



# SEPTEMBER

# 2022



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 CPR Training 10 am—1 pm	2	3
4 Contemporary Svc 9 am Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am 	5 No Scouts  Labor Day Church Office Closed	6  Meeting 6pm	7 Security Training 6 pm Lt. Murry	8	9	10
11 Contemporary Svc 9 am Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am	12 Scouts Women's Birthday Luncheon 11:30 a District Superintendent Rev. Sherill Clontz 6:30pm Q&A	13 Trustee Meeting Meeting 6pm 	14	15  Meeting 10 am	16	17 Lay Servant Training Pat Motley 9am-5 pm
18 Contemporary Svc 9 am Prayer Team 9:50am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am  SPRC— after Traditional Svc	19 Scouts	20 Abby's Old Time Jam 7 pm 	21 Book Club 5pm	22 Emmaus Cluster Oxford 1st UMC 6:00pm	23	24
25 Contemporary Svc 9 am Prayer Team 9:50 am Sunday School 10 am Traditional Svc 11 am  Stewardship Sunday	26 Scouts  Newsletter Deadline 9am	27	28	29	30	

1. Charlie & Lisa Lattuada,  
Michael & Coleen Sheffield

2. Linsey Wurst

4. Pat Pettus

5. Sue Anderson

8. April Ponder-Twardy

Jody Ketch

11. Bob & Della Axley

14. Reba Yarbrough

16. Dewey & Jane Hughes

21. Drucilla Grizzard

22. Anna McClure

Emily McClure

24. Wendy Mullins

26. Angel Walker

John & Linda Smythe

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 online until you test negative.

### Call to Prayer and Discernment

Our district superintendent, Rev. Sherill Clontz, provided a document from the annual conference that outlines a plan of beginning a formal conversation within the church of prayerfully discerning whether it is in our best interest to disaffiliate.

**Rev. Sherill Clontz, will be here at St. Mark on Monday, September 12th at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.**

Copies of the document are printed and available in the sanctuary and on the table outside the office. Let's begin to pray about what the Lord may want of us regarding this and our mission to our community.

### **Message from Bishop Wallace-Padgett**

Fall 2022 Days in the District

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite functions as a bishop is to participate in "Bishop's Days in the District." I love being in each district to meet with individuals and groups for dialogue, information-sharing and worship.

The focus during the 2022 district days is on providing information related to discipleship, disaffiliation and continued affiliation in our conference and denomination.

The North Alabama Conference District Days dates for 2022 are:

Central & South Central	Tuesday, August 30	Mountain Lakes	Wednesday, August 31
Northwest	Wednesday, September 7	Northeast	Wednesday, September 21
<b>Cheaha</b>	<b>Thursday, September 22</b>	Southwest	Monday, October 3
	<b>Anniston 1st @6:00 pm</b>		
Southeast	Tuesday, October 18		

We are in a time in our denomination and conference when accurate and up-to-date information is of utmost importance. All church leaders, clergy and lay, are invited to attend a "Bishop's Day in the District." The specific schedule for the gatherings is available through the district offices.

I look forward to seeing many North Alabama United Methodists at this fall's district days. As always, it is a privilege to serve as your bishop. Blessings, **Debra Wallace-Padgett**

Resident Bishop -Holston and North Alabama Conferences



### **Safe Sanctuary Training**

is scheduled for

**August 29th (Monday) at 6:30 pm in Sanctuary**



### Security Training

**Calhoun County Sheriff Office  
Lieutenant Murry**

**September 7th (Wednesday) at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

**Everyone is invited to attend.**

### **A Word From The Faith Class**

Recently, electrical power outages occurred in several areas of our state. An old saying goes like this: "You don't miss your water til the well runs dry." But I would also suggest this: "You don't miss your power til the power surges dry." When you can't cook, watch television, or even take a hot shower, you are in a degree of inconvenience and misery. If the outage lasts long enough, your perceived misery may seem to worsen, and your complaining and whining may increase. Conspiracy theories may develop (the neighbors have stolen all the power), betrayals develop (the power company has me at a low priority because I'm a nobody), even spirituality gets in the picture (God is punishing me again). After the power is back on and you are watching your favorite football team, you quickly forget the need and luxury of having power.

