



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

STEEPLE NOTES

NOVEMBER 2019

Consecration Sunday Provides Opportunity To Offer Gifts Toward Ministry in the Coming Year

This Sunday is Consecration Sunday, a day when St. John’s congregation gathers to pray, celebrate, and offer their gifts to support ministry in 2020. Pastor Wade Lindstrom will preach a sermon titled “Give All You Can,” the third of Methodism founder John Wesley’s tenets about money.

“This spiritual-growth-oriented process helps each of us to learn to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship,” said Darron Bergstrom, Finance Committee chair. “Rather than focusing on the needs of the church, we focus on the need of each giver to give as an act of spiritual development.”

Pledge cards will be handed out during worship to enable worshippers to consider their financial commitment and bring their card to the altar.

EARN ALL YOU CAN ... SAVE ALL YOU CAN ... GIVE ALL YOU CAN



Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2 am, Nov. 3

“Fall Back” reminds us to set our clocks one hour earlier before going to bed Saturday so we can be on time for worship! Don’t forget!

All Saints Sunday Is Day of Remembrance

All Saints Sunday is a time to remember the saints...those who have died in the faith in the past 12 months and who now represent “the great cloud of witnesses” identified in the book of Hebrews.

This Sunday, November 3, in both the 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m. worship services, the names of Martha George, Keith Wilson, Pat Steinocher, James W. Collins, Joe Murray Sassman, Virginia Scott, and Laverne Pearce Schilling will be lifted up.



Large white candles will be placed on the altar and will be lit as each name is called. Family members have been invited to be present for the service.

In addition, St. John’s members and guests will also have the opportunity to light votive candles for friends and loved ones they want to remember. This table of remembrance will be in the foyer.

Rev. Karen Horan To Preach November 10

The Rev. Karen Horan, lead pastor at Gruene United Methodist Church, will bring the message on Sunday, November 10. Pastor Wade will be absent as he is serving on the clergy team of the Walk to Emmaus Men’s Walk #2009 being held elsewhere in the city.

Rev. Horan helped lead the St. John’s UMC leadership retreat in January 2019.

Rev. Horan also serves as Executive Director of the Mission Vitality Center of the Rio Texas Conference.



Rev. Karen Horan

Deadline to order PIES from the United Methodist Men is this Sunday, Nov. 3. See Page 13 for details! Help support UMM mission projects with your order!



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

A group of senior adults has met weekly for many years at the church for a mid-week Bible study. Their current study is based on the book "How To Pray After You've Kicked the Dog" by Terry Teykl, Methodist pastor. Pictured (l-r) are Valda Jensen, Jamie Jarrett, Suzy Shepard (leader), Marilyn Henderson, Louise Wagner, Faye Wilkins, JoAnn Holland, and Karen Van Kirk. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

Coastal Bend District's Charge Conference

St. John's pastors and church members, along with Lay Leaders and Lay Servants, are cordially invited to attend the annual Coastal Bend District's Charge Conference and gathering on Saturday, November 9, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Grace United Methodist Church, 14521 Northwest Blvd. If questions, please contact Pastor KP.

"I Need Thee Every Hour" Is One of Pastor Wade's Favorite Hymns

(No. 397 in *The United Methodist Hymnal*)

"I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

I need thee every hour
Most gracious Lord
No tender voice like thine
Can peace afford.

Refrain:

*I need thee. oh I need thee
Every hour I need thee
Oh bless me now, my savior,
I come to thee*

I need thee every hour
Stay thou near by
Temptations lose their power
When thou art nigh. (*Refrain*)

I need thee very hour,
In joy or pain
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain. (*Refrain*)

I need thee every hour
Teach me thy will
And thy rich promises
In me fulfill. (*Refrain*)

I need thee every hour
Most Holy One
Oh make me thine indeed
Thou blessed son. (*Refrain*)

This hymn by Annie Sherwood Hawks (1835-1918) reflects the same general characteristics as those of other 19th-century women hymn writers. The women all employ first-person accounts that grow out a deep personal piety, resulting in a language of intimacy between the singer and the Savior.

A New York native, Annie Hawks displayed a gift for verse at the early age of 14, contributing poems on a regular basis to a variety of newspapers. Although she composed over 400 hymn texts, "I Need Thee Every Hour" is the only hymn of hers that is still sung today.

