

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

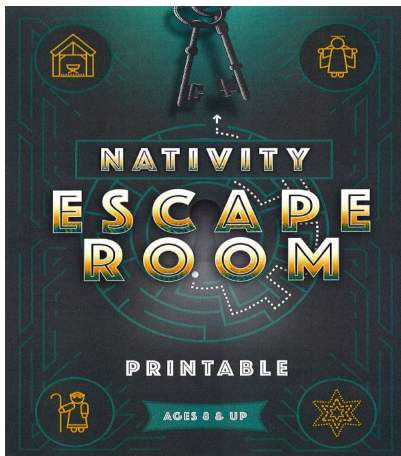
Special Christmas Eve Service

We will be having a special outdoor Christmas Eve service this year. Services will be held in front of the church with the staging area under the front awning. You will have an option to stay in your car and participate from there or get out of your car and go to a safe area with social distancing. If you are out of your car you will need to wear a mask. The service will include singing, a great message and a candlelight service using our lights from our cell phones. You may bring your own snacks to enjoy also. The service will begin at 6:00 pm and will not run over 35-40 minutes. We are excited to have this unique service and look forward to seeing you there. Watch for more details. If you have questions give the church a call.



NATIVITY ESCAPE ROOM

Your family is on a mission! Like most of God's unfolding story, the humble birth of our Lord was a big mystery to almost everyone at the time.



You will be taken back to the time of Jesus to solve the mysteries of His birth by decoding the facts...so they can SEE THE LIGHT!

Your family will learn about stories such as the visit from the Magi, the astonishment of the shepherds, and Mary's personal journey as an instrument of God's love.

You can pick up your package at the church on the church counter or contact Sharon or the church office and we will get it to you. Be sure and pick up 4 mysteries and all 4 decoders for each team that will take place at your home. For more details

on the event contact

Sharon@stmarksbethany.com

This event is for families of any age that like a little challenge. We challenge you to take it on this mission and have a lot of fun.

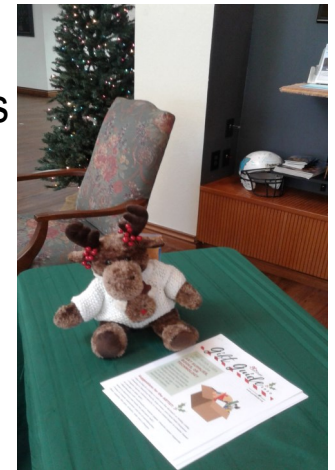
2020 Report on Care Share with Overholser



Thank you St. Mark's for making this year's Overholser Care-Share Program a huge success. We were able to provide gifts for 26 children from 13 different families this year. Because of your generosity the children who wished for bicycles will get them and their 'Gift Wish' presents. You are a congregation filled with love, generosity and a willingness to help others.



Thank you and remember to keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart all year.



Kathy Hamilton, Julia Bevers and Mistletoe

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.

Starting September 6th 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.

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

Worship Services Continue

This week is the 4th Sunday of Advent

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](https://www.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.

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.

Cereal

Oatmeal

Crackers

Soup

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Canned goods are always welcome!



Advent Studies available this season

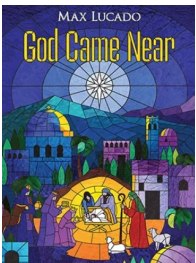
Advent Studies available this season. This year we are promoting self-study or within the family unit during the next 6 weeks. Contact Joey Pedigo at: sjepedigo@gmail.com or 720-7814 if you have any questions.

RightNow Media sources

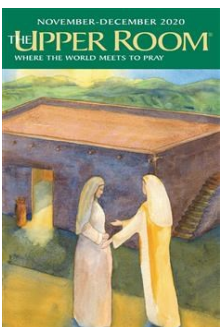
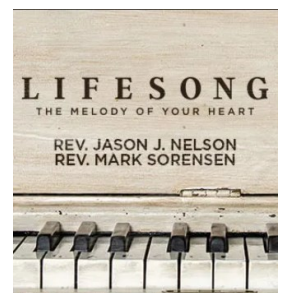
Everyday Advent, Brenda Drost, 4 sessions with short videos with downloadable leaders guide. Advent is a time to remember and reflect, but it's also a time of looking forward with hope and anticipation. We remember the significance of the baby Jesus who was born in the flesh, in a little town called Bethlehem, and we look forward with great anticipation to his return one day for his church. But the greatest revelation of all is that Jesus is alive and being revealed in a deeper way in our hearts every day.



God Came Near, Max Lucado, 6 sessions with 28 minute videos. In the midst of the gloom of winter, the darkest, coldest of season's, Christians still wait with great anticipation for the happiest season of all Advent. Travel back in time and relive the coming of Christ to earth, as He gives us His throne next to God the Father to enter this world born in a manger.



LifeSong, Rev. Jason T. Nelson and Rev. Mark Sorensen, 4 sessions, with 7-12 min. videos and a download for leader's guide. Examine four stories about people driven to song when God shook up their world for the better. Take a look at how Zechariah, and the shepherds reacted upon learning of God's plan to save humanity



The Upper Room November-December 2020, p.40-43 a way to celebrate Advent.

Advent Worship Litanies. You are invited to pay closer attention to God and to remember that Advent means "coming." Let us prepare our hearts to receive Jesus on Christmas Day and to celebrate his arrival – God with us.

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"

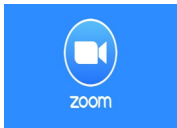


Youtube.com

- 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

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



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:

Write an encouraging note to a couple of people along with a holiday greeting.

Facts and Figures

2020 Annual Budget620,218
Rec'd toward Operating 11/29/2020 12,384

YTD 2020

Rec'd toward Operating 11/29/2020....437,583
Expenditures 11/29/2020 469,705

Attendance

Sunday, December 13
Online 273

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues

Don & Fran Nobles

Barbara Homer

Beverly Clark

Pam & Wayne Barnes

Jenny Shenold

John, Jason & Cole Talbot

Carolyn Rosenthal

Shaun (Sandy Kelley son)

Dianna Davidson

Pavelko & Knutson family

Sherry White

Jessica Moates

Letha Davis

Joe Howell family

Paula Galt

Norma Boland

Pat McDowell

Kevin & Amanda Peters family

Esther Withers & daughter

Jane Foreman

Greg Smith

Marty Croy

Wanda Therp

Ladonna Mathews

Lisa Schnell

Gregory Smith

Janice Brown