



St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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| <u>CALENDAR REMINDERS</u> | |
| May 30 | |
| 5:00 Sandwich Sunday | |

Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

In my short time with you, I have been preaching around the idea of attaching our lives to Jesus, which means we follow him. It means we do not follow anyone or anything else. We may pay attention to things in this world, but we must not become followers of anything except Jesus Christ.

That being said, when you follow Jesus, you are never alone. There will always be walking partners along the way as others follow Jesus. St. Mark will be at its best when everyone is following Jesus together. That means that we share an attachment to Jesus above all other things and people.

Problems arise when we make something else a higher attachment than Jesus. Let me suggest a few common attachments that keep churches from being all Jesus desires it to be:

- 1) *The church.* When we make the church itself the highest attachment, then all our energy and resources go to the church's survival rather than following Jesus at all costs.
- 2) *The pastor.* When the church becomes a "cult of personality" centered around a pastor, then the energy goes to pleasing the pastor (not generally a presbyterian problem!).
- 3) *Political platforms.* Attachments to politics are destroying churches right now. We should care about how people are treated in this country and in our communities. But if we attach to a political platform, party, or leader above Jesus, then it will overtake our belief. We will begin to dismiss or grossly misinterpret the Bible when it disagrees with the party line.
- 4) *Money.* When we put our hope in money, then we will never have enough. All our decisions will be made to get more or keep more. We cannot serve both God and mammon.
- 5) *Culture.* The main reason why most churches are not very diverse is because maintaining cultural norms is more important than following Jesus. Our musical styles, dress, the length of time of the service or the sermon, the language we speak, how we participate in worship, and many other things are much more about culture than Christ. Christ's culture is about putting others first, not about what we want or prefer.

I have enjoyed walking a few miles with you. Keep following him and walking with each other. And enjoy

Upcoming Events

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

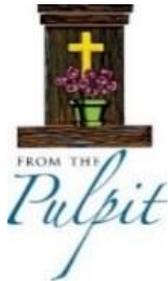
May 2 – “Get Up and Go”
Jonah 1:1-3; Acts 8:26-40
Celebration of The Lord’s Supper
Rev. Dr. Randall McGee

May 9 – “Wherever You Go:
Following Jesus into Friendship”
Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17
Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

May 16 – “Wherever You Go:
Following Jesus into the World”
Psalm 1: John 17:6-19
Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

May 23 -
Pentecost Sunday

May 30 -
Trinity Sunday



God Bless You on Your Birthday

- May 1**
Edna Woods
- May 2**
Mike Parsley
- May 8**
Kathy Moore
- May 10**
Tricia Johnson
- May 11**
Martha Gracey
- May 12**
Drew Taylor

- May 14**
Harry Roberts
- May 22**
Travis Moore
- May 25**
George Schingle
- May 27**
Dick Brooks



White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, May 9th



Canned Meat Products, Canned Tuna
Canned Soup of all types

Austin Street Center

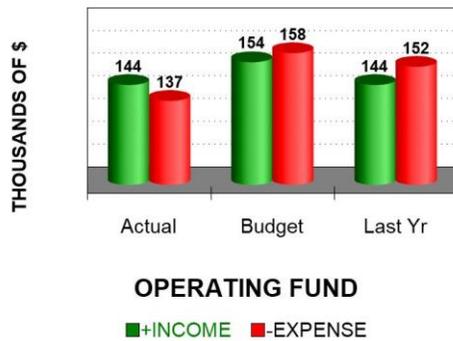
All the clients and staff members at Austin Street Center have had the opportunity to receive the Covid19 vaccine. During the pandemic, no members of the staff or clientele have contracted the virus. Due to the virus, ASC has scaled back their operations. Austin Street Center has entirely changed their operations into a 24-hour facility, rather than simply a night shelter. This became a necessity this past year to help limit exposure. The number of clients has been reduced from 400 to 250. In 2020, ASC helped graduate 276 clients into permanent housing. As existing clients exit out of the shelter, new ones are processed and given rapid COVID19 tests to ensure the safety of all.



Meal service has been reinstated! ASC requests that each team bring 10-20 servers. Servers must sign up on the [Galaxy Digital volunteer link](#). Servers will be required to have a temperature check, answer the Covid questions and wear a mask and gloves while serving. We will have that link soon so that we can share it with everyone that is interested in serving. We are planning to return to serving our sandwiches, chips, snack cakes and fruit on May 30. **Sign-up sheets are on the glass table across from the church office.** Austin Street Center is expanding! Adjacent to their current location, they are building a 60,000 sq ft. facility. The new space will accommodate 400+ clients, a commercial kitchen and double the space for client engagement. They are hoping that the new facility will open in early 2022.

Treasurer's Report

9 MONTHS THROUGH 3-31-2021



Operating Fund – YTD contributions are under budget by \$10,000, but \$2,000 more than last year. YTD expenses are \$21,000 below budget and \$15,000 below last year. Bottom line, the Operating Fund is approximately \$7,000 cash positive YTD which is \$10,000 better than budget and \$14,000 better than last year.

Stated Meeting of the Session, March 15, 2021.

