



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

STEEPLE NOTES

FEBRUARY 2020



The Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. marks the beginning of Lent, a season of penitence and preparation for the final days of Jesus' ministry, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. The imposition of ashes will be included during the worship service. (See additional details about Lent on Page 2.)



SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 25!
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

On Tuesday, February 25, our United Methodist Men will hold their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It's all you can eat--pancakes and sausage!

This year, an added menu item has been added: scrambled eggs! (of course the required picante sauce or ketchup will also be available!)

So come on down! Enjoy the food and fellowship! The meal starts at 5:30 pm and for 5 bucks for individuals, you can't beat the price. Got the family to feed? It's only \$15.

We hope to see you there! Tickets will be available in advance or can be purchased at the door. Wear your Mardi Gras beads!

SOUTH BLUFF PARK

HOT DOGS & VALENTINES

Help feed the homeless
Sunday, February 9, 2020
After 11:17 Service

Donations needed: hotdogs, buns,
single serving bags of chips,
cases of water,
and Valentine's cookies

Bring donations to the CLB and mark them "For South Bluff"

Plan to participate in the Churchwide Outreach to feed the homeless at South Bluff Park (located at Park Ave. and Tancahua near downtown). Hot dogs and Valentine cookies....our needy brothers and sisters will love this event and each of us will be blessed as well! Sunday, February 9, following the 11:17 worship service. Your generous spirit in donating food items (wieners, buns, chips, water, cookies) and your time will be appreciated!

Creating a Gingerbread House!

For the Christmas play cast party, the children and youth created a gingerbread house. See additional photos on Page 12 submitted by Director Elaine Clanton Harpine. Another play will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5. See additional photos on Page 16.



FROM OUR PASTOR

But wait a minute, wasn't it just Christmas? Seems like it. But Lent is on the horizon and we have several opportunities to assist in our collective Lenten Journey.

Lent

On Tuesday, February 25, our United Methodist Men will provide a Pancake Supper from 5:30–7:00. Traditionally this is to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. The word shrove is a form of the English word shrive, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of confession and doing penance.

Thus, Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent. It was also traditional for the use of eggs, butter, and fat to cease during Lent and so the tradition of celebrating Shrove Tuesday and eating pancakes began because people wanted to use up the tempting food that they were giving up for Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. We will celebrate the day by opening the Sanctuary from 7:30 am-11 am for personal prayer and imposition of ashes. We will also hold a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m.

You and/or your small group or Sunday School class are invited and encouraged to join in a churchwide Lenten Study of the Adam Hamilton book and video series, "The Way – Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus."

Sermons during Lent will follow along with the study, and we will discuss the book during our Wednesday Lenten lunches (dates to be announced soon) in the Community Life Building. Books may be ordered online or through the church office for \$10. A companion 40-Day devotion book is also available for \$7.

Finances

Our Finance Team is working diligently to adopt a 2020 budget. Please be in prayer for that process and for their discernment as they are having to consider some difficult decisions in order to steward the funds we have projected for our 2020 income.

In all of this, let us remember that we are approaching a season of self-denial in order to focus on those things that truly matter. This season promises us hope and a future, which is a good word always but is a particularly good word when we consider what might be missing in our lives or in our church. I invite you to reflect on a question and would love to hear your answers if you want to call or email me. The question is:

- If money or resources were not an issue, what kind of ministry would the church be doing?

Whatever your answers may be, add those dreams to your prayers and let's spend Lent praying for the ministry that God is calling us toward. May this be a holy exercise and holy season for us all.

Peace, Pastor Wade

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

The February 2020 sermon series will cover the Sermon on the Mount, found in the Gospel of Matthew.

February 2 – Mountain Top Experience #1

February 9 – Mountain Top Experience #2

February 16 – Mountain Top Experience #3

February 23 – Mountain Top Experience #4

Lay Servant Training, Retreat Scheduled

St. John's laity are invited to participate in two upcoming events:

Saturday, 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

Friday-Sunday, April 17-19, 2020 Women's Retreat: for lay and clergy women, at First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi; Keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson. Dr. 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>.

Children's Ministry

On Sunday, February 9, the kids will be hosting a Sunday School Teacher Valentine Party. All current Sunday School teachers are invited to meet upstairs for special treats and a thank-you gifts from the kids for all of their support.

