

## 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

### In Person Services Continue

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

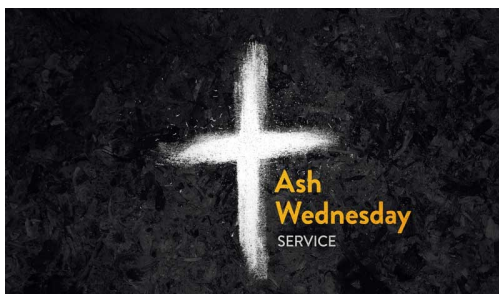
Any medical reason to think you should not be around others.

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.

## Opportunities during Lent

### Wednesday, February 17th, 6:30 pm

Lent will kick off with a special Ash Wednesday service in the church parking lot at 6:30. The service will help prepare your heart for this season and will include the imposition of the ashen cross for all who would like it. The ashes will be done by those who have been vaccinated or have antibodies.

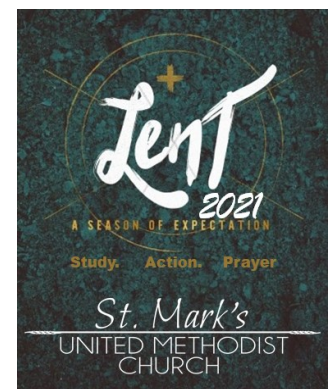


There will also be the option to receive some prepared ashes that you will be able to do it on your own or within your own family unit. We hope you join us for this short meaningful service.

### Lenten personal study and prayer guide

You may pick up your own copy of this study and prayer guide at the church or call the church office and we will make it to you.. It will guide you through the 40 days of Lent with readings that are based on the Lord's prayer. Each day you will have scriptures and journal entries that will call you to a closer walk with God. Pick yours up anytime and join those who are seeking to grown together in the Lord..

Check page 2 & 3 for more opportunities



## 'It Is Finished' - Lenten Study on Zoom

Starting February 21st you are invited to be a part of an excellent Lenten Bible Study. The study will be held on zoom and will meet at 4 pm on Sunday afternoons. Joey Pedigo will lead the study. Contact her or the church office for more information. The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study will also be using this book. Contact Jan Greve for more information on that. A study guide will be provided to you through email and/or text. Here is a quick look at the study:



*It is Finished by pastors David Dorn and Jason Nelson from The Woodlands United Methodist Church is a six-lesson study built around the final words of Jesus from the cross. Jesus' last words are powerful teaching moments that if unpacked, can radically shape our lives as we learn what it means to be human and the limitless love of God. Each lesson dives into the historical and practical significance surrounding each of Jesus' phrases while the study guide gives the viewer different spiritual practices to participate in throughout Lent.*

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**There will also be a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on April 1st at 6:30 pm. More details to come**

**Then on Easter Sunday there will be 2 services available to attend.**

**For even more opportunities check out the following page for some interactive ways to be involved with your family and close friends during the Lenten Season.**

## **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.



<b>Pancake Batter</b>	<b>Syrup</b>	
<b>Cereal</b>	<b>Oatmeal</b>	<b>Crackers</b>
<b>Soup</b>	<b>Peanut Butter</b>	<b>Jelly</b>
<b>Canned goods are always welcome!</b>		



## **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.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/stmarksbethany> and do so now.

# Children's Ministry

Some great opportunities are available for Children and their families during Lent. Check them out below:

## Countdown to Easter



This resource is a 40 day countdown to Easter family activity. Each day families will open an egg during Lent (no egg on Sunday)

and it will give them an idea of something they can do together or a way they can serve others.

## Letters from Jerusalem

This resource will take you through the last week of Jesus' life on earth. The weekly devotions are written as a letter from one of the disciples to their family back home.

The letters contain all Biblical facts from one of the four Gospels, but are told from the viewpoint of a disciple.

Each week will include:

A color of the week; devotion; Bible Memory verse; Family Craft, activity, letter, Snack.



You will be able to pick up the packages for each of these as follows

Sunday February 14th on church counter during Service times

Tuesday and Thursday during office hours in office (8 am to 3 pm)

Wednesday during Ash Wednesday services

Contact Sharon Hunt for other arrangements

## Church Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

# St. Mark's UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8140 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Bethany, OK 73008

January 26, 2021

Hello St. Markians,

When Jesus was asked what is most important in life, he listed two things: Love God and love neighbor.<sup>1</sup> Later, Jesus told us how to accomplish the most important things: Share the Gospel.<sup>2</sup> Thus, following Jesus can be condensed to three priorities: 1. **Christ**, 2. **One** another, and 3. **World** evangelism and mission. The first letter of each forms the acronym, "C.O.W."

Our ministry challenge this year is "**C.O.W. Commitment 2021**." You are encouraged to commit to Christ, One another, and World evangelism and mission. Starting January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday messages are focusing on these three commitments. We will present our commitments on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Then we will pray with and for each other to become who Jesus dreams we can be throughout the rest of the year.

Your **C.O.W. Commitment 2021** reflects your priorities, plans, and goals. We tried to reflect some of the ways you can commit to grow on the enclosed brochure and commitment form. Feel free to add others.

When you decide on your commitments for 2021, fill out the form that is part of the brochure. Detach it. Then drop it by the church office, mail it to St. Mark's, or bring it with you to worship service on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for the commitments you make to Jesus Christ, **One** another and to people around the **World**.

Blessings and Peace,



Pastor Keith

<sup>1</sup> Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love your neighbor** as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40.

<sup>2</sup> "...Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20.