Following her marriage to Charles Hawks in 1859, much of Hawks' life centered on the domestic aspects of rearing three children. She was a member of Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Dr. Robert Lowry, a prominent writer of gospel songs, was her pastor. Lowry encouraged the gift that he saw in Hawks' poetry. (Lowry wrote the music for the hymn and added the refrain.)

Hawks wrote of an account of the genesis of the hymn: "One day as a young wife and mother of 37 years of age, I was busy with my regular household tasks during a bright June morning [in 1872]. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me — 'I Need Thee Every Hour.'"

The phrase "I need thee" is at the center of the intimacy expressed in this hymn. Its persistent repetition is a common device used by hymn writers of the era. With the refrain added by Lowry, Hawks' hymn pleads "I need thee" 20 times when all five stanzas are sung.

This close relationship with Christ stands in stark contrast to more objective hymns based, for example, on God's mighty acts and the theology of the Trinity. Perhaps the Christian life exists somewhere between these two poles of praising the all-powerful God and craving the intimacy of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Following the death of her husband, Hawks reflected on the power of her song: "I did not understand at first why this hymn had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace."



Pumpkin Patch & Fall Festival

By Hanna Patton-Elliott

The Fall Festival was a great success! Thank you to everyone that helped make it such a fun evening for our community! We had a large turnout, including many kids from our Children's Learning Center and Montclair School next door. The event ended up being free, and we took in a love offering and got 20% of the Kona Ice sales as well.

The schools that came to storytime at the Pumpkin Patch were Montclair, St. John's CLC, Spirit Life, CC MOPS, Barnes, Bethune Family Day School, and The School of Science and Technology.



A huge thank you to the storytime team that made this year's field trips so fun for the students.

Proceeds from the Pumpkin Patch will benefit Children's Ministries at our church.

St. John's Annual Charge Conference Held

St. John's UMC 2019 Charge Conference was held October 28 in the Conference Room, with Pastor Wade Lindstrom presiding and about 15 church members in attendance.

Included as part of the Charge Conference was the annual meeting of the St. John's Foundation. Following the Charge Conference was the quarterly meeting of the Church Council.

Minutes of the Charge Conference reflect the following business items:

- The Foundation's annual report and financial reports were presented by Sue Hoyt, president, and Dave Michaelsen, vice president/treasurer. Three new directors were unanimously elected to serve three-year terms (2020-2022) on the Foundation Board—Janet Berridge,

Jean Shivers, and Will Straub. One business item was approved to allow the Trustees to spend the unused balance (\$2,964.30) of a previously awarded foundation grant of \$4,014.30 that had been designated for fire system repairs in the Community Life Building.

The unused balance will be used for other needed church repairs identified by the Trustees.

- The Pastors' Compensation forms for 2020, including salary, health benefits, and accountable reimbursable plans, were presented by the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) and were approved as presented.

Written reports by both pastors were included in the Charge Conference packet of materials.

- The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee report was accepted to reflect the election of new church leaders who will serve on Finance, Trustees, SPPRC, and Nominations and Lay Leadership.

- Delegates to the 2020 Rio Texas Annual Conference will be Leslie Albrecht, Rick Darst, Julie Fomenko, Robyn Cobb, and Alexa Waldrop.

- Certified Lay Servants are Nancy Busby, Chris Davis Garcia, Judi Oestreich, and Glenda Sanders.

- Church membership information, baptisms, and first and second year read-outs were presented and accepted.

The Charge Conference packet of materials is available by request to Robin Swope in the church office.



Youth enjoyed conversation recently in the Prayer Garden. Please contact Leslie Albrecht, Student Ministries Director, to learn about Youth activities and how you can assist with special events or meals. 4 Corners will be held this Sunday from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm in the Youth Building.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!



Debra Patterson joined St. John's during the 11:17 service in October by transfer from a church of another denomination. She is retired and an "active granny." She resides at 718 W. Cornelia Circle, 78408; 510-3132. email: debpatter73@yahoo.com



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, Nov. 9, "Fall Work Day" 8 am - 1 pm

The St. John's Board of Trustees has scheduled a fall work day on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019. Robyn Cobb has identified general tasks that need attention, including courtyard cleanup, cleaning inside/outside glass panes, powerwashing, removing caterpillar cocoons, etc. Please bring your own cleaning materials, rakes, and other equipment.

Trustees Chair Bruce Hamende may have other repairs that could be addressed. If you can help on Saturday, November 9, please plan to participate.