Also, Children's Director Hanna Patton-Elliott said a Mardi Gras celebration will be observed during Sunday School on February 23, and a Purim Celebration is planned on March 8.

The Children's Ministry is asking for prayers as we work to build our tribe of teachers and get ready for the Easter season. Please stay tuned for dates for the Egg Hunt and Egg Drop Contest.



SJUMC kids played a game after finishing a lesson on finding joy in the book of Philippians.

If God is calling you to be a Sunday School teacher or help strengthen the Children's Ministry efforts to grow participation in Sunday School, please visit with Hanna Patton-Elliott or Pastor Wade Lindstrom.



Details about Our Christian Calendar

The **Christian Calendar** is made up of seven seasons and 12 special Sundays or other days. The seasons of the year are centered on the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Church, and our part in the Kingdom of God. Special Sundays and other days within the Christian Year serve as times to celebrate particular events of importance to us as Christians. Different seasons of the Christian Year have liturgical colors and other symbols associated with them to remind us of the meaning of the season.

Lent: The season of Lent (from the Old English word for "lengthen") lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Easter Eve, not including Sundays. Lent commemorates the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a renewal season; a time of penitence and self-denial, and of intensive cultivation of the life of the Spirit. The liturgical color for Lent is purple to represent the royalty of Christ as King, and the color is represented in the paraments covering the altar. The symbol of Lent is the Cross of Christ.

SAVE THIS DATE--MARCH 31

Methodists love food and fellowship! And we have several opportunities to enjoy food and fellowship. Mark your calendar for the next "Fifth Sunday All-Church Covered Dish Supper" on Sunday, March 31, at 5 p.m. in the Community Life Building. More details to follow! Be thinking of a special food dish to bring and share with others!

At the January 6 supper, more than 62 church members and friends of all ages enjoyed a wonderful time visiting and eating!

The Food, Fun & Fellowship Team needs volunteers to ensure a successful event. Please call chair Evalynn Bunk and be a part of this fun group. (Future Fifth-Sunday suppers will be May 31, August 30 & November 29.)



Xander Nguyen, St. John's newest acolyte, stands with Jackson Claunch following a recent worship service. Zander is an 8th grader in Flour Bluff ISD and the son of Dr. Minh and Pauline Nguyen.

(Below) Acolyte Natalie Albrecht



St. John's Foundation Sets Meeting

By Sue Hoyt, President

The first meeting of 2020 of the St. John's Foundation will be held Wednesday, February 5, at 11 a.m., at which time several wealth advisors from Frost Bank (Mr. Mike Brell, Ms. Cindy Barrera, Ms. Dora Peña, and Mr. Daniel Nash) will present the Annual Report of the Investment Accounts of the Foundation.

Foundation directors will at this meeting review the Investment Accounts, review the Investment Policy, vote to distribute a specific amount of the 2019 earnings, and set the deadline for Request for Funds to be submitted.

New Foundation members will be introduced: Janet Berridge, Jean Shivers, and Will Straub. Officers will be elected, and other business will be addressed. Directors will be reminded of the two additions to the Foundation Investment Account in 2019: \$3,733.11 to the Trube-Bossert Fund and \$25,000 to the Undesignated Fund in honor of Bill McNair.

Groups in the church are encouraged to complete Request for Funds forms once they are available in the near future.

Church members are encouraged to include St. John's Foundation in their wills and/or to give legacy gifts now. Please see the Foundation brochure placed around the church and/or contact Sue Hoyt at 991-7785 or suehoyt@aol.com for more information.

Hats Off to Our Church Volunteers Who Volunteer Time and Energy!

By Chris Garcia, Lay Leader

There's a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning that asks "how do I love you?...let me count the ways." I think about this line of poetry whenever I see church members devoting time and energy to a church project (inside or outside the church buildings), taking care of routine tasks (large or small) that need attention, saying "yes" to not-so-glamorous jobs like cleaning the drain in the kitchen, seeing something that needs repair or cleaning and addressing it quietly...all to God's glory and to the benefit of the church.

