

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

March 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

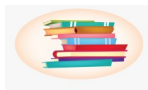


Women's Birthday Luncheon

March 5th @11:30 am @
will be at the Peerless



UMM will meet on
March 5th @ 6:00 pm



Book Club—Tuesday
March 19th @ 4:00 pm



Trustees will meet
on March 12th @ 6pm

SPRC meetings will be as follows:
ICHNOS Thurs. March 14th 6pm zoom
Sun. March 17th after church.



Assist Oxford 1st
March 20th @ 9:00 am



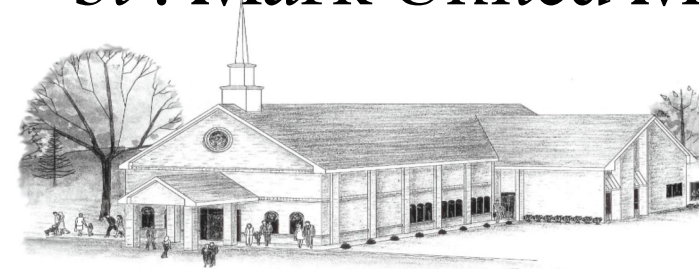
United Methodist Women will
meet on Mar. 21st @10:00 am



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—1:00pm

“Growing in Christ, Reaching others!”

March 2024

A Happy Season

A Happy Season There were some things I was reminded of on Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. First of all, Christian congregations during Lent are “reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith” (UM Book of Worship). Secondly, and this is what made me happy, we’ve entered into a new season.

A change of season, be it in the church or nature or simply in our lives, means a change in what we can expect based on what the new season brings. I’ve heard too much of Christians entering Lent with an insistence on sacrifice and sorrow. Yes, our Lord died a sinner’s death. No, I’m not moved to hear “Victory in Jesus” during Holy Week. I’m encouraged with the beginning of a new season, a new set of expectations based on the truth of mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ **AND THE RENEWAL OF OUR FAITH.**

Yes, the season of Lent commemorates the journey of Jesus to his prophesied death on the cross as an enemy of Rome and a Jewish blasphemer, a wretched sinner and a dangerous revolutionary. His death, however, was our death and the death of all that was created through him (John 1:3). His resurrection, his Easter, is our Easter, and our resurrection into new life through him and he in us (that will be covered in the following season). This new season is meant to renew our faith in the One who died our death, forgave our sin, and told us the truth - “. . .your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5)

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>

Freedom Place and the Children's/Youth Ministry Worker. An Update. . .

I want to share with you an update on the planning the Staff-Parish Relations Committee is doing regarding the Thursday night worship service and the hiring of a Children's/Youth Ministry Worker.

The Thursday night service will be known as **Freedom Place**. It will be a non-traditional worship experience. It will be promoted in the community through the internet as an opportunity for unchurched (those who don't attend church) or de-churched (folks not attending church any longer) to attend a worship service that is easy to enter and attend without having a church-oriented vocabulary or understanding. Just a time for individuals and families to enter freely to hear contemporary worship music, some scripture, a simple message of grace that will inspire faith, invitations to come to other events at St Mark, and to be prayed for at the close of worship. Our first service will be a run through of how future services might be. It will be Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. You're invited to attend and to invite others you may know. Rev. Delaney Wray Holloway, the pastor of Oxford 1st UMC, will lead the music portion. She's a gifted musician and excited at contributing to this effort.

The plan is to incorporate **Freedom Place** with a new ministry focused on blessing and discipling children and youth on Thursdays, Sundays and other opportunities during the week. We're finalizing plans to post the job opening on internet sites where ministry jobs are found. The funding for this position has been pledged. We're praying the Lord will direct the right person to our church with a Christ-filled passion for children and sufficient experience to provide this church with the leadership to lead many children and youth to Christ. Pray with us for God's will to be done.

Pastor Jeff

Oxford 1st UMC Food Distribution

Thank you everyone who assisted Oxford 1st UMC on Wed. February 21st.



IF YOU CAN HELP on March 20 th

Arrive @ 9 am (boxing/bagging) Distribution begins @ 11:00 am.

We need 10 volunteers monthly. Sign up sheet on bulletin board by kitchen.



United Methodist Men were treated to a delicious southern breakfast, hosted by Reba Yarbrough at her home on Feb. 6th.

This was a planned UMM work day at the parsonage for the UMM and it was a very nice way to start the day. Thanks to Reba and everyone who helped out with all the miscellaneous task that needed to be done.



Scouting News

Scouts Annual Pinewood Derby Races on February 10th
Anniston Pack invited the Jacksonville Pack to join in the fun.
Scout Sunday was on February 11th.