Isaiah chapter 14 tells of the fall of Babylon and Assyria due to excessive pride and the need for power to control others. Many Christians know this story and yet, as Christians, we have trouble reducing our pride and of giving in to God's will for our lives. Remember even Jesus had to say, "God, not my will but thine be done." Jesus willingly gave up power and control. None of us want to give up electrical power, and we're sometimes reluctant to give up our personal power and give God more power in our lives.

The next time your power is out, perhaps you should make that call to let the power company know you are having a problem, and then trust that the power will eventually be back on. More importantly, we should trust God in spiritual matters and be willing to give Him more power in our lives.

**Faith Trivia:** What caused Ezra to tear his clothes & pull hair from his head after the exiles return from Babylon?

### Stewardship Program

September has been designated as Stewardship Month at St. Mark. We appreciate your faithfulness in giving in the past and request you to prayerfully consider a 2023 commitment to St. Mark as a faithful response to God's great commitment to each of us. The Finance Committee will use all pledges to help prepare the 2023 church budget. You will receive a commitment card in the mail. You may bring your completed card to the altar on Commitment Sunday, **September 25th**, or you may turn your commitment card into the church office prior to October 6th. Thank you for supporting St. Mark, and we look forward to another great year. Richard Smith –Stewardship Committee / John Champion—Finance Committee

**VHUMC  
Pastor of Boomers  
& Older Adults Jim Frazier  
will be leading the event**



Vestavia Hills UMC will be hosting a very special event for anyone 55 or better. They are calling it "From Jesus to Jimmy Buffett." This is a **free** event that will be looking at John 10:10 and how God wants us to make the most out of life, especially for those in the second half. Participants will meet in Tyson Hall from 9 a .m. – 12 p.m. each day. Drinks and snacks will be provided, but no meals.

Everything is handicap accessible.  
Register Here: [North AL: From Jesus to Jimmy Buffett \(umcna.org\)](http://North AL: From Jesus to Jimmy Buffett (umcna.org))

**Vestavia Hills UMC  
Tyson Hall  
2061 Kentucky Ave.  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
Mon. 9/12 - Wed. 9/14  
9 a .m. – 12 p.m.**

- with sessions covering:
- ◆ Finding God in the Music
- ◆ Finding God in the Movies
- ◆ Finding God in Laughter
- ◆ Finding God in Travel.
- ◆ It's a wonderful life
- ◆ The great adventure

### The Agape Sunday School Class

During the month of August, the Agape class studied the book of Revelation written by Saint John the Apostle. John's Revelation is not easy reading. Besides being a pastor, John was a poet, fond of metaphor and symbol, image and allusion, passionate in his desire to bring us into the presence of Jesus believing and adoring. But the demands he makes on our intelligence and imagination are well rewarded, for in studying his book, our worship of God will almost certainly deepen in urgency and joy. How do you view the Book of Revelation?

Those who study eschatology (end times prophecy) say that it one of the most informative and educational books of the bible. It summarizes the prophecies of the Old Testament as well as those written later in the New Testament. Author Tim La Haye says that the Book of Revelation is easily the most fascinating book in the bible, for it gives a detailed description of the future.

Books explaining Revelation, authored by Messianic Jews state that the entire bible was written by Hebrew authors, inspired by a Hebrew God, using Hebrew idioms that reflected Hebrew customs and Hebrew cultural understandings at that time. Their argument is that if you attempt to interpret Revelation or any other book of the bible from a Greco-Roman-Western mindset rather than the Hebrew perspective it will not be accurate.

John records a series of visions he experienced. These are visions of Heaven and its activities along with prophetic words delivered to John by Christ who is now on His throne and angels who serve as His guides. This book reveals the plans of the Lord God Almighty in the midst of the church's trials and tribulations, to give hope to Christians. It has been serving this function for over 2000 years, showing readers that evil will not triumph. God has a plan for ending the power of evil governments, Satan and his allies.

Revelation is meant to be a guide for the church, a book to inspire, equip, and empower every believer to live and stand with Jesus boldly at all times but especially in the end times. The Book of Revelation makes it clear that Christ and Christians are the ultimate winners in the game of life. It finalizes God's wonderful purposes for His favorite creatures—the human race.

