



# *St. Mark Messenger*

March 1, 2023

By Grace Transformed...

Every time someone joins the church, we give them a pictorial directory. I don't know if you have looked at our pictorial directory lately, but if you have you will see that there are many faces no longer with us, and there are many people who are new who are not included. The last one was completed in 2017. It's time for a new one.

This time, though, we are going to do something different. We were thinking about doing something in-house that could be easily updated so new people could be added whenever someone joins. One of our new members, Ross Fesenmeyer, told me about a new kind of directory that can be found at [instantchurchdirectory.com](https://instantchurchdirectory.com). This will be a directory that can be downloaded and printed or it can be accessed by church members from a computer or smartphone or tablet. Whenever someone moves or gets a new phone number, the information can be updated and kept current.

Another of our new members, Doug Pietrock, is an amateur photographer. He has volunteered to take our pictures for the new directory. We will begin taking pictures in April. A schedule will be made available soon so everyone can sign up to be photographed. If you want to see what it will be like, you can check out some videos at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/instant-church-directory-demos>.

Each member/family will have a unique id and password. The site is very flexible and people can opt out of anything that they don't want included on the site. My hope is that everyone will participate in this so we can learn each other's' names and get to know one another as new people join our church family.

On another note, The Disciples Path class has been a great experience. We are learning about the five aspects of the membership vows of being a United Methodist (faithfully participating in Saint Mark's ministries with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness). This class will be offered periodically for anyone who would like to participate. We will also offer other classes in the near future.

Lent has already started. This year, I am preaching on different aspects of the Kingdom of God. I've entitled the series "Thy Kingdom Come." These are the scriptures and sermon titles for the rest of the season:

March 5  
Forgiveness  
Matthew 18:15-35

March 19  
Grace with Responsibility  
Matthew 22: 1-14

April 2  
Triumphal Entry of the Humble King  
Matthew 21: 1-17

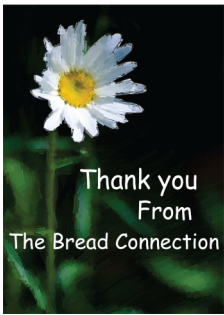
March 12  
Generosity  
Matthew 20:1-16

March 27  
Doers of the Word  
Matthew 25: 31-46

My prayer is that this series will help us focus on the Kingdom of God that is here and that we will all choose to live in it.

In Christ,

*Andy*



*Here at the Bread Connection we truly appreciate your support. Thank you for helping us be that Light unto the world, and be able to help others with food insecurities. Thank you, Becky Hightower*

The Bread Connection is a non-profit organization in Cleburne helping to provide surplus food from local grocery stores and other agencies to local food pantries, such as our Bread Basket.

The Bread Connection is hosting a fund raising event, "An Evening in Paris" on March 16 at 5:30 p.m. The church will have a table. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office for more information. We would like to be well represented.



Our deepest sympathies are extended to Eric Bonin and family on the loss of his mother, Jeanne Stevens and to Mandy and Josh Turner on the loss of Mandy's grandmother, Sybil Tucker. Please continue to remember these families in your prayers.



Scholarship applications are now available to members of St. Mark and one time scholarships are available for member's grandchildren. Please contact the office for applications. Applications are due April 1.

## Memorials

**Breadbasket** in memory of ***Dolores Stringer*** by Jimmie & Dorothy Venturi

*In memory of Jeanne Stevens* by Jimmie & Dorothy Venturi

**Snack Sack** in memory of ***Angie Tinsley Belote*** by Rick & Bernadine Mariott



### ***SAINT MARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

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*.....a church being reborn by the grace of God*

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