

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 15, 2021



Worship at St. Mark's, December 19

We invite everyone to come out this coming Sunday to join us in our 9:30 traditional service or 10:55 modern service.

Randy Wade will continue his series on Advent this week with the message, "Christmas is: Family". If you are not able to attend there will be a live streaming of worship. To watch the life stream, you can join us at 9:30 am Sunday morning at:

https://youtu.be/nBZPM_HTT4c

If you missed last weeks service you can still view it at:

<https://youtu.be/hdYjd3KEqu4>



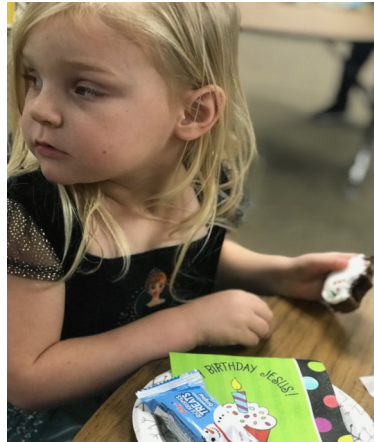
Our Christmas Eve offering will be to help build a church in Gungu, Tanzania. We will be working with Umba & Ngoy Kalangwa, whom we have worked with on



building a clinic and safe house in the past. We are truly excited about this partnership and the work going on there and the opportunity to help a church have a place to meet is truly exciting. The foundations of the church are being laid now with faith that the building will continue to go up. Pray for your gift in this ministry. We also are working with other partners to help our funds go further. A special guest will be here to share with us this coming Sunday about that partnership as well as more details on the project.



Ministry at St. Mark's in Pictures





Sm
kids

December 19, 2021
10:30 am

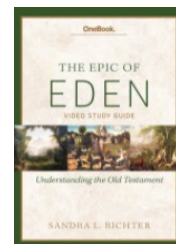
You are Invited

Kidmin will present "A Christmas Miracle, and the Night the Animals Spoke"
written by Gina Boerner.

The presentation will be at 10:20 am on Sunday, December 19th, in between services.
We would love for all the Sunday school classes to join us for this special presentation.

Wednesday Programming This Week

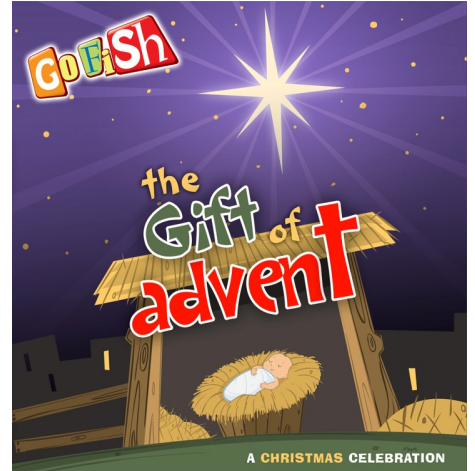
Things will be a little different this Wednesday and we look forward to a fun evening together. The evening will kickoff with dinner at 5:15 pm. Following dinner people will break into groups to go our caroling to homebound members of the church. Caroling will be the evening program for both children and youth. The ongoing adult Bible Study will be wrapping up their series at regular time. Regular programming will return following the holidays.



SM Kids Information

Kids Play Practice Saturday 12—2 pm.

**Semi Dress—Rehearsal with staging
Come Through Front Door**



Join Us in Kidmin

The Gift of Love—12/19/2021

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.righnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/>

Nativity Mystery

Last year we had the Nativity Escape Room for individuals and families to work together on a fun activity while looking into God's Word. If you missed the opportunity last year, here's your chance. This year we bring you the Nativity Mystery.

Through this event you will learn about the mystery of the birth of Christ using the puzzles in the Nativity Escape Room. If you don't have this material, it is based on Matthew 1:18 - 2:12 and Luke 1:5 - 38; 2:1 - 21.

To take part in solving the mystery, just click on the link and start the adventure..
[Nativity Mystery](#)

Scammers target conference churches, ministries

12/13/2021

OKUMC Communications

On Sunday, Dec. 5, Edmond-First sent out an email to its church members warning them about a potential scam.

Text messages appearing to come from pastor Scott Keneda requested images of gift cards. The church email stated in part, "We are taking steps to correct the problem as quickly as possible, but please be aware that no staff person from Edmond First would ever ask someone to purchase gift cards whether by phone or by text."

