



February



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Meeting may be changed to Zoom due to Covid -19</p>	<p>1 Scouts</p>	<p>2  Meeting 6pm Canceled TBA</p>	<p>3 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook Prayer Team 5pm Zoom Bible Study 6p Zoom Compline 8:15 p</p>	<p>4 Scouts Round Table</p>	<p>5 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7  Facebook -Livestream Contemporary Svc 9 am Drive-Thru Communion 10am Traditional Svc 11 am</p>	<p>8 Scouts Education Meeting Canceled</p>	<p>9 Trustee Meeting 6pm Canceled til April</p>	<p>10 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook Bible Study 6p Zoom Compline 8:15 p</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Facebook Livestream Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am</p> <p> </p>	<p>15 Scouts</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 ASH WEDNESDAY Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook Book Club TBA Ash Wednesday Service 6pm Facebook Compline 8:15 p Newsletter Deadline 9 am</p>	<p>18  UMW—TBA</p>	<p>19 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Facebook Livestream Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am SPRC— after church</p>	<p>22 Scouts</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook Bible Study 6p Zoom Compline 8:15 p</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Prayer 8:15 am via Facebook</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Facebook Livestream Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am</p>						

2. Jessica Bonner

4. Leslie Boyd,
Linda Smythe

5. Dean Boucher

7. Judy Smith

8. Donald Stewart

12. Bobbie Miller

14. Eanix & Wavene Poole

15. Matt Higgins

16. Jane Banister

21. Richard Smith

28. Houston & Diane Mason

Special Note :
TBA Due to COVID-19
Mask & Social Distancing.

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 17, 2021, is the first day of the Season of Lent. It is a day of penitence and fasting. It is so named because traditionally people go to church to confess their sins and receive a cross of ashes drawn on their foreheads. These ashes remind us of the sackcloth and ashes in the Bible, which were symbols of mourning or repentance.

Lent is a season that is forty days long, excluding Sundays. The season ends on the Wednesday of Holy Week (which this year falls on March 31), and then we move into the Great Triduum ("Great Three Days") of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. After these three holy days comes the great feast of Easter.

Lent has two focuses, related to one another. The first part of the season focuses on our sin and our need to repent. The second half focuses on Jesus' journey to the cross. As we draw closer to Holy Week we see more clearly the relationship between our sin, our confession, and Jesus' forgiveness through his death and resurrection.

We will be observing Lent this year, though it will be different from years past. I invite you to join us on Ash Wednesday on Facebook for our Ash Wednesday service (Feb. 17 at 6:00 PM) We will email song sheets closer to time, but if you would like a paper copy please contact the church office the week before.

May God speak to you in new ways this Lenten season.

CHURCH COUNCIL



The Church Council met on Sunday, January 31 at 3PM on Zoom. The Council received reports from the Staff-Parish Relations and Finance committees, the United Methodist Women, and the pastor. The reports were all officially received, but no major business was conducted. So that Church Council meetings can fall after the Finance Committee meets each quarter, the Council voted to change the quarterly meeting date to the first Sunday of the second month of each quarter. Thus, the next meeting will be Sunday, May 2.

2020/2021 Stewardship

2020: At the end of the year there were 36 people actively participating in the 2020 Stewardship Program. They pledged \$108,616 but Contributed \$ 110,344, 101.5% Of their pledge. Only two pledges fell below 75%. There were 13 contributors that gave 100% of their pledge and 17 who gave more than 100%. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Stewardship program and everyone who contributed during 2020. Your contributions have provided the need to support St. Mark and the programs it provides for the Church and the Community. This is 77,5% of their pledge. We are 75% through 2020. The Program is successful thus far in 2020.

2021: The 2021 Stewardship campaign status is 39 commitments for \$127,559.00. There are a number of new people participating but also 5 people who normally participate that did not.

A Word From The Faith Class

When all the Valentine cards have been read and put away, and all the chocolate has been consumed and wiped away from the mouths of our kids and grand kids, there is still a sweetness that remains for all Christians. It's a love that was begun many years ago, and it still lingers today amid the fragrant smell of roses and the Valentine gifts.

The candy vanishes, the cards wrinkle and brown with age, and all of us soon move on to the next holiday or celebration. But, the love of God stays with us even on the worst of days: the days when our work seems impossible, when friends seem to forget us, and when we realize our health is diminishing.

