



A Community of Faith With a Place for You!
A place to belong... A place to believe... A place to become!

STEEPLE NOTES

DECEMBER 2019

Preparing for Advent and Awaiting the Coming of Christ

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT:

December 1: Hope & Expectation
December 8: Preparation & Peace
December 15: Proclamation & Joy
December 22: Revelation & Peace

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

3 p.m., Children's Service
5 p.m., Traditional Candlelight Service
with Communion
7 p.m., Contemporary Candlelight Service
with Communion
10 p.m. Service with Carols and
Communion

A D V E N T

Advent (which means "coming") is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: preparation to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, to receive faithfully the risen Christ who comes to us in Word and Spirit, and to await with hope Christ's coming in final victory.

One big challenge for all Christians is to make Advent a time of expectation for Christ's coming to be with us, not a frantic time of meeting secular demands of the season. The Advent season is four weeks, including the four Sundays, before Christmas Day.

Be in worship this Sunday, December 1, as the first Sunday in Advent is celebrated with special liturgy, the lighting of the first candle (Expectation of Hope) in the Advent Wreath, and the beauty of Christmas ornaments, wreaths, and seasonal banners. The altar paraments are blue, symbolizing hope.

Holy Communion will be served at both the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. All who desire a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior are invited to the altar rail.

"Breakfast with Santa" Coming Dec. 7

Enjoying a breakfast meal (pancakes & sausage), celebrating fellowship with children and guests of all ages, sharing secrets with Santa and Mrs. Claus about Christmas wishes, and more are what's in store for Saturday, December 7, from 9-11 a.m. in the Community Life Building. It's the 4th annual Breakfast with Santa.

This year, we are excited to add a Santa Market. We are asking for donations of gently used or new Christmas items to resell in the market. Suggestions include Christmas dishes, Christmas village, lawn decor, ornaments, wreaths, etc. Donations for the Holiday Decor can be dropped off in the chapel or brought to the church office on Friday morning, Dec. 6. Donations must be in good shape and something that someone could still use. Contact Joyce Hamende at johamcc@aol.com with any questions regarding the Santa Market.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and decorate the room, bake some special goodies, greet guests, help with special entertainment and children's crafts, and help clean up.

Please call the church, 991-4342, and let staff or Pastor KP know what you can help with. We are also looking for Sunday School classes/ small groups. Scout troops, and student organizations who need community service hours. Give a shoutout to Cathi Garza at stjohsseekers@yahoo.com.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

We Are Called To Change the World

Advent is upon us.

If you read that and you hear a deep sigh in your soul, I hope it is a sigh of hope and anticipation. I know that if we are overwhelmed by the prospect of Advent that the sigh might be one of resignation or fatigue.

In either case, I want to suggest that this Advent season and this Christmas might be an opportunity to experience a different kind of Christmas.

While the parties and the decorations, the shopping and shine of this season often feel like the proper trappings of Christmas, God's people hopefully know better. God is in the change and transformation business and the entire Advent and Christmas narrative is about massive, radical change to everything the people in the days of Jesus' birth thought was important.

God coming to earth in the person of a powerless baby says that this would be a king like no other. That this child came to an unremarkable couple and was announced first to humble

shepherds, says that the lowly would be powerful and the powerful would be humbled. Jesus would grow up to have great affinity for the lowly and fiery conflict with the powerful. Jesus came to change everything, he came to change the world.

The most significant, tangible tool that Jesus left to accomplish that change is likely the church inspired and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. And change the world that church did. It's why we are together this season remembering, celebrating, and answering the call to be Jesus' representatives.

Our charge and our call has not changed from those early humble beginnings. We are called to change the world. And we have many useful and effective tools for that work.

We have been blessed with a beautiful campus and worship spaces; meeting space where we can gather and study and learn. We have paraments, candles, pews, communion ware, pianos, organ, guitars, lights. and projectors. All

of those can be useful in our ministry work.

But none of these even approach the power and effectiveness of caring relationships and personal invitations.