If questions, please call Robyn or Bruce.

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, Bereavement/Care and Concern, 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 Pat Hein, sister of Connie Hahn, a gift to the Scholarship Fund from Chris Garcia.

In loving memory of Jim Collins, husband of Betty and father of Jimmy and Martha, an undesignated gift from Patricia Boyd.

In celebration of the Shepherd's Care outreach to our homebound and the Food Pantry, financial gifts from the CCI Sunday School Class.

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.

Outreach Team Invites Your Participation

Veterans Luncheon Planned

A luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, from 12 noon-1:30 p.m. for about 75 military veterans in the HUD/VASH Program.

The HUD/VASH program assists homeless veterans through specialized services and housing.

For the past five years, St. John's members have hosted this annual luncheon at the La Retama Central Library.

"We are very excited that this year's luncheon will be held at our church in the Community Life Building," said Connie Hahn, Outreach Committee member.

The luncheon menu, being coordinated by Gerri Cason, will include turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, sweet potatoes, rolls, and desserts. If you have a favorite dessert you would like to provide, let Gerri know.

The committee will need lots of help with setup, greeting, cooking, serving, and cleanup. If you would like to help make this event successful, please call Connie Hahn at 774-3954. Homemade desserts are especially needed.

Coat Drive for Homeless

Can you provide new or gently used coats or sweaters that will keep homeless men, women, and children warm when cold weather sets in?

The Outreach Committee will be setting up racks outside both worship areas to receive donations.

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, purses, etc. (Donation boxes are in the

CLB lobby). A workday at Wenholz with church members and the youth group is being planned for a Saturday in November to help with general outdoor cleanup and landscaping.

At the 11:17 Contemporary Service on October 27, Pastor KP requested special prayers for the women at Wenholz. A "Trust in the Lord" plaque belonging to Wenholz was passed through the congregation and prayed over. The plaque will then be returned to the Wenholz House.

TAMUCC Students: Includes efforts/ideas to engage students with SJUMC activities, mission projects, and college Sunday School class. What ideas do you have? Please share them with Outreach Committee chair Carolyn Martin.

Timon's Ministry: Includes the donation of bath towels, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, and other toiletries. Anyone wishing to help can place these items in donation boxes located in the CLB lobby.

Tactober Fest Enjoyed!

On October 27, a festive taco breakfast was served to all at 10:15 (between the two worships services). Everyone had their fill of delicious tacos, chips and salsa. There were enough leftovers to deliver 50 tacos to the teachers at Montclair Elementary School; a large breakfast casserole to the women at Wenholz House; and tacos to the homeless.

Remembering Bokenkamp Children Again This Christmas Season

By Rick Darst

It has been a tumultuous year at Bokenkamp Children's Home for refugee unaccompanied minors. Bokenkamp is located just a couple of blocks from St. John's UMC and has been a beneficiary of our Christian love and outreach over the years.

Pastor Wade, Pastor KP, and I met with Bokenkamp staff members including the new director earlier this week. We learned that the shelter has reduced the number of youngsters served from 110 children last year to about 40 this week and is scheduled to remain open.

The staff emphasized how important Christmas gifts are to the children. All have traveled long and perilous journeys to get to this safe place, but they are alone and without family. Gifts to them are reassurances that people they will never meet, love and care for them



through God's grace.

For the past several years, St. John's members have participated in efforts to make sure the children at Bokenkamp celebrate the Christmas season.

To facilitate this gift-giving ministry, Bokenkamp will have each child in their shelter identify three items they would like to receive and note their individual sizes for clothing or shoes.

Those tags, with the child's first name, will be available the first week or so in December, and church members and guests can choose to shop for one child. Spending around \$30 per child is recommended and ensures that all children are treated equally.

Gift-givers can team up with a friend or a small group to share the \$30 expense. More details will be shared soon with the congregation.

A small group from our church will deliver the gifts just before Christmas.

Camp Sharigan Making "Fabulous Progress"

By Elaine Clanton-Harpine

The children at Camp Sharigan are making fabulous progress at the reading clinic. One little boy went racing over to greet his parents at the end of the session to show them the new words he could spell.

Each day we're seeing improvement. No, we cannot erase reading failure in one or two months, but everyone is improving. The children use creative art therapy hands-on projects to encourage them to work on difficult tasks and to take the new words that they have "captured" home with them.