We're far removed from the days of sending Valentine cards to that certain little boy or girl and hoping your card would bring about a reciprocal response. Back in those days a smile from someone was special, being chosen on a team meant everything, and you put all your hope, trust, and faith in your parents and teachers.

As Christians our hope is dependent upon God. We have Jesus to trust. And, it is our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior that saves us. The love that Jesus Christ has for each of us is unconditional; it may seem mysterious and may be hard to understand. We are commanded to love others, even our enemies. We are told to love others as God loves us. I doubt that's even possible, but the idea is to love others sincerely and love them as yourself.

On February 14 we celebrate Valentine's Day. It is a day to show our affection for others. If you were to send a card to Jesus, what would it say? Obviously, we can't literally send a card to Jesus, but we can demonstrate our understanding of his love for us by sincerely showing love for others.

Trivia Question: Who climbed Mount Nebo and was allowed to see the beauty of the Promised Land?



Finance Committee

2020 Finance Report

John Champion - Finance Chairman

The past year has been unusual but did not affect your giving spirit. St. Mark received \$181,298.00 in donations but had \$191,164.65 in expenses. This means we spent \$ 9,866.65 more than we received. Our expenses were unusually high because we had to spend over \$ 20,000 for Covid sanitation and repairs to the Church and the parsonage. We will still have repair and sanitation expenses in 2021 but I don't think they will be nearly as high. Overall St.

Mark is well financially. There is \$ 72,105.22 in unrestricted cash. I would like to thank everyone for your continuing support of St. Mark. Your contributions not only pays Church expenses but also allows St. Mark to provide funds for Community programs such as Meals on Wheels and the Soup Bowl. Thanks again for all you do.

2020 Trustee Year End Report

On January 15th, the Trustee Committee unanimously voted to maintain the current officers for the new year.

Officers for 2021 are:

Hudson Ketch Chairman
John Smythe Vice Chairman
Eanix Poole Secretary

The 2021 new members are:

J.D. Smith 2021-2023
Jim Miller 2021-2023
Becky Drummond 2021-2023

Returning Members Are:

Hudson Ketch 2019-2021
Eanix Poole 2019-2021
John Smythe 2019-2021

Sue Anderson 2020-2022
Owen McGinnis 2020-2022
Sherry Thornton 2020-2022

We thank Mary Walker, Elayne Stinson, and Gary Brohard for their service during the past three years that will be leaving the committee.

Although the pandemic has taken its toll on church services and meetings, the Trustee mission has been ongoing. Much needed repairs have been made to the church (i.e. pressure washing outside building areas, recalking windows, replacing rotted wood over entrance area, replacing play ground fence that was stolen, repair leak in flat roof, replace damaged ceiling tile, etc. etc. etc.). The list goes on and on as the maintenance of the parsonage and church facility is ongoing.

The parsonage was updated, repaired, and made ready for the Pastor during the May-June 2020 time frame. There was much work completed (i.e. replaced upstairs A/C, new flooring in kitchen and utility rooms, replacement of seven (7) windows that had lost their seal, repair/replace rotted flooring in bathrooms, replace exterior locksets, etc. etc. etc.) A new A/C was installed for the Admin Area as the old one (15+ years old) gave out and had to be replaced.

We are currently dealing with the insurance company for roof damage that occurred during the remanence of the Hurricane that came thru last July. Hopefully, this will be resolved in the next month.

A sanitization company has been contracted to sanitize the church facility for the coronavirus. We will continue the monthly applications until the virus is brought under control. If items need addressing, please contact one of the Trustees and it will be taken care of. Thank you for your support in 2020. We look forward to working with you in 2021.
Hudson Ketch, Chairman



A Message from the Education Team

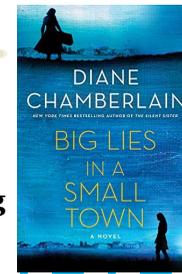


Happy New Year and Happy Valentine from our sweet preschoolers. As you know we cancelled our February 8th meeting; however, we look forward to getting together soon. Trips and activities have been cancelled during this crazy time, we are praying April presents a more normal time so that we can display the beautiful projects at our art show.
God bless and stay safe. Jody Ketch -Education Team Chairperson



The Book Club will meet
February 17th
Canceled

We will continue reading
Big Lies In Small Town



Our next meeting scheduled for
February 18th Canceled
Hope to resume in March.