After worship services conclude, volunteers like Mike Zammiello, Nancy Busby, Jim and Mary Falwell gather up the red attendance books in the Sanctuary so that attendance records can be collected. Communion preparers like Jean Shivers, Marsha De La Garza, Kathy Tunnell, Carolyn Pence, Anita Harris, and Nancy Busby who arrive early on their designated "first Sunday" assignments to get the elements ready...and also Danna Sharpe and Joyce Hamende!

Volunteers like Betty Thompson who noticed recently that pews in the Sanctuary needed a good vacuuming and brought her skill, patience, and equipment to tackle that task..and Willard Haskell, Karen Felts, Louise Wagner, and others who show up to man the reception desk and answer the phone or help distribute bags of food on Food Pantry days. And let's not forget volunteers who help with clean-up days or just pull weeds or unsightly clumps from flower beds as they stroll around the campus.

Volunteers love St. John's, and they love helping, no matter the task. They are deeply appreciated. "How do we love them?...let us count the ways."



Annual Call to Prayer & Self Denial Set Saturday, February 15, in CLB

Join St. John's United Methodist Women and other church women from the Corpus Christi community for a spiritual growth experience, fellowship, and lunch on Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Community Life Building. Women, men, and youth are cordially invited to attend. Please come and bring a friend!

The theme for the annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial is "We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities." The scripture emphasis is from 2 Corinthians 8:13-15. The program will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and will include a soup and sandwich meal.

This program will shine a light on the many ways members of United Methodist Women have changed the lives of women, children, and youth on the margins through their gifts to the Call to Prayer and Self Denial.

**"We Rise: Meeting God's Call
to Transform Communities"**

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8,
verses 13-15**

"This giving also transforms members' own lives as they grow in their love of God and neighbors," said Annie Hatfield, Spiritual Growth.

An offering will be taken to support the work of National Mission Institutions, such as our own Wesley Community Centers in Corpus Christi and Robstown, International Partners, and Regional Missionaries.

These programs offer educational and economic development opportunities to underserved and marginalized women, children, and youth. Projects include child development and afterschool programs; GED & ESL programs; job readiness, life skills and livelihood training; scholarships; and microenterprise projects.

UMW CALENDAR February-March 2020

Monday, Feb. 3: UMW
Leadership Team meeting, 1 pm

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;
"Heifer Project International's Empowering Women Project."

Wednesday, Feb. 12 :
Naomi Quest Circle - 6 pm in Fellowship Hall; *"How the Light Gets In," Glenda Sanders.*

Saturday, Feb 15: Call to Prayer & Self Denial; see story at right.

Saturday, Feb. 22: UMW Leadership Training for Local Women and Officers, Ingleside UMC, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (carpool 8:15 a.m.)

Saturday, March 4: **Styles for Mission Luncheon**, 11:30 am FUMC; \$10 tickets for St. John's UMW members if paid by Feb. 19.

Friday, March 6: **Church Women United** - 9:30 am at Kelsey Memorial UMC; *"World Day of Prayer" (carpool at 9 a.m.)*

Tuesday, March 10: **Ruth Circle**, 9:45 a.m., "The Homeless in Corpus Christi," Pastor KP Polk

Wednesday, March 11: **Naomi Quest**, 6 p.m., "Caring for the Homeless," Pastor KP Polk

United Methodist Women Support Work of Matthew 25: Ministries

"Caring For A Needy World With The Things We Throw Away"

As one of our continuing mission projects, St. John's UMW provides clean, sorted, and packaged pill bottles to the Matthew 25: Ministries. The organization then includes the pill bottles along with medical supplies to send on to developing countries. If you would like more information about this ministry, you can look up the organization at m25m.org.

We would like to thank our church community for helping us with the ongoing ministry. You can bring clean amber-colored bottles (labels removed, please) to the church office. There is a box designated for the collection.

Thank you, Anita Harris
St. John's United Methodist Women



LEGISLATIVE

United Methodist Women in the Rio Texas Conference gathered in Austin last weekend for the annual Legislative event to set priorities and meet with elected officials and/or their staff. St. John's UMW President Carole Salsberry was among the participants.

Meet the New President of St. John's UMW!

Hello! My name is Carole Salsberry. I recently graduated from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with a master's degree in counseling, with a specialization for School Counseling.



