



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

# STEEPLE NOTES

JANUARY 2020



## PLAN TO ATTEND THE CHURCHWIDE SUPPER SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

There will be good food and fellowship on Sunday evening, January 5, as the St. John's community of faith and friends gather for a casual churchwide supper to celebrate the new year. The event begins at 5 p.m. in the Community Life Building. The Food, Fun, and Fellowship team will have tables set and furnish tea and lemonade. To ensure a variety of food, please consider bringing a dish based on the following:

Last name A-I: Meat or casserole; J-R, Vegetable or Salad; and S-Z, Dessert.

## New Sermon Series Begins on Epiphany Sunday, January 5

Did you ever want a "do over?" God has a history of providing "do overs"...thousands of years worth, in fact. This year, maybe you need to consider one? Pastors KP Polk and Wade Lindstrom will begin a new sermon series titled "Do Over?" on Sunday, January 5, 2020. The series will run several Sundays.

Join fellow church members and guests in one of the three worship services at 9 a.m. (traditional), 11:17 a.m. (contemporary), or 7 p.m. (Thy Kingdom Come). Holy Communion also will be served.

January 5 is also the day on which the church celebrates Epiphany, one of the oldest Christian feasts observed since the end of the 2nd Century. January 5 marks 12 days after Christmas and in many churches, including St. John's UMC, the Magi (wise men) are placed in the Nativity.



**"Bethlehem--The Nativity Story,"** performed December 15 in the Community Life Building, featured a cast of more than 20. See story and photos on Page 3.

## McNair Family Leaves Legacy Gift to Foundation

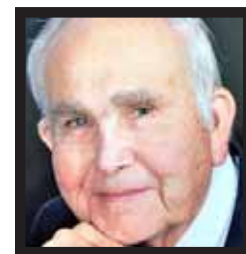
By Sue Hoyt, President

Recently Bill McNair's son Mark and his grandson Grant Glenewinkel gifted the St. John's Foundation with a \$25,000 legacy gift in memory of Bill because of his special relationship with St. John's United Methodist Church. The gift has already been deposited in the Foundation account at Frost Bank to begin earning funds for future use. Since the gift was without restrictions or requests, it is being added to the Undesignated Fund which is marked for Church Needs.

A formal thank you letter has been mailed to The McNair Family for this wonderful gift on behalf of the Directors of the Foundation. Bill's memory will live on through this gift and meet many needs of the Church in the years to come.

Bill McNair and his wife Joy were members of St. John's for almost 60 years. They lived a block from the church and were active in all facets of church life including United Methodist Men and Scouting. Bill died on November 2, 2019, and Joy passed away in 2018.

Foundation Directors are always available to discuss gifts from members, and a brochure detailing the Foundation is available in various places around the church campus. Please contact Sue Hoyt at 991-7785 or suehoyt@aol.com for further information.



Bill McNair

## Special Thanks for Supporting the Bokenkamp Christmas Project

*By Rick and Carrie Darst*

This year St. John's was asked to help 52 children, ages 12 to 17, at Bokenkamp Children's Shelter. These children are unaccompanied refugees seeking asylum in our country. Many church members participated, supplying toys, clothing and shoes, and other gifts for each child. Both our pastors contributed their time and enthusiasm. We should be proud of this service we have done in the name of Jesus knowing this Christmas might be the best any of these children have ever known. Thanks to everyone who participated!

## Leadership Training Offered by the Coastal Bend District

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 5-7 p.m. PPRC/SPRC Training in the District Office, 3510 Gollihar. (designed for clergy and PPRC/SPRC members)

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 24-26, Midwinter 2020 at Camp Zephyr for junior high/senior high students.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 4-6 p.m., PPR/SPRC Training, FUMC, Three Rivers; limited to 15-20

Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., District Professionals' Meeting, Karnes City UMC; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sat. March 7, Lay Servant Classes, basic and advanced (God's Mission, Our Journey); 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; go online to the Coastal Bend District website to register; \$25 per person, includes study book. Basic class titled "Learning and Leading." Advanced Class, "A Mission Journey." For details, call 852-8268

April 17-19, Women's Retreat, for lay and clergy women, at First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi; Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson. Henderson is from Auburn Seminary, a multifaith leadership development and research institute that equips bold and resilient leaders of faith and moral courage to build communities, bridge divides, pursue justice, and heal the world. Register and pay: <https://coastalbendumc.org/district-womens-retreat.html>.