Most people do not seek out a church. Most people do not respond to an advertisement, a sign or a flyer about church. Most people are brought to church through people they know and respect and mostly through personal invitation.

There are so many opportunities this season to invite people to Advent and Christmas events, not the least of which is Christmas Eve. So, if you look around the church this month and you see that someone is missing, call them, tell them you miss them.

If you look around and there are more empty seats than you would like, you can make a difference by inviting a friend or a stranger.

We are called to change the world. It is likely that we do that one relationship at a time.

Peace, Pastor Wade

State of Our Finances...By Darron Bergstrom, Finance Committee Chair

I would like to thank our St. John's members for their continued commitment to our church's mission and outreach programs. We have received \$310,912 in pledges receipts year to date as of the end of October versus the total 2019 pledge of \$389,288.

Based on our average monthly receipts of \$31,000, this will leave our church approximately \$16,500 short of our goal. If there is any way you can help us reach that goal, please consider making an additional contribution. It will help us come closer to meeting budget for this year.

The 2020 Stewardship campaign has received 75 pledges from 200 active members for a total pledge of \$221,306 year to date. If you have not made your pledge, please do so. This is very important for the church to develop our budget for 2020.

Due to our limited resources as a church this year, we have only contributed \$15,832.11 to apportionments for the Rio Texas Convergence. We were budgeted to give \$65,161. Please keep in mind that this is our church's tithe to the Methodist Church.

If you have any question regarding our church finances, please let me know. God Bless. (See related information on Page 9)

Spreading Love & Christmas Joy at Bokenkamp

Church members Rick and Carrie Darst are coordinating the 2019 outreach project to provide Christmas gifts for the 46 children at the Bokenkamp Shelter, located about three blocks from St. John's UMC.

The project will kick off on Sunday, December 8, and church members and guests will be invited to take one or more names. The Darsts will be in both worship foyers before and after the worship services.

To facilitate this gift-giving ministry, Bokenkamp will help the children identify three items they would like to receive and note their individual sizes for clothing or shoes.

Spending around \$30 per child is recommended and ensures that all children are treated equally.

Gift-givers can team up with friends or a small group to share the \$30 expense, Rick said.

And "shoppers" are standing by to help church members who want to participate but are not able to get out to shop.

Thanks in advance for your love and generosity to help the Bokenkamp residents experience a wonderful Christmas.



"Bethlehem--the Nativity Story"



Sunday, December 15

A new play entitled "Bethlehem--the Nativity Story" will be presented on Sunday, December 15, in the Community Life Building, immediately following the 11:17 worship service. The play features children, youth, and adults.

Everyone is invited, and you are encouraged to bring other family members, friends, and neighbors to enjoy the performance.

Brunch will be served shortly after 12:30 p.m., with the play beginning once everyone is seated, said director Elaine Clanton-Harpine. Suzy Bergstrom is helping organize the brunch.

The play tells the story of two innkeepers in Bethlehem and how each innkeeper responds to the request by Joseph and Mary for lodging for the night.

Come and celebrate the Nativity story; join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION FROM KELSEY MEMORIAL UMC

St. John's members Charlie Alegria and Rick Darst will sing bass at the Kelsey Memorial UMC Christmas Cantata Service on Saturday, December 14, at 7PM. Kelsey Memorial's address is 1610 Comanche St, Corpus Christi (near the Crosstown/Lipan frontage road). Rick says, "It's cute, it's fun...so don't miss it!"

Sharing One's Talent --What a Blessing to Others

The 6-sided wood table top used by our Domino players has been refinished and refurbished, thanks to church member Willard Haskell. The table was first crafted by Evalynn Bunk's father many, many years ago, and was in need of some attention. Thanks, Willard!



News from the Outreach Team

Two projects undertaken during November were successfully staged and completed...and received with many expressions of thanks.

A workday at Wenholz Women's House was held on Saturday, November 23, with tree/hedge trimming, yard cleanup, and power washing the 2-story residential structure. A big thank you to all who helped--Gerri and Benny Cason, Danna Sharpe, Connie Hahn, and Rawley and Carolyn Martin.