The Holy City, which our Lord went to prepare for His Saints will come down from heaven to the new earth in all its majestic splendor with streets of gold, running crystal clear water, and giant pearls used as gates to the city. In addition to being similar to the Garden of Eden with Trees of Life, it is described as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (The Church is described throughout scripture as a bride for her bridegroom (Christ). It has no need for a temple as God will live with His chosen people. There is no need for a sun or moon as God's glory will supply all light that is needed (God is defined as spirit, light & love). There will be no suffering, sickness or death as sin and Satan have been defeated and will not be allowed into this new city.

We simply do not have the mental capacity to comprehend the significance of living where God Himself lives. God has a special love for humankind. That love will have all eternity to express itself upon His obedient creatures. To true Christians, heaven is not just a place where all things are new, but a place where they can enjoy unbroken fellowship with God.

We do not know the day or hour when Jesus will return. This is good news to those who trust Him, but a terrible message for those who have rejected Him. If He returns today, will you be ready? Amen

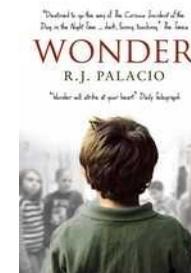
**Agape Trivia:** What three books of the bible reference the "The Tree of Life"?

September Weekly Readings	4	Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1-21, and Luke 14:25-33	18	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 4, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, and Luke 16:1-13
	11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, and Luke 15:1-10	25	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5:13-20, and Mark 9:38-50



The Book Club will meet on September 21st @ 5:00 pm to discuss the book

Wonder by R. J. Palacio



### A message from our Pre-school

In July Mrs. Kristy Turner advised she would not be returning to St. Mark. We wish her the best.

We would like to welcome our new 3 yr. old Pre-school Teacher Mrs. Tiffany Smith.

PDO Resumes: September 6, 2022

Pre-school Resumes: September 7, 2022



### Birthdays to Celebrate

The Birthday Club Luncheon Will be Sept. 12th @11:30 am due to the Labor Day Holiday. Location to be announced.

**Faith Trivia Answer:** The Israelites had inter-married with non-Jews including pagans.

### Agape Trivia Answer:

Genesis, Proverbs & Revelation

### District Lay Servant Training Course

Saturday, September 17, 2022

St. Mark Fellowship Hall

9:00 am—5:00 pm

Contact: Mrs. Pat Motley Phone # 205-213-4353

Email: pmotley@AHIF.org

Registration forms will be available at the church.

**(Pre Registration Required)**

Please contact Mrs. Pat Motley if you have any questions or for more information.



Abby's Old Time Jam September 20th @ 7 pm

### Anniston Soup Bowl

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



St. Mark UMC Volunteer Schedule 11am—1pm

### 2022 Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, November 3, 2022

We need 5 volunteers



### Prayers for our Church Family



Ann Angel (YMCA), Natalie and Bree (Margie Barker's daughter & granddaughter), Carol Barker, Gretchen Batesky (Abby Parks aunt), the Black family, Dean Boucher, Janie Coffey (Jeanie Hampton's sister), Rebecca Carden, Marleigh Conley (friend of Lou Crosby), Jeanette Griffith, Dee Dean (friend of Jack Williams), Rita & Gene Dean (friends of Diane & Houston Mason), Ralph & Janice Drake, Dawn & Tommy Evans (friends of Gina), Patsy Flint, Pat Fitzgerald, Richard & Linda Hodges, Steve & Brenda Holder (Cousin of Diane Mason), Lynne Lawler, Ed Hamilton, Jane & Dewey Hughes, Shirley Humphreys (sister of Jeanie Hampton), Martha Johnson (Dot Ping's friend), Jeff Mader (friend of Diane & Houston Mason), Patrick McCrimmon (Ed & DiAnne Hamilton's son), Kevin McKinzie & family, Lisa Miller (Jim's Daughter -in-law), Bill, Cody & Rodney Nowland (friends of John Champion's) the Parks family, Jodie & Chase McMasters (Dot Ping's niece), Pam Price, Jean & Jerry Ray, Suzy Roberts, Danette Sweet & Connie Russell (Danette mother), Kim & Wayne Selph (Gina's sister), Lulu Stewart, Ann Strickland (John Smythe's Aunt), John & Beth Sudduth (Rebecca Drummond friends), Ralph Teasley, John Toland, April Ponder -Twardy (Pastor Jeff 's wife), Edna Traywick, Julian Vasquez (Dot's great nephew), Chuck & Mary Walker.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month.

