

September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Special Note : TBA Due to COVID-19 Social Distancing.		1  UMM Meeting 6pm	2 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA Prayer Team 5pm	3 Scouts Round Table	4 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book	5
6 Drive -Thru  COMMUNION Worship in the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am Face Book -Livestream Sunday School TBA	7 Scouts	8 Trustee Meeting - Canceled Parent's Day Out Begins	9 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA Pre School Begins	10	11 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book	12  Game Night Canceled until further notice.
13 Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am Face Book Livestream Sunday School TBA	14 Scouts	15	16 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA Book Club 5pm	17  UMW—10am	18 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book 	19
20 Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am Face Book Livestream Sunday School TBA SPRC— after church	21 Scouts	22	23 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA	24	25 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book	26 All Day North Alabama Annual Conference
27 Worship In the Pines Contemporary Svc 9 am Traditional Svc 11 am Face Book Livestream Sunday School TBA	28 Scouts	29	30 Prayer 8:15 am via Face Book Bible Study TBA			

1. Michael & Coleen Sheffield
Charlie & Lisa Lattuada
2. Linsey Wurst
4. Pat Pettus
5. Sue Anderson
7. Cloyd & Mary Kay Staples
8. Jody Ketch
11. Bob & Della Axley
14. Reba Yarbrough
16. Dewey & Jane Hughes
21. Drucilla Grizzard
24. Wendy Mullins
26. Angel Walker
- John & Linda Smythe

Stewardship Program

September has been designated as Stewardship month at St. Mark.

This is an important program and the results are used to help determine the church budget for the next year.

You will soon receive commitment cards in the mail. If you are able to attend Worship in the Pines church service, please bring your completed commitment cards to the altar following church services.

If you are not able to attend a church service, please return your commitment cards via mail to the church office by Commitment Sunday, September 27th.

**We look forward to another great year at St. Mark.
Thank you - Tip Sheffield**



The United Methodist Men's Group

will be meeting

September 1st. At 6:00 pm

“Under the Pines “

Bring your own chairs and facemask. (No dinner provided)

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

In the early 1980's, Pepsi was challenging Coca-Cola's dominance in the soft drink business. Pepsi began running TV commercials pitting Coke head-to-head with Pepsi. Tasters were given sip tests as opposed to drinking the whole can. Pepsi began winning the sip tests. Coke was spending 100 million more on advertising and was more widely available than Pepsi.

After vast amounts of research, Coke changed its secret formula. This was the genesis of what came to be known as "New Coke." It was a disaster. Coke drinkers rebelled. After more research, Coke discovered that sip tests had certain biases. Reactions were different between taking a sip of a soft drink and drinking a whole can.

Spiritual lives can be skewed by biases if we only "sip." Have you ever bought a certain product over another because of the packaging, the shape of the container, or due to a clever commercial? At first glance, Christianity may not be a glamorous choice. Jesus was meek, humble, and poor. And, he was crucified! This is not what most would consider great marketing.

Sometimes Christians only take a sip test before committing to Christ's family. We visit a church; we're baptized; we become members of corporate worship in a church. But, if this is the sip test, what is the real test? What determines if we're just attracted to certain aspects of Christianity, or if we have really "bought in" and committed to the product? I think Paul would say we can't just sip. We've got to accept the packaging, the marketing, and the cup itself. This means taking the body and the blood with you. Take Christ wherever you go. Share Christ with others. Make your words and actions pleasing to God. Don't try to change the formula. We don't need a "New Jesus!" We need faith, trust, and obedience.

As for me, Coke is still great, but Jesus is greater!

Answer: Nathaniel (John 1:46)



Worship in the Pines



We continue to worship outdoors at our 9AM (contemporary) and 6PM (traditional) services, while streaming them online. It is so good to be able to see one another as we worship God in the great cathedral of nature as we listen to the cicada choir. This past Sunday we were joined at the traditional service by someone who was just passing by, saw us outside, and decided to join us in worship—exactly what I was hoping would happen! Being outside has helped to make us a bit more visible and accessible.

We will be changing our traditional service back to 11AM on September 6th. We may continue to offer an evening service for a week or two after that, depending on forecast temperatures, and if so that will be announced on a week-by-week basis.