When the child encounters a word he/she does not know, cannot read, or cannot spell, the child captures the word and uses four steps to learn that new word. Then, they place the word on their project and take it home to practice. Afton the Ant, pictured at right, is just one example. Afton is covered with 30 new captured words.

In October, we did a special workshop on "Reading for Details" to sharpen comprehension skills. Even beginning students read a chapter book and worked on comprehension skills.

Each Thursday, the children end the session at 5:45 pm with a puppet play. The children practice reading out loud which builds reading fluency. Guests are always welcome for the puppet play.

We still need volunteers to help the children learn to read. Come and help us teach a child to read.



Afton the Ant is pictured above; at right, the puppet play.



Each day when I arrive at the reading clinic, I'm reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 19:14:

"Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Reading failure stops many children from being successful in life. When we stop reading failure and teach a child to read, we change that child's life forever. I truly believe that "if you teach a child to read, you can change the world."



Calling all blood donors!
Please plan to give blood on Sunday, December 1. The Coastal Bend bloodmobile will be in the front church parking lot from about 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. New donors always welcomed.
The next blood drive at St. John's will be Sunday, January 26, 2020.

SPECIAL THANKS!

** Special thanks to everyone who supported the fundraiser on October 20 for Melissa and Tyler Brownlee. Family members arranged for and prepared side dishes for the Enchilada plate, and several church members provided homemade desserts. A silent auction featuring several pieces of wood art crafted by Tyler also contributed to the fundraiser. Melissa hopes to return home soon from Houston to continue her recovery after receiving a liver transplant.

** A big hug and shouts of "thanks" to Willard Haskell, who used his wood-working skills to refinish the top part of the baptismal font in the Sanctuary. It looks brand new! Sincere thanks to Willard!

•• Sincere thanks to the St. John's Foundation from Robin Swope and Cathi McRorey for its special remembrance.

CHURCH CHATTER:



Decorating the Worship Areas--Sunday, Nov. 24

Come help your church family and members of the Traditional and Contemporary worship committees decorate and prepare the worship areas for Advent and Christmas.

Meet in the worship areas following the worship service and help set up and decorate the Chrismon tree, hang wreaths and banners, prepare the Advent Wreath, and more. Especially needed are youth and younger men who can climb ladders!



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

St. John's United Methodist Women will host the Dec. 6 final gathering of the year of Church Women United. Fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program and election of CWU officers for 2020. "Simply Christmas" is the meeting theme, and refreshments will be provided by St. John's UMW. Please join us!



Choir Performance of Sacred & Secular Music--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 Sanctuary at St. John's about 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.

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:

- Thursday, Nov. 7
- Wednesday, Nov. 20
- Wednesday, Dec. 4
- Wednesday, Dec. 18

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

"Breakfast in Bethlehem--the Nativity Story"

Saturday, December 14.....3 p.m.....Community Life Building



Save the date of Saturday, December 14, and be ready to gather up friends and family members of all ages to attend a 3 p.m. performance titled "Breakfast in Bethlehem--the Nativity Story." The performance will be staged in the Community Life Building.

The next rehearsal for the cast is Sunday, Nov. 10, at 12:30 p.m. in the CLB. For more information, please contact Elaine Clanton-Harpine who is directing the play. Additional cast members plus other help with staging may be needed.



UMW Circles Plan Nov. 12 "Eat-Out" To Hear Speaker, Elect Officers

St. John's United Methodist Women (including friends and spouses) will gather on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Nolan's Restaurant at Parkdale Plaza at 6:00 pm for dinner. No RSVP is required, but we would like an estimated head count called or texted to Carole Salsberry at 361-947-0419 or email cjsalsberry@gmail.com. Attendees will order and underwrite their own meals.

Diane Rumfield, Rio Texas Conference Treasurer, will present a brief program on "World Thank Offering: A Light for the World to See." The objective of the program is for us to learn how the collective power of the World Thank Offering is a beacon of light that reveals God's goodness in dark places. The scripture reference is Matthew 5:14-16.

If you would like to learn more about United Methodist Women, please contact president Glenda Sanders.

World Thank Offering

The World Thank Offering is one of 5 channels of Mission Giving. It allows for people to give out of God's abundance with spontaneous gifts of gratitude and thanks. These offerings are used to fund mission and advocacy nationally and internationally. An offering will be taken at the November 12 dinner for the World Thank Offering to benefit missions with at-risk women, children and youth. UMW members who have been collecting funds all year may bring their offerings to the dinner or leave them in the church office. UMW women all over the world raise about \$1 million dollars through the World Thank Offering each year.