The first 25 to sign up and pay their registration will receive a gift when they attend.

## REMI NDERS

### "Undecorating" Sanctuary This Sunday, January 5

Members of the Traditional Worship Committee will be joined by Youth and church friends in the Sanctuary about 10:15 a.m. to "undecorate." We'll be taking down the window wreaths, packing up the Nativity, changing wall banners, removing and storing all the Chrismons and bows, and boxing up the Chrismon tree. If you have time to help for an hour or so, please join us!

### Budget Meeting on Jan. 11

An important meeting has been called on Saturday, January 11, to discuss church finances and the 2020 budget.

### Church Office Closed Jan. 20

St. John's UMC church office will be are closed on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### \*\*\*\*\* Pumpkin Patch Update

Thanks to all the church volunteers who manned the 2019 Pumpkin Patch and to all our neighbors and community friends, near and far, who purchased one or more pumpkins during the Fall and Halloween season. The Pumpkin Patch had gross sales of about \$20,000, and St. John's will retain a portion of that amount, with the remainder being returned to an Indian Reservation in the Southwest that furnished the truckload.

# Christmas Play Was Great Success



## “Bethlehem--the Nativity Story”

The drama team debuted a new Christmas play on December 15 in the Community Life Building. There were 82 people in attendance. The tables were set for lunch, ready and waiting immediately following worship. Thanks to Suzy Bergstrom for the beautiful Nativity focused centerpieces that graced each table. Suzy and Darron Bergstrom along with their team of helpers served lunch to all attendees.

The cast of 20 ranged in age from preschool children to senior adults. The play, *Bethlehem: The Nativity Story*, was set in biblical time and focused on two inn keepers. The children and youth took the lead on this play and worked hard.

One inn was a fancy caravansary on the trade route with the inn keeper and his family played by Wyatt Hernandez, Mariah Delk, Isabelle Garcia, and Tonya Delk catering to the rich camel caravans. Bill Harpine announced the arrival of the first caravan. The other, much smaller inn, had only an upper room and cave out back for the animals but took in anyone in need of shelter, even a family with six children.

The second inn keepers were played by Arlo Patton-Elliott, Grace Bergstrom, and Kylee Baxter. The family and six children were played by Bill Harpine, Alexa Waldrop, Emery Cobb, Kieren Cobb, Reagan Waldrop, Abel Patton-Elliott, Xander Nguyen, and Odin Patton-Elliott. Naturally, Mary and Joseph, played by Robyn Cobb and Bruce Hamende, ended up staying in the cave with the animals. After the arrival of the shepherds (Isabelle Garcia and Reagan Waldrop), the Magi took the stage to sing about their gifts to the Christ child. Benny Cason, Hanna Patton-Elliott, Abel Patton-Elliott, and Rev. KP Polk performed as the Magi.

Music was also provided throughout the play by Hanna Patton-Elliott, Mariah Delk, Kylee Baxter, and Hector Hernandez. Michael Mata provided instrumental accompaniment. Scott Boehmer and Levi Delk provided technical assistance with lights and sound.

Elaine Clanton Harpine, director, said the play would not have been possible without the many long hours of rehearsal by all cast members. She thanked parents who rearranged their schedules and helped their children and youth learn their lines and offered a special thank you to the musicians, tech crew, church office staff, those who helped set up the room, and cast members who helped set up and take down the stage.



Special thanks to all in attendance for your continued support of our drama ministry. The love offering of \$190 will be used to build a Bethlehem backdrop for next year's Christmas play. Thank you for your generosity.



# Elected Lay Leadership for 2020-2022

The following individuals were elected at the St. John's UMC Charge Conference on October 29, 2019:

Trustees	2020	2021	2022
	Robyn Cobb (Secretary) David Ocker Becky Thurston (Treasurer)	Robert Garza Bruce Hamende Jack Pace	Leslie Albrecht Ashley Hernandez (Pending)
Finance	2020	2021	2022
	Jack Johnson Darron Bergstrom (Chair)	Ron Waldrop Hector Hernandez Danna Sharpe	(Pending) (Pending)
SPPRC	2020	2021	2022
	Michael Shaffer Becky Thurston Darlene Duncan (Chair)	Janice Cagle Hollie Boehmer	Sheila Campbell John Edwards Bruce Francis
<i>(Lay Leader Chris Garcia serves as an ex-officio member)</i>			
Lay Leadership/ Nominations	2020	2021	2022
	Leslie Albrecht Bruce Hamende Suzy Shepard Pastor Wade Lindstrom (Chair)	Cathi Garza Marianne Robert John Thurston	Glenda Sanders Louise Wagner (Pending)
<i>(Lay Leader Chris Garcia serves as an ex-officio member)</i>			
St. John's Foundation	2020	2021	2022
	Dave Michaelsen Chris Davis Garcia Sue Hoyt, Pres.	Darron Bergstrom Connie Hahn Sherrie Johnson	Janet Berridge Jean Shivers Will Straub
<i>(Church Council Chair, Trustees Chair, and Finance Chair all serve as ex-officio members)</i>			
<p><b>St. John's UMC Delegates to the 2020 Annual Conference:</b> Leslie Albrecht, Rick Darst, Julie Fomenko, Robyn Cobb, Alexa Waldrop; Alternates: Connie Hahn, Malia Schomaker</p>			

## Attention: Church Council Members

Please plan to attend the Church Council's first meeting of 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 27, in the Conference Room. You will receive more information by email.

## Members of the 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

<p>Council Chair: Bryan Thompson                  Secretary: Robin Swope                  Church Treasurer: Becky Thurston                  Pastors: Rev. Wade Lindstrom, Senior Pastor;                            Rev. KP Polk, Associate Pastor                  Lay Leader: Chris Davis Garcia (may serve as ex-officio member of all committees)                  Lay Members to Annual Conference: Leslie Albrecht, Robyn Cobb, Rick Darst, Julie Fomenko, Alexa Waldrop;                            Alternates: Connie Hahn, Malia Schomaker                  Finance Chair: Darron Bergstrom                  SPPRC Chair: Darlene Duncan                  Trustees Chair: (2020 to be elected by Trustees)                  Finance Secretary: Barbara Benton                  Youth Representative: Jackson Claunch                  Director of Student Ministries: Leslie Albrecht                  Director of Children's Ministries: Hanna Patton-Elliott</p>	<p>United Methodist Men: Jim Falwell                  United Methodist Women: Carole Salsberry                  Traditional Worship Chair (9 am): Leslie Albrecht                  Contemporary Worship Chair (11:17 am) Chair: Benny Cason                  Outreach Chair: Carolyn Martin                  Children's Learning Center (CLC) Chair: Becky Thurston                  Foundation President: Sue Hoyt                  Communications Chair: Chris Davis Garcia                  Fellowship Chair: Evalynn Bunk                  Scholarship Chair: Marianne Robert                  Bereavement Chair: Chris Davis Garcia                  Kitchen Chair: Evalynn Bunk                  Director of Children's Learning Center: Adela Garcia</p> <p>At-Large Member of Council: Marianne Robert                  Honorary Members of the Council: Evalynn Bunk, Dorothy Tullos, Jo Anne Wilshusen, Beverly Wilson</p>
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## Breakfast with Santa

Santa's Market netted \$310? for the church budget.



## Children's Sunday School--Advent Focus



Children's Sunday School Advent fun... After learning about when the angel visited Mary, children made angel snacks. Thanks to Connie Hahn for furnishing her delicious homebaked cookies.



## COMMUNITY THANK-YOU NOTES FROM "DAY OF GIVING"

From Sherry Bowers of Mission of Mercy: "I just wanted to say thank you again to St. John's for your generous gift on the Day of Giving. Your gift will go a long way in helping us continue to provide free programs, services, classes, and clinics to our medical patients who have no where else to turn. So, THANK YOU! You have made a real difference in the lives of the patients we serve."

From the Salvation Army: "We want to express our extreme gratitude for your generous donation to the Salvation Army on the Day of Giving. Due to your support, more men, women, children, and veterans will be able to avoid living on the streets and instead will find permanent homes. Thank you for helping us do the most good!"

# Christmas Eve Services



Four Christmas Eve worship services were held on December 24, 2019. Pastors Wade Lindstrom and KP Polk were assisted by ushers, greeters, and communion stewards. Special thanks to both worship teams who helped coordinate the services.

**Attendance:**

3 p.m. Family Service, 41  
5 p.m. Traditional, 153  
7 p.m. Contemporary, 100  
10 p.m., Traditional, 69



## Ongoing Outreach Activities

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.

### THANK YOU---

A note was received from Patty Habeeb, Cheryl and Mary Beth, thanking the St. John's UMC Bereavement Team "and all who helped with the beautiful reception honoring Patty's husband William. Your time and effort were greatly appreciated."