A very successful luncheon was held November 13 in the Community Life Building for 50 military veterans in the HUD/VASH Program, which assists homeless veterans through specialized services and housing. (See photos below.)

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who generously helped with setup, cooking, serving and cleanup. A delicious meal of turkey and ham and lots of side dishes and desserts were well received and enjoyed.

This was the first year to hold the luncheon at St. John's UMC, said Outreach Chair Carolyn Martin, and the guests would like to return next year.

One veteran stated that St. John's felt like "home."

Pastor Wade greeted the guests and offered an opening prayer.



Outreach team members power washed the Wenholz House and did some much-needed tree and hedge trimming.

Ongoing Outreach

All church members are invited to help with these ongoing outreach efforts.

** Wenholz House for Women: Includes donation of casual work clothes, shoes and purses; twin bed sheets; blankets; and vinyl tablecloths. Donation boxes are located in the CLB lobby.

** TAMUCC Students: Includes efforts/ideas to engage students with St. John's UMC activities, mission projects, and college Sunday School class.

** Timon's Ministry: Includes the donation of bath towels, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, etc. Donation boxes in CLB.

** Salvation Army: Includes donation of books for the children's library; attending monthly birthday parties (last Thursday of each month); and helping serve lunch to residents.

** Coat Drive for Homeless--Coats, sweaters and gloves are being collected for the homeless. Distribution is tentatively planned for December 8 at South Bluff Park, along with a hot dog cookout. Items not distributed at the park will be delivered to area shelters and agencies that serve the homeless. Please bring your donations to the church this week!



Those helping with the Veterans Luncheon pose for a group photo in the kitchen following the event. All agreed it was a blessing to serve and visit with the more than 50 veterans who attended.



SAVE THE DATES!



DECEMBER 8 BLOOD DRIVE

Calling all blood donors! Please plan to give blood on Sunday, December 8. The Coastal Bend bloodmobile will be in the front church parking lot from about 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Photo ID required; all donors will receive a Jack in the Box coupon while supplies last.



Choir Performance of Sacred & Secular Music--Thursday, Dec. 12

The annual holiday performance by the W. B. Ray High School Concert Choir is something you won't want to miss. Plan to be in the St. John's Sanctuary at 11 a.m. to hear a concert of sacred and secular music. Our own Kim Bryce, music director, will direct the choir and provide piano accompaniment. The choir is composed of about 60 students.



Church Women United To Celebrate "Simply Christmas"--Friday, Dec. 6

St. John's United Methodist Women will host the Friday, Dec. 6, final gathering of the year of Church Women United. Fellowship begins with a Continental Breakfast at 9:30 a.m., followed by greetings and announcements, program, and business, including 2019 end-of-year report and election of officers for 2020. "Simply Christmas" is the meeting theme and there will be a Silent Auction of baked goods or new Christmas decor or crafts. Refreshments will be provided by St. John's UMW. Please join us! If questions, please call or text Glenda Sanders at 361-946-9508.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! HEALTH CHECK (Free)

The Wesley Nurse and Corpus Christi Health Department will be at St. John's UMC to do blood pressure and blood sugar/A1C checks from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Wednesday, Dec. 18

If questions, please call the church at 991-4342.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Financial gifts given in memory, in celebration of, or in honor of family members, friends, and ministries are placed in St. John's UMC Memorial Fund. Current funds include Building, Choir, Youth, Scholarship, Worship, Care/Concern/Bereavement, Food Pantry, and Undesignated for general church needs. Your gift, in any amount, is sincerely appreciated. Be sure to designate which fund should receive your gift. Gifts to the Memorial Fund also may be given anonymously.

In loving memory of Arlene Kilsby, mother of Debra Patterson, gifts to the Bereavement Fund from Mary Jane Fox and from Chris Garcia and a gift to the St. John's Food Pantry from the Contemporary Christian Issues (CCI) class, which Arlene attended.

