

**Our Mission Statement** To build a family of believers who glorify God and help each other become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ



## 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 It's amazing how quickly our church directory gets outdated, but the good news is that we are able to keep it up to date online and that is available to you.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.

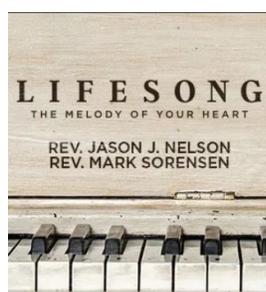
<https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/407016/st-marks-united-methodist-church>

If you have ideas for great ways of connecting please let us know and we will share those here also.

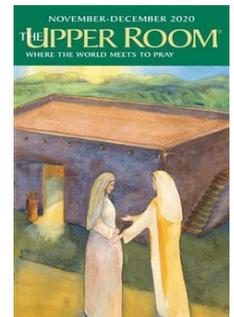
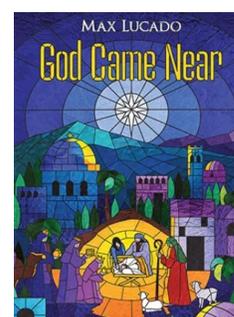
### Challenge for the week:

***Call two people that you have not seen recently and see how they are doing.***

## Advent Studies available this season



See details  
on page 3



## St. Mark's to do Care Share with Overholser again this year.

The Care Share tree is in the foyer of the church and decorated with the name and wish list of each child. After you have chosen a child please put your name and contact information beside the child's name on the sign up sheet. You can also call the church office if you would like to get a child. The suggested price amount to be spent is around \$75 per child. When returning the gifts please remove all price tags and do not wrap the gifts. Please put the child's name and family number on their gift bag. Gifts are due the first week of December (December 1-4), but no later than Sunday, December 6th.

Thank you for your willingness to help brighten and bless a child's Christmas. Now let's go shopping!

Kathy Hamilton & Julia Bevers



## 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](mailto:sharon@stmarksbethany.com)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:  
Alicia Schneider  
Phone: 789-9033  
Email: [alicia@stmarksbethany.com](mailto:alicia@stmarksbethany.com)

# Advent Studies available this season

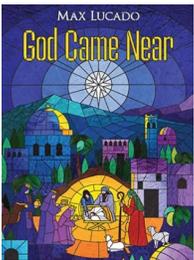
Advent Studies available this season. This year we are promoting self-study or within the family unit during the next 6 weeks. Contact Joey Pedigo at: [sjepedigo@gmail.com](mailto:sjepedigo@gmail.com) or 720-7814 if you have any questions.

## RightNow Media sources

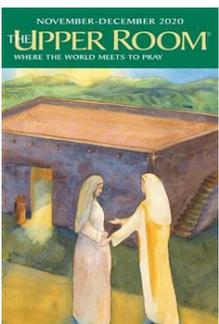
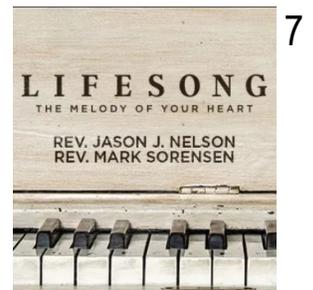
**Everyday Advent**, Brenda Drost, 4 sessions with short videos with downloadable leaders guide. Advent is a time to remember and reflect, but also a time of looking forward with hope and anticipation. We remember the significance of the baby Jesus who was born in the flesh, in a little town called Bethlehem, 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 -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.



American Red Cross

Blood Program Leader



Thank you very much for your ongoing dedication to the American Red Cross. Every day, I am deeply moved by the kindness and generosity of spirit you bring to our vital mission. But it's times like these – times of great uncertainty – that I am truly in awe of your unwavering commitment.

As thousands of blood drives around the nation were cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19, please know that your drive protected the health and well-being of the most vulnerable among us – including accident victims, cancer patients, those suffering from chronic illnesses and many others.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for stepping up to help collect and donate lifesaving blood, even as the circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak often made it difficult to do so.

