


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



May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

*Happy New Year
2021*

Reminder for end of year giving

- Any donations received by the church office or in the offering through Dec 31 can be coded to 2020
- Any checks received in January must be postmarked on or before 12/31 to be dated 2020 in the software. Gifts placed in the offering in January 2020 will be entered in as 2020 **regardless of the check date.** (IRS doesn't allow backdating checks)

Worship Services Continue

In addition to our continued support of online worship, we are excited to say the live service has been growing 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.

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. They have returned to doing a Sunday lesson each week and you won't want to miss these opportunities to grow with your children. Some will be interactive and others will just be lessons and updates. Hope you and your family take advantage of these.

The children will be meeting again on Sunday mornings. They will meet during the live worship time and parents can drop their children off in the back and then pick them up following services. There is a protocol that will take place. Watch your email for all the details. If you need more information contact Sharon or Alicia.

Children's Christmas Program

If you missed the children's video Christmas program or would like to see it again, here is a link for you to see it at: <https://youtu.be/nWZxxrMqvoM>

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

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!

St. Mark's Memorials Updated

During the coronavirus pandemic we have not been able to gather as usual for services that celebrate eternal life in Jesus Christ and the earthly lives of members of St Mark's.

To help us remember, mourn, grief and celebrate we have created a page on our web site. We will be posting short biographies of those who are a part of St. Marks but for whom we have been unable to hold a service in the usual way. Several new memorials have been updated with a few more still coming.

The link is on the homepage or go directly to it at: <https://www.stmarksbethany.com/memorials-title>

Sources publicly published obituaries and the compilation of interviews with family and/or friends. Biographies will be posted as they are completed (more to come). Please be patient.

We hope this method of celebrating life and acknowledging our losses will be healing.

If you have comments or input please contact pastorkeith@stmarksbethany.com

Church Office Hours

The church office will be open Thursday, December 31st from 9 am to 3:00 pm.

We will return to our modified scheduled next week of Tuesday and Thursday 8 am to 3 pm. Throughout week if you need anything you are welcome to call the church office and we will try to assist you.

St. Mark's Social Media Links



Facebook.com - search for "stmarksbethany"



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



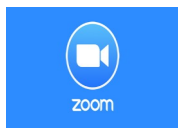
Twitter.com - search "@stmarksbethany"



Youtube.om - 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



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 a couple of people and wish them a happy new year.

Facts and Figures

2020 Annual Budget620,218
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/20/2020 30,276
YTD 2020
 Rec'd toward Operating 12/20/2020.....489,438
 Expenditures 12/20/2020 505,179

Attendance

Sunday, December 20 Total 374
 In Person 72
 Online 302

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues	Paula Galt
Don & Fran Nobles	Norma Boland
Barbara Homer	Pat McDowell
Beverly Clark	Kevin & Amanda Peters family
Pam & Wayne Barnes	Esther Withers & daughter
Jenny Shenold	Jane Foreman
John, Jason & Cole Talbot	Greg Smith
Carolyn Rosenthal	Marty Croy
Shaun (Sandy Kelley son)	Wanda Therp
Dianna Davidson	Ladonna Mathews
Pavelko & Knutson family	Lisa Schnell
Sherry White	Gregory Smith
Jessica Moates	Janice Brown
Letha Davis	Joann Benson
Joe Howell family	Nina Gerardy