

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

Hello St Markians!

St. Mark's is moving forward, inch by inch, with more **in-person gatherings**. **Sunday morning worship** attendance has come close to filling the sanctuary at our new capacity (50'ish) the past weeks. **Online attendance** remains strong and the geographic scope of our outreach online is broad. Many online **small groups**, studies and Life groups are meeting online.

The food pantry has been operating through this entire time. The number of families served increased and has decreased some now that people are returning to work. Thank you for all your food donations. **Mark'd Kids and CDO** are going well on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Pop-up church** for the children in meeting on the east lawn Wednesday evenings. **Student Ministry** will begin meeting again on Wednesdays soon. One **Sunday school class** meets before worship service in the west parking lot. A few activities are meeting at the church throughout the week. Official **church open hours** are 8-3:30 on Tuesday and Thursdays. **Worship teams** and partial **choir** are providing music online and live. **Scouts** may start again as early as August. It is a long way from normal, but St Markians are getting together in-person more frequently...and carefully.

The **Re-Opening Team**, led by David Miller, is doing the careful task of guiding the opening process. CDC, State, WHO and denominational guidelines are being followed the best we can. **Sunday School classes** are welcome to meet at the church at times other than Sunday morning. I know that is odd, but it is a way to help keep safe distances and clean rooms for the meetings. Given safe distancing, a room such as room 18 for instance, only holds about 12 individuals or 10 pairs of people. And of course, face masks need to be worn inside. Once a room is used, it needs to be disinfected before the next group may use it.

Making reservations for rooms and lawn space is crucial. So if your group wants to meet, please reserve a place inside or out through Pat Morford.

Don't you appreciate the **daily devotions**?! Thank you to everyone who is sharing!

In Christ,
Pastor Keith

It's coming! "WOW" VBS

Worldwide has been experience by more than 1000 churches across 65 nations and now is your chance to be a part. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, or know someone who does you want to take advantage of this. WOW is designed for anyone to do it at home with children. Watch the link here and see the excitement: <https://youtu.be/dYcoiKVv5bw>



If you want to be involved or would like to share this information with others contact Sharon Hunt (sharon@stmarksbethany.com). We have all the necessary, links, lessons and helps available.

Hope you are able to join in!

Saint Mark's Memorials

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. The link is on the homepage.

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. Mark's Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Food Pantry is open every Sundays from 4pm - 6 pm. We appreciate everyone's help through the pandemic in helping to keep things supplied. We know it has been difficult with limited access but with services kicking back off and the office beginning to return to normal we hope it will be easier for people to bring items. THANKS for your patience.



Currently the following items are needed in the pantry.

- ◆ **Crackers**
- ◆ **Oatmeal**
- ◆ **Pancake Mix**
- ◆ **Box Potatoes**
- ◆ **Cereal**
- ◆ **Canned meat (esp. Spam)**
- ◆ **Canned Vegetables**
- ◆ **Syrup**
- ◆ **Soup**

Worship Services Continue

In addition to our continued support of online worship, we are excited to say the live service went very well this past week. If you would like to join us this coming Sunday 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.

If your health self-assessment indicates that none of the above symptoms or situations apply to you or anyone in you party, then go ahead and make a reservation to attend worship.



RIGHT NOW MEDIA

Resource during quarantine
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.

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. Some will be interactive and others will just be lessons and updates. Hope you and your family take advantage of these.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Sharon Hunt
Phone: 789-9033

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
Alicia Schneider
Phone: 789-9033
Email: alicia@stmarksbethany.com

Pop up Church available for Children

Our children's ministries continue to find new ways to minister during this pandemic. The latest is a pop-up church. In the pop-up church a time and place is set where children (and their families) can come together for a time of celebration, learning and fun in a safe, social distance environment. The next of these will be August 5, at 6:30 pm in the field east of the church. There will be a lesson and other fun activities. Bring you lawn chairs, a water gun, maybe some snacks and join us. You might come ready to get wet. We are looking to continue these and if you would like to host one at the church, your lawn, backyard or neighborhood contact Sharon Hunt or Alicia Becker and we will work out the details.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Laura and Dale German on the birth of their son, Dale George German, on Sunday, July 26, 2020. Grandparents are Hank and Carla Brueggen. A meal train has been started for Laura and Dale. If you would like to help you can sign up with this link.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/d3dnrl>

There is also a drive by baby shower planned at the church for August 16th from 2-4 pm. They are registered on Amazon



St. Mark's Social Media Links



Facebook.com - search for "stmarksbethany"



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



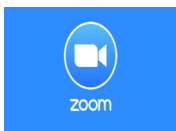
Twitter.com - search "@stmarksbethany"



Youtube.com - search St. Marks United Methodist Church, Bethany, OK



RightNow Media.com - "St. Mark's United Methodist Church"

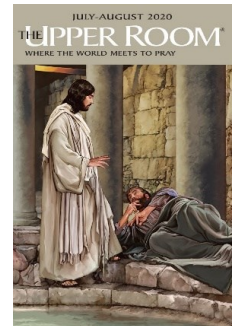


Zoom.com - sign up and then watch for upcoming announcements on Bible Studies, Sunday School classes and other things you can join with other members of St. Mark's

July August Upper Room available on line

During this time of anxiety and isolation The Upper Room wants to make it as easy as possible for people to find resources to support spiritual health. We are providing the July/August 2020 issue of The Upper Room magazine, both in **English** and **Spanish**, for download at no cost to our standing order partners and subscribers.

<https://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches>



THANKS!! A gigantic thanks goes out to people who keep things going at St. Mark's. We had another break in to the shed on the back of the building and people jumped right in to fix things. Thanks to Frank Wilkerson for securing the building in a way that should keep anyone out and then going the extra mile and replacing the leaf blower a second time. Also thanks to Monte Tull for stepping up and acquiring a new lawn mower and edger. These men, along with others, know the importance of being stewards of the building and grounds and are always keeping an eye out for the property. THANKS!

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.

Facts and Figures

2020 Annual Budget620,218
Rec'd toward Operating 7/26/2020 8,844

YTD 2020
Rec'd toward Operating 7/26/2020..... 267,310
Expenditures 7/26/2020 267,807

Attendance
Sunday, August 2 238
 Life Service 54
 Online 184

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues	Cole Talbot
Don & Fran Nobles	Marty Croy
Barbara Homer	Letha Davis
Beverly Clark	John Talbot
Pam Barnes	Gale Mills family
Don Greve	Bret Davis family
Cheryl Pavelko	Greg Gerardy
Mike Spiser	Bill Underwood
Wayne Barnes	Dot Lyon & family

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

8140 NW 36th Street
Bethany, OK 73008

St. Mark's Staff

Keith Cressman, Pastor
Becky Roman, Mission & Music Director
Sharon Hunt, Early Childhood Ministries
Alicia Schneider, Children's Minister
Kayla Gannon, Kings & Queens Coordinator
Lydia Cressman, Student Minister
Pat Morford, Administrator, Communications
Bequer Gomez, Comunidad liaison
Christy Kiespert, 8:30 Keyboardist
Jackie Swedlow, Accountant