Carole Salsberry

I am excited to be serving as the 2020 President of St. John's United Methodist Women, as well as the District Coordinator for Social Action in the Coastal Bend. I also serve as the Vice President and Communication Director for Church Women United.

I am thankful and truly looking forward to a new year of opportunities to grow closer to our Lord. I plan to promote projects that reflect UMW's concern for the health and wellbeing of women, youth, and children.

I intend to conduct informational forums in which we will learn about local and national issues of concern to be able to share ideas and concerns, study, seek solutions, and plan action. I believe acting on ideas are an important method to spread God's love to connect with

I especially appreciate all those who are serving with me on the UMW Leadership Team. Thanks to all of them for their commitment to UMW and to mission.

See more UMW news on Page 5

ABOUT UMW MEETINGS...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

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

From Ruth Circle...

Ruth Circle traveled to Padre Island in January as they gathered for an after-Christmas brunch. The brunch was well attended, and everyone enjoyed the outing so much that we plan to have another island getaway in May. So, mark your calendars and plan to join us.

On February 11, Ruth Circle of UMW will be meeting in the CLB for a program on Heifer Project's Empowering Women Project. We extend an open invitation to both men and women and others who would like to join us and learn more about the Heifer project. If your group would like to join us on completing a heifer project, send a representative to the meeting or contact Elaine Clanton Harpine.

Looking ahead:

--March 10, Helping the Homeless in Corpus Christi

--April 14, What Do I Have to Give?

--May 12, Spring Luncheon at the home of Elaine Clanton Harpine; be watching for details.

St. John's UMC Prayer List



Hospital/Rehab: Andrea Chamberlain, Tom Niskala

Grieving: Family of Jim Heslep; Family of John Polk (Pastor KP's father)

*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]*

Our Church	Mike Dailey			
President Trump	K. Davidson			
US Military	Margaret Earle			
World Leadership	Nicki Fischer			
CC Metro Ministries	Judy Forbes			
Edith Balderas	Chase Francis	Hydie Johnson	Judi Oestreich	Sandy
Phillip Balderas	Elizabeth Gallaway	Jack Johnson	Roma Onwiler	Fay Sassman
Joe Barrera	Julian Gallaway	Stacia Johnston	Chris Oxley	Anita Schwein
Cable Best	Adela Garcia	Phyllis Jones	Mike P.	Ivan Shaver
Buff Betz	Cathi Garza	Ann Jordan	Dolores Pace	Lyneve Shaver
Melissa Brownlee	Robert Garza	Linda Jordan	Pat	Linda Skidmore
Tyler Brownlee	Janie Glasson	Margaret K.	John & Mary Polk	Morgan Skidmore
Jennifer Brye	Mike Glover	Mimi Keen	Kade Polk	Susan Skidmore
Evalynn Bunk	Pam Glover	Jim & Jill Kelly	Pat Ponton	Richard Strong
Margo C.	Grace	Charlotte Kunc	Kelly R.	Steven Suarez
Jeff Caravantes	Fay Haggerty	Randy L.	Dottie Ramella	Dorothy Tullos
Marcia Caravantes	Hamende Family	Tommy Lewis	Lynn Richards	Victoria
Samuel & Annette Carter	Charlene Hardy	Brenda Mathews	Julian Rodriguez	Marla Warfield
Margo Chapman	Kathryn Heslep & Family	Britany Mathews	Lupe Rodriguez	Davris White
Holly Corey	Alicia Hernandez	Jeanne Mayes	Rilla Roots	Betty Wilson
Josh W. Cox	Jimbo	Colin McGlinchy	Jesse Ruiz	Beverly Wilson
John Wesley Crumpler	Michael Jinnette	Laura Mosley	Kelly S.	Mary Lee Woodson
Dana D'Amore		Rasheedah Mosley	Linda S.	Roseann Zammiello

Notes from Members of the Congregation

From Joyce Zimmerman

A special thank you goes to the Bereavement Committee and chair Chris Garcia and other volunteers from the church for helping with the beautiful reception after John's service. There were so many members that helped bake cakes, cookies, desserts and brought chips, dips, and cheese trays.