## United Methodist Women Legislative Event 2020

By Carole Salsberry, Corpus Christi District UMW  
Social Action Coordinator & St. John's UMW president

Save the Date for the 2020 United Methodist Women's Legislative Event, scheduled January, 26-28, 2020, in Austin. You may register online at <https://texasimpact.org/umw2020central/> or contact Terry Schoenert, Registrar at [terry.schoenert@gmail.com](mailto:terry.schoenert@gmail.com) or call (210) 601-2800 / (210) 479-5911

The Texas UMW Legislative Event is a three-day annual conference in Austin, TX. There will be speakers, workshops, panels, and breakout sessions about public policy issues, faith and social justice, and how to meet your elected officials.

It has been more than 30 years since a small group of faithful women from across Texas came together to launch a new project: where UMWs could learn about legislative issues related to United Methodist Social Principles and the priorities of United Methodist Women.

Now, hundreds of UMWs gather annually for briefings on current public policy issues and to learn about ways to engage their local communities in social justice work.

UMW Mission Initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women with leadership skills
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth and flexibility
- Working for justice through service and advocacy

For more information, send an email to [engagement@texasimpact.org](mailto:engagement@texasimpact.org).

A limited number of partial scholarships are available for women ages 15-35. To carpool, contact Carole Salsberry.

# United Methodist Women-- Active for More Than 150 Years!

For over 150 years, United Methodist Women have been active in missions with Women, Children and Youth. Each year we engage in specific issues which are all intertwined, linking spiritual growth, mission education and outreach opportunities, Bible study, prayer, service, and advocacy for justice in our worship, community, and mission work.

**Priority issues for 2020** (based on Social Principles, Book of Discipline, UMC) include:

- Economic Inequality – Adopt legislation in states/localities that builds the base for a living wage
- Climate Justice – Call for sound, practical and consistent stewardship of the earth
- Criminalization of Communities of Color – Urge effective systems for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole
- Maternal and Child Health – Decrease maternal mortality; develop a network of women's health advocates for access to health care and education

**The 2020 St. John's UMW Officers are:**

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

Our small group meetings are informal with relaxed and casual fellowship, refreshments, prayer, sharing of joys and concerns, scripture, experiencing friendship, diversity, growth in spiritual experiences, and development of leadership skills! Both circles meet in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ruth Circle** meets the 2nd Tuesday at 9:45 am. Contact Elaine Clanton-Harpine, 361-867-8040 or email [clantonharpine@hotmail.com](mailto:clantonharpine@hotmail.com)

**Naomi Quest Circle** meets the 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Contact Glenda Sanders, 361-946-9508 (text or call) or email [sanders.glenda@att.net](mailto:sanders.glenda@att.net)

See more UMW news on Page 8

## UMW CALENDAR January-March 2020

### Upcoming Dates to Save!

#### **TBA UMW Executive Team Meetings**

Wednesday, Jan. 8

**Naomi Quest Circle** - 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall; "Women Expanding the Table of Inclusion" by Carole Salsberry

Tuesday, Jan. 14

**Ruth Circle** - 9:30 am Christmas Brunch at the home of Elaine Clanton-Harpine, 15510 Dyna.

Jan 26-28: **UMW Legislative Event** - Austin

Friday, Feb. 7: **Church Women United**; Grace United Methodist Church (Carpool 9:00 am) "Presenting Israel" by Associate Pastor Rebekah Rochte

Tuesday, Feb. 11: **Ruth Circle** - 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 12 :  
**Naomi Quest Circle** - 6 pm in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 4: **Styles for Mission Luncheon**, 11:30 am FUMC (more details to come)

**TBA Call to Prayer and Self Denial Service at St. John's UMC**, "We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities." Coordinated by Annie Hatfield, Spiritual Growth

Friday, March 6:

**Church Women United** – 9:30 am at Kelsey Memorial UMC; "World Day of Prayer"

Tuesday, March 10: 9:45 a.m.,  
**Ruth Circle** meeting

Wednesday, March 11: 6 p.m.,  
**Naomi Quest** meeting



## St. John's UMW Members Serving on Church Women United Board

Eleven local churches, including St. John's UMC, were represented at the final meeting of the year of Church Women United on December 6, 2019. The meeting was held at St. John's, and St. John's UMW members provided a lovely breakfast and coffee for the group. The Silent Auction raised \$180 with 1/2 of that gifted to the St. John's Food Pantry.