Let us give thanks to God!

UMW Mission

Our mission focus this year is: Just Energy for All; Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline; A Living Wage for All; and End Maternal Mortality

2020 Officer Nominations

At the November 12 dinner meeting, St. John's UMW will elect and install 2020 officers. The slate of Nominations to be presented by Nancy Busby, chair of Committee on Nominations, includes:

President:	Carole Salsberry
Vice President:	Chris Garcia
Secretary:	Karen Van Kirk
Treasurer:	Glenda Sanders
Membership:	Sarah Carter
Social Action:	Robyn Cobb
Spiritual Growth:	Annie Hatfield
Reading Program:	Anita Harris
Nominations Chair:	Mary McAlister
Naomi Quest Chair:	Glenda Sanders
Naomi Quest Treasurer:	Carole Salsberry
Ruth Circle Chair:	Elaine Clanton-Harpine
Ruth Circle Treasurer:	Evalynn Bunk

Pastors Wade Lindstrom and K.P. Polk are also members of UMW!

UMW CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Naomi Quest and Ruth Circle will not meet in November and will instead attend the Nov. 12 UMW Eat-Out.

Friday, Nov. 1: Church Women United at Grace UMC, 11222 Leopard, "World Community Day" (carpool at 8:55 am from St. John's)

Monday, Nov. 4: 1 p.m., UMW Executive Team Meeting, Community Life Building.

Tuesday, Nov. 12: 6 p.m., Combined Meeting of Naomi Quest and Ruth Circles; Guest speaker Dianne Rumfield, Rio Texas UMW Conference Treasurer; "World Thank Offering: A Light for the World to See:"

Election of 2020 Officers; Year-end Treasurer's Report.

DECEMBER

SAVE THE DATE!

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"

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

St. John's UMC Hosts Coastal Bend District's UMW Annual Meeting

Special thanks to Robin Blue for leading the music at the annual Coastal Bend District UMW meeting on October 12. About 45 UMW members from several churches participated. Keynote speaker was Becky Harrell Wright, General Board of Global Ministries' retired missionary. Special thanks to St. John's UMW members for helping decorate the room and coordinating the meal. Pastor Wade greeted the group and also served Communion. The St. John's unit received a One Minute Unit award and a 5-Star Unit Award for 2019.

District UMW officers who will serve in 2020 include St. John's members Annie Hatfield and Carole Salsberry.



If You Are Registered to Vote, Please Cast Your Ballot in the Texas General Election on Tuesday, November 5.

Ten amendments to the Texas Constitution are on the ballot. You can visit the Secretary of State's office or check your favorite news feeds or sources for information on each of the amendments.

Early voting concludes this Friday, Nov. 1. More than 70 Vote Centers will be open throughout Nueces County on Election Day, and voters may vote at any location.

About the Upcoming November 5 Texas Election and How/Why Amendments Are Placed on the Ballot

(Non-partisan information furnished by the League of Women Voters of Texas which promotes citizen engagement in government and participation in the voting process.)

The current Texas Constitution was written in 1876 and has been amended nearly 500 times. Compare that to the United States Constitution, which has only 27 amendments.

Why does the Texas Constitution have so many amendments? Rules for how state and local governments should run are very specific in the Texas Constitution, unlike in the US Constitution. Therefore our state lawmakers often have little freedom to make changes to laws without amending the state constitution. The proposed changes must pass both houses of the Legislature by a T! vote, and then the voters must approve all changes.

All potential amendments that appear on your ballot must originate in the Legislature. The Texas Constitution cannot be amended by citizen-led ballot initiatives, referendums, or petitions, as in some other states.

Texans vote on a slate of amendments in the fall of odd-numbered years, following the spring Legislative session. Topics vary, and can cover a wide range of topics; some may affect only a few counties, others have a statewide impact.

Voting on amendments fulfills your right and duty as a Texas citizen. This approval or disapproval of changes to our Constitution gives you a direct voice in our state government.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the St. John's Foundation for their generous gift to the Food Pantry. We are working now on ordering our Holiday food items to give to our clients. We want to make both Thanksgiving and Christmas just a little brighter for all we assist...and this gift will go a long way in reaching our goal. Thank you again to the Foundation!
Your St. John's Food Pantry Volunteers
(Please see Food Pantry story at right)

Food Pantry News



Thank you! We so appreciate the generous food donations.