Our daughters could not believe how many committed church members were willing to help with the reception, and with such short notice. Special thanks also go to Pastors Wade and KP, organist Marcia Caravantes, and Robin Swope and the church staff. It was a beautiful service, and our whole family appreciates everything done. --Joyce Zimmerman

In Memoriam: John Zimmerman

To My Dear Church Family:

Words fail to express how meaningful your expressions of love and support have helped me through the recent loss of my lifetime companion, my sister Gloria. She and I have been blessed to be part of this caring congregation. I am forever grateful.

--In Christian love, Marcia Caravantes

John Crumpler, longtime member of St. John's, has moved into the Memory Unit, Room 2244, at The Mirador. Cathy Chaney, John's daughter, said visitors are welcomed.

CHURCH CHATTER

From Robin Swope, Administrative Sssistant:
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 icontributions in any amount are welcomed by the St. John's Scholarship Committee. St. John's has a long tradition of presenting scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to continue their post-secondary education. You can send a financial gift to the church bookkeeper, indicating it is for the Scholarship Fund. Or you can place your gift in an offering envelope during a worship service and indicate on the outside of the envelope that the gift is for the Scholarship Fund.

From the Traditional Worship Committee:
If you would like to help prepare the Communion elements for the first-Sunday Communion Service once or twice during a 12-month calendar... or if you have interest in serving as a liturgist at the 9 a.m. worship service, please let Lay Leader Chris Garcia know (244-4193). We offer "on the job" training for both of these important responsibilities, and would love to have you participate.

February/March Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday, Feb. 2: Worship Services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m., Holy Communion. (Worship Services also on Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23)

Sunday, Feb. 2: Calling all Blood Donors, 8 a.m.-1 pm, church parking lot.

Monday, Feb. 3: Church Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5: St. John's Foundation Board of Directors, 11 a.m. (see story, Page 4)

Sunday, Feb. 9: Hot Dogs & Valentines, churchwide Outreach at South Bluff Park; churchwide participation encouraged. See story on Page 1; 7 p.m., Thy Kingdom Come heavy metal worship service, Fellowship Hall; auditions for Palm Sunday Easter play (see page 9 for information)

Wednesday, Feb. 12: 9 am-12 noon, Blood pressure and blood sugar/A1C checks, plus flu shots offered at the church by the Wesley Nurse, Health Department, and a local HEB pharmacist.

Saturday, Feb. 15: Call to Prayer and Self Denial, United Methodist Women, 10 a.m.-11:30 am in the Community Life Building, program and light lunch.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: 5:30-7 p.m., Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, hosted by United Methodist Men; \$5 individual tickets, \$15 family. (see story, Page 1)

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday worship service, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

MARCH 2020

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



Friday, February 14

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

BRIDGE

Tuesday, Feb. 4 and Feb. 18 @ 1:00 pm in AB Room 1

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Wednesday, Feb. 5 and Feb. 19 @ 1:00 pm in AB Room 1

CHAIRSERCISE

Every Tuesday and Thursday @ 10 am in AB Room 1

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m., Conference Room; "The Way-- Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton



Palm Sunday Easter Play Scheduled; Actors, Singers, Crew Members Needed

By Elaine Clanton Harpine

The drama team is gearing up and starting to work on our Easter play, titled "He's Coming! Riding on a Donkey."

We have a brand-new play this year, and it will be a Palm Sunday play, focusing on the reactions of the people in Jerusalem after the triumphant entry of Jesus. What did the people think would happen next?

All ages are invited to participate in the play. We will have a large Palm procession that even toddlers may participate in.

We also have two drama team work sessions for children, youth, and adults. These work sessions will allow us to work on acting skills and technique as well as learning more about the teachings of Jesus Christ. Each session begins with a Bible verse from the gospel. Then we work on understanding and learning to read that verse so that others may understand as well. Oral reading is important in the church.

Sunday, Feb. 9, Auditions at the church (location to be announced)

9:15 session— starts immediately following the children's message in the 9 a.m. service ; 11:17 session— starts immediately following the children's message in the 11:17 service .

We need actors who are willing to memorize lines— children, youth, and adults. We need you to sign up now. Auditions will be Sunday, Feb.9.