Two St. John's members--Carole Salsberry and Glenda Sanders--will serve on the CWU 2020 board, Carole as Vice President and Communications and Glenda as Immediate Past President.

Other 2020 officers include Estella Smithwick, St. Cyril & Methodius, President; Frances Garza, Kelsey Memorial UMC, Treasurer; Rosie Garcia, St. Philip the Apostle, Secretary; and Hope N. Garza, Kelsey Memorial, District Coordinator.

Church Women United made the following end-of-year disbursements: Least Coin Offering, \$431.53; World Day of Prayer, \$147; World Community Day, \$50; Timon's Ministry, \$500; St. John's Food Pantry, \$90; and Neighborhood Center inkind diapers, \$300.

The next meeting of Church Women United will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday, February 7, at Grace UMC located at 14521 Northwest Blvd.



(At right): Carole Salsberry (dark hat) helps distribute materials at the CWU meeting; new president Estella Smithwick poses with Glenda Sanders, immediate past president.

Ruth Circle will enjoy a Christmas Brunch on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Elaine Clanton-Harpine. For information, please call Elaine at 361-867-8040.



# SNAPSHOTS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH



Soprano Madeleine Bryce sang "O Holy Night" at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Her dad Kim Bryce was honored earlier in the month with a birthday cake from Sanctuary choir members.



Pastor Wade Lindstrom preached on December 8.



Judi Edwards, chair of the Shepherding Care team, invites volunteers to help deliver special holiday gift bags to St. John's homebound members.

# Food Pantry News



Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are beginning a new year. We want to thank you all for your generosity and help. Your food pantry is such a wonderful ministry to the community and the clients we serve are so very grateful for the assistance.

Last year we assisted 4,645 individuals represented in 1,548 households. That is a lot of hungry people and families.

We helped people like Georgina who is a college student and needs a boost from time to time and Edward, a single parent who has an autistic son and four other children and has a hard time making ends meet. We also help people like Alicia, who had surgery and a pacemaker put in, but is still struggling with health issues.

In the past year we have been happy to meet Lisa Pantoja, who is a Community Health Worker with the Methodist Healthcare Ministries. Lisa helps people find the resources they may need from doctors, eye glasses, diapers, rental assistance, or other services. She even helped several clients who are grandparents raising their grandkids by finding them agencies and programs that can help them.

We are also pleased to have Marcy Munoz, a Wesley Nurse at St. Luke's UMC, visit us once or twice a month with a healthcare professional with the city health department.

They have been offering blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks since November, and we have plans for them to continue visiting St. John's this year. In addition, we have been blessed to have Alma, an HEB pharmacist, who has come several times as well to give free flu shots. With insurance approval she also has the shingles vaccine, pneumonia shot, tetanus, and more.

**DATES FOR HEALTH CHECKS: The Health Department, Wesley Nurse, and Pharmacist will be at St. John's doing blood pressure/A1C checks and giving flu shots on Wednesday, Jan. 15, and Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. Open to everyone!**

Can you furnish items for the food pantry? We need:

- \* 1 pound packages of any type of pasta/spaghetti
- \* Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
- \* 1 pound jars of peanut butter
- \* Boxes of cereal (toasted oats, rice krispies, etc)

Thank you again for supporting your St. John's Food Pantry!