The Coastal Food Bank has added more food for us to order, like green beans, but we are still short on so many basic items such as cereal, corn, etc., that we like to give to our clients.

We have been serving right at 399 individuals and around 157 families each month for the last several months.

We are gearing up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and are hoping to get some special food to give out to our clients for those days.

We were excited that the Wesley Nurse Marcie Munoz at St. Luke's UMC and a representative from the health department came on Wednesday during pantry hours to help check our clients' blood pressure and sugar levels.

We are hopeful that this service can become an ongoing service we can offer our clients. We have so many who have health issues, including diabetes.

If you have a garden or farm and have extra fruit or produce you would like to share, we would love to have some. Give us a call at 991-4342.

Client vignettes: Angie was back this month; she works two jobs to take care of her kids and granddaughter and is so grateful for all the help she gets from us. We also helped Steve who is a veteran and returning to school and who takes the bus to come to the pantry.

For November/December, the Food Pantry needs the following foods:

Pasta of any kind (1 pound packages preferred)

Cereal (any kind)

Cans of whole kernel corn

For the holidays we could use the following:

Boxes of instant mashed potatoes

Boxes of stuffing

Boxes of Betty Crocker Pie Mix

Canisters/packages of fried onions

Of course, your special monetary donations help us make purchases as well.

Thanks again for all the love, prayers, and support you give your St. John's Food Pantry. You impact so many people in such a positive way.

NOVEMBER 2019 MEETINGS

Special Finance Meeting

Monday, November 4 - 6:30 pm -
Conference Room

Traditional Worship

Tuesday, November 5 - 6:30 pm - Conference
Room

Outreach

Thursday, November 14 - 6:30 pm -
Conference Room

Kitchen Team

Monday, November 18 - 2:00 pm -
Community Life Bldg

Finance

Monday, November 18 - 6:30 pm -
Conference Room

Trustees

Thursday, November 21 - 6:30 pm -
Conference Room

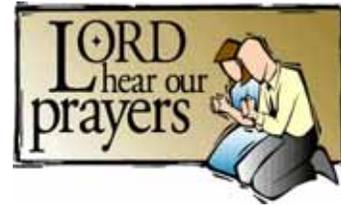
CLC Board

Monday, November 25 - 12 noon -
Conference Room

OUR PRAYER LIST

Hospital/Rehab: Melissa Brownlee, Arlene Kilsby

Grieving: Family of Virginia Scott, Family of Carole Breust, Family of Sharon White, Family of Rudy DeLeon, Family of Chris Anderson



Our Church	Earl G. Carter & Family	Frobrizzio Family	Krystal	Ivan Shaver
President Trump	Margo Chapman	Elizabeth Galaway	Charlotte Kunc	Lyneve Shaver
US Military	Christain	Romeo Garcia, Sr.	Randy L.	Kase Simpson
World Leadership	Marjorie Codney	Pam Glover	Marshall	Jenna Singleton
CC Metro Ministries	Collins Family	Guzman Family	Jeanne Mayes	Susan Skidmore
Roland & Geraldine Albrecht	Cobb Family	Shanghee Hall	Colin McGlinchy	Cissy Smith
Janie Alejandro	Laura Commons	Hamende Family	Ardelia Miller	Richard Strong
Audrey	Josh W. Cox	Charlene Hardy	Judi Oestreich	Betty Thompson
Phillip Balderas	Calvin Davidson	Hart Family	Roma Onwiler	Craig Thompson
Joe Barrera	Anne Compton	Charlie Higgenbotham	Chris Oxley	John E. Thompson
Cable Best	Josh W. Cox	Jim Hoover	Mike P.	Brad Tigner
Buff Betz	Mike Dailey	Ryan & Alex Hubbard	Kelly R.	Brandon & Sara Tucker
Patti Boggess	K. Davidson	Hydie Johnson	Dottie Ramella	Nancy Tyler
Brendyn	Tonya Delk	Jack Johnson	Joe Rodriguez	Louise Wagner
Melissa Brownlee	Doughty Family	Phyllis Jones	Lupe Rodriguez	Davris White
Tyler Brownee	Marlene Dreibelbis	Ann Jordan	Rilla Roots	William & Pat
Margo C.	Margaret Earle	Linda Jordan	Jesse Ruiz	Faye Wilkins
Gloria Caravantes	Bill Everett	Margaret K.	Kelly S.	Beverly Wilson
Jeff Caravantes	Nicki Fischer	Mimi Keen	Linda S.	Mary Lee Woodson
Marcia Caravantes	Judy Forbes	Uncle Keith	Janine Sanborn	Lane Zamora
		Arlene Kilsby	Fay Sassman	Roseann Zammiello
				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 or return someone to the prayer list. [Emergency messages to Pastor Wade---960-4021]