We need singers as well...all ages...children, youth, and adults. Let me know if you want to sing. There are also jobs for those who do not wish to sing or act. We need people to help with costumes, food, props and stage sets, lights and sound, and publicity. The play is free and a wonderful opportunity to invite new people to come to St. John's.

If you would like to be in the play this year, contact Elaine Clanton Harpine at 361-867-8040 or at clantonharpine@hotmail.com.

NOTE OF THANKS....from Wenholz House for Women

Special thanks to Connie Hahn, Danna Sharpe, Rawley Martin, and Benny and Gerri Cason, as well as the pastors and congregation of St. John's UMC, for helping us. Thank you most of all for your powerful prayers. God is truly working through each of you. "It takes the tribe." Thank you all so much for being part of our tribe...changing the world one person at a time. God bless you!



Outreach Activities

By Carolyn Martin
Outreach Chair

St. John's collected socks, toothpaste, and tooth brushes for the "Help the Homeless Issues Partnership" program. The items donated were given to the homeless in Corpus Christi. Thank you to all who donated!

The church has also been collecting gently used clothing to give to the women at Wenholtz House which is a recovery program for women who are rebuilding their lives. The last date to donate clothing was Jan. 31.

On February 9, we will go to South Bluff Park to have a hot dog BBQ for the homeless who reside at the park. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! See story on Page 1.

We are in process of collecting hot dogs, buns, single bagged chips, and water. We also need people to donate heart shaped cookies the weekend of the event. If you would like to donate items, please take them to the CLB kitchen and mark them "South Bluff." If you would like to go the park and help with this outreach, please let me know.

Outreach is also planning to provide bags of goodies to residents at Bokenkamp for Valentines Day. If you would like to donate candy, please place the candy in boxes marked Bokenkamp Valentines that will be placed in the Narthex and CLB starting this week.

OUTREACH projects involve everyone! Plan to participate!

Church Council Meeting Held on Feb. 3

St. John's Church Council held its first meeting of the year on Monday evening, February 3, at 6:30 p.m. Church Council Chair Bryan Thompson presided at the meeting.

Composed of more than 25 members of the laity (some serving in more than one position), the meeting had originally been scheduled on Jan. 27. Minutes of the meeting will be prepared and made available.

Below is a list of the 2020 members of the St. John's Church Council:

Council Chair: Bryan Thompson
Secretary: Robin Swope
Church Treasurer: Becky Thurston
Pastors: Rev. Wade Lindstrom and KP Polk
Lay Leader: Chris Davis Garcia
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
United Methodist Men: Jim Falwell
United Methodist Women: Carole Salsberry
Traditional Worship Chair (9 am service): Leslie Albrecht
Contemporary Worship Chair (11:17 am service) Chair: Benny Cason
Outreach Chair: Carolyn Martin
Children's Learning Center (CLC) Chair: Becky Thurston
St. John's Foundation President: Sue Hoyt
Communications Chair: Chris Davis Garcia
Fellowship Chair: Evalynn Bunk
Scholarship Chair: Marianne Robert (also an at-large member)
Bereavement Chair: Chris Davis Garcia
Kitchen Chair: Evalynn Bunk
Director of Children's Learning Center: Adela Garcia



CONFIRMATION CLASS--Pastor Wade Lindstrom explains an activity scheduled during the Confirmation Class meeting on Jan. 12 at Jason's Deli. Several church members who are serving as mentors to the 14 confirmands were in attendance. The confirmands will continue to meet this spring as they look forward to Confirmation Sunday scheduled on April 19.

LENT:

JOURNEY TO CALVARY

Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday observance on February 26 and ends 40 days later (not including Sundays) with Easter Sunday on April 12. Here's the schedule of special worship services planned:

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

In addition, several Lenten luncheon programs (with devotional, Holy Communion, and a light meal) will be announced soon.

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled on the last Monday of April....April 27. All members of the Church Council are encouraged to attend. Two additional meetings will be held in July and October. In addition to important church business discussion, committee and team reports are given, and general information is shared.



***THY KINGDOM COME* Service Has Changed Its Schedule: Second Sunday Evening of the Month 7 pm--Fellowship Hall**

***Thy Kingdom Come* worship service has changed its schedule to the **SECOND** Sunday evening at 7 pm in 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.

