

March 18, 2020

E-Messenger

Our Mission Statement To build a family of believers who glorify God and help each other become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ



See Page 2 for the latest update from Pastor Keith.

Lent Reflections

If you missed the Ash Wednesday service this is the information they were given to use for devotions through the Lenten season. Hopefully, you can join us as we search the scriptures through the Lenten season.

Scriptures

Week 1 (Thru March 7) Exodus 14:9-18 Week 2 (March 8-March 14) Ps 37:1-9
Week 3 (March 15-21) Ps. 46:1-11 Week 4 (March 22-28) Mark 6:7-13, 30-34
Week 5 (March 29-April 4) Mark 9:2-8 Week 6 (April 5-11) Luke 10:38-42

Questions for each week

What is God doing in the text? What are the people doing or instructed to do?

What choices does this text offer you as you follow Jesus?

What will it take to implement the better choices in your life?

St. Mark's
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

8140 N. W. 36th, Bethany, Oklahoma 73008

405-789-9033 www.stmarksbethany.com

March 17, 2020

Dear St. Markians,

We strive to respond wisely and faithfully as information continues to be made available regarding the COVID 19 global virus. The situation changes day to day and we continue to adapt.

While there is a lot of information available it can be difficult to sort the helpful facts from harmful fiction. The lack of clarity can lead to an overabundance of anxiety and fear. Those with better and more complete information than I have made recommendations to slow or even halt the spread of COVID 19. The fewer people infected, the fewer people who suffer and are put at risk. Let's help stop COVID 19.

The advice from CDC and the Oklahoma Health Department that most impacts the ministry of St Mark's are the recommendations to limit the size of gatherings and keeping a six-foot social distance between people.

Implementing these guidelines effectively shuts us down for 2-3 weeks.

However, the positive side is that limiting activities at the church building appears to be a responsible way to protect and care for each other and to be a responsible neighbor in our community.

Therefore, I am announcing that St Mark's will suspend physically attended worship services, meetings, classes and other activities for the time period requested by the CDC and OHD. I look forward to us being together physically to celebrate Easter on April 12 (Western Church Easter date) or, if delayed, on April 19 (Orthodox Church Easter date).

In the meantime, we are creating ways to stay connected online. No later than Saturday evenings, a link to the Sunday message will be posted on our website (www.stmarksbethany.com) and our Facebook page (St. Mark's United Methodist Church). Additionally, we are looking into ways to provide worship through music, prayer guides and other helpful resources. This is a good time to utilize the RightNow Media resources available to every member.

I encourage you to regularly check in on others. When someone gets ill, we want to know so we can pray and help in other ways. With prayer requests, please contact Pat Morford pat@stmarksbethany.com or Jan Greve 405-641-5863. You may contact me at home 405-728-2332 or the church 405-789-9033.

Please remember that your financial support is appreciated and continues to be needed even when we are not meeting. You will find a link on our website's home page menu that makes it possible to donate online. Gifts may be mailed or placed in the [mailbox](#), it locks.

Things may be different for a few weeks, but we are going to remain connected, prayerful and factual to help counter the anxiety that naturally builds. We will be done with this relatively quickly. God is with us through the trials, fears and anxieties. He is taking care of us. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and Ps 23 and 91 as reminders of the caring and involved nature of God. Practice the Apostle Paul's advice at Philippians 4:4-8 (quoted below) to overcome anxiety.

I look forward to seeing us all together in one room to worship as soon as possible.

With Christ's Peace,

Keith Cressman, Pastor

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Paul @ Ephesians 4:4-8 (NIV)

Here is some information about COVID 19:

Symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

If you or someone you know gets sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/caring-for-yourself-at-home.html>

General Information: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

Staff Emails

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Looking Ahead to Holy Week & Easter Events

April 5 - Palm Sunday

April 8 - Messy Easter

April 9 - Maundy Thursday Services

April 11 - Community Easter Egg Hunt

@ Overholser

April 12 - Easter Morning Services



RIGHT NOW MEDIA

Resource during quarantine

Hopefully you have been taking advantage of the Right Now Media for personal, group and family opportunities offered by Right Now Media. But with the Corona virus having us all at home and isolated more than usual we hope you take advantage of the service to use the videos, studies and other resources to use this time to strengthen your faith. If you have not signed up go to <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/stmarksbethany> and do so now. Once on take time to look at all the opportunities. We are even adding a St. Mark's channel to see original content from the church (go to libraries and click on St. Mark's United Methodist Church). During this time we will be adding content to this regularly. If you have questions contact the church office.

NSO Properties tour



On April 6th the St. Mark's United Methodist Women will be taking a tour of some of the properties that NSO (Neighborhood Service Organization) manages in the area. We will meet at the church at 9:30 am to travel for the 10:00 am tour. The tour will be about 2 hours long seeing as many facilities as possible during that time. Following the tour we will go out for lunch together. Anyone is invited to join us. Please let Joey Pedigo know if you are planning to attend or if you have any questions. Come learn more about the many arms of ministry of the United Methodist Church.

EASTER LILIES



There is a sign-up sheet on the counter outside the church office for ordering Easter Lilies. These lilies will decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday, April 12th. Please indicate on the sheet if you are donating the lily in honor or memory of your loved ones. Orders and payment of \$15.00 is due by Sunday, April 5th, for each lily you donate. You may take your lilies home after services on Easter Sunday.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Food Pantry for Overholser is open on Sundays from 4pm - 6 pm.

Currently the following items are needed in the pantry.

- ♦ Toilet Paper
- ♦ Pepper
- ♦ Crackers
- ♦ Uncooked unflavored Pasta noodles



FALL 2020 ST. MARK'S TO HOST **STUDENT MINISTRY**

UPCOMING MISSIONS, CAMPS, ETC!