# St. John's UMC PRAYER LIST



## Grieving: Family of John Zimmerman, Family of Gloria Caravantes

Our Church	John W. Crumpler	Charlene Hardy	<b>Tom Niskala</b>	Ivan Shaver
President Trump	Mike Dailey	Alicia Hernandez	Judi Oestreich	Lyneve Shaver
US Military	K. Davidson	Michael Jinnette	Roma Onwiler	Kase Simpson
World Leadership	Patricia Davis	Hydie Johnson	Chris Oxley	Jenna Singleton
CC Metro Ministries	Daryl Delk	Jack Johnson	Mike P.	Linda Skidmore
Edith Balderas	Marlene Dreibelbis	Phyllis Jones	<b>Dolores Pace</b>	Susan Skidmore
Phillip Balderas	Margaret Earle	Ann Jordan	<b>John &amp; Mary Polk</b>	Richard Strong
Joe Barerra	Finzel Family	Linda Jordan	<b>Kade Polk</b>	Malvin Thomas
Cable Best	Nicki Fischer	Mimi Keen	Kelly R.	Betty Thompson
Buff Betz	Judy Forbes	Charlotte Kunc	Dottie Ramella	Brad Tigner
Melissa Brownlee	Chase Francis	Randy L.	Lupe Rodriguez	Dorothy Tullos
Tyler Brownlee	Sheila Galbreath	Tommy Lewis	Rilla Roots	Davris White
Jennifer Brye	Elizabeth Gallaway	Brenda Mathews	Jesse Ruiz	William & Pat
Margo C.	Adela Garcia	Britany Mathews	Kelly S.	Faye Wilkins
Jeff Caravantes	Romeo Garcia, Sr.	Jeanne Mayes	Linda S.	Beverly Wilson
Marcia Caravantes	Cathi Garza	Colin McGlinchy	Sandy	Mary Lee Woodson
Margo Chapman	Robert Garza	Laura Mosley	Fay Sassman	Roseann Zammiello
Collins Family	<b>Janie Glasson</b>	Rasheedah Mosley	Anita Schwein	Zella
<b>Stefan Collins</b>	Mike Glover			Zimmerman Family
Holly Corey	Pam Glover			
Josh W. Cox	Hamende Family			

***Boldface print indicates new name added.** 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]*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Margaret Crumpler, Chris Staiger	15 Kyla Beard, Robin Blue, Madison Phillips, Daniel Lindstrom
2 Jake Patton	17 Eric Schwartz
6 Johnny T. Davis	19 Cindy McCormick
8 Harold Onwiler, Joyce Zimmerman	21 Margaret Earle
9 Sarah Carter, John Edwards	22 Pam Glover, Ashley Steehler
10 John Thurston	27 Esmeralda Juarez
11 Alexis Nisbet	28 Bruce Francis, Mable Pippin, William Straub
12 Kara Hahn, Patrick Taber	29 Judith Edwards
13 Logan Robinson	30 David Shaffer
14 Brenda Glover, Austin Luker, Glenda Sanders	31 Elene Johnson

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

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

### BRIDGE

Tuesday, January 7 & 21 @ 1:00 pm in AB Room 1

### MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Wednesday, January 8 & 22 @ 1:00 pm in AB Room 1

### CHAIRSERVICES

Every Tuesday and Thursday @ 10 am in AB Room 1

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m., Conference Room; call Suzy Shepard for study title, 549-4336

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

By Leslie Albrecht, Director of Student Ministries

December gave us an opportunity to step outside of our usual routine and to participate in a number of activities in both our church and extended communities.

Breakfast with Santa was a great experience. It was great to see so many happy boys and girls...and the pancakes were delicious as always.

One of our own, Malia Schomaker, and her mom Stefani performed in the Harbor Playhouse production of "A Christmas Carol." Pastor Wade joined us for this outing and the show was fabulous.

We had our Christmas party at the parsonage and it was great to have some of our confirmands join us. Thanks to Pastor Wade for hosting us and to everyone who came to join us.

On December 29, we had an impromptu gathering at The American Bank Center for ice skating. A few of us had never been on the ice before and a couple of us were really good. All in all, it was a fun time and we had no serious falls.

We had our 2nd annual New Year's Eve lock-in. We began by going to All Saints' Episcopal Church for the re-dedication and opening of their gorgeous labyrinth. There was time for anyone who wanted to walk the labyrinth to do so. When we returned to the youth building there was a hot chocolate bar, popcorn, snacks, Nerf wars, movies, and sparkling apple juice and sparklers at midnight. There is already discussion about next year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 5 - "undocking" the halls (Sanctuary) during Sunday School and 4 Corners

Churchwide potluck supper in the CLB @ 5 pm

January 11 - The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival @ First Christian Church (details to follow)

January 24-26 - Mid-Winter Retreat @ Camp Zephyr (there will be no Sunday School or 4 Corners on the 26th)

Sunday School: 10:15-11:10 in the Youth Building on Sunday mornings

4 Corners: 12:30-2:pm in the Youth Building on Sunday afternoons

Confirmation Con Queso: 3-5 p.m. @ Jason's Deli on Airline on Sundays, January 12 & January 26; mentors are invited to attend the January 12 class.



Photo captions, above and clockwise: Posing with Stefani and Malia Schomaker at the Harbor Playhouse; Pastor Wade with Stefani and Malia; Leslie's selfie with the group as they waited for "A Christmas Carol" to start; the ice skating venue at the American Bank Plaza... "we all made it out to the center of the ice and Becca met us there," said Leslie.





