grasp for the shoreline—I pray we can remind one another to roll over and float. I pray we might encourage one another in the assurance that God will carry us if we are willing to let go. I pray that we might encounter the uncertainties and even fears as opportunities to train our hearts and minds in faith; that while the direction may not yet be known, and the ground not yet secure under our feet, God is yet working good within us and will guide us out of even this wilderness.

It is with immense gratitude that I join you in ministry here at St. Mark's. Journeying with you through this season and into many yet to come will be my great joy and privilege as your Lead Pastor. I cannot wait to meet you, and know you, and share in this life together.

In hope,

Pastor Darin

Honoring High School & College Grads



Please email or call the office with the name, school & degree of your St. Mark's graduates so we can celebrate them in an upcoming issue.

Call (858) 273-1480, ext. 10 or email office@stmarksumcsd.org. Thank you and congratulations!

St. Mark's Memorial Garden Plaques

Are you aware that there is a dedicated Memorial Garden area at St. Mark's? It is the outside upper terrace in front of the church, including the walled deck with trees and plants, and the Memorial Wall. The posts of the Wall hold memorial plaques, dedicated to deceased loved ones as a way to keep memories of them alive. An accompanying book of biographies with a page for each of those identified by the plaques is inside the narthex near the Memorial Wall.

Each year we offer the ordering of bronze plaques for deceased former pastors, members, constituents and their immediate families. Plaques may be ordered with either one name (minimum donation of \$500) or two names (minimum donation of \$750), with the costs covering purchase of the plaques, their installation and dedication, and maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

If you would like to dedicate a plaque, please obtain a Memorial Garden Wall brochure from the church office. The brochure provides more information, and includes an order form. Orders and payments must be received by August 16 to be included in this year's *All Saints Sunday* dedication in November. If you have further questions, please contact Sheryl Harding at 619-276-6149.

A Biographical Book Study: Mondays 6:30-7:30p.m. July 6-August 3

The world is not taking a break during the coronavirus pandemic, and neither is St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Following the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, our nation finds itself in the throes of turmoil. As siblings of Christ, we are being invited to open our eyes and to love our Black neighbors as ourselves.

Starting July 6, Amanda Grimm-Schmitt will be co-leading a book study with Pacific Beach as we listen to an experience of race issues in America. Secure a digital or a physical copy of **I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness** by Austin Channing Brown. Be prepared for discomfort as the author recounts her own experience of growing up as a Black Christian surrounded by whiteness.

Book discussions will take place on Zoom (or via other socially distant formats as interest dictates). Please register for these book discussions by emailing amanda@stmarksumcsd.org -- for questions, Zoom tutorials, and signups -- **no later than July 1st.**

We hope that you will join us for this challenging and holy work of rooting out racism in our society and also ourselves!



Did You Complete Your Census? 2020census.gov

The U.S. Constitution mandates that the country count its population once every 10 years. The results are used to adjust or redraw electoral districts, based on where populations have increased or decreased.

State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions are responsible for redrawing congressional districts. The U.S. Census Bureau provides states with population counts for this purpose.

The results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country—for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services.

Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children.

The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

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

Join Rev. Jeri on Wednesdays 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, July 8

- **Genesis 25: 19-34**
- **Psalms 119: 105-112**
- **Romans 8:1-11**
- **Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23**

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.**

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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).

In addition, Ed Deitzler hosts a biblical scavenger hunt to deepen exploration of the scripture which is real fun!

Getting Used to Vimeo

Thank you for being patient with us while we adapt to the new on-line worship platform. We were not aware that to ♥ the video or to leave a comment, you were required to have a Vimeo account. **Please, do not feel obliged to create a Vimeo account**, although you are welcome to, if you like. We can see the number of views regardless and that is all we are required to track.

Next Week @ A Glance

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Rev. Darin's First Day!
1:00PM Bible School w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom

Thursday, July 2, 2020

10:00AM Coffee Chat w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom
4:00PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom

Friday, July 3, 2020

Office closed - Independence Day Holiday

Saturday, July 4, 2020

Independence Day Holiday

Sunday, July 5, 2020

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's
<https://vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego>

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

7:00AM Men's Breakfast/Zoom

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

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

Thursday, July 9, 2020

10:00AM Coffee Chat w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom
4:00PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom

Sunday, July 12, 2020

9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's
<https://vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego>

St. Mark's Messenger

June 30, 2020



**Rev. Darin Arntson
Senior Minister**



Sunday, July 5, 2020
9:30 a.m. Streaming at
vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego
and on our
Facebook page



3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

Vol. 47 Issue 26

Keeping In Touch

It's Sunday morning and I'm sitting alone in the sanctuary. It's neither unusual for me to be here this early, nor to be alone for a while. Preparing space for worship is my life-blood. I love the tension in the potential of the room just before the lights come on and the volunteers come zipping through—testing mics and adjusting sound, rehearsing music and staging bulletins. This precious time before things jump to action feels holy. God is here; the Spirit anticipates our gathering—our worship.

Sunday mornings are my favorite part of this work. Perhaps because as a small child it was my introduction to big-family life. It was the place where I had more mothers and grandmothers, siblings and silly uncles than I could count. It was the weekly event where I felt I belonged the most. And now, as a pastor, I see that it is the place of some of our most vibrant interaction of both celebration and challenge. It holds our grief and our peace; our longing and greatest joy.

This morning, surrounded by the stunning depths of blue windows, I grieve that we cannot start our life together in this familiar way on Sunday. Of course, we will have worship, and certainly it will be precious and holy to be gathered in the ways we are able, but without seeing your faces, greeting you with a handshake, hearing your voices (and trying desperately to remember every shared name), it will not be the beginning for which I (and maybe you) had hoped.

These have been trying months for us all. We are weary from isolation and the disruption of all things familiar. We are tired of battling an invisible adversary. We might be tired of the ways the chaos of quarantine exacerbates already complicated or trying life circumstances—insecurity, grief, injustice, transition. It feels like this watery deep—this unstable churning—that is depicted in the walls surrounding this sanctuary; the depths over which the Spirit hovered when God spoke order into the chaos. And I, for one, am certainly ready for the order to come.

But, if creation (resurrection?) is what comes from the depths of our uncertainty—from metamorphosis, from disruption, from surrender—then I also don't want to miss what God is working in us right now. I don't want to miss the ways God is preparing us for the order to come because we were unwilling to withstand the discomfort of (continued)