In loving memory of Bill McNair, father of Mark McNair, a gift to the Building Fund from Mary Jane Fox and undesignated gifts from Patricia Boyd of Houston, John and Joyce Zimmerman, Larry and Pat Hoelscher of El Campo, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Krumrey, and Richard Leshin.

In loving memory of William Habeeb, husband of Pattie, an undesignated

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Bridge

Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 1 pm - AB Room 1

Mexican Train

Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 1 pm - AB Room 1

Chairsercise

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10 a.m. in AB Room 1 (class will not meet on Tuesday, Dec. 24, or Thursday, Dec. 26, or Tuesday, Dec. 31.)

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m., Conference Room; study based on book, "How To Pray After You've Kicked the Dog."

Decorating for Advent

Thanks to members of the Worship Committee and their families for preparing the Sanctuary for Advent last Sunday. Music Director Kim Bryce set up the Nativity in the foyer, and the Shaffer family focused on the Chrismon Tree and the window wreaths. The individual Chrismons on the tree represent symbols of the Advent and Christmas season. Youth members Natalie and Daniel helped hang the large wreaths.



United Methodist Women News

St. John's United Methodist Women and guests met November 15 at Nolan's Restaurant to elect 2020 officers and vote on and approve the 2020 budget. End-of-year funds will be disbursed to Wesley Community Center and other charities. Bringing special remarks was Diane Rumfield, Rio Texas Conference UMW Treasurer. St. John's UMW new president is Carole Salsberry. Carole was also presented with a special mission recognition pin in honor of her service to United Methodist Women and St. John's ministries.



UMW CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday, Dec. 6: Church Women United, hosted by St. John's UMC; 9:30 am-11:15 am; gathering in the Community Life Building; Program: "Simply Christmas." (See other details on page 5.)

Tuesday, Dec. 10: Ruth Circle Christmas Brunch at the home of Elaine Clanton-Harpine, 9:30 a.m.



Carole Salsberry, UMW president for 2020, receives pin from Glenda Sanders and Sarah Carter;; attendees pose for a photo; Glenda Sanders introduces speaker Diane Rumfield; Annie Hatfield poses with her guest. Special thanks to Pastor Wade for attending.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

CHRISTMAS: The St. John's UMC church office will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 24 -26.

NEW YEAR'S: The church office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31 and January 1.



WORSHIP--Rev. Karen Horan, guest preacher on Nov. 10, and Pastor KP visit with Xander Nguyen during the Children's Sermon.

DECEMBER 2019 MEETINGS

Traditional Worship

Tuesday, December 3 - 6:30 pm - Conference Room

Outreach

Thursday, December 12 - 6:30 pm - Conference Rm

Kitchen Team

Monday, December 16- 2:00 pm - Community Life Bldg

Finance

Monday, December 16 - 6:30 pm - Conference Rm

Trustees

Thursday, December 19 - 6:30 pm - Conference Room (tentative)

CLC Board (call church office to confirm)

Food Pantry News



A very Merry Christmas to you all!

We continue to be busy at your St. John's Food Pantry, seeing lots of clients each week. In October we assisted 466 individuals consisting of 166 families.

We have been happy to meet new clients as well as see old familiar faces. Last week we met Jimmy, Terrence, and Eddie who are all veterans and who attended the Veterans lunch hosted at St. John's. We were able to give them food to take home. We met Wendy who needed help for herself and her daughter. She sent the nicest post to our church Facebook Page expressing her appreciation.

We were happy to see Linda, a regular pantry client whose husband has Alzheimer's and she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is hanging in there and appreciates the prayers. Francisco was here and took advantage of the health check. Francisco has diabetes and he was so excited to see his A1C was much lower.

We will be having health checks (blood pressure and A1C) with the Wesley Nurse from St. Luke's UMC and a City-Council Health Department staff member on Wednesday, Dec 4 and Dec. 18, from 9 am -12 noon.

On Wednesday, Dec.4, we also will have a pharmacist from HEB (Alma) who will be giving flu, shingles, and pneumonia shots, also from 9 am – 12 noon. We are pleased to offer this service to anyone who wants to participate. All are welcome. We hope to have more dates available for next year soon.

CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: We can use the following items in the pantry:

- Pasta –1 pound packages—Any type
- Canned corn
- Canned pasta /spaghetti sauce
- Kraft Mac N Cheese

FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY: The Food Pantry would love to have the following so that clients can enjoy a holiday meal: Boxes of instant mashed potatoes; boxes of stuffing; Betty Crocker Pie Mix, canisters of fried onions.

As always, your monetary donations are always appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of your St. John's Food Pantry. We assist many people in the community and they are very grateful and appreciative of the food they receive.

OUR PRAYER LIST



Hospital/Rehab: Ivan Shaver

Grieving: Family of Gloria Caravantes; Family of Bill McNair, Family of Arlene Kilsby, Family of Gene Sherman (mother of Steve Lewis); Family of Will Habeeb; Family of Ally McElway

Our Church	Josh W. Cox	Hydie Johnson	Lupe Rodriguez
President Trump	Calvin Davidson	Jack Johnson	Rilla Roots
US Military	Daryl Delk	Phyllis Jones	Jesse Ruiz
World Leadership	Josh W. Cox	Ann Jordan	Kelly S.
CC Metro Ministries	Mike Dailey	Linda Jordan	Linda S.
Roland & Geraldine Albrecht	K. Davidson	Margaret K.	Fay Sassman
Phillip Balderas	Tonya Delk	Mimi Keen	Anita Schwein
Joe Barrera	Doughty Family	Dale Knoy	Lyneve Shaver
Cable Best	Marlene Dreibelbis	Charlotte Kunc	Kase Simpson
Buff Betz	Margaret Earle	Randy L.	Jenna Singleton
Patti Boggess	Nicki Fischer	Tommie Lewis	Susan Skidmore
Brendyn	Judy Forbes	Marshall	John Strain
Melissa Brownlee	Frobrizzio Family	Jeanne Mayes	Richard Strong
Tyler Brownee	Elizabeth Gallaway	Colin McGlinchy	Patrick Taber
Margo C.	Adela Garcia	Ardelia Miller	Betty Thompson
Jeff Caravantes	Romeo Garcia, Sr.	Judi Oestreich	Craig Thompsons
Marcia Caravantes	Pam Glover	Roma Onwiler	Louise Wagner
Margo Chapman	Guzman Family	Rev. Harold Onwiler	Faye Wilkins
Christain	Charlene Hardy	Chris Oxley	Beverly Wilson
Marjorie Codney	Hart Family	Mike P.	Mary Lee Woodson
Collins Family	Ryan & Alex	Kelly R.	Lane Zamora
Stefan Collins	Hubbard	Dottie Ramella	Roseann Zammiello
	Michael Jinnette	Joe Rodriguez	Gail Zaruba

*Please pray for those who are on the Prayer List. After 30 days, names on the prayer list will be removed. Please submit another prayer card or call the church office at 991-4342 if you would to add someone or return someone to the prayer list.
[Emergency messages to Pastor Wade---960-4021]*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Kaylee Bransford, Johanna Daugherty, Abigail Hernandez, Scott Wilshusen	17 Betty Collins, Bill Shaffer
2 Kim Bryce	20 Anita Harris
4 David Pallotti, Karen Throop	21 Sandi Stratton, Debra Patterson
6 Gary Schwartz	23 Betty Thompson
8 Tim McCormick, Rick Smith	25 Nicki Fischer
9 Mariah Wolf	26 Evalynn Bunk, Jonathan Hamende, Roseann Zammiello
10 Brianna Balderas	28 Sara Olevitch, Victoria Barton
11 John Fusselman, Cindy Straub, Aiden Waldrop	29 Coretta Miles
13 Pat Steinocher	31 Austin Brownlee, Zahna Rae Thompson
14 Ernest Rivas III	
16 Gaylord Hoyt	

If your birthday is not listed or if there is an error in the birthday listing, please notify the church office at 991-4342.

