






# AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Special Note : TBA Due to COVID-19 Social Distancing.						1
<b>2</b>  <b>COMMUNION</b> Worship in the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 6 pm Face Book 9 am/ 6pm Sunday School TBA	3 Scouts	<b>4</b>  UMM Meeting Canceled	<b>5</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA Prayer Team TBA	<b>6</b> Scouts Round Table	<b>7</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book	<b>8</b>  Game Night Canceled until further notice.
<b>9</b> Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 6 pm Face Book 9 am/ 6pm Sunday School TBA	10 Scouts	<b>11</b> Trustee Meeting 6pm	<b>12</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA Education Team Meeting 12 noon	13	<b>14</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book	15
<b>16</b> Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 6 pm Face Book 9 am/ 6pm Sunday School TBA	<b>17</b> Scouts SOUP BOWL 11am-1pm	18	<b>19</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA Book Club 5pm	<b>20</b>  UMW—TBA	<b>21</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book 	22
<b>23</b> Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 6 pm Face Book 9 am/ 6pm Sunday School TBA <b>30</b> Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 6 pm	<b>24</b> Scouts  <b>31</b> Scouts	25	<b>26</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA	27	<b>28</b> Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book	29

- 1. Erskine Smith
- 4. Jack Wurst
- 7. Cloyd Staples
- 9. John Smythe
- 10. Jo Crouch
- 11. Dee Gorey
- 17. Lynn Toland
- 18. Cheryl Smith
- 19. Brian Walker
- 21. Wesley Williams
- 22. Richard & Judy Smith
- 24. Sarah Fitzgerald,  
Tim Kendrick
- 29. Dee Rochester

## Message from Bishop Wallace-Padgett: The Best Interests of Others 7-7-2020

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I am wearing a mask in public places during the pandemic. I am not doing this as a political statement or because of fear, but as a way of embodying Philippians 2:3-4. “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

How does wearing a mask during this pandemic place the interests of others first? Much of the advice offered by healthcare providers and researchers describes how we can protect ourselves from being exposed to the coronavirus. These important precautions include regular hand washings, disinfecting frequently used surfaces and social distancing.

Wearing a mask is different in that it protects others in the event that we are among the many people unknowingly infected with COVID-19. Research indicates that approximately 25%-50% of the persons who test positive for COVID-19 are asymptomatic carriers and potential transmitters of the disease). <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2020/06/11/transmission>

Dr. Neil Lamb, faculty investigator and Vice President for Educational Outreach at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, is a longtime United Methodist. In a video posted on the North Alabama Conference website a couple of months ago, he describes how wearing a mask is a way to show Christ's care for others, especially the most vulnerable. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaBz3U-jxPQ&feature=youtu.be>

As COVID-19 continues to spike in Alabama, I encourage all United Methodists to wear a mask when in public. In addition to mitigating the spread of the coronavirus, it is a way to live out the Christian principle of putting others ahead of ourselves.

As always, it is a privilege to serve as your bishop. Blessings,  
Debra Wallace-Padgett—Resident Bishop—North Alabama Conference

### COVID Information & Web sites of Interest

North Alabama Conference Do No Harm Recommendations for reopening our church buildings.

<http://na-email.brtapp.com/files/fileshare/cabinet/donoharm.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

World Health Organization (WHO) - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) - <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

From the General Board of Global Ministries: Coronavirus (COVID-19): United Methodist updates and resources

From the CDC - Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission

From the CDC - What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) From the CDC - Faith-Based & Community Organizations Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Checklist

## A Word From The Faith Class

A simple definition of anger is as follows: a strong feeling of displeasure or an intense emotional state induced by displeasure. Both humans and God express wrath or anger. When used of God, wrath or anger refers to His absolute opposition to sin and evil. When used of humans, however, wrath or anger is one of those evils that is to be avoided. One of the most dangerous features of anger is that anger calls forth anger, and the cycle can rapidly escalate. It takes a near-saintly character not to respond angrily to another person's anger, especially when that person's anger seems unjustified and self-righteous. There is a wide range of angry feelings from slight annoyance to rage. There are differences in the kind of anger felt. Indignation is self-righteous anger; sulking is a passive anger; exasperation refers to having one's patience tried excessively.