Spring Break Mission!

- Guys' and Girls' Retreats: MS-HS @ tba - April 24-25
- Disciple: MS camp @ Heart o' Hills - June 4-7
- Youth Force: MS-HS mission @ Ardmore - June 14-19
- Dayspring: HS Camp @ Sky Ranch - July 20-24

BE A VOLUNTEER!

Lydia Cressman

Director of Student Ministries



St Mark's will host another ministry opportunity this fall...Whiz Kids! So just what will we be doing? That is a great question!

We will be hosting several 2nd thru 5th grade students from Overholser Elementary immediately after school, one day a week throughout the 2020/2021 school year. Each of these students will have been identified by their respective teacher as reading below his or her grade level. We will provide one-on-one tutoring to each of them in order to improve their reading skills.

So what is the need? Separate conversations with individual teachers at Overholser indicate that as many as 30% of their 600-plus students may be "at-risk" relative to their reading level. Additionally, statistics show that students who still read below their grade level by the time they enter 6th grade are 40% more likely to spend time in the Oklahoma penal system as an adult than are those who are reading at or above their grade. The gap is huge, the need is real and it is right in our back yard! The principal, Marj Iven, and all the teachers are excited that St Mark's has stepped forward to help close this gap. But Whiz Kids is much more than a tutoring program.

Whiz Kids also is a "faith-based" mentoring program. Each of the 34 Whiz Kids sites throughout the metro area is hosted by a church; thus the "faith-based" part of the program. And the fact that each student receives one-on-one attention from the same tutor throughout the year highlights the mentoring aspect of this vital ministry.

The tutoring day each week is still to be determined. We know that the time of day will be right after school dismisses: 3:45pm - 5:45pm.

Do not be concerned if you lack tutoring experience: training will be provided. The only tools you need are a deep faith founded on the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ and the resulting heart to touch lives in a meaningful, Christian manner.

So if you are looking for a way to give back...a way to impact both the children of our community as well as our community at large, this is a great ministry opportunity! These students are simply waiting for you to step forward! Please contact Mark Walpus at 405.887.6067 if you are interested in helping these students change the trajectories of their lives! Remember these children and volun-

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Be watching your email for links to children's programming during this time to provide opportunities to stay in contact with one another through lessons and other concepts that Miss Sharon and Miss Alicia are working on. Some will be interactive and others will just be lessons and updates. Hope you and your family take advantage of these.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Sharon Hunt
Phone: 789-9033
Email: sharon@stmarksbethany.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Alicia Schneider
Phone: 789-9033
Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com



This year we will be taking a new spin on Messy Easter with all new interactive family stations. Join us on April 8th as we take a journey through Holy Week highlighted with great stations for learning, reflecting and experiencing Holy Week with a new perspective. It kicks off at 6:15 pm following D.O.W.N. dinner. Bring family, friends and neighbors

Registration Now open for this Summer's **MARK'D KIDS DAY CAMP**

Mark'd Kids will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 9 - July 30th, from 9:30 am through 2:30. Each week will include learning activities and field trips. The theme this year is "The Big God Story". To learn more about Day Camp and to get your registration forms for your kids [Click here.](#)

Eggs for Community Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Community Egg Hunt is on its way and we need eggs with individually wrapped candy in them for 300+ kids.

Ways You can Help:

Bring Easter eggs filled with candy

Bring candy that will go in eggs

Pick up some empty eggs in foyer and fill them with candy.

Pick up envelope in foyer to help with special treats for

Kings & Queens Egg Hunt

Volunteer to help with Egg Hunts

(contact Alicia Schneider or Kayla Gannon)

THANKS!



This Lenten season we will have the opportunity to make a difference in amazing kids lives. Rice bowls is an amazing organization feeding, orphaned and hungry children. You can pick up your bowls anytime. Challenge your friends, members in your family, give up a drink a day and drop that change in the rice bowl and we will gather them all together on Easter morning and make a real difference. Watch for stories, and more information about the many ways Rice Bowls can make a difference and then start filling those Rice Bowls.

Facts and Figures

2020 Annual Budget620,218
 Rec'd toward Operating 3/8/20208,035

YTD 2020
 Rec'd toward Operating 3/8/202086,816
 Expenditures 3/8/202093,323

Attendance
 Sunday, March 15
 Worship 183
 Sunday School 140



Kieth	Ballard	Becky	Harned	Nevada	Norvell
Nicholas	Bentin	Darlene	Hickman	James	Parker
Ed	Boerner	Kruse	Holliday	Mary	Parker
Chris	Brehm	Megan	Johnston	Roger	Pautsch
Carla	Brueggen	Harold	Kessler	Brian	Ray
Adrienne	Cressman	Christopher	Knowles	Avery	Reimers
Brad	Cromwell	Dorthy	Lynch	Preston	Risinger
Jeff	Davidson	Ruth	Martyn	Jenny	Shenold
Jillian	Ferguson	Claire	Moates	Zoey	Stanfill
Victor	Gammill	Dave	Moore	Esther	Underwood
Patty	Groves	Don	Nobles	Lauren	Wurzer
Brianna	Hardin	Ivy	Norvell	Evelyn	York

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues
 Don & Fran Nobles
 Votaw family
 Barbara Homer
 Beverly Clark
 Pam Barnes
 John Baumeister
 Andre Frehley
 Penny & James Hays
 Marilyn Cook
 Hazel Bremmer

Sandy Kelly
 Cheryl Pavelko
 Boerner family
 Wenona Shaw
 Sherry Chesley
 Sharon Dean
 Dorthy Lynch
 Coral Snider family
 Mike Spiser
 Linda Pollock
 Cole Talbot