The next day, the Oklahoma Conference Ministry Center sent an email to its staff members informing them of a potential scam that used text messages appearing to be from someone familiar. Scammers had attempted to get recipients to disclose personal information or click a harmful link, a practice called smishing.

Like phishing, which uses email to con private information out of others, smishing targets a person by making the message appear to be from someone they know such as a friend, a family member or a coworker. Unlike phishing, however, smishing relies on the inherent closeness and familiarity that people associate with receiving text messages from people they know.

There is no direct way to prevent smishing attempts, however, security companies say there are ways to ensure the safety of personal information.

- First, be skeptical of urgent security alerts and "must act now" deals. Also consider links sent by numbers you don't recognize to be suspicious.
- Be wary of personal messages that don't come from a real phone number, such as 5000. These often come from email-to-text services and are a popular way for scammers to bypass sharing their real number.
- Financial institutions such as banks and credit card companies will never ask you to update personal information via text message. Don't click on any links in the message. When in doubt, call the bank or merchant directly to see whether or not the message is legitimate.
- Don't save credit card or banking information on your phone. Hackers can't steal what isn't there.
- When in doubt, don't respond. A malicious text message will do no harm if left ignored.

For suspected smishing or other attempts to obtain sensitive personal information, file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission at <https://www.fcc.gov/inspector-general/hotline>.



Image by Dean Moriarty from Pixabay

Staff Emails

If you have questions please feel free to contact the staff.

Randy Wade Revwade5@gmail.com

Becky Roman becky@stmarksbethany.com

Sharon Hunt sharon@stmarksbethany.com

Lydia Cressman Lydia@stmarksbethany.com

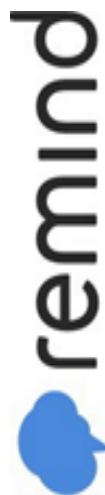
Kayla Gannon kayla@stmarksbethany.com

Bequer Gomez bequer@stmarksbethany.com

Jackie Swedlow finance@stmarksbethany.com

Gwen Sears finance@stmarksbethany.com

Pat Morford pat@stmarksbethany.com



Sign up for news updates from St. Mark's UMC, Bethany

Get information for **St. Mark's UMC, Bethany**. OK right on your phone about upcoming events, news, and updates.

To get text notifications from St. Mark's on your phone:
Text the message **@stmarksbe** to the number **81010**.

If you would prefer to receive updates by email, you can go to:
rmd.at/stmarkbe on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.



Prayer Chain

St. Mark's is a praying church. If you would like to be a part of

St. Mark's prayer chain you can sign up on Remind for that also.

To get text notifications from St. Mark's on your phone:
Text the message **@pray73008** to the number **81010**.

If you would prefer to receive updates by email, you can go to:
rmd.at/pray73008 on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.



St. Mark's Blood Drive December 19th, 7:30 am to 2:00 pm

St. Mark's will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on December 19th. Sign up is now available for your spot to give blood and help others. There is a great need for blood right now and we hope you are able to help. Schedule your appointment at www.RedCrossBlood.org;
Sponsor Code: stmarksbethany



Facts and Figures

2021 Annual Budget	642,374
Rec'd toward Operating 11/21/2021.....	7,210
<u>Year to Date 2021</u>	
Rec'd toward offering	463,310
Expenses	453,933
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, December 12 Total	323
Classic Service	156
Modern Service	44
Online	123

Prayer Box

Pam & Wayne Barnes
Mike Kolar (Ruth Martyn's son)
Dianna Davidson
Lynn Landis (mother Deb Wade)
Trish (sister-in-law Deb Wade)
Preston Fenton (GS of Diana & Jeff Davidson)
Don Pulford (Brother of Diana Davidson)
Marty Croy
Mary King
Winn Lusk

Marla (daughter of Mary Desmukes)
Darlene Hickman
Lisa Hutchison
Janice Brown
Curtis (son-in-law of Janice Brown)
Darrell Brehm
Vic Gammill family
Lavina Bonifield (Daughter-in-law Margaret Bonifield)
Yvonne York (Mother-in-law Evelyn York)
Tiffany Montesano
Jim Brewer
Carol Hall