

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

In Person Services Continue

In addition to our continued support of online worship, we are excited to say the live service has been and going well. This week the Children will be meeting again in the back. If you would like to join us this coming Sunday for worship or for your children remember that safe spacing requirements result in a limited number of available seats. Thank you for following the steps below to make your reservation.

Before Saving Your Seat for the Service:

Are any of the following true for you or anyone in your party:

- Showing any flu-like symptoms
- A fever of 100.4 or higher in the past 14 days.
- Prolonged exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

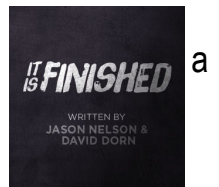
Any medical reason to think you should not be around others.

If you answered yes to any of these, we strongly encourage you to watch the services online rather than attend service. You can participate online by going to YouTube.com and searching for St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Bethany, OK, there you will find a link to the service on Sunday morning.

Opportunities during Lent

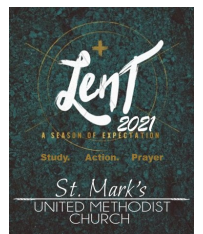
Lenten personal study and prayer guide

You may pick up your own copy of this study and prayer guide at the church or call the church office and we will make it to you.. It will guide you through the 40 days of Lent with readings that are based on the Lord's prayer. Each day you will have scriptures and journal entries that will call you to closer walk with God. Pick yours up anytime and join those who are seeking to grown together in the Lord..



'It Is Finished' - Lenten Study on Zoom

You are invited to be a part of an excellent Lenten Bible Study. The study will be held on zoom and will meet at 4 pm on Sunday afternoons. Joey Pedigo will lead the study. Contact her or the church office for more information. The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study will also be using this book. Contact Jan Greve for more information on that. A study guide will be provided to you through email and/or text. Here is a quick look at the study:



There will also be a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on April 1st at 6:30 pm. More details to come

Then on Easter Sunday there will be 2 services available to attend.

For even more opportunities check out the following page for some interactive ways to be involved with your family and close friends during the Lenten Season.

Children's Ministry

Some great opportunities are available for Children and their families during Lent. Check them out below:

Countdown to Easter



This resource is a 40 day countdown to Easter family activity. Each day families will open an egg during Lent (no egg on Sunday)

and it will give them an idea of something they can do together or a way they can serve others.

Letters from Jerusalem

This resource will take you through the last week of Jesus' life on earth. The weekly devotions are written as a letter from one of the disciples to their family back home.

The letters contain all Biblical facts from one of the four Gospels, but are told from the viewpoint of a disciple.

Each week will include:

A color of the week; devotion; Bible Memory verse; Family Craft, activity, letter, Snack.



You will be able to pick up the packages for each of these as follows

Sunday February 14th on church counter during Service times

Tuesday and Thursday during office hours in office (8 am to 3 pm)

Wednesday during Ash Wednesday services

Contact Sharon Hunt for other arrangements

Church Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Blood Drive Reschedules for March 7th at St. Mark's
There is an urgent need for blood at this time.

Sign up today!

We hope you are able to take part in this community event.

Link to learn more:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stmarksbethany>

Can find link in daily news notes and on web page

7:30 am to 1:30 pm

St. Mark's UMC



St. Mark's Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Food Pantry is changing hours to 1st and 3rd Sundays from 4pm - 5 pm. We appreciate everyone's help through the pandemic in helping to keep things supplied. THANKS for your patience. Currently the following items are needed in the pantry.



Pancake Batter Syrup
Cereal Oatmeal Crackers
Soup Peanut Butter Jelly
Canned goods are always welcome!



RIGHT NOW MEDIA

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.

The Greatest Commandments are these:

Jesus replied: **"Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

"Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

Our Mission is:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 18-20

Thus, the core of everything we do through church and life can be thought of as commitments to **C**hrist (love God), to **O**ne another (neighbor) and **W**orld Evangelism & Mission

So what?

You are asked to prayerfully consider your commitment and priorities in 2021. How will you live out your relationship with Jesus through those commitments? How will your priorities be demonstrated by your use of time and money? How will you grow in prayer and study? In what ways will you share the Gospel at home and around the world? Where and how will you serve? What are your study and scripture memorization plans?

Think and pray, perhaps with another, and write down your commitments, priorities, and plan. Then turn the following in at St. Mark's by February 14th:

Detach here

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

I would like more information about:

☐

Mission trips

☐

Bible Studies

☐

Small groups

☐

Areas to serve

☐

Other —

Detach here

During 2021, St. Mark's can count on me to pray, serve, learn, worship and fellowship.

Additionally, count on me to donate financially:

\$ _____ weekly

\$ _____ monthly

St. Mark's Social Media Links



Facebook.com

- search for "stmarksbethany"



Instagram.com

- search for "St. Mark's United Methodist Church"



Twitter.com

- search "@stmarksbethany"

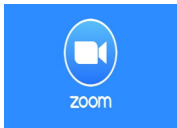


Youtube.com

- search St. Marks United Methodist Church, Bethany, OK



RightNow Media.com - "St. Mark's United Methodist Church"



Zoom.com - sign up and then watch for upcoming announcements on Bible Studies, Sunday School classes and other things you can join with other members of St. Mark's

OTHER NEWS NOTES

If you need to visit with someone

St. Mark's wants to extend an invitation to anyone feeling disengaged or just needing a friendly voice to share, pray and just hear a word of encouragement. If you would like to visit with someone who cares and wants to be there for you feel free to contact Jan Greve at (405) 641-5863 and she will help you make that connection.

Do you need a mask?

If you are in need of a mask for going out we have members who are making them for people at no cost. If you have a need please contact us and we will connect you with them.



St. Markians staying connected through the pandemic

These past few months have taken away 'normal' in so many ways. One of the things that seems to be a major issue is the loss of being connected. Seeing one another on a regular basis, having a nice chat, just being around people who we have grown together with. The church is seeking to take a proactive role in that and so we are kicking off "Connections". It's goal is to challenge all of us to think about the people who we are in community with at the church and beyond and help all of us to reconnect with those we may have lost some connection with. Each week we will put out a simple challenge to everyone to make connections! It may be a phone call, text, email, zoom meeting, or other way. Pray about how God may use these challenges for you.

One thing to help us all will have the availability of getting in touch with people. It's amazing how quickly our church directory gets outdated, but the good news is that we are able to keep it up to date online and that is available to you. To get the updated directory call the church office for the passcode and then click on the link below to go to the online directory . Please contact church when you hear of changes that need to be made in the online directory.

<https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/407016/st-marks-united-methodist-church>

If you have ideas for great ways of connecting please let us know and we will share those here also.

Challenge for the week:

Give a call to 3-4 people and share an encouraging word with them and offer to pray with them.

Facts and Figures

2021 Annual Budget	TBA
Rec'd toward Operating 2/7/2021.....	13,635
<u>Year to Date 2021</u>	
Rec'd toward offering	50,788
Expenses	40129
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, February 21 Total	243
In Person	71
Online	172

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues	Margaret Bonifield
Don & Fran Nobles	Paula Galt
Barbara Homer	Norma Boland
Pam & Wayne Barnes	Pat McDowell
John, Jason & Cole Talbot	Jane Foreman
Carolyn Rosenthal	Marty Croy
Dianna Davidson	Ladonna Mathews
Sherry White	Janice Brown
Letha Davis	Nina Gerardy
Mary King	Don Greve
Katrina Lambert	Carol Sandburg
Kay Smith	Pavelko family
Norma McMurtry	Mike Bevins
	Dorothy Sipes
	Jan Johnson family