Scout Sunday 2-18-2024



Pinewood Derby Jacksonville Pack 4019



Pinewood Derby – Anniston Pack 4009



New Beginning's Sunday School Class

Our lessons have led us into the spring portion of our Sunday school study. The theme of this unit is Faithful vs. Faithless. You'll find the lesson titles and the related scripture for Sunday listed below. Everyone is always invited come and share in our conversation over these lessons and scriptures. Come and see what we learn together.

March 3	Sustaining Our Faith	Jude 17-25
March 10	Testing Our Faith	2 Corinthians 13:5-11
March 17	Defending Our Faith	1 Peter 3:8-17
March 24	Living in Faith	Acts 6:7-15
March 31	The Resurrection: Key to Faith	Mark 16:1-8

Church Photo Directory



St. Mark UMC Pictorial Directory

Pictorial Picture Date is scheduled for April 22, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Our Pictorial Team will be making calls this month to schedule your pictorial appointments. If you have any questions please contact Beverly Champion or a pictorial team member on Sunday mornings.

**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: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/174517>

or <http://www.griefshare.org/san>

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.

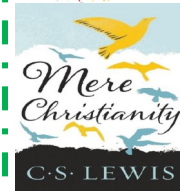


UMM Pancake Breakfast

**The United Methodist Men
Annual Pancake Breakfast**

**Is scheduled for April 6 th
from 6:00 am—11:00 am**

Tickets available via UMM Members



Book Club is looking for new faces to join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month at our **NEW** updated time of 4:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on **March 19 th**, to discuss the classic book by C.S. Lewis, **Mere Christianity**.

It is an explanation of the roots of Christian faith adapted from a series of BBC radio talks made between 1941 and 1944. Please consider joining us!



**United
Methodist
Women**

will meet on
March 21 st
@ 10 am



**Birthday
Club
Luncheon**

Will meet on Tuesday
March 5th @ 11:30 am



**United Methodist Men
Tues. March 5 th @ 6:00 pm.**



SPRC zoom meeting for
ICHNOS will be on Thursday
March 14th @ 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, Carolyn Gladden, The Grimes family, DiAnne Hamilton, Jeanie Hampton, Bob Harris (Diane & Houston 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, Bill Rappana (Dot's brother), 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 meet on March 12th @ 6pm



**Don't forget to
set your clocks**



**AHEAD 1 HOUR
Saturday night, March 9th
Don't Be Late to Church Sunday**

Preschool Valentine's Day Party - February 14, 2024

The children had so much fun at their Valentine's Day party. The Preschool would like to say a special thank you to Eanix Poole for making our special wooden Hearts for the children to decorate for Valentine's Day gifts for their parents. They also made cards for classmates.



LENT












Pray + Fast + Give



March

2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA <small>Informed Prayer and Purposeful Action</small>	2
3 Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	4 Scouts 6:30p	5 Women's 11:30 am Birthday Lunch at the Peerless.  6:00 pm	6 Oxford 1st Lenten Lunch—12n Speakers Gary & Laura Humphries Owners Redbird Coffee	7 Scouts RT	8	9
10  Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	11 Scouts 6:30p	12 Trustee Meeting 6:00 pm 	13 Oxford 1st Lenten Lunch—12n Speaker Rev. Jeff Ponder-Twardy St. Mark UMC	14 SPRC 6 pm Zoom Meeting ICHNOS Project	15	16
17  Prayer Team 9:50am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am SPRC— 12 noon	18 Scouts 6:30p	19 Book Club @ 4:00 pm	20 Assisting Food Distribution Oxford 1st UMC 9:00 am No Lenten Lunch	21  Meeting 10 am Freedom Place Service 6:30 PM	22 Pre-K Easter Party 	23
Holy Week						
24  Prayer Team 9:50am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	25 Scouts 6:30p Newsletter Deadline 9a	26	27 Oxford 1st Lenten Lunch—12n Speaker (Rev. Delaney Holloway Of Oxford 1st UMC)	28  MAUNDY THURSDAY Service 6:00 pm	29 	30
31  Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:30 am Prayer Team 9:50am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	SPRING BREAK for Preschool - Teachers and children are having fun with their families this week .					

11 Wavene Poole

12. Dot Ping

15. Frank Warneke

21. Jerry & Jean Ray

24. Bob &
Rev. Abi Carlisle-Wilke

29. Mark & Lynne Lawler

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.



BIBLE
Study

Interfaith Ministries
Wednesdays
12:15 p—1:00 p

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
St. Mark UMC Bible Study at
Interfaith Ministries
meetings for March 2024
are temporarily postponed,
allowing folks to enjoy the
Lenten Lunches
at Oxford 1st UMC
every Wednesday
at noon.