United States Census 2020

Did you know that every 10 years, the United States makes a concerted effort to count every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U. S. territories.

The Census is mandated in the US Constitution.

Census data is used to determine the number of seats each state holds in Congress and how more than \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed back to states and local communities for services and infrastructure, including health care, jobs, schools, roads, and businesses.

Your answers and personal information are kept confidential.

Census day is Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

The window for self-response for the 2020 Census officially begins on Thursday, March 12, 2020, and concludes on Friday, July 31, 2020. The data will be utilized by the Department of Commerce to generate reports from the responses. The questions asked are as follows, the reason they are asked, and the data generated. Every person residing in the United States will be encouraged to participate in the census. In March 2020, most households in the US will start receiving invitations to respond to the Census online, by phone, or by mail.

How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020. This will help us count the entire U.S. population and ensure that we count people according to where they live on Census Day.

Whether the home is owned or rented. This will help us produce statistics about homeownership and renting. The rates of homeownership serve as one indicator of the nation's economy. They also help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

About the sex of each person in your home. This allows us to create statistics about males and females, which can be used in planning and funding government programs. This data can also be used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

About the age of each person in your home. The U.S. Census Bureau creates statistics to better understand the size and characteristics of different age groups. Agencies use this data to plan and fund government programs that support specific age groups, including children and older adults.

About the race of each person in your home. This allows us to create statistics about race and to provide other statistics by racial groups. This data helps federal agencies monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as those in the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

About whether a person in your home is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. These responses help create statistics about this ethnic group. This is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as those in the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act.

About the relationship of each person in your home. This allows the Census Bureau to create estimates about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that support families, including people raising children alone.

The Census Will Never Ask Certain Questions. The Census Bureau will *never* ask you for: (1) Your Social Security number, (2) Money or donations., (3) Anything on behalf of a political party or (4) Your bank or credit card account numbers. If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

By Leslie Albrecht, Director

Happy New Year!..some of our group attended The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival at First Christian Church on January 11. We got to see our very own Bella Garcia help carry in the peacock. The Festival is a pageant recreating a medieval manor house celebrating the legend of the Oxford scholar who killed a wild boar with a book of philosophy and the birth of the Christ Child and the visit of the Magi who come to worship the newborn King.



Flat Jesus was with the youth at Camp Zephyr

On January 17, I went to the church to change the paraments and discovered that the piece of wood in the ceiling of the banner room had fallen to the floor taking many of our Traditional Worship service banners with it. I would like to give a special shout-out to Terri, Daniel, and Jackson for coming and helping me get the banners up off the floor. They even got to have a little fun...this picture reminds me of one of the scenes of the magi from the Boar's Head.



On Jan. 24-26, six of our youth attended Midwinter Retreat at Camp Zephyr. It was great getting to see friends from other churches in the Coastal Bend and El Valle Districts. Our friends Janie, Matt, Chris, and Geo were there with a group from Oxford UMC in San Antonio as well. The theme of the weekend was Proverbs 3:5-6. There was time for worship, study, and fun activities...and the food was great, too. Special thanks to the St. John's Foundation for providing financial support so that St. John's youth could participate.



Leslie Albrecht poses with Janie from San Antonio

The Flock 12:30-2:00 Sundays

2/9 Help with feeding the homeless at South Bluff Park (may get back a little later)

Sunday School 10:15-11:10



Care Ministry Helps with Meals

St. John's is continuing 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, suffering the loss of a family member, new moms, etc. Mable Pippin, a member of the CCI Sunday School class, is helping coordinate this ministry.

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.



The CCI Class was visited in January by Bob Irwin, a former member of St. John's who had relocated to another state last summer to live closer to his family. It was great seeing Bob.



Children attending the 11:17 service gather on stage to hear a message from Pastor Wade Lindstrom

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

Word to word Class

Word to word Sunday School class finished the study on the Epistle of Hebrews at the end of January. We enjoyed studying in the New Testament and opened a new study on the Book of John this past Sunday. Our studies are in-depth, so bring your Bibles!

We meet in Room 2 of the Administration Building each week from 10:15-11 am and have coffee ready for you when you join us. Our group is small, lending itself to great discussions and input and a clear focus on God's Word in the Bible, the only book we study. We hope you will consider visiting our class!

