

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

Changes coming to worship soon!

The reopening committee has been working hard and are ready to make the next move in getting St. Mark's completely open again. Starting on Palm Sunday, March 28th we will resume two morning services. The committee has met with a couple of Sunday School classes and is helping them get open too. If your class would like to get restarted contact David Miller and they will assist you. We are excited to be able to open back up prior to Easter. Social distancing will still be observed as well as masks. As you make your decisions on your comfort level, know we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Below is a schedule of current plans. Starting March 28th.

8:30 to 9:30	9:30 - 10:15	10:15 - 10:45	10:45 - 11:30
	Classic Worship	Clean sanctuary	Modern Worship
Adult SS in room 17 and 18	Adult SS room 19 (9:30 to 10:30)	Adult may continue into or start during this time frame. See next pane below for youth & children	Adult SS (10:30 to 11:30) Rooms 17 and 18 (and choir room)

In Person Services Guidelines

In addition to our continued support of online worship, we are excited to say the live service has been and going well. When you feel comfortable we invite you to join us for services.

Before attending the Service ask yourself these questions:
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 in last 14 days.

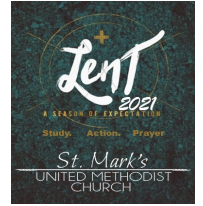
Any medical reason to think you should not be around others.

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

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..



'It Is Finished' - Lenten Study on Zoom

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:

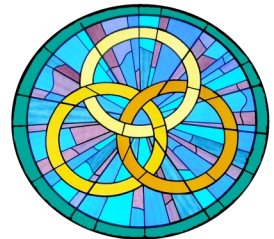


There will also be a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on April 1st at 6:30 pm. More details to come

Then on Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday there will be 2 services available to attend. 9:30 am and 10:45 am

Daily Devotions Update

It has now been a year since we started the Daily devotions and a gigantic thanks goes out to all those who have faithfully given devotions. As we go forward several of our faithful devotion givers are asking for a break. So starting in April we will be going to a reduced schedule for devotions. The schedule will be set up in the next week or so and depending on the number of people willing to do a devotion once a month we will have 3-4 devotions a week. If you would like to be a part of the team please let us know and we will get you on the schedule. It would be exciting to have some new faces so pray about if God might be leading you. We all have a witness and a story and doing devotions will be a blessing to you as you bless others. Look forward to the new schedule and whether you have been doing it, have done it in past or just want to start now we would love to have you.



During Holy Week (March 29-April 3rd we will have special devotions. We hope they are helpful to you as you prepare for Easter.



God Bless

Our Little

Man

Please join us
In celebrating the

Dedication

Of our son



March 28, 2021

11:30AM

St Mark's UMC Front Portico

Social distancing & Masks

This event will be also on Facebook live

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.

Be the first to show the next generation the love of Jesus!

With worship services preparing to open back up we have an opportunity for you to share the love of Christ with others. Our nursery and preschool have a great need for volunteers as we prepare to pivot. If you are willing to give some time to these children please contact Sharon Hunt or the church office.



Blood Drive Reschedules for April 11th at St. Mark's

There is an urgent need for blood at this time.

Sign up today!

We hope you are able to take part in this community event.

Link to learn more:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stmarksbethany>

Can find link in daily news notes and on web page

7:30 am to 1:30 pm

St. Mark's UMC





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.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

FAMILY EASTER TIME OPPORTUNITIES Coming

Palm Sunday Escape Room

Palm Sunday waving Palm Branches in worship March 28th

Easter (Egg) Scavenger Hunt - April 2nd and April 3rd

Community Egg Hunt (with social distancing) April 3rd

Easter escape room

We Need candy for the Community Egg Hunt

If you would like to help please bring some individually wrapped candy (no filled eggs) to the church in the next couple of weeks. To make the event safe we will be handing out candy in bags to prevent contact.

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 14th:

.....
Dotted line
Detach here

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

I would like more information about:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Areas to serve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other — | |

.....
Dotted line
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"



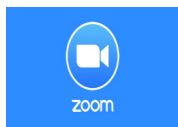
Twitter.com - search "@stmarksbethany"



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

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.



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



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 2 people you haven't seen since beginning of pandemic.

Facts and Figures

2021 Annual Budget	TBA
Rec'd toward Operating 2/28/2021.....	14,178
<u>Year to Date 2021</u>	
Rec'd toward offering	86,9331
Expenses	70,162
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, March 14 Total	235
In Person	87
Online	148

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues	Norma Boland
Don & Fran Nobles	Pat McDowell
Barbara Homer	Jane Foreman
Pam & Wayne Barnes	Marty Croy
Carolyn Rosenthal	Ladonna Mathews
Dianna Davidson	Janice Brown
Letha Davis	Nina Gerardy
Mary King	Don Greve
Katrina Lambert	Carol Sandburg
Norma McMurtry	Pavelko family
Margaret Bonifield	Dorothy Sipes
Daughter in law—Lavina	Darell Brehm
Paula Galt	