The Bible has many references concerning anger and violence. There are plenty of verses calling for controlling anger, wrath, and violence. But, the fact is that a human's capacity for violence is never fully abolished. That's the bad news. The good news is that with the help of the Holy Spirit we can learn to inhibit angry responses, establish other ways of dealing with perceived offenses, and control our anger. The struggle to control anger is greater for some of us than others, for some of us become angry more quickly and intensely. For some the old adage of counting to ten before speaking or acting will work, while others, may need to leave the situation to allow anger to subside.

So the question becomes: can a Christian be angry with God? I don't think this is the best decision one could make, but I do think for many people it is inevitable. God understands everything about us. He knows our weaknesses. He expects believers to exhibit all kinds of emotions- anger is one of them. What I believe He does not want is for believers to stonewall (withdrawl from interaction). God wants us to interact with Him, and this interaction includes the full range of emotions. If you feel that you are angry with God, I suggest asking yourself the following: What is it that is making you angry? Inevitably what you will find is that being angry at God is no better than being angry at a tree, a car, or a dog. What one usually finds is that something or someone needs to change. That someone is not God!

**Answer:** The traditional boundaries of the Promised Land (2 Samuel 17:11)



# Worship in the Pines

Returning to Indoor Worship



As spring has warmed into summer and as summer has gotten increasingly hot, muggy, and miserable, many of us are wondering when we will be able to return to our beloved sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings. We have been worshipping under the pines for several weeks now, and the heat has become an issue for some. Others have chosen not to even chance it due to continued caution, mobility issues, or other reasons. Thankfully, we have been able to broadcast the service on our Facebook page for those who choose to join in from the safety of their homes.

Unfortunately, we do not have a date for returning to the sanctuary. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the pandemic is going to stretch out far longer than we had hoped. We are going to have to find ways to cope with the changes that life has thrown us, being resilient in the face of adversity. We will remain outdoors for the foreseeable future, meeting at 9AM for the contemporary service. We are temporarily moving our traditional service to 6PM to try to beat the heat.

In order to even consider returning to the sanctuary, we will need to see the daily number of new cases drop back to the low single digits (especially as averaged over a seven day period, since that irons out the daily jumps from test backlogs, free testing sites around the county, and other factors), a decrease in the percentage of positive tests, and a sharp increase in tests per positive, all while the number of tests administered stays stable or even increases.

But why? We go to the store. Why can't we go to church?

The biggest answer has to do with air flow. This is why we've been meeting outside. Big stores have large, high-volume air management systems that cycle air much more quickly and efficiently than the units that serve our church. The stores themselves are much larger than our sanctuary, with a larger volume of air. Finally, we tend to go into the store, get what we need, and get back out again. We don't typically sit in one place and talk to others in the grocery store. Where there is good airflow, such as outside, the droplets we produce by talking, singing, and even just breathing are able to be blown away before someone inhales them.

I beg your patience and especially your prayers through this difficult time. Please know that I am taking your safety seriously, as I cannot stand the thought of even one of us becoming sick as a result of a worship service or meeting we hold at St. Mark United Methodist Church.

I have hope for a better tomorrow. We will find a way. And through all of it, God is with us, helping us to adapt and overcome the problems that life throws us.

It is an honor to serve as your pastor. Peace and health to you all. Joshua



## Anniston Soup Bowl

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

St. Mark UMC Volunteer  
Schedule 11am—1pm

Monday August 17, 2020  
Wednesday November 11, 2020

We need 6 volunteers  
each time it is our turn to serve.

for updated info visit Face Book  
<https://www.facebook.com/Anniston-Soup-Bowl-112481352167531/>



Book club will  
meet Aug. 19th @ 5:00 pm  
We will discuss  
*Educated* by Tara Westover



A message from our Pre School Director Mrs. Teressa Presley

There will be an Education Committee Meeting

August 12, 2020 at Noon.