We are planning to remain outside through the end of October, depending on weather. October is usually a glorious month, with cooler temperatures, lower humidity, and less rain.

Looking forward from there, whether we are able to return to the sanctuary or have to move back to online-only worship will depend on several factors. The primary factor will be infection statistics for Calhoun County, but will also include weather, our ability to properly clean the area after each service, and so on.

Thank you for your prayers and understanding as we work through this pandemic together. We have hope for a better tomorrow. - Br. Joshua



Effective August 31, 2020

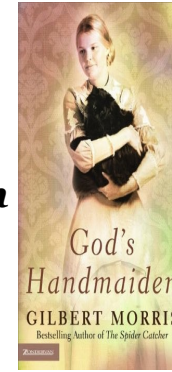
the church office hours
are changing to

Monday—Thursday

8:00 am— 2:30 pm



**Book club will meet
Sept. 16th @ 5:00 pm
We will discuss**



**God's Handmaiden
by Gilbert Morris**



**PERSONAL
UPDATES**



Please contact the church office.
Have any of the following changed?

Phone Number
Physical Address
Email Address



Night Rider Service

Need a ride to a church event tonight? Try calling the following people and see if they are going too. If they are going to the event, they will be happy to help you get to church.

- Gerald & Pam Price 256-238-6573
- Dee Gorey 256-283-3496
- Beth Gorey Cell 256-231-9908
- Eanix & Wavene Poole 850-573-3450
- Tony & Kathy Wood 256-282-7447
- Sue Anderson 256-831-9187
- Jean Ray 256-831-9462
- Bob Axley 256-405-1627



**A message from our Preschool Director
Mrs. Teresa Presley**

Parent's Day Out will begin September 8th.

Preschool will begin September 9th.

**Please pray for the children and the teachers
as we prepare to reopen the school.**

**The children have had a difficult time during a summer of isolation
and are looking forward to interacting again with their friends.
We have new guidelines in place in order to keep everyone safe.**

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 ANNISTON, ALA 36207

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

«AddressBlock»

September, 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 2nd
 5p.m.: Book Club 16th
 10 am & 6p.m.: Bible Study TBA

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

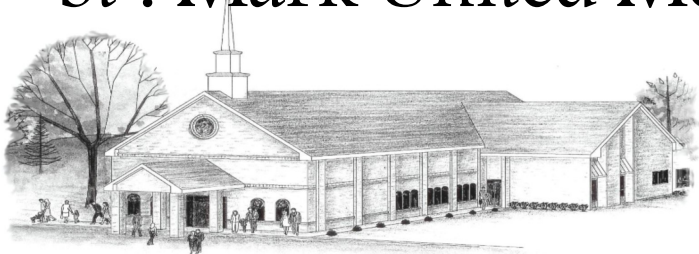


Adult Classes	Teacher	Room
Agape		A
Faith	Richard Smith	201
Wesley		101
Youth Classes	Teacher	Room
Nursery	Wendy Walker	

Trivia Question:

Who asked, Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

St . Mark United Methodist Church Newsletter



Rev. Joshua D. Allison - Pastor
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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 continue to pray for you as we work together through the pandemic, the election, and the challenges of daily life. I urge you to reach out to one another and to support one another as we continue along. A phone call, a card, a bouquet of flowers, a cake, or a sack of home-grown ‘maters are all great ways to say “I care about you” to your fellow church members. I encourage you to connect with several people every week, especially people you have not seen since the early part of the year, or even before.

Back in the early days of this pandemic I had a difficult time coming to the realization that things aren’t going to magically go back to the old normal of January and February. We are quickly approaching the six month mark since we had to suspend worship in our sanctuary. We are worshipping outside, and while the heat and bugs are a bother, the fact that we can safely gather has been a balm to my soul. Being able to share in the Eucharist with you has been a wonderful thing.

As we look forward, we are likely going to continue our **Sunday** services outside until it gets too cold and rainy to continue. Whether we return to Facebook only or are able to return to the sanctuary depends on several issues. However, I am working on plans to be able get back inside. I’ll give you the full outline as soon as I am able.

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