

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PERMIT NO. 589
ANNISTON, ALA 36207

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

February 2024

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month.

Prayer Team 9:50 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

Traditional Service: 11:00 am

CHOIR: The St. Mark choir is open to all.

Pianist: Anna Haas

St. Mark has assistive listening devices available during worship service for those with special needs.

Sunday School Classes

New Beginnings 10:00 am April Ponder-Twardy

Jesus Loves Me 10:00 am Suzy Roberts



Women's Birthday Luncheon
Feb. 6th @11:30 am @
will be at Rosies



UMM will meet on
Feb. 6th @ 6:00 pm



Book Club—Tuesday
Feb. 20th @ 5:00 pm



Trustees will meet
on February 13th @ 6pm

SPRC meetings will be as follows:
ICHNOS Thurs. Feb. 8th 6pm zoom
Sun. Feb. 18 th after church.



Assist Oxford 1st
Feb 21 st @ 9 :00 am

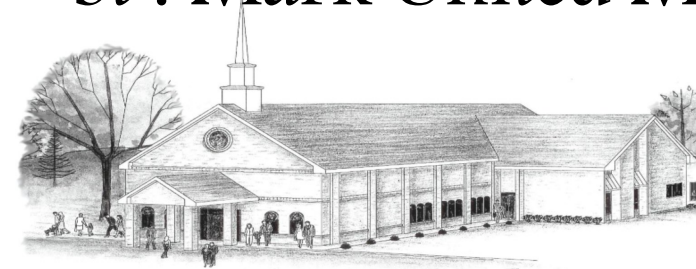


United Methodist Women will
meet on Feb. 15th @10:00 am



A Message from the Prayer Team
Prayer Team will continue to meet for group prayer each Sunday at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all for your faithfulness! And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers & requests. With this in mind, be alert, always keep praying for all of the Lord's people. Ephesians 6 :18

St . Mark United Methodist Church Newsletter



Rev. Jeff Ponder-Twardy - Pastor

Pianist: Anna Haas

Office Phone: 256-831-4509

Web: www.stmarkanniston.com

Email: church@stmarkanniston.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarkanniston/>

1320 Golden Springs Road Anniston, AL 36207

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 am—2:30pm

“Growing in Christ, Reaching others!”

February 2024

From The Pastor's Desk: Past or Future?

Recently, I watched an interview of a retired NFL, Hall of Fame player. The last question he was asked was, “If you were to live another life, would you choose to live your life from the past, or your life from the future?” The retired player said he'd prefer to live his life from his future. He believed his future was something he could look forward to rather than living his life again and having to endure what he experienced again.

Some may say that from this point in their lives they have nothing to look forward to so by living their life again they knew there'd be wonderful experiences and discoveries coming to them all over again. That's fair, but that's not how we've been made.

I read from Psalm 116 recently: “I called on the name of the LORD: ‘O LORD, I pray, save my life!’ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. The LORD protects the simple; when I WAS brought low, he SAVED me. Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD HAS DEALT bountifully with you” (vss 4-7).

As I read the Bible, I find a consistency in the recording of what God did, an accounting of the goodness and truth of God, and what the people of God did in their future in light of what they and their ancestors experienced by the hand of God. The past wasn't meant to be lived again. The future was meant to be a path upon which the people of God shared the truth of God and sought to do the will of God. The past we can celebrate or learn from, but our collective future can be something we share in by following and doing the Lord's will. Something full of experiences and discoveries.

Pastor Jeff

St. Mark is open, always hospitable, a safe place to be, and where everyone is welcome!

St Mark's United Methodist Church YouTube page: <https://youtube.com/@st.markumc-anniston4678>



St. Mark UMC Church Council Meeting Summary January 28, 2024

The Finance Committee met on January 11, 2024 to review the financial position at the close of 2023. Through 4th quarter contributions were \$142,937.54 and expenses were \$145,029.38 for a difference of \$2,091.84; however, the Foundation Account earned \$6,898.24 in interest, so we ended the year \$4,806.40 to the good. The 2024 Stewardship Program has 24 pledge units pledging \$90,500.00.

The Trustees have completed the 2023 church inventory. The exterior light on the south wall of the scouting area has been replaced. Plans are in the works to clean the parsonage gutters, trim the shrubs, trim the crepe myrtles at the church and paint the sanctuary door.

SPRC met and reviewed a preliminary job description for a Children/Youth ministry worker. This will be discussed more in February. Our mid-week Bible study at Interfaith Ministries began on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 and has been well attended. The target date to begin our Thursday night worship service is March 21, 2024. The committee voted unanimously to request Pastor Jeff Ponder-Twardy return to St. Mark for the year 2024.

The Lay Leadership Committee: Positions for a music minister and education team still need to be filled.

Membership: We have 111 members.

The UMM will have a breakfast meal provided by Reba Yarbrough. (Date TBD). Annual Pancake Breakfast will be April 6, 2024.