The Seekers Class had a great turnout at its annual Christmas gathering recently. Can you name everyone in the photo? If not, check out the Seekers Sunday School class on Sunday mornings!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

### Children:

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

### Youth Sunday School:

6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> 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

START THE NEW YEAR BY ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL! You will be warmly welcomed!

## CHURCH CHATTER

From Robin Swope, administrative assistant:

Beginning in January, the church office will no longer mail out reminder cards for upcoming meetings. Emails will be sent out a week before each meeting. If your email address has changed recently, please let Robin know.

From Marianne Robert, Scholarship Committee:

A reminder to church members that it is never too early to consider a donation to our St. John's scholarship fund! St. John's has a long tradition of presenting scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to continue their post-secondary education. It can be in any form: like honoring a loved one who has passed (as a memorial gift), or as a donation honoring someone at our church who is very dedicated to SJUMC in some way!

From Chris Garcia, Lay Leader:

Special thanks to the W. B. Ray High School choir, directed by Kim Bryce, for the beautiful sacred and secular music provided on Thursday, Dec. 12, in the Sanctuary. Much appreciation to the United Methodist Men and the Traditional Worship Committee for providing a meal for the more than 70 choir members following the concert. The students loved the meal and fellowship.

Thanks to Elaine Clanton Harpine for leading the special 9 a.m. worship service on December 27, focusing on what the Chrismos signify and singing beautiful hymns.

## LENT: JOURNEY TO CALVARY

### LOOKING AHEAD

St. John's Traditional and Contemporary worship teams thank you for your support of the Advent and Christmas worship services and activities and invite you now to focus on the Season of Lent and the journey to Calvary...Golgotha...the Cross.

Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday observance and ends 40 days later (not including Sundays) with Easter Sunday.

Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday  
 Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday  
 Thursday, April 9, Maundy Thursday  
 Friday, April 10, Good Friday  
 Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday

# St. John's United Methodist Men



Special thanks to Bryan Thompson for serving as UMM president for the past two years.

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

Because of this year's holiday dates, UMM did not meet for breakfast on December 25 or January 1. Members will gather for their next breakfast meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Everyone is invited.

Installation of officers will be on Thursday, January 9, at Nolan's Restaurant. Officers for 2020 will be:

President - Jim Falwell  
Vice President - Jack Pace  
Treasurer - Darron Bergstrom  
Secretary - Gary Schwartz

## Poinsettias Placed on the Altar

### GIVEN BY

Darlene Duncan  
John & Judi Edwards

Chris Garcia

Bill & Diana Shaffer  
Jean Shivers  
Louise Wagner

### GIVEN BY

Jeff and Robin Blue  
Suzy Shepard

### GIVEN BY

Hollie Boehmer  
Betty Collins

Darlene Duncan  
Bruce and Debra Francis  
The Haaker Family

Grant & Connie Haralson

Dr. Jerry and Betty Jean Harrison  
Valda Jensen  
Bill & Diana Shaffer  
The Steinocher Family  
Patrick Taber  
Donna Vickery

### IN CELEBRATION OF:

My children and grandchildren  
Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren  
36 years of Sunday School lessons with the CCI Class and class members' faithfulness  
Our son John's January wedding  
St. John's UMC  
The Season

### IN HONOR OF:

Our Children, Mary-Elizabeth and Palmer  
Marcia Caravantes and Louise Wagner

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My mother, Kouida Fowler  
Husband, James W. Collins, and sister, Patricia Jarman  
E. L. Duncan, Jr.  
Loved Ones  
Our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Haaker, and grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Bill Anderson  
Our parents, Sonny and Eulene Coker, and Gene & Bonnie Haralson  
Elizabeth Harrison and Ralph Little  
Ed Jensen  
George and Peggy Shaffer  
Pat Steinocher and Kara Steinocher  
Vicki Ann Taber  
Jack Boeck



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hanna Patton-Elliott, St. John's UMC Children's Director, who received her degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's College of Education and Human Development.

The ceremony was held December 14 at the American Bank Center, and Pastor Wade Lindstrom was pleased to attend the ceremony with Hanna's family and friends.

Great job, Hanna!

Hannah did her student teaching this past fall at Montclair Elementary School.

# Camp Sharigan Project Resumes in January

By Elaine Clanton Harpine

The reading clinic will return on Monday, January 13, and Thursday, January 16. We meet every Monday and Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Community Life Building.