“Trunk or Treat” at the Church Parking Lot



Church member Connie Hahn took these photos as the church’s second annual “Trunk or Treat” got under way in the St. John’s parking lot early Halloween evening. Thanks to church members and friends who supported this outreach project.





Confirmation Classes Under Way for 14 Youth; Each Will Have Mentor

Fourteen youth in the St. John's UMC community are participating in the 2019-2020 Confirmation classes being conducted by Pastor Wade Lindstrom and Pastor KP Polk. Three meetings have been held to date, with discussion focused on Why Confirmation? B-I-B-L-E; Creation, Science, and Genesis; and We're Going Where? The Exodus.

The participants include Cameron Ainsworth, Grace Bergstrom, Palmer Blue, Kharis and Karley Boswell, Jackson Claunch, Levi Delk, Odin Elliott, Evan Hudson, Malia Schomaker, Landon and Devon Stockton, and Christian and Aidan Waldrop.

Upcoming Confirmation sessions are scheduled about every two weeks on Sundays from 3-5, with different topics introduced at each meeting, such as What's up with the Law?; John Wesley, Grace and Salvation; Methodists, Quadrilateral, and Rules; Gospels; Acts and the Church; Sacraments, Vows and Worship; and Why Confirmation?

Site visits to other houses of worship are planned in late March.

A Beach Party and Baptisms are planned on April 5, and Confirmation Sunday will be April 19, 2020.

Church members who have accepted invitations to serve as mentors include Geri Cason, Rawley Martin, Hollie Boehmer, Carrie Darst, Chris Garcia, Judi Edwards, John Edwards, Betty Thompson, Bryan Thompson, Frank Olevitch, and Mike Mata. Others may be added this week.

As mentors, they will support and nurture the student throughout the confirmation process, pray for each student daily, be ready and willing to listen to questions and concerns, participate in at least one service project or church activity with their mentee, share their personal faith journey, and serve as an example of an adult Christian with an honest and maturing faith.

"After the students complete the confirmation program," said Pastor Wade, "they will be confirmed in worship on April 19, 2020. Please be in prayer for them and encourage them whenever you can."

**Please be in prayer
for all of our
2019-2020
Confirmands**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Sandra Bransford	22	Dorothy Tullos
4	A.J. Heslep, Mike Martin	24	Bo Estabrook
10	Hannah Veit	24	Sylvia Ramsey
11	Fay Sassman	25	Dottie Ramella
12	Donna Cory, Mary Jane Fox, Becky Oliver, Justin Patton, Louise Wagner	26	Bill Moellendorf
15	Bill Herrmann	27	Odin Elliott
17	Leonora Jones	28	Wilson Calhoun
19	Ty Cobb	29	Diana Fusselman, Donna Hatcher
20	Nancy Busby		
20	Nathan Darst, Carolyn Martin		
21	Spencer Beard, Sandra Rodriguez		

If your name is missing from this month's birthday list or if you note any error in the listing, please call the church office, 991-4342.

CHURCH NURSERY OPEN EVERY SUNDAY

St. John's Nursery is located in the Community Life Building (CLB). Our professional nursery staff is available every Sunday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for newborns to Kindergarten. Thanks to Sharon and Roy Staiger, Tonya Delk, and all those who are involved in the Nursery program.



St. John's United Methodist Men

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

ANNUAL UMM PIE SALE UNDER WAY;

Please note: Deadline To Order Is This Sunday, Nov. 3

Help support our United Methodist Men's annual holiday PIE SALE. The 10-inch pies are \$20 each and the selection includes apple, pumpkin, cherry, pecan, French silk, butterfinger, peanut butter, and Key Lime. The Quatro Cheesecake (New York, Strawberry Swirl, Turtle, and Chocolate) is \$25. UMM members will be taking orders for these delicious desserts this Sunday before and after the morning worship services. Pies are expected to be delivered on Nov. 21-22.