The UMW: Because of our successful fundraisers in 2023, the UMW was able to donate \$500.00 to each of our 11 charities. In December, we packed gift bags and distributed them to members who are unable to attend. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon at the home of Reba Yarbrough. We have 12 active members and one inactive member.

Shepherding Group: There are two shepherding groups.

Worship Committee: Ash Wednesday service, February 14th from 11 to 12:00. Maundy Thursday service March 28th (TBA). We will have a sunrise service.

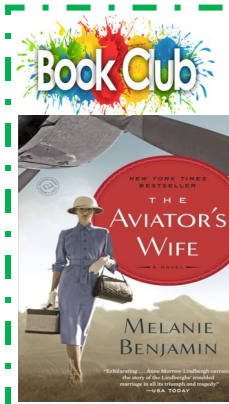
The Scouts have been busy marching in the Veteran's and Christmas Parade. They held a fundraiser at Chick-fil-A in November. Their Christmas party was attended by Santa Claus in December where he passed out the Pinewood Derby kits. The Pinewood Derby will be February 10th. Scout Sunday is February 11th.

The Pastor: The Church council agreed to hire a full-time Children/Youth Ministry worker. Our Thursday night worship service will begin March 21, 2024. Pastor Delaney Holloway from Oxford FUMC will lead the music. Sara Cameron is providing terrific leadership for our Wednesday Bible study that meets at Interfaith Ministries.

We are finalizing our submission of a grant application to the Annual Conference headquarters in Birmingham that will assist us in preparing for our new service and the new Children/Youth ministry.

We are going to have a new pictorial directory. Pictures will be taken either March 11 or March 18 from 2:00 until 8:00 pm. We will need volunteers to assist. More information will be provided later.

Ash Wednesday will be February 14 at 11:00 am and will be come-and-go fashion. Maundy Thursday service, March 28th. Easter is Sunday, March 31.



Beginning in January 2024
The Book Club will meet on
the Third Tuesday monthly.

Our next meeting will be
Tues. Feb. 20th @ 5:00 pm.

We will discuss
The Aviator's Wife
by Melanie Benjamin



United Methodist Women

will meet on
Feb. 15th
@10 am



Birthday Club Luncheon

Will meet on Tues.
Feb. 6th @11:30 am
at Rosies.



United Methodist Men
Tues. Feb. 6th
@ 6:00 pm.



SPRC zoom meeting for
ICHNOS will be on Thursday
February 8th @ 6:00 pm



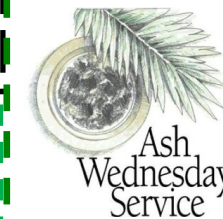
Prayers for our Church Family



Bob & Della Axley, Sheri Ballard (Sue Anderson's cousin), Natalie & Bree (Margie Barker's daughter & granddaughter), Carol Barker, Dean Boucher, Marsha Bowman, Rebecca Carden, Marleigh, Conley (friend of Lou Crosby), Janice Drake, Kristi Grimes (Dot's daughter's friend), Carolyn Gladden, DiAnne Hamilton, Jeanie Hampton, Bob Harris (Diane & Huston Mason's friend), Lana Higgins, Martha Johnson, Lynne Lawler, Rosa & Paul McGowan, Jim Miller, Lisa Miller (Jim's D-I-L), Gerry Moses (Gina's cousin), Avena Nelson (Frank & Carolee Warneke granddaughter), Bill, Cody, Rodney Nowland (John Champion's friend), Rosie & Charlie Ping I, Jean & Jerry Ray, Connie Russell (Danette's mom), Kim Selph (Gina's sister), Harry Skaggs, Lulu Stewart, John Toland, Frank Warneke, Elaine Young (Gina's friend).



Trustees will meet
February 13th @ 6pm



Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes
11 am-12 pm
(Come & Go)



January 19, 2024
Pajama Day

The children had a fun day when they
were able to come to school lounging
around in their pajamas!

Important Dates to Remember

Valentine's Day Party	Feb. 14th
President's Day	Feb. 19th
Easter Egg Hunt/Party	Mar. 22nd
Spring Break—no school	Mar. 25th-29th
Good Friday	Mar. 29th
Pre-school Art Show	Apr. 25th
Mother's Day Brunch	May 10th
Pre-school Graduation	May 17th



New Beginning's Sunday School Class

We're now moving briskly into a new year, and with a new year, we have new opportunities to consider new and fresh ways of seeing ancient texts from the history of God's people. You're invited to come and discover fresh ways of seeing our wonderful scriptures. Here are the lessons and themes we will join in this month.

February 4	Faith in the Power of God	Isaiah 40:12-13, 25-31
February 11	Faith in the Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3: 19-28
February 18	Faith in Times of Trouble	Daniel 6
February 25	Faith in God's Purpose	Habakkuk 2: 1-5

Church Photo Directory



St. Mark UMC Pictorial Directory

St. Mark has not had a pictorial directory published since June 2018.

