

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

In Person Services Resume

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.

2021 February 14 Commitment Sunday

C.O.W

Christ. One Another. World Mission & Evangelism

Blood Drive Set for February 14 at St. Mark's

Upcoming blood drive. Help save lives.



Blood Drive Information

Date : 2/14/2021
Start Time : 07:30 AM
End Time : 01:30 PM
Where : St Mark's United Methodist Church Bethany
Address : 8140 NW 36th St., , Bethany, OK 73008

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>

'It Is Finished' - Lenten Study on Zoom

Starting February 21st 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. A study guide will be provided to you through email and/or text. Here is a quick look at the study:*

Is Finished by pastors David Dorn and Jason Nelson from The Woodlands United Methodist Church is a six-lesson study built around the final words of Jesus from the cross. Jesus' last words are powerful teaching moments that if unpacked, can radically shape our lives as we learn what it means to be human and the limitless love of God. Each lesson dives into the historical and practical significance surrounding each of Jesus' phrases while the study guide gives the viewer different spiritual practices to participate in throughout Lent.



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. Mark's UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8140 NW 36th Street, Bethany, OK 73008

January 26, 2021

Hello St. Markians,

When Jesus was asked what is most important in life, he listed two things: Love God and love neighbor.¹ Later, Jesus told us how to accomplish the most important things: Share the Gospel.² Thus, following Jesus can be condensed to three priorities: 1. **Christ**, 2. **One** another, and 3. **World** evangelism and mission. The first letter of each forms the acronym, "C.O.W."

Our ministry challenge this year is "**C.O.W. Commitment 2021**." You are encouraged to commit to Christ, One another, and World evangelism and mission. Starting January 10th, the Sunday messages are focusing on these three commitments. We will present our commitments on February 14th. Then we will pray with and for each other to become who Jesus dreams we can be throughout the rest of the year.

Your **C.O.W. Commitment 2021** reflects your priorities, plans, and goals. We tried to reflect some of the ways you can commit to grow on the enclosed brochure and commitment form. Feel free to add others.

When you decide on your commitments for 2021, fill out the form that is part of the brochure. Detach it. Then drop it by the church office, mail it to St. Mark's, or bring it with you to worship service on February 14th.

Thank you for the commitments you make to Jesus Christ, **One** another and to people around the **World**.

Blessings and Peace,



Pastor Keith

¹ 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.

² "...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 28:19-20.

Throughout 2021, let's look for opportunities to:

Share Christ daily

Connect with one another and encourage one another

Invite others to become a part of the ministries of St. Mark's

Reach out to our neighbors, community, and world
with Christ's love

Make
a
Difference
Thank
You!

Let's make 2021
our strongest
year ever!

2021

C.O.W

Christ. One Another. World Mission & Evangelism

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:

Detach here

St. Mark's

UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

I would like more information about:

☐

Mission trips

☐

Bible Studies

☐

Small groups

☐

Areas to serve

☐

Other —

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

Children's Ministry

Some great opportunities are available for Children and their families during Lent. Check them out below:

Countdown to Easter



This resource is a 40 day countdown to Easter family activity. Each day families will open an egg during Lent (no egg on Sunday)

and it will give them an idea of something they can do together or a way they can serve others.

Letters from Jerusalem

This resource will take you through the last week of Jesus' life on earth. The weekly devotions are written as a letter from one of the disciples to their family back home.

The letters contain all Biblical facts from one of the four Gospels, but are told from the viewpoint of a disciple.

Each week will include:

A color of the week; devotion; Bible Memory verse; Family Craft, activity, letter, Snack.



You will be able to pick up the packages for each of these as follows

Sunday February 14th on church counter during Service times

Tuesday and Thursday during office hours in office (8 am to 3 pm)

Wednesday during Ash Wednesday services

Contact Sharon Hunt for other arrangements

Church Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

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"

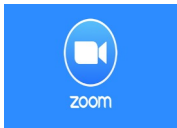


Youtube.com

- 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



Gannon Meal Train

Gannon Family...party of 8 please!! :)

What an exciting new adventure they are on, TWINS!!! The twins are here, as babies have their own schedule they came several weeks early. The Gannon family could use some extra support for food for their family and prayers for them, their children at home, and the twins. NICU, Lets help this amazing family out, make sure that mom and dad have time to devote to 2 new little ones in the house and in NICU, as they make those adjustments.. having peace of mind about meals will hopefully help them on this new journey!!

St. Mark's
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

January 22, 2021

Dear Fellow St. Markians,

Since the Covid19 disruption began, I have believed that St Mark's will emerge stronger and better than before. I did not expect that I would not be a part of the new beginning. But I will not be. I have decided to retire from The United Methodist Church on May 01, 2021.

Loving and serving you has been a great honor. I am thankful to Jesus Christ, to you, and to The United Methodist Church for that privilege and opportunity. You are our church family. Rebekah and Lydia grew up with your teaching, encouragement, and example. We cannot adequately express our appreciation for your love and friendships for these 17 years. We value each one of you and look forward to what our new and different relationships will become.

St. Mark's Staff Parish Relations Committee (i.e., human resources), District Superintendent, and Bishop will work together to appoint the next pastor. The ultimate decision belongs to the Bishop, but you, though the SPRC, will have input into the selection. There may be either an interim or permanent pastor appointed. Please keep the process, decision makers, and yourselves in your prayers.

We have a lot to celebrate over the next three months. The greatest of which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. We eternally live in his mercy and grace.

With love,



Pastor Keith

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NIV)



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:

Give a call to 3-4 people and share an encouraging word with them and offer to pray with them.

Facts and Figures

Year to Date 2020

Rec'd Operating 2020 517,320
Expenses 2020 534,108

2021

Rec'd toward Operating 1/17/ 2021..... 6,169

Year to Date 2021

Rec'd toward offering24,156
Expenses 18,540

Attendance

Sunday, January 24 Total 217
In Person 65
Online 152

Prayer Box

Corona Virus issues

Don & Fran Nobles

Barbara Homer

Pam & Wayne Barnes

John, Jason & Cole Talbot

Carolyn Rosenthal

Shaun (Sandy Kelley son)

Dianna Davidson

Sherry White

Letha Davis

Mary King

Katrina Lambert

Kay Smith

Tre Lambert

Don Noble

Gannon family

Paula Galt

Norma Boland

Pat McDowell

Kevin & Amanda Peters family

Jane Foreman

Marty Croy

Ladonna Mathews

Janice Brown

Nina Gerardy

Don Greve

Carol Sandburg

Pavelko family

Mike Bevins