Throughout 2021, let's look for opportunities to:

Share Christ daily

Connect with one another and encourage one another

Invite others to become a part of the ministries of St. Mark's

Reach out to our neighbors, community, and world  
with Christ's love

Make  
a  
Difference  
Thank  
You!

Let's make 2021  
our strongest  
year ever!

2021

C.O.W

Christ. One Another. World Mission & Evangelism

## The Greatest Commandments are these:

Jesus replied: **"Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

**"Love your neighbor** as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

## Our Mission is:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 18-20

Thus, the core of everything we do through church and life can be thought of as commitments to **C**hrist (love God), to **O**ne another (neighbor) and **W**orld Evangelism & Mission

## So what?

You are asked to prayerfully consider your commitment and priorities in 2021. How will you live out your relationship with Jesus through those commitments? How will your priorities be demonstrated by your use of time and money? How will you grow in prayer and study? In what ways will you share the Gospel at home and around the world? Where and how will you serve? What are your study and scripture memorization plans?

Think and pray, perhaps with another, and write down your commitments, priorities, and plan. Then turn the following in at St. Mark's by February 14<sup>th</sup>:

Detach here

*St. Mark's*

UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about:

☐

Mission trips

☐

Bible Studies

☐

Small groups

☐

Areas to serve

☐

Other —

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detach here

During 2021, St. Mark's can count on me to pray, serve, learn, worship and fellowship.

Additionally, count on me to donate financially:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly

# 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"

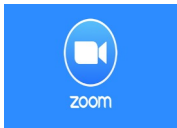


Youtube.com

- 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



## Gannon Meal Train

### Gannon Family...party of 8 please!! :)

What an exciting new adventure they are on, TWINS!!! The twins are here, as babies have their own schedule they came several weeks early. The Gannon family could use some extra support for food for their family and prayers for them, their children at home, and the twins. NICU, Lets help this amazing family out, make sure that mom and dad have time to devote to 2 new little ones in the house and in NICU, as they make those adjustments.. having peace of mind about meals will hopefully help them on this new journey!!

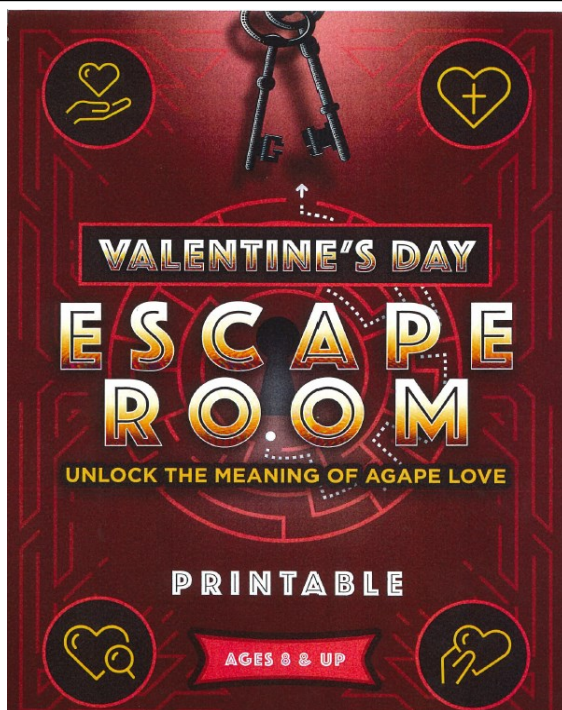


# Missionary Update

## JeDene Reeder



Dear Friends at St. Mark's, Jan. 29, 2021  
Thank you for your gift towards my lifelong ministry with Wycliffe & SIL. I'd hoped to be back in West Africa by now but have ended up having to cancel & rebook flights three times now because of the difficulty of getting my COVID test results back before I need them to fly. (On the plus side, it's fairly clear I don't have COVID!) I'll try to fly out either this Sun. the 31<sup>st</sup> or Tues. Feb. 2, & if I can't, then my director & I have decided that I'll pause trying for a month. This does mean I'll be getting up in the wee hours of Tues & Thurs. mornings for the next three weeks in order to participate in the annual planning meetings for 5 language teams that I'd hoped to be in-country for. We'll also have to reschedule a workshop I was supposed to lead for 3 of those teams plus another 2. Please pray for grace in planning & flexibility as we seek God's good, pleasing, & perfect will in this time of COVID.  
In His peace, JeDene Reeder



## New Escape Room Available

Our first escape room was a great success and so here we go again. This is a great way for families and friends to have an evening of fun as they work together or as teams to unlock the meaning of agape love. You can pick up your packages for the activity at the church in the office or on the office counter. It has everything you need for the game. Go through each of the puzzles, and mysteries and see if you can find your way to the golden key while exploring scripture and having a great time together. Let us know your time for solving it!





## 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 3-4 people and share an encouraging word with them and offer to pray with them.**

### Facts and Figures

2021 Annual Budget	TBA
Rec'd toward Operating 2/7/2021.....	13,635
<u>Year to Date 2021</u>	
Rec'd toward offering .....	50,788
Expenses .....	40129
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, February 7 Total	211
In Person	64
Online	147

### Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues	Gannon family
Don & Fran Nobles	Paula Galt
Barbara Homer	Norma Boland
Pam & Wayne Barnes	Pat McDowell
John, Jason & Cole Talbot	Kevin & Amanda Peters family
Carolyn Rosenthal	Jane Foreman
Shaun (Sandy Kelley son)	Marty Croy
Dianna Davidson	Ladonna Mathews
Sherry White	Janice Brown
Letha Davis	Nina Gerardy
Mary King	Don Greve
Katrina Lambert	Carol Sandburg
Kay Smith	Pavelko family
Tre Lambert	Mike Bevins
Don Noble	