

St. Mark's
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH January 26, 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 30, 2022

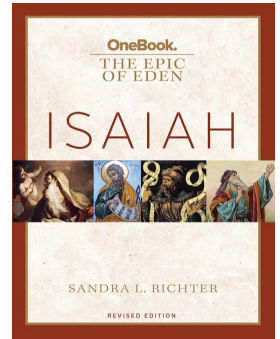
We invite everyone to join us for worship this Sunday. This Sunday Randy will continue the series, "Forget not all his benefits - sermons on Psalm 103:2-5". This week's message will be on "Redemption". Our Classic service will begin at 9:30 am and our Modern service at 10:55 am.

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/o20-8f0-AW8>

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.



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 COVID 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.

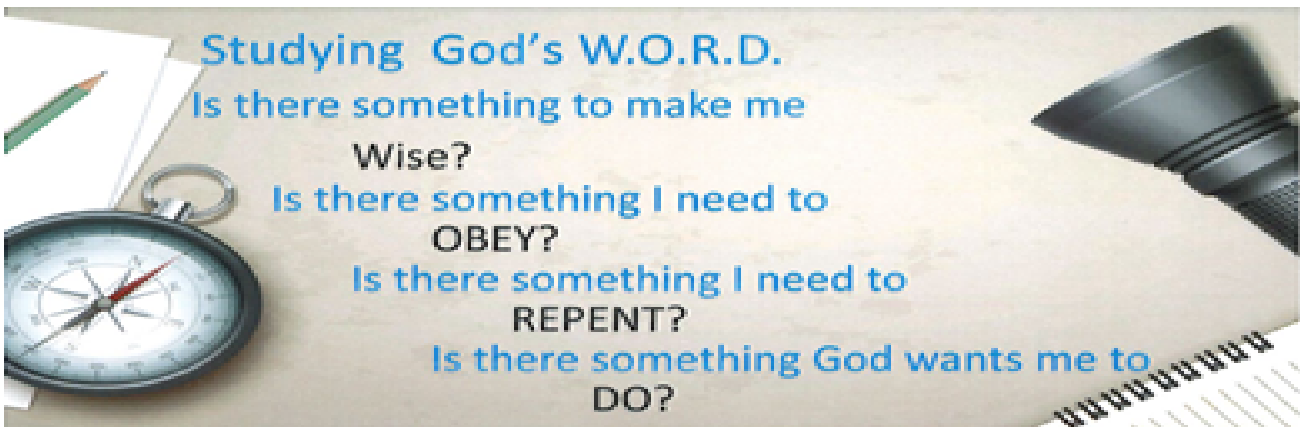


Prayers for family of Jack Martyn

Prayers for Ruth Martyn and family at the passing of Jack Martyn on January 18th. Services will be Saturday, February 5th at 2 pm at the Yanda & Son Funeral Home in Yukon

Thanks for all the prayers during Jack's illness, And thanks for all the calls and cards after his death, Bless you. Ruth Martyn

SM Kids Information



Everyone knows they should read their Bible - but how do you get something out of it? How to Study the W.O.R.D. is a helpful tool for kids (and adults) to get more out of their Bible reading time by asking some key questions while reading. Using W.O.R.D. as an acronym, they can learn to ask these four questions:

Is there something to make me WISE?

Is there something I need to OBEY?

Is there something I need to REPENT?

Is there something God wants me to DO?

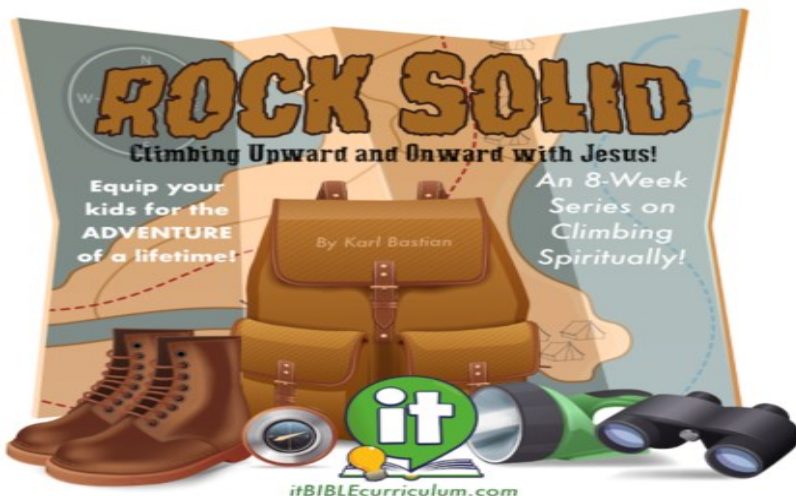
You'll be hard pressed to read a chapter of Scripture and not find an answer to one of these questions providing an **APPLICATION** to your reading. If not, keep reading until you do.

Kidmin sent home a W.O.R.D. card to challenge your children to ask these questions as they read their Bible.

