

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?

## What is Going on at St Mark's?

That is a great question. The best answers may keep changing as we continue working to contain the spread of COVID 19 in our communities. You understand that the idea is to limit the spread from person to person by keeping people physically away from each other. We want to do our part to keep each other and our communities safer.

Here is a smattering of **responses to common questions**:

In person **Sunday worship** and nearly all other activity at the church is postponed until further notice. You may participate in Sunday worship through our Facebook page or RightNow Media. Special resources for children are being created and loaded to RightNow Media. Do we choose to gather through online worship? Yes! Our online measurement tools tell us that we set a non-Easter **attendance record last Sunday**. We are working on each Sunday's service throughout the week.

**Staff** has been asked to work from home but we are still here for you.

The **church phones** will be forwarded so that we can respond to phone calls.

The **usual ways** you have been using will continue to be the best and quickest means to reach each other and those who serve on staff. The nation has a strong communications infrastructure.

The **prayer chain** remains active and may be contacted in the usual ways.

If for some reason **you come into the church building, you are responsible** to use the available disinfectant clothes to wipe down everything you touch - doorknobs, light switches - everything. Wearing gloves protects you but not others, you still need to wipe down all surfaces.

Several **classes and study groups** are finding ZOOM and other means effective ways to gather online.

You can make **contributions** to St Mark's by clicking the link on the home page of our website. Click on it and it will take you to a secure donation page. Of course, the US Mail is still delivering, allowing us to also mail gifts to the church.



**Daily communications:** We are emailing information, prayer updates, or prayer guides and more several times each day. A list of online resources can be found on the following page. This is a great way to stay connected.

I am looking forward to when we meet in person again. How about you? Until then... Remember God is still God and he is not quarantined. Let's keep in contact with each other. Pray for each other. Encourage each other. God's Holy Spirit is stirring among us. We are in this together, you are not alone.

God does great things,  
Pastor Keith

# St. Mark's Social Media Links



instagram.com

- search for "stmarksbethany"



Facebook.com

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



Twitter.com

- search "@stmarksbethany"

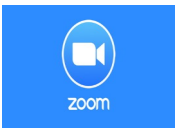


Youtube.com -- -search St. Marks United Methodist Church, Bethany, OK



Rightnowmedia.org - Library - "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



## Staff Emails

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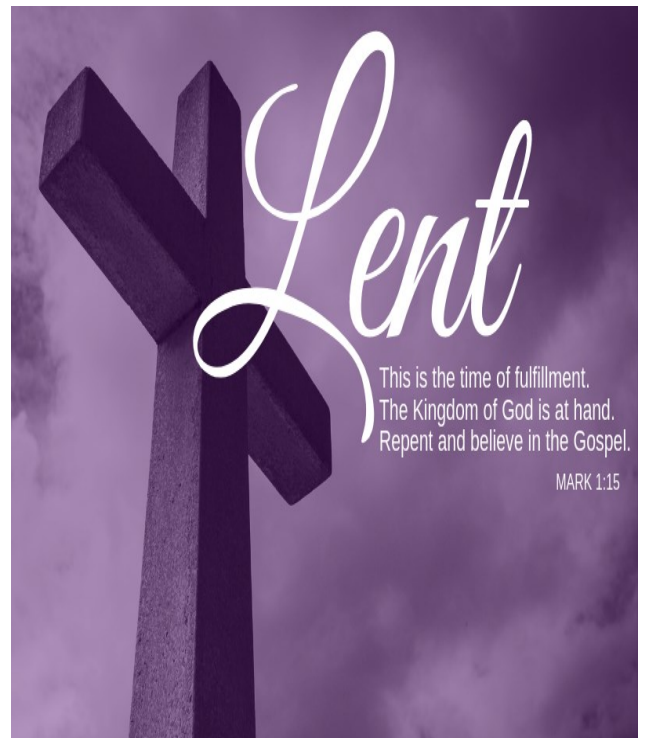
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## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

### 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.righnowmedia.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.

Keep in touch with your Sunday School class members, Bible Study groups and friends from St. Mark's. Several groups are meeting for study and fellowship using apps such as zoom. If you would like help setting that up for your class contact the church office.

# 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

**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 volunteer ministers in your prayers.

# 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

## 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



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.](#)



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 Budget .....620,218  
Rec'd toward Operating 3/8/2020 .....8,035

YTD 2020  
Rec'd toward Operating 3/8/2020 .....86,816  
Expenditures 3/8/2020 .....93,323

Attendance  
Sunday, March 22  
Online ..... 297 views



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