

St. Mark's
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH January 19, 2022



A Message from Pastor Randy concerning Current conditions

As everyone already knows, we are in the midst of another COVID surge. The bad news is that this variant is the most contagious one we've encountered, and new cases have been reaching new highs every day. The good news is that it appears to cause less severe symptoms in most people. There is no "right way" to proceed at this point. Rational and well-intentioned people can and do look at the same data and come to different decisions about the best way to go about living through the surge. We believe you know your own health situation and we respect the way you choose to proceed. With that said, the church has made the following decisions:

1. Sunday morning worship will continue as normal. We believe in-person worship is essential to overall well-being and is the central ministry of the church. Therefore, we will not cancel it. It is understood that many people will not feel comfortable attending in person at this time. It is our hope that those who do not feel comfortable in person will join online.
2. Sunday Schools will be given the option to meet or not meet as the individual classes decide.
3. All other church programming, such as Wednesday Evening meal, Bible studies, Choir practice, Children and Youth programs, will not meet for the remainder of January. The reason for this is a combination of things. Individual safety, difficulty in finding enough volunteer leaders, and the reticence of attendees have all contributed to making this decision.

Following the trajectory of the Omicron variant in places before it hit Oklahoma, it appears that the number of cases spike quickly and dissipate quickly. We expect that pattern to hold for us. Therefore, we fully expect to return to our regular schedule February 1.

Thank you for your faithfulness and understanding. I find this hiatus discouraging and frustrating, but I am reminded that God is faithful and far more patient than I am. His word tells us that He causes all things to work together for the good for those who love him (Romans 8:28). I trust that word is true. So, please join me in loving God wholeheartedly, and we will watch together how He works this together for our good.

Grace, Peace & Joy,

Randy

Worship at St. Mark's, January 23, 2022

We invite everyone to join us for worship this Sunday. This Sunday Randy will begin a new series, "Forget not all his benefits - sermons on Psalm 103:2-5". This week's message will be on "Healing". Our Classic service will begin at 9:30 am and our Modern service at 10:55 am.

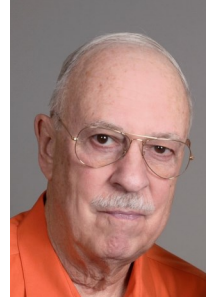
If you are not able to attend there will be a live streaming of worship. To watch the life stream, you can join us at 9:30 am Sunday morning at:

<https://youtu.be/ntqIQMxlvM>

Memorial Services for Darell Brehm

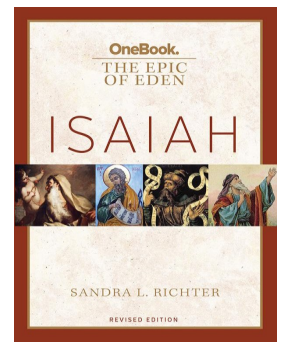


Darell Brehm's Memorial Service will be January 21st, at 2:00 pm @ St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 8140 NW 36th Street in Bethany. In lieu of flowers please make donations to St. Mark's United Methodist Church.



New Adult Bible Studies in 2022

We have a couple of new Bible Study classes beginning in early 2022 and we invite you to join in. On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, starting February 2nd, a group will meet and be studying from the 'Epic of Eden' series the study on *Isaiah* (Nancy Johnson will be leading this group). The Wednesday afternoon study group has postponed when they will begin due to COVID concerns. Watch for details on when they will begin. This is a great study and you are welcome to join either group. Cost for the study book is \$20. You can sign up on the church counter or give the office a call and we will help you get signed up.