February 2, 2021 Canceled
hope to resume in March

Anniston Soup Bowl

301 West 15th Street
(Walnut & 15th St. Corner)

St. Mark UMC Volunteer
Schedule 11am-1pm



2021 Volunteer Schedule

Friday, February 5th
Monday, May 10th
Wednesday, September 15th
Friday, December 3rd

We need 4 volunteers each time it is our turn to serve. To Go Plates due to Covid-19. for updated info visit their Face Book page. <https://www.facebook.com/Anniston-Soup-Bowl-112481352167531/>

Trivia Answer: Moses (Deut. 34:1-4)



Were mailed out
About the same time
as this Newsletter
end of January.
Be looking for them in the mail

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY



Will be available early February.
Please call the office before
coming by so we can meet you
at the door and give it to you.

Due to current Covid-19 numbers going up in the community, all meeting have been canceled for February. Please keep a close eye on Facebook post and your weekly news blast emails for updates for meetings and spur of the moment church services if weather allows an outdoor service, We encourage Zoom meetings when possible for the safety of all of our church family.

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 PERMIT NO. 589
 ANNISTON, ALA 36207

ST. MARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 1320 GOLDEN SPRINGS ROAD
 ANNISTON, AL 36207

«AddressBlock»

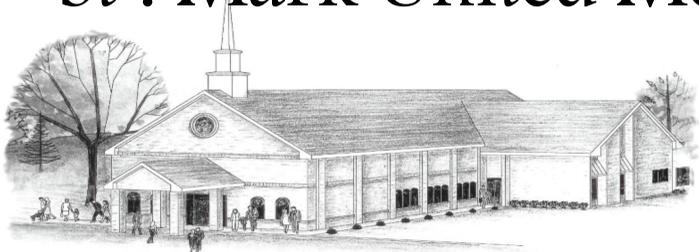
February, 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Under Pines (Weather Permitting) & Facebook
 Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month.
 Contemporary Service: 9:00 am
 Drive through Communion: 10:00 am
 Traditional Service: 11:00 am
 Nursery temporarily unavailable for worship services.
CHOIR: The St. Mark choir is open to all.
 It is on hiatus.
 Tony Wood-Music Director
*St. Mark has assistive listening devices available during
 worship service for those with special needs.*

Wednesday's Activities
8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer (Facebook)
5 p.m.: Prayer Team 3rd
5 p.m.: Book Club 17th
6p.m.: Bible Study Zoom
8:15 p.m.: Compline Eve. Prayer (Facebook)

Traditional Service Liturgists		
Feb.	Les- sons	Readings
7	Rachel Allison	Isaiah 40:21-31 and 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
14	Hudson Ketch	2 Kings 2:1-12 and 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Ash Wednesday 17	Drew Childers	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
21	Bob Axley	Genesis 9:8-17 and 1 Peter 3:18-22
28	Ralph Drake	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Romans 4:13-25

St . Mark United Methodist Church Newsletter



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“Growing in Christ, Reaching others!”

From the Pastor’s Desk:
 Grace to you and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord!

I read somewhere that on a dark night in the right conditions a human can see a single candle flame from fourteen miles away. That’s pretty amazing. I also learned that blind people can see their dreams as long as they weren’t born blind. And a whopping 80% of our memories are determined by what we see.

The Bible talks a lot about seeing and eyes. Jesus healed blind people. Moses begged to be able to see God. Ezekiel complained that the people “have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people” (12:2). Revelation 4:2-8 describes four creatures which surround God’s throne, and each one is “full of eyes all around and within.”

The Bible also makes reference to our spiritual eyes. II Corinthians 4:18 says, “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” And Jesus said to Thomas, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (John 20:29).

God offers us the chance to see him in a new way, but we have to be willing to open our eyes. We might see God in the face of a person whom we are helping. We might see God in the words of Scripture. We might see God in a dream or vision. We might see God in any number of ways. In all of these, our spiritual eyesight is far more important than our physical eyesight. Those who have the best eyes in the world may still miss the things of God, and those who are physically blind may see more of God than anyone else. It depends entirely on your relationship with God and your willingness to open your spiritual eyes.

Take some time to look at yourself and others through God’s eyes. Try to see what God sees. Try to find beauty, truth, and goodness. Look for ways to be a blessing to others, to serve others, to build others up. And in all things keep looking to Jesus.

It is an honor to serve as your pastor. Please know that I love you and pray for you every day. May God’s love, joy, and peace be with you.