

Limited Worship Services Resume

We are excited to be able to gather for worship again at St. Mark's. 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:

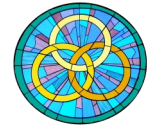
- Showing any flu-like symptoms
 - A fever of 100.4 or higher in the past 14 days.
 - Prolonged exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Any medical reason to think you should not be around others.

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.

To make your reservation, reply to worship@stmarksbethany.com and include your name, the names of all those attending with you and the total number of people in your party.

You will receive a confirmation email that will give more details about the service. If the capacity limit has been reached you will receive an email letting you know and inviting you to attend online.



Fellow St Markians,

While I write this, demonstrations are underway in many cities across our great country and we have successfully launched a manned space craft from American soil for the first time in nearly a decade. The first mentioned event dominates the headlines and demonstrations have been experienced in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is goodnews for all people. It does not matter our color, occupation, sex, age, address, etc. we are all eligible for his grace. Further, God has an exceptional track record of bringing creation and order out of chaos and giving peace to our troubled souls.

This chaotic storm within the Covid storm. Anxieties and tensions were already high. What are we to do? Here are seven suggestions:

1. Do not oversaturate yourself with news. For me, I get more information in less time by reading news rather than watching it. Reading multiple sources helps gather facts.
2. Listen to others. Be a calming presence.
3. Pray for everyone involved...everyone. Pray that each one will sense the assurance and calming hope that is discovered in Jesus Christ. Pray for revival across the land.
4. Listen to others. (Yep, that is a repeat.)
5. Make contact with someone who may be feeling threatened or insecure. Listen to him/her. Let her/him know you care. If they are of a different skin color, reassure them of your friendship.
6. If you think you need to make a judgement, wait for all the facts to be in and the emotional peak to pass...as we now say, wait for the curve to flatten. Then decide again whether or not you need to make a judgement.
7. There is little or nothing to gain and more to lose by posting, re-posting and arguing online. Focus on caring, personal contacts instead.

Once again, Philippians 4:4-8 is appropriate reading. Also, read the creation account in Genesis 1 and read the reports of Jesus calming storms at sea. God will get us through this time as well.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Keith
John 14

St. Mark's Social Media Links



Facebook.com - search for "stmarksbethany"



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



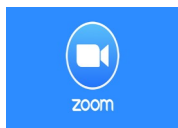
Twitter.com - search "@stmarksbethany"



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 Food Pantry

The St. Mark's Food Pantry for Overholser 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.

- ◆ **Soup**
- ◆ **Cereal**
- ◆ **Peanut Butter**
- ◆ **Jelly**
- ◆ **Ramen Noodles**
- ◆ **Canned Beans**



Staff Emails

If you have questions please feel free to contact the staff.

Keith Cressman pastorkeith@stmarksbethany.com

Becky Roman becky@stmarksbethany.com

Sharon Hunt sharon@stmarksbethany.com

Lydia Cressman Lydia@stmarksbethany.com

Alicia Schneider alicia@stmarksbethany.com

Kayla Gannon kayla@stmarksbethany.com

Bequer Gomez bequer@stmarksbethany.com

Jackie Swedlow finance@stmarksbethany.com

Gwen Sears finance@stmarksbethany.com

Pat Morford pat@stmarksbethany.com

Daily Devotions

If you are not getting the daily devotions or know someone who you think would like to get them please let us know. The devotions arrive to your email each Monday through Friday morning and members of our congregation are doing a great job of sharing the Word of God with us all. Thanks to those providing the devotions. Email pat@stmarksbethany.com if you would like to receive them.

**FALL 2020
ST. MARK'S TO HOST
Whiz
Kids
BE A VOLUNTEER!**



St Mark's will host another ministry opportunity this fall...Whiz Kids! So just what will we be doing? That is a great question!

We will be hosting several 2nd thru 5th grade students from Overholser Elementary immediately after school, one day a week throughout the 2020/2021 school year. Each of these students will have been identified by their respective teacher as reading below his or her grade level. We will provide one-on-one tutoring to each of them in order to improve their reading skills.

So what is the need? Separate conversations with individual teachers at Overholser indicate that as many as 30% of their 600-plus students may be "at-risk" relative to their reading level. Additionally, statistics show that students who still read below their grade level by the time they enter 6th grade are 40% more likely to spend time in the Oklahoma penal system as an adult than are those who are reading at or above their grade. The gap is huge, the need is real and it is right in our back yard! The principal, Marj Iven, and all the teachers are excited that St Mark's has stepped forward to help close this gap. But Whiz Kids is much more than a tutoring program.

Whiz Kids also is a "faith-based" mentoring program. Each of the 34 Whiz Kids sites throughout the metro area is hosted by a church; thus the "faith-based" part of the program. And the fact that each student receives one-on-one attention from the same tutor throughout the year highlights the mentoring aspect of this vital ministry.