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

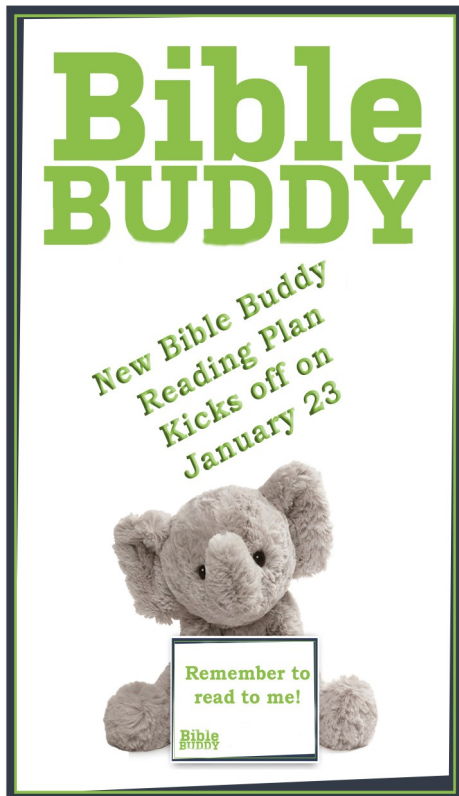
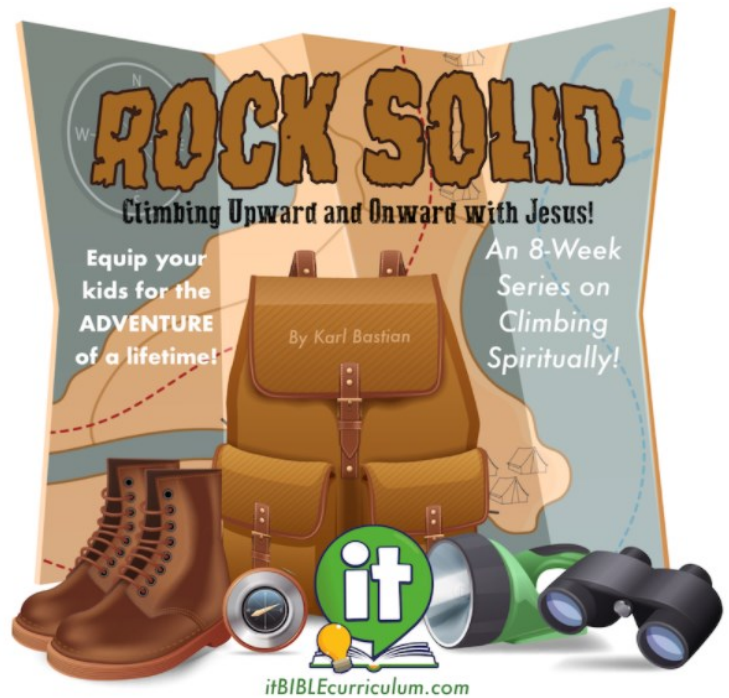
Jackie Swedlow finance@stmarksbethany.com

Gwen Sears finance@stmarksbethany.com

Pat Morford pat@stmarksbethany.com

SM Kids Information

Sunday mornings
New Study Area
Rock Solid



Bible Buddy

New Reading Plan

January 23rd will kickoff a new series of Bible Buddy reading. This time there will be a separate reading list for the pre-school and elementary classes. You can pick up the reading list on Sunday mornings on the church counter or contact Sharon Hunt and she can email the material to you. We're excited to see this ministry continue as our youngest readers dig into God's Word.

If you have not yet signed up for Remind we encourage you to. As we enter into 2022 we will be using it more and more as it is much more reliable than any other method. You can receive the messages as either a text message or as an email. If you have any trouble with signing up please contact the office and we will be glad to assist you. Getting information out in a clear and efficient way is critical as we move forward. God has great things planned in the year ahead and we don't want anyone to not know all the Good News.

Thank You.



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](https://www.stmarksbe.com) 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](https://www.stmarksbe.com) 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.



Facts and Figures

2021 Annual Budget	642,374
Rec'd toward Operating 12/26/2021.....	4,806
<u>Year to Date 2021</u>	
Rec'd toward offering	528,510
Expenses	505,901
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, January 16	Total 305
Classic Service	87
Modern Service	40
Online	178

Prayer Box

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mike Kolar (Ruth Martyn's son) | Diana Davidson |
| Lynn Landis family (mother Deb Wade) | Janice Brown |
| Trish (sister-in-law Deb Wade) | Curtis (son-in-law of Janice Brown) |
| Jack Martyn | Lavina Bonifield (Daughter-in-law Margaret Bonifield) |
| Mary King | Yvonne York (Mother-in-law) Evelyn York |
| Kaleb & Megan McCarty (grandson & wife of Mary Desmukes) | Tiffany Montesano |
| Mike & Kathi Fisher | John Talbot |
| Wynn Lusk | Jack Martyn |
| David Atkinson (son on Kay Smith) | Jason Talbot & Tonia Shinwell |