IN MEMORIAM



Arlene Kilsby
(Jan. 22, 1936-
Nov. 3, 2019)
*Mother of Debb
Patterson*



Bill McNair
pictured with
his late wife Joy
(April 17, 1925-
Nov. 2, 2019)



Gloria Isabel
Caravantes
(Sept. 18, 1921-
Nov. 22, 2019)
*Sister of Marcia
Caravantes*



Gene W.
Sherman
(May 11, 1921-
Nov. 14, 2019)
*Mother of Steve
Lewis*

SAVE THE DATE:
**Churchwide Supper is set for
Sunday, January 5. Gather at
5 p.m. in the Community Life
Bldg.**

**Be watching for more details
from the Food, Fun & Fellow-
ship Committee about bring-
ing your favorite food dish.**

Fall Fun and Upcoming Activities for Our Youth

By Leslie Albrecht, Director of Student Ministries

Our group helped out with the St. John's Fall Festival by providing spooky games in the Youth Building. We also had a trunk (an actual trunk) at Trunk or Treat.

In November we went to The Texas Renaissance Festival. We left on Saturday afternoon and got to spend the evening with our friends Matt, Janie, Christian & Geo from San Antonio at the Piney Shores Resort in Conroe. On Saturday night we enjoyed spaghetti and s'mores along with some game time.

Sunday morning we travelled to the Renaissance Festival where we were able to see first-hand the contribution Gutenberg made to enhance the printing press. Because of his using metal movable type, printing was much faster and less expensive. This eventually led to the Bible being more readily available to everyone, not just the wealthy.

We also watched jousting, heard different types of music, caught a couple of shows, watched blacksmith demonstrations. A few of us tried the turkey legs!

Looking Ahead:

- The youth will assist with the December 7 "Breakfast with Santa" event in the CLB (see story on page 1).
- Confirmation Class/Youth Christmas party - Time and place to be announced
- 2nd Annual New Year's Eve Lock-in - Tuesday, December 31; meet at the Youth Building @ 5:30pm. This year we will attend a Labyrinth Walk at All Saints Episcopal Church. Renovations are complete and their beautiful labyrinth is once again open. Afterwards, we will return to the church for an evening of fun and games as we ring in the new year!



Natalie Albrecht as Olaf with the youth's "trunk" of goodies. At right, a demonstration of the Gutenberg printing press at the Renaissance Festival.



Youth helping prep CLB decorations

Looking forward to the Advent season, some of the youth helped with a project for the 11:17 service. We had a lot of fun stripping dead leaves from these trees and spray painting them white. I've had a sneak-peek at Worship Leader Mike Mata's idea for these and you have to stop by the CLB and see them.



For all YOUTH grades 6th-12th

January 24-26th at Camp Zephyr

The "early bird" special is only \$115 before DEC. 16th

\$140 between DEC. 16th and JAN. 15th

*Final registration deadline is January 15th!



Mid-Winter is coming. I have to have everything in to the District office by Dec. 16 so I will need your registration forms by Dec. 10. We were blessed to receive a grant from our St. John's UMC Foundation to help with the cost of registering for this event. Parents, please let me know by Sunday, Dec. 8, if your youth is interested in participating in the January 24-26 event at Camp Zephyr so that I can determine how much of the cost can be offset by the grant.

Special Note to St. John's Community of Life

A letter from Pastor Wade and Finance Chair Darron Bergstrom was mailed to all St. John's households on November 21. It details the importance of church ministries offered during 2019 and the state of church finances. Your prayers and responses through special offerings and gifts will be sincerely appreciated.

HOW CAN EACH ONE OF US HELP?

1. If we are behind in our regular or pledged giving, please consider taking these last 40 days of 2019 to catch up or, if you find yourself able, to give sacrificially beyond what you have planned and consider going a second mile in your giving.
2. If we are able, please consider a special gift of gratitude during this Thanksgiving season.