Your support is sincerely appreciated and enables UMM to support various missions.



If questions about the Pie Sale, contact any UMM Officer: Bryan Thompson, President; Jim Falwell, Vice President; Darron Bergstrom, Treasurer, or Gary Schwartz, Secretary

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Bridge

Tuesday, November 12 & 26;
1 pm - AB Room 1

Mexican Train

Wednesday, November 13 & 27;
1 pm - AB Room 1

Chairsercise

Every Tuesday and Thursday at
10 a.m. in AB Room 1 (no class
on Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day)

Wednesday Bible Study

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

Coastal Bend Day of Giving -- November 12

St. John's UMC as well as church members and our St. John's Foundation have participated for several years in the Coastal Bend Day of Giving.

This year, the Coastal Bend Day of Giving is Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Donations to one or more of the dozens of non-profit agencies selected by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation are matched 100%, thus providing much needed funds to provide services to those living in our region.

The 24-hour online matching fundraising campaign offers donors a unique opportunity to make gifts to nonprofits in a seven-county service area.

You may donate to one or more of your favorite agencies.

For details on how to participate, access this website:
www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org



CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Sunday, Nov. 3: All Saints Day worship service with Holy Communion; Consecration Sunday; Thy Kingdom Come service, 7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 9: Trustees' Church Work Day, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 9: Coastal Bend District Charge Conference, 9:30 am, Grace UMC

Sunday, Nov. 10 and Nov. 17: Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 12: United Methodist Women "Eat-Out" at Nolan's, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24: Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; worship teams and volunteers will help decorate worship areas for Advent and Christmas

Thursday, Nov. 28: THANKSGIVING DAY; church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, for Thanksgiving.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday, December 1: First Sunday in Advent worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Holy Communion; Thy Kingdom Come service, 7 pm

Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday in Advent worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.

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

Saturday, Dec. 14: "Breakfast in Bethlehem" Christmas Play, 3 p.m., Community Life Building

Sundays, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22: Third and Fourth Sundays in Advent worship services, 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE Services (schedule to be announced)

Wednesday, Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY (church office closed)

Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m. worship services (Pastor KP Polk preaching)

Tuesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve (church office closed)



Pastor KP Polk helps acolytes Natalie Albrecht and Jackson Claunch prepare to enter the Sanctuary as Pastor Wade looks on. Special thanks to our acolytes who contribute to the worship service.

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. There is no other faith that teaches this! (Perspective, Aug. 23, 2019) 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. (Sherrie Johnson)

CCI Class

The CCI (Contemporary Christian Issues) Class has completed two back-to-back studies of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel. Stand-alone devotionals and conversation are planned in November. The class will begin an Advent Study on December 1. 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 has joined in with the youth and Pastor KP the past several weeks for the study "Reckless Love." The study concludes soon, and beginning November 10, the class will return to their classroom to begin a 5-week study 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, divorced, etc. 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.

NEW OPTION FOR CHURCH GIVING

.....TEXT TO GIVE:

You may text the amount you would like to give as your offering to St. John's UMC at: 361-541-6512. Click on the link sent to your phone and follow the instructions. If you are already registered, you may just text the amount. If questions, contact the church bookkeeper, Barbara Benton, at 991-4342.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	OCT 2019	OCT 2018
9 a.m. (Traditional)	77	89
11:17 a.m. (Contemporary)	63	64
Sunday School	67	95
Visitors	10	12
<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i> (monthly, 1st Sunday, 7 pm)	22	11

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 team, and homebound team want to lift up your name in prayer and schedule a visit if you would like.

STATE OF THE CHURCH

	SEPT 2019	2019 YTD
Budgeted Receipts (2019 Budget: \$542,738)	\$ 45,228.17	\$ 407,053.50
Pledges Made	\$ 32,440.67	\$ 291,966.00
Pledges Paid	\$ 30,941.00	\$ 284,108.18
Pledges + or (-)	(\$ 1,499.67)	(\$ 7,857.82)
Gifts Received	\$ 45,505.86	\$ 392,562.37
Apportionments Paid (Total 2019 apportionments: \$65,161)	\$4,590.49	\$ 36,298.15

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.

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 DECEMBER 2019 issue is Friday, November 22.

Editor: Chris Garcia -- home, 991-2784; cell, 244-4193
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