We are in discussion about a having a new one published in 2024.

Further details will be announced.

**We Know
it hurts,
and we want
to help.**

Golden Springs Baptist Church Grief Support Group

Golden Springs Baptist Church
3 Robertson Road, Anniston, AL 36207
Charles Calhoun, Leader - 256-365-6964

January 7th—April 7th
Sundays 3:15 pm—4:45 pm

Website: [Golden Springs Baptist Church Surviving the Holidays - GriefShare](https://www.goldenspringsbaptistchurch.org/surviving-the-holidays-griefshare)

Grief Share is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead.

Church Copier

The church needs to replace our current copier/printer with a unit that is commercial grade but not necessarily with all the bells and whistles that we currently have.

If you would like to give a little extra to this cause please be sure to note "Office Fund" in the FOR section of your check/gift to the church and we will be sure that it is applied to the much-needed office equipment.

We appreciate your loving support.

Anniston Soup Bowl

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



**St. Mark UMC
2024 Volunteer Schedule
11am—1pm**



**Thursday, February 29th
Monday, April 8th
Thursday, July 18th
Wednesday, October 9th**

**We need 5 volunteers each time it is our turn to serve.
3 to serve, 1 count and 1 pass out water**



Jesus Loves You Bible Study Interfaith Ministries

**1431 Gurnee Avenue Anniston, AL 36201
every Wednesday from 12:15 pm—1:00 pm**

Date	Book of the Bible	Chapter	Date	Book of the Bible	Chapter
Feb 7	John	11	Feb 14	John	12
Feb 21	John	13	Feb 28	John	14

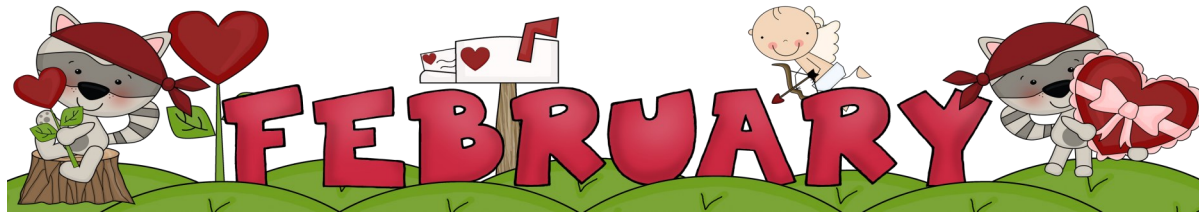
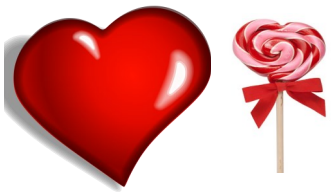


Oxford 1st UMC Food Distribution

**Thank you everyone
who assisted
Oxford 1st UMC on
Wed. January 17th.**

**IF YOU CAN HELP
on February 21st
Arrive @ 9 am
(boxing/bagging)
Distribution
begins @ 11:00 am.
We need 10
volunteers monthly.**





2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Scouts RT	2	3
4 Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	5 Scouts 6:30p	6 Women's 11:30 am Birthday Lunch at Rosies 	7  Bible Study @ Interfaith 12:15 p—1p	8 SPRC 6 pm Zoom Meeting ICHNOS Project	9	10
11 Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	12 Scouts 6:30p Valentine Senior Day Oxford Civic Center 8:00 am	13  Trustee Meeting 6:00 pm	14  Bible Study @ Interfaith 12:15 p—1p  Ash 11a-12pm Wednesday Service Come & Go Pre-K Valentine's Party	15  Meeting 10 am	16	17
18  Prayer Team 9:50am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am SPRC— 12 noon	19 Scouts 6:30p President's Day No Preschool	20 Book Club @ 5:00 pm	21 Assisting Food Distribution Oxford 1st UMC 9:00 am  Bible Study @ Interfaith 12:15 p—1p	22	23	24
25 Prayer Team 9:50am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	26 Scouts 6:30p Newsletter Deadline 9a	27	28  Bible Study @ Interfaith 12:15 p—1p	29 Happy Leap Year Soup Bowl 11a-1p 		

2. Jessica Bonner

5. Dean Boucher

8. Donald Stewart

14. Eanix & Wavene Poole

16. Jane Banister

26. Rev. Jeff Ponder-Twardy

28. Houston & Diane Mason

Special Note : Due to COVID-19
Facemask encouraged especially
if you have a cold or cold like
symptoms. If you have been
exposed to Covid in the last 14 days
please join us again after
you test negative.

COME JOIN OUR BIBLE Study			Interfaith Ministries Wednesdays 12:15 p—1:00 p	
Date	Book of Bible	Chapter		
Feb 7	John	11		
Feb 14	John	12		
Feb 21	John	13		
Feb 28	John	14		