The tutoring day each week is still to be determined. We know that the time of day will be right after school dismisses: 3:45pm - 5:45pm.

Do not be concerned if you lack tutoring experience: training will be provided. The only tools you need are a deep faith founded on the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ and the resulting heart to touch lives in a meaningful, Christian manner.

So if you are looking for a way to give back...a way to impact both the children of our community as well as our community at large, this is a great ministry opportunity! These students are simply waiting for you to step forward! Please contact Mark Walpus at 405.887.6067 if you are interested in helping these students change the trajectories of their lives! Remember these children and volunteer ministers in your prayers.

Making a Difference at Council Grove Elementary

St Marks UMC has made a big difference at Council Grove Elementary this school year. Council Grove serves 97% low income children. The children and teachers really need and appreciate our help and support. Some of the ways we helped this year include:

15 of our members regularly volunteered at the school.

12 of our volunteers were weekly tutors for kindergarten or 3rd and 4th grade math!

We collected new books for children.

We bought \$1,260 of new PE equipment for the school (Faith Promise funds).

The ROC class provided a welcome breakfast for teachers.

We collected copy paper for the school.

3 of our volunteers maintained clothing and shoe closets for the school.

2 of our volunteers helped with registration at the beginning of school.

A big thank you to St Marks 15 regular volunteers this year:

Beverley Bevins

Mike Bevins

Judy Browning

Becky Chessmore

Walter Correia

Christie Couch

Lorna Garner

Darlene Hickman

Lily Hummel

Dorothy Lynch

Dot Lyon

Beverly Tully

Sherry White

Richard White

Sally White



What is Going on at St Mark's?

That is a great question. The best answers may keep changing as we continue working to contain the spread of COVID 19 in our communities. You understand that the idea is to limit the spread from person to person by keeping people physically away from each other. We want to do our part to keep each other and our communities safer.

Here is a smattering of **responses to common questions**:

In person **Sunday worship** and nearly all other activity at the church is postponed until further notice. You may participate in Sunday worship through our Facebook page or RightNow Media. Special resources for children are being created and loaded to RightNow Media. Do we choose to gather through online worship? Yes! Our online measurement tools tell us that we set a non-Easter **attendance record last Sunday**. We are working on each Sunday's service throughout the week.

Staff has been asked to work from home but we are still here for you.

The **church phones** will be forwarded so that we can respond to phone calls.

The **usual ways** you have been using will continue to be the best and quickest means to reach each other and those who serve on staff. The nation has a strong communications infrastructure.

The **prayer chain** remains active and may be contacted in the usual ways.

If for some reason **you come into the church building, you are responsible** to use the available disinfectant clothes to wipe down everything you touch - doorknobs, light switches - everything. Wearing gloves protects you but not others, you still need to wipe down all surfaces.

Several **classes and study groups** are finding ZOOM and other means effective ways to gather online.

You can make **contributions** to St Mark's by clicking the link on the home page of our website. Click on it and it will take you to a secure donation page. Of course, the US Mail is still delivering, allowing us to also mail gifts to the church.

Communications: We are emailing information, prayer updates, or prayer guides as needed. A list of online resources can be found on the following page. This is a great way to stay connected.

I am looking forward to when we meet in person again. How about you? Until then...

Remember God is still God and he is not quarantined. Let's keep in contact with each other. Pray for each other. Encourage each other. God's Holy Spirit is stirring among us. We are in this together, you are not alone.

God does great things,

Pastor Keith





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

Email: sharon@stmarksbethany.com

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 June 10th, at 6:30 pm in the field east of the church. There will be a lesson and other fun activities. Bring your 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.



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.



Ⓞ RICE BOWLS

Since we haven't met I am sure you still have your rice bowls. We will gather them when we are able to gather again. Feel free to keep dropping some loose change in them. Rice bowls is an amazing organization feeding, orphaned and hungry children.

Facts and Figures

2020 Annual Budget620,218
Rec'd toward Operating 5/10/2020 7,806

YTD 2020

Rec'd toward Operating 5/10/2020..... 174,720
Expenditures 5/10/2020 165,945

Attendance

Sunday, June 7
Online 221 views

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues	Cole Talbot
Don & Fran Nobles	Marty Croy
Barbara Homer	Letha Davis
Beverly Clark	Karen Homer
Pam Barnes	Dennis Graham
Andre Frehley	Sherry White
Hazel Bremmer	John Talbot
Don Greve	Gale Mills family
Sandy Kelly	Bret Davis family
Cheryl Pavelko	Lynne Canary
Dorothy Lynch	Greg Gerardy
Mike Spiser	Bill Underwood
Linda Pollock	Kruse Holliday family