Contemporary Service: 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

Traditional Service: 11:00 am

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

Choir Practice Sundays at 4:30pm

Rev. Tony Wood-Associate Pastor / Music Director

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

**Sunday School Classes**

*Agape / Faith (Lecture) Wesley (Discussion)*

Faith Class	10:00 am	Richard Smith
Agape Class	10:00 am	Drew Childers
		Eanix Poole
		Ed Black
		Hudson Ketch
Wesley Class	10:00 am	Len Motz
		John Smythe
Jesus Loves Me	10:00 am	Suzy Roberts

**Wednesday's Activities**

Book Club September 21st at 5 p.m.

**St. Mark Outreach Teams**

<u>Outreach Needed</u>	<u>Group Leader</u>
Prayer/Phone/Visitation	Dot Ping / Abby Parks
Transportation	Richard Smith
Plumbing/Electrical	Hudson / Jody Ketch
Outside Work	Richard Smith

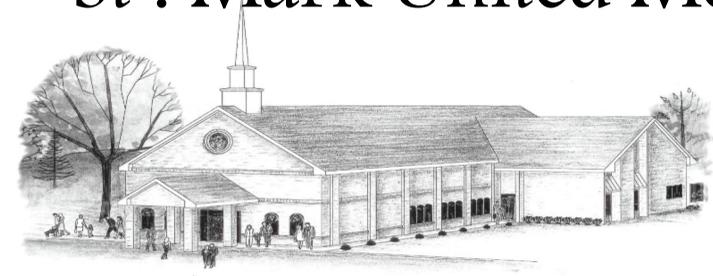
**A Message from the Prayer Team**

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 and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18



# St . Mark United Methodist Church Newsletter



Rev. Jeff Ponder-Twardy - Pastor  
Rev. Robert A. "Tony" Wood - Associate Pastor  
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1320 Golden Springs Road Anniston, AL 36207  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 am—2:30pm

## “Growing in Christ, Reaching others!” September 2022

**From the Pastor's Desk: Broken Walls & Broken Roof**

I read two lessons from the Daily Office lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer back in July that stirred me. The Old Testament lesson in Joshua 6 was the fall of Jericho. The walls came tumbling down. The gospel lesson that day was from the second chapter of Mark, the man on the mat was lowered through the broken roof. The walls of Jericho had to crumble for the city to fall into the hands of Joshua and the Hebrews. The roof had to break open for the man to get to Jesus, or the guys who did it believed their friend wouldn't be healed.

The walls came down after what the Lord told Joshua to do. The men who lowered their friend to Jesus did it, not because the Lord told them to, but because if their friend got to Jesus he'd be changed. Walls came down because that's what the Lord said. The man was healed and forgiven because his friends believed in what Jesus could do. Broken walls and broken roof.

Walls, roofs, doors, windows, furniture, automobiles, marriages, friendships. Anyone observing anything broken is usually left a bit uncomfortable. What was the cause? Who'll pay for that? Someone is hurting because of that! These two stories have God intervening amidst the breaking of structures that were necessary in the deliverance of God's people.

In Joshua 6, the Lord told Joshua what to do to break down the walls of Jericho and defeat an enemy of the Hebrews. The Lord spoke, Joshua obeyed, the walls broke down, and the Hebrews were victorious. Only by God's direction could they secure victory. In Mark 2, the men out of compassion and aggressiveness broke through the roof to get their friend to Jesus. It wasn't because the Lord told them, but it might have been something the Lord would have done to get a friend of his forgiven and healed. It happened at Jericho . . .

Aggressive compassion. It happened again at Calvary. It wasn't the public shaming and execution of a nameless nobody who was broken for the deliverance of others. It was the breaking of God himself in flesh and bone in aggressive compassion for the saving, forgiving and deliverance of the world God so loves. The good news of the gospel is that the price of a broken world was paid by God alone through a broken body and shed blood and the suffering of our God through aggressive compassion for all of us in and outside the church. Our God knows about the broken for the sake of others he loves. We are loved.

Share the good news!

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