We are seeing excellent improvement. From our mid-point testing, two students have already moved up two grade levels in reading, just since September. All students are showing improvement and will continue to work on their own individual reading needs. With the help of volunteers, we are able to divide the children into small groups to work on their specific reading needs.

When we return, we will continue to learn about outer space. Before Christmas, we studied the Apollo 8 mission to the moon and learned about their telecast on Christmas eve. At the reading clinic, we have students read both fiction and non-fiction. We think that it is important to teach reading, history, and science with our stories and books.

We have found a strong need for comprehension work; so we have added comprehension workshops twice a month. The comprehension workshops require more volunteers; therefore, we are only able to offer the workshops twice a month until we secure more volunteers. Come join us.

We will be accepting new students in January and already have two new students registered. If you know of students who need help in reading, contact Elaine Clanton Harpine at 361-867-8040 or at [clantonharpine@hotmail.com](mailto:clantonharpine@hotmail.com).

With new students, we will also need additional volunteers. We appreciate the university students who volunteered this fall. We look forward to welcoming the university students back to St. John's in January.

If you would like to help a child learn to read, come and join us. Even high school students can volunteer...as well as friends from the community, neighbors, even your work associates. You may volunteer a one-hour shift, from 4-5 p.m. or 5-6 p.m., whatever fits your schedule.



**A child needs your help! If you teach  
a child to read, you can change the  
world.**

## 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 Gloria Caravantes, sister of Marcia Caravantes and Patty Farrar, gifts to the Food Pantry from Phyllis Jones and from the CCI Sunday School Class which Gloria attended.

Also in loving memory of Gloria Caravantes, gifts to the Building Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt and from Mrs. Ronald Fox; a gift to the Choir Fund from Chris Garcia; undesignated gifts from Betty Collins; Carolyn Pence, the Hardy Family; Debi Francis; and Patricia K. Boyd; and gifts to the Food Pantry from Dottie Ramella and Charles and Glenda Sanders.

In loving memory of Will Habeeb, husband of Patricia, undesignated gifts from Marianna Nooner and from the Andrew Carter Trust, both of Dallas.



### A Message from St. John's Bookkeeper

Dear Church Members:

Contribution statements will be mailed out after all the 2019 contributions are recorded in the computer.

Please contact the church office at 991-4342 if you did not get your giving statement that was mailed in the fall and update your mailing address.

If you would be so kind as to note your envelope number on your check memo or the offering envelope, it helps speed up the process of recording your gifts into our computer system. Your envelope number can be found on the upper right corner of your giving statement.

Please review your giving statements carefully. Any errors or omissions should be reported to the church. Tentative dates for 2020 statement mailings will be May 2020 and September 2020. --- Barb Benton

## STATE OF THE CHURCH

	NOV 2019	2019 YTD
<b>Budgeted Receipts</b> (2019 Budget: \$542,738)	\$ 45,228.17	\$ 497,509.83
Pledges Made	\$ 32,440.67	\$ 356,847.33
Pledges Paid	\$ 28,604.50	\$ 339,516.68
Pledges + or (-)	( \$3,836.17)	( \$17,330.65)
Gifts Received	\$ 38,582.72	\$ 466,411.83
Apportionments	\$ 532.92	\$16,365.023

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.

## JANUARY 2020 MEETINGS

**Traditional Worship--**

**Monday, January 7 @ 6:30 pm  
in the Conference Room**

**Outreach--**

**Thursday, January 9 @ 6:30  
pm in the Conference Room**

**Trustees--**

**Thursday, January 16 @ 6:30  
pm in the Conference Room**

**Finance--**

**Monday, January 20 @ 6:30  
pm in the Conference Room**

**CLC Board Meeting--**

**Monday, January 27 @ 12  
noon, Conference Room**

**Kitchen Team--**

**Monday, January 27 @ 2 pm  
in the CLB**

**Church Council--**

**Monday, January 27 @ 6:30  
pm in the Conference Room**

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	DEC 2019	DEC 2018
9 a.m. (Traditional)	76	93
11:17 a.m. (Contemporary)	76	77
Sunday School	48	43
Visitors	18	12
<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i> (monthly, 1st Sunday, 7 pm)	22	28

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.

## 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, is helping coordinate this ministry. Several meals already have been provided to the Shaver family and others.

Thanks to several church members who are helping furnish meals.

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.



**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 UMC at 5300 S. Alameda 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.

For more information, call David Pallotti or Harley Mathews.

## 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

**Brian 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 FEBRUARY 2020 issue is Friday, January 24.

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