Read the chapter or Bible Buddy scripture. Review these questions, then prayerfully read the scriptures again with these questions in mind. The Holy Spirit will not let them down!

Explain they are not looking for all four, but **ONE** thing God wants to show them in the passage they are reading.

We don't read the Bible just to read - we read it so it can change our life and draw us closer to God. Asking questions like these help us discover our heart for Jesus.



**New Adult Study
Wednesday Evening
Feb. 2nd 6:15-7:30pm**

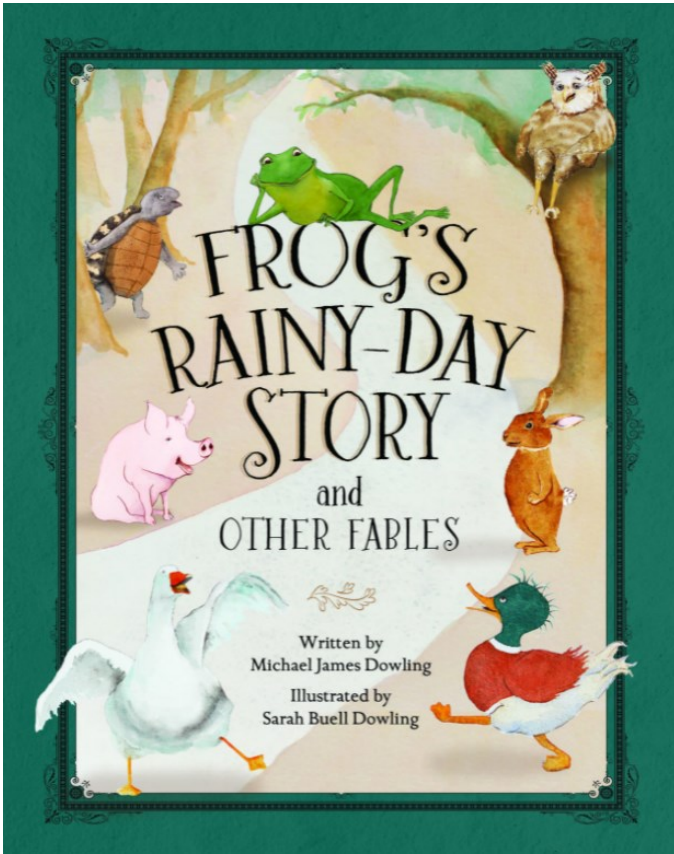
Wondering How to Defend your Faith in today's World?

**This study is for anyone struggling with honest
conversations in today's culture.**

Teaching sound biblical values to our **children and grandchildren** has never been more vital. Frog's Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables expertly fills this need as a catalyst for honest family and church conversations about today's confusing times and culture. As children journey through these eight amusing and thought-provoking fables, the book's lively characters will become their fast friends and everyday teachers of timeless values and practical life lessons. The insightful stories help readers better appreciate the wisdom of God's Word and how it is often at odds with the conventional wisdom of the world. The messages in Frog's Rainy-Day Story and Other Fables will both entertain and convict today's reader.

**Casey Cassidy and Beverly Ray will facilitate
the adult study in Room 19.**

**Sign up in the Narthex. Books can be
ordered or downloaded through am-
azon.**



DAWN - Dinner & Worship Night
Wednesdays 5:30 pm Returns February 2nd

Schedule:

5:30-6:15 Meal (family style)

6:00-6:30 Prayer Team

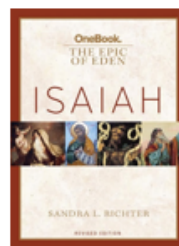
6:15-7:30 Children's & Student Ministry

6:15-7:30 Adult Bible Studies

7:30-8:00 Choir Practice



**Sm
kids**

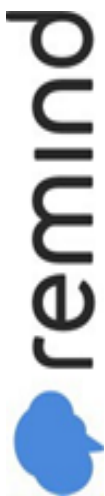


**Prayer
Team**

**Canceled til February 2nd
due to COVID concerns!**

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** 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** 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

2022 Annual Budget	TBD
Rec'd toward Operating 1/16/2022.....	9,855
Year to Date 2022	
Rec'd toward offering	25,405
Expenses	22,012
Year to Date 2021	
Rec'd toward offering	538,412
Expenses	525,558
Attendance	
Sunday, January 23	Total 243
Classic Service	90
Modern Service	51
Online	102

Prayer Box

Mike Kolar (Ruth Martyn's son)
Trish (sister-in-law Deb Wade)
Jack Martyn family
Mary King
Mike & Kathi Fisher
Wynn Lusk
Cindy Wilkerson
Elle Mysinger
Greg Pinkerton
Ed & Gina Boemer
Marty Croy
Pam Barnes

Diana Davidson
Valerie Cooper
Janice Brown
Curtis (son-in-law of Janice Brown)
Lavina Bonifield (Daughter -in- law Margaret Bonifield)
Yvonne York (Mother-in-law) Evelyn York
Tiffany Montesano
John Talbot
Jack Martyn
Jason Talbot & Tonia Shinwell