St. John's United Methodist Men



Breakfast and Fellowship....every Wednesday morning, 6:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Many Thanks! The United Methodist Men sold 206 pies during the 2019 HOLIDAY PIE SALE and want to thank church members and friends in the community for their support and purchases. Proceeds will benefit many mission projects supported by UMM.

••• Also a special note of thanks to members David Harris and Mike Maxon for cleaning up the pumpkin patch and helping remove left-over pallets.



Bryan Thompson, Gary Schwartz, and David Harris, along with others, manned the distribution table in the Scout Hut on November 21.

At left: A flashback to the UMM's September **Pancake Supper**...Sam Windsor, Darron Bergstrom, Bill Harpine, and John Zimmerman helped fix food plates and Ivan Shaver collected tickets.



CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2019

- Sunday, Dec. 1: First Sunday in Advent worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Holy Communion; Thy Kingdom Come service, 7 pm
- Friday, Dec. 6: 9:45 a.m., Church Women United gathering, hosted by St. John's United Methodist Women.
- Saturday, Dec. 7: Breakfast with Santa, 9-11 a.m., Community Life Building
- Sunday, Dec. 8: Second Sunday in Advent worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Blood drive, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the front parking lot.
- Thursday, Dec. 12: W B Ray High School Choir performance of sacred and secular music, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary
- Thursday, Dec. 12: 7 p.m. Community Performance by the Ray High School Choir Concert in the Sanctuary; free admission
- Sunday, Dec. 15: "Bethlehem, the Nativity Story" Christmas Play, begins at 12:30 p.m. with brunch in the Community Life Building. Everyone invited!
- Sundays, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22: Third and Fourth Sundays in Advent worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE Services (see schedule on page 1)
- Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 24-26: church office closed
- Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m. worship services (Pastor KP Polk preaching)
- Tuesday, Dec. 31, and Wednesday, Jan. 1: New Year's Eve and New Year's Day (church office closed)

Update on Camp Sharigan Project

By Elaine Clanton-Harpine

Our last reading session this semester will be on Monday, Dec. 2. The children will be reading their newest pop-up books and reporting on books that they have been reading. The session will start at 4 p.m. for students. Parents and community are welcome to come and join the party and closing program at 5:30.

The reading clinic will return in January after the holidays, and we have spaces for new students in January. If you know of a child who needs help in reading, please contact Elaine Clanton-Harpine at 361-867-8040 or clantonharpine@hotmail.com

Sunday School Class Updates

Word to word Class

The Word to word Sunday School class continues the study of the Book of Hebrews, considered an epistle. We have found that Love is, first and foremost, expressed in the action of God to send Christ to die for our sins. Our study will continue throughout the upcoming holidays so we cordially invite anyone wishing to dig into the Bible deeper to join us. Come join us in Room 2 in the Administration Building from 10-11 a.m. No class on December 1! (Sherrie Johnson)

CCI Class

The CCI (Contemporary Christian Issues) Class will begin a four-week Advent Study on December 1 titled "Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience." Come join us in Room 1 in the Admin. Bldg. from 10:15 a.m.-11:05 a.m. (Chris Garcia)

Seekers Class

The Seekers Class began a 5-week study on November 10 based on the Christian-based movie, "The Overcomer." We welcome any and everyone to join the class which is comprised of people of all ages including married, single, and divorced. Contact Bruce Hamende at 361-548-8510 for more information about the Seekers.



THY KINGDOM COME Service Welcomes You!

You are invited to attend *Thy Kingdom Come* worship service every first Sunday at 7 pm in St. John's UMC Fellowship Hall.

Come out for some heavy worship as we celebrate together the message of grace and hope in Jesus Christ. This unique service hosted at St. John's includes passionate worship, scriptural sermons, communion of the body, and always a space for restoration. Make time this month to see what God is doing with *Thy Kingdom Come* at St. John's!

Please enter through the Parade Street entrance.