- Motion passed to provide Easter Breakfast using individually wrapped muffins, bottled water, and bottled orange juice.
- Motion passed to approve two months paid medical leave for Rev. Rick Brooks, beginning Tuesday March 16, 2021.
- Motion passed to elect as commissioners to the Stated Meeting on May 1, 2021, Lorraine Stephen and Kathleen Hale and Leigh Taylor as alternate.

Full sets of the minutes above are available to read on the Session bulletin board.

Special Easter Offering Update



The total received for the Special Easter Offering is \$3,800. Your gift will be divided between One Great Hour of Sharing and the Camps & Conferences Special

Fund so we can send the future leaders of our Church to Christian camps this year and for years following. Thank you so much for your generosity.



The Prayer Garden has been professionally landscaped and it is beautiful. Check it out next time you are here. And thank you once again Property Committee for your hard work.

Directory Update

Contact the church office for updates.

Sympathy



Sympathy to Suzanne Presley and family in the death of her granddaughter, Sydney Howk.

Sydney was promoted to Glory on April 3, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Sympathy to the Nickell Family (former members) in the death of Peggy Nickell.

Sympathy to Pam McGuire in the death of her brother-in-law, Ron Wirt.





This month I am feeling incredibly thankful.

I am thankful for the COVID-19 vaccines. It was amazing how quickly it was developed. So, I am thankful for all the researchers that put in long hours to create the vaccines. I was a chemistry major in college, and I dabbled in a bit of research. So, I have an idea of the number of hours that researchers put in on these projects. A lot of folks spent many days and nights in the labs working on this. Not just big-name PhD's but lots of techs and assistants would have done that. I am thankful for those people who may have gone days at a time without seeing their families because they were essentially living in the lab. I am thankful for the sacrifice their families made. We'll never know who they are, but they have made a difference in my life.

I am thankful for those people who volunteered for the research trials for the vaccines. They took a risk in order to help out all of the rest of us. I do know a couple of people who participated in these trials. I need to remember to thank them personally.

I am thankful for all the folks who worked overtime shifts after their regular jobs at the vaccine centers. This allowed people to get their shots more quickly than they might have otherwise. I am thankful for all the people who waited in lines to get their shots especially as things were just getting started.

I am thankful for all those folks who may have been a bit hesitant about getting the vaccine but went ahead and got it. Because that means we can help protect those folks who really cannot take the vaccines.

I am thankful that I am vaccinated. I am thankful my wife is vaccinated. I am thankful my parents are vaccinated. I am thankful we only had mild reactions.

Because of the vaccines I have been able to fly and see my parents who have some health issues. I am thankful that I am now comfortable worshipping in person. I am thankful that I have been able to do a number of normal things the last several weeks.

So, is there anything in particular you are thankful for this Easter season?



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

May 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 25 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group | 26 7:30p AA Group | 27 7:30p AA Group | 28 4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group | 29 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group | 30 7:30p AA Group | 1 7:30p AA Group |
| 2 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 2:00p Zoom Mission/Outreach Com. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group | 3 6:00p Zoom Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group | 4 6:00p Zoom Fellowship Com. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group | 5 4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group | 6 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group Kat on Vacation | 7 7:30p AA Group | 8 7:30p AA Group |
| 9 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group  Mother's Day | 10 7:30p AA Group Kat on Vacation | 11 6:00p Zoom CE Committee Meeting 6:00p Zoom Stew/Fin Com. Mtg 7:30p AA Group Kat on Vacation | 12 4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 6:30p Zoom Property Com. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group Kat on Vacation | 13 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group Kat on Vacation | 14 7:30p AA Group | 15 10:00a Mini Workday 7:30p AA Group |
| 16 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group | 17 6:30p Zoom Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group | 18 7:30p AA Group | 19 4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group | 20 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group | 21 7:30p AA Group | 22 7:30p AA Group |
| 23 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group  PENTECOST | 24 7:30p AA Group | 25 7:30p AA Group | 26 4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group | 27 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group | 28 7:30p AA Group | 29 7:30p AA Group |
| 30 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center  TRINITY SUNDAY | 31 7:30p AA Group MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed | 1 6:00p Zoom Fellowship Com. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group | 2 4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group | 3 7:30p AA Group | 4 7:30p AA Group | 5 7:30p AA Group |

Thank You!

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Easter Worship Service. Thank you to the Sanctuary Choir, under Gary's leadership, who sounded amazing, and to Pastor Paul for an inspiring message. It was a wonderful and meaningful worship service.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the continental breakfast following CDC guidelines on Easter morning which provided socially distanced fellowship.

Thank you as well to the leadership of the Church for making meeting in-person again possible. If you were unable to attend any of the Easter week services, please check them out on the homepage of the Church's website, www.saintmarkchurch.org, where you will find a link to the YouTube videos.

St. Mark is blessed to have very talented musicians who have participated in worship this past year. In addition, we appreciate all of you who have been working "behind the scenes" – audio/visual; church beautification and upkeep; worship set-up, preparation and planning; and serving as liturgists, greeters and ushers.

And to the staff who has literally learned to "reinvent the wheel," we are most appreciative of your flexibility, irregular hours, and hard work.

We are especially grateful to Pastor Rick for the many hours he has labored in all of his pastoral duties during the pandemic. We are happy to know that Rick's health is improving, and we look forward to his return to the pulpit.