We are working hard on our plans to reopen in September.



### TRUSTEE REPORT

Although we have not met for several months, the Trustee activities have continued as near normal as possible. A significant amount of time was spent getting the Parsonage ready for Brother Joshua and his family. Some of the major activities included replacing the entrance and kitchen floors with new vinyl material, replacing the upstairs air conditioner, replacing six windows that were bad, replacing the upstairs skylight, repairing flooring in both down stair and up stair bathrooms, and numerous other smaller tasks of electrical, painting, staining, and yard work. Thank you to all those that contributed to a successful transition of pastors in the parsonage. A leak over the Nursery was repaired with only minor damage to a few ceiling tiles. Over the weekend of July 11th, we had a theft of a section of the fence on the back side of the play ground. It has been reported to the Anniston Police Department. They reported that similar incidents have been reported in the area during the past three weeks. The next few weeks/months will be busy as we prepare to get the church back in operations.

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 PERMIT NO. 589  
 ANNISTON, ALA 36207

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

«AddressBlock»


August, 2020

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
 Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month.  
 Contemporary Service: 9:00 am  
 Sunday School: TBA  
 Traditional Service: 11:00 am

**CHOIR:** The St. Mark choir is open to all.  
 Practice is Sundays at 4:30pm.  
 Tony Wood-Music Director  
*St. Mark has assistive listening devices available during worship service for those with special needs.*

**Wednesday's Activities**  
 5p.m.: Prayer Team TBA  
 5p.m.: Book Club 19th  
 10 am & 6p.m.: Bible Study TBA

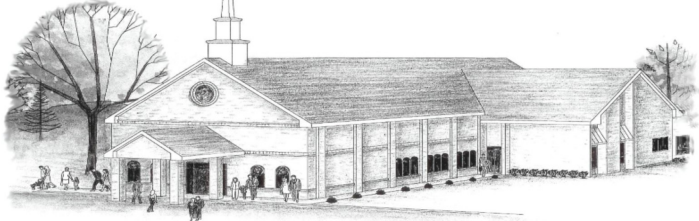
**Sunday Morning Bible Study Classes 9:45-10:45**



Adult Classes	Teacher	Room
Agape		A
Faith	Richard Smith	201
Wesley		101
Youth Classes	Teacher	Room
Nursery	Wendy Walker	

**Trivia Question:**  
 What did the phrase  
 “from Dan to Beersheba”  
 describe?

# St . Mark United Methodist Church



# Newsletter

Rev. Joshua D. Allison - Pastor  
 256-831-4509

Web: [www.stmarkanniston.com](http://www.stmarkanniston.com)

Email: [stmark1966@cableone.net](mailto:stmark1966@cableone.net)

## “Growing in Christ, Reaching others!”

From the Pastor’s Desk: It’s a new day.

Don’t get me wrong: I love history. I love to hear the stories about how a church came to be in the place it is today. The day after I received my superintendent’s call telling me I was coming to St. Mark, I went back in my old conference journals and graphed the membership and annual average attendance from now all the way back to 1966, including the pastor names and dates of their tenure. I did this because numbers tell a story of their own. Not the whole story, to be sure, but a story nonetheless. I’m listening for your story as well.

Looking to the past is important, but clinging to the past and hoping to bring the past back to life is not only impossible, it’s toxic. God is not a stagnant God. Our God is unchanging and yet is constantly doing something new (Is. 43:18-19). God wants us to grow and change from our broken, sinful selves into new, resurrected, re-created selves.

So today I want to challenge you to re-think how you look at the past, not only in terms of our church, but in other aspects of life as well. Look at the past as a way of understanding how we got to the present, and look at the future as a new adventure. Look at the past and thank God for the blessings and lessons, and look at the future with excitement at the new possibilities. It’s a new day, and God will be at work in the new things that are about to happen.

It is an honor to serve as your pastor. I am praying for a long, fruitful time of ministry together.