STATE OF THE CHURCH

	OCT 2019	2019 YTD
Budgeted Receipts (2019 Budget: \$542,738)	\$ 45,228.17	\$ 452,281.67
Pledges Made	\$ 32,440.67	\$ 324,406.67
Pledges Paid	\$ 26,804.00	\$ 310,912.18
Pledges + or (-)	(\$5,636.67)	(\$13,494.49)
Gifts Received	\$ 36,421.90	\$ 427,829.11

Thank you for supporting St. John's ministries with your tithes and offerings. St. John's members and guests may call the church bookkeeper at 991-4342 to discuss additional giving opportunities.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	NOV 2019	NOV 2018
9 a.m. (Traditional)	83	87
11:17 a.m. (Contemporary)	78	79
Sunday School	62	65
Visitors	19	12
<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i> (monthly, 1st Sunday, 7 pm)	23	15

Let's worship our Lord and Savior every week unless illness or travel prevents it. If you are absent because of illness or hospitalization, please ask a family member or friend to let the church know by calling 991-4342. Our pastors, staff, prayer warriors, and homebound team want to lift up your name in prayer and schedule a visit if you would like.

Blessings and prayers from St. John's UMC to you and your family and friends during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Care Ministry in Place To Help with Meals

St. John's has restarted its Care Ministry to coordinate schedules and recruit individuals to prepare or purchase occasional meals for church families who are sick, just home from the hospital, new moms, etc.

Mable Pippin, a member of the CCI Sunday School class, has stepped up to help get the ministry going. Several meals already have been provided.

Thanks to several church members who have already volunteered to assist. Some have indicated they will prepare the whole meal, while others would appreciate being part of a group to furnish individual items.

If you feel called to this care ministry, please contact the church office at 991-4342 or email Robin Swope at robin.sjmethodist@gmail.com so that you can get plugged in.



Saying Farewell....

Pastors Wade Lindstrom and KP Polk are pictured with John Strain, SPPRC chair, usher, and a member of the Traditional Worship Committee, as they bid him farewell on behalf of the congregation. John, a church member for about 10 years, has relocated to the Dallas area and will be missed. Best wishes, John.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Children: Preschool (3 yrs to Kinder)--Courtyard Classroom
1st and 2nd Grade: Upstairs Fellowship Hall; 3rd-5th Grades: Room 4 Upstairs

Youth Sunday School: 6th-12th Grades: Youth Building

Adult Sunday School:

CCI, Admin. Bldg., Room 1; College & Careers, Admin. Bldg., Room 3;
Couples in Christ, Admin. Bldg., Room 4; Friendship, Conference Room;
Seekers, Upstairs Fellowship Hall, Room 3; Word to word, Admin. Bldg.,
Room 2

St. John's United Methodist Church

Rev. Wade Lindstrom, Senior Pastor
(wade.sjmethodist@gmail.com)

Rev. Kenneth "KP" Polk, Associate Pastor
(kp.sjmethodist@gmail.com)

Leslie Albrecht, Director of Student Ministries

Barbara Benton, Bookkeeper

Kim Bryce, Traditional Music Director

Marcia Caravantes, Organist

Bryan Claunch, Sunday/Weekend Custodian

Adela Garcia, Children's Learning Center Director

Cathy McRorey, Receptionist

Hanna Patton-Elliott, Children's Director

Ernie Pena, Custodian

Sharon Staiger, Nursery Director (Attendant: Tonya Delk)

Robin Swope, Administrative Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Thursday;
9 a.m.-noon on Friday.

FOOD PANTRY, 9 a.m.-Noon, Wednesday and Thursday

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER: 361-991-4780

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church: 361-991-4342; FAX: 361-991-1840
E-mail Address: st.johnsumccc@gmail.com
Website: www.sjmethodist.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:17a.m. Contemporary Worship (Community Life Bldg.)
7:00 p.m. Thy Kingdom Come (first Sunday only)
(Fellowship Hall)

INFORMATION ABOUT STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes, a monthly publication of St. John's United Methodist Church, is emailed to members and guests as a PDF document and is published on the church website. Printed copies are also available at the church. Deadline for the JANUARY 2020 issue is Saturday, December 28.

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