To express my deepest gratitude for your tremendous service to the Red Cross and to our country, please accept this [Certificate of Outstanding Service](#) and an [honorary badge](#) for your social media profiles.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you once again for your tremendous efforts to strengthen and advance our Red Cross mission during this uniquely challenging time. We look forward to better times ahead and to our continued partnership to save lives.

Sincerely,

*Gail McGovern*

Gail McGovern  
President and CEO



This award recognizes you as an extraordinary Blood Program Partner who stood with the American Red Cross during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your dedicated support was essential in our mission to help save lives across the country through blood donation.

Thank you.

*Gail McGovern*

Gail McGovern, President and CEO

2020



American Red Cross

Blood Program Partner

**Good job St. Mark's**

## Worship Services Continue

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 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!



## Holiday Help for Food Pantry Families Needed

The Food Pantry is also wanting to provide holiday meals for those they are serving. Thanksgiving meals have been provided and we just have one family left to take care of for Christmas. Our goal is to provide a basic holiday meal for these families for Christmas. If your family, Sunday School class or other group you are a part of would like to make that happen please let us know. You can either go out and shop for all the items or supply the funds and let the Food Pantry team get it. Cost for a meal for a family is \$75. We will need the meals by the 3rd Sunday of December (Christmas) so we can distribute to the families. Contact Kayla Gannon for more information.



## **OTHER NEWS NOTES**

### **If you need to visit with someone**

St. Mark's wants to extend an invitation to anyone feeling disengaged or just needing a friendly voice to share, pray and just hear a word of encouragement. If you would like to visit with someone who cares and wants to be there for you feel free to contact Jan Greve at (405) 641-5863 and she will help you make that connection.

### **Do you need a mask?**

If you are in need of a mask for going out we have members who are making them for people at no cost. If you have a need please contact us and we will connect you with them.



## **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. 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.

# St. Mark's Social Media Links



Facebook.com - search for "stmarksbethany"



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



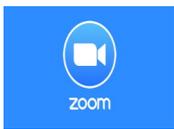
Twitter.com - search "@stmarksbethany"



Youtube.om - 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](mailto:pastorkeith@stmarksbethany.com)

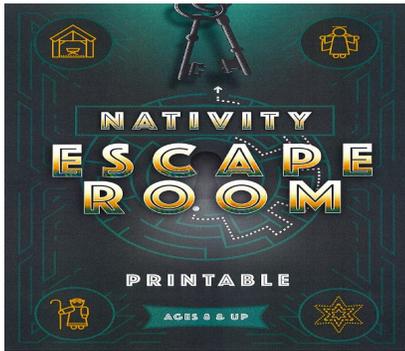
## Meal Train for Amanda & Kevin Peters (Kalvin , Nolan)

Our prayers go out to the Peters. We are putting this Meal Train out with a heavy heart. We know their hearts will take time to heal so we want to support Amanda, Kevin, Kalvin, and Nolan as they make their way through this process. If you would like to assist with the meal chain click on the link below and learn more.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/414946>



## COMING IN DECEMBER



Families, Couples, Friends, Neighbors. We have a great resource coming your way in December. It's a way to have a lot of fun (and maybe learn something) as you encounter the Nativity Escape Room. Be watching for details and begin planning when and with who you want to have this adventure.

### Facts and Figures

2020 Annual Budget .....620,218  
 Rec'd toward Operating 11/8/2020 ..... 6,142

#### YTD 2020

Rec'd toward Operating 11/8/2020.....410,434  
 Expenditures 11/8/2020 ..... 445,350

#### Attendance

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Sunday, November 8 | 224 |
| In Person          | 52  |
| Online             | 172 |

### 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  
 Paula Galt  
 Norma Boland  
 Carrie Welles  
 Nicora Clouse & family  
 Joy Hicks family  
 Pat McDowell  
 Kevin & Amanda Peters family  
 Esther Withers & daughter  
 Jane Foreman  
 Greg Smith  
 Marty Croy