CCI Class

The CCI class has begun a review and discussion of the "Social Principles of the United Methodist Church: 2016-2020." The lessons will continue for several weeks. Come join us and learn more about how the greater church addresses issues like the environment, health care, immigration, foreign policy, xmsmsms.

Friendship Class

Friendship Class is still studying Paul. We are up to his third missionary journey and have his death and legacy to cover. This has been a very interesting study about Paul and the history of the growth of Christianity. We have a DVD to get us started and class discussion.

Food Pantry News

Happy Valentine's Day!

We have been busy as usual this past month. A new year means everyone fills out new paperwork for the year. We were excited to see Reynaldo, he asked for prayers as he will be having knee replacement surgery.



We also met Jeffery who just moved here from Ft. Worth and is looking for a job. Melissa is also new and was grateful for the help for herself and her kids.

We were blessed to meet Jake, who for his Eagle Scout project, packed Kids Against Hunger rice casserole packages. He met with other volunteers on MLK Day and made lots of the rice casserole packages for the Coastal Bend Food Bank. Jake and his family brought the non-perishable food they collected and two boxes of the rice casserole to our Food Pantry. Thank you, Jake!

We will welcome the Wesley nurse, Health department, and a pharmacist here for blood pressure, blood sugar/A1C checks, and flu shots on **Wednesday, February 12**, from 9am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to come!

The following items are needed in the Food Pantry:

- Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
- 1 pound jars of peanut butter
- Canned meat of any kind
- Pasta sauce—plastic jars or cans preferred

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

St. John's United Methodist Men



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

St. John's United Methodist Men installed officers for 2020 at a dinner program on January 9 at Nolan's Restaurant. Officers for 2020 are

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

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



On Tuesday, February 25, the United Methodist Men will hold their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This year an added menu item will be scrambled eggs. The meal starts at 5:30 pm and for 5 bucks you can't beat the price. Got the family to feed? It's only \$15 and hope to see you there.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Ann Smith | 18 | Richard Fischer, Jeanne Luker |
| 3 | Randy Haaker | 19 | Palmer Blue |
| 6 | Connie Hahn, Joyce Hamende,
Mike Zammiello | 21 | JoAnn Holland |
| 8 | Sharon Staiger | 22 | Hollie Boehmer, Xavier Steehler |
| 9 | Holly Thompson | 25 | Darron Bergstrom |
| 10 | Chris Garcia | 26 | Rhonda Sky-Eagle |
| 11 | Bill Swope | 27 | Brendan Beard |
| 13 | Solenne Daugherty | 28 | Darlene Duncan, Michael Jinnette |
| 14 | Karen Carden, Christopher Veit | | |
| 15 | Roma Onwiler, Miles Pace | | |

If your birthday is not listed or if there is an error in the listing, please notify the church office 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 John Zimmerman, husband of Joyce, gifts have been made to the Building Fund from Carolyn Pence, Dr and Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt, Sheryl and Wilson Calhoun.

Also in loving memory of John Zimmerman, undesignated gifts have been received from John Strain, Barbara Clark, Pamela Simmons, Kathryn M. Heslep, Mrs. Judy Braselton, Willard Haskell, Connie White and Lillye Sanders, the Renfro Family, Frances Weber, Charles and Martha DeCou, the John E. Crumpler Family, Keith and Diane Graham, Jo Ann Markowsky, Katrina S. Little, Chris Garcia, Mary Ann Towerly, Patricia K. Boyd, Marion and John Heldenfels, Leroy Steinocher and Family, Debi and Bruce Francis, and Christine C. Smith.

Also in loving memory of John Zimmerman, a gift to the Choir Fund from Joyce Zimmerman and a gift to the Care, Concern, and Bereavement Fund from Mary Jane Fox.

Also in loving memory of John Zimmerman, a gift from Dottie Ramella to the food pantry, and a gift to the United Methodist Men from Bill and Ann Ault of San Antonio.

In loving memory of Gloria Wheeler and Ally McElya, gifts to the food pantry from Mable Pippin.

A Message from St. John's Bookkeeper

Contribution statements recording all 2019 financial giving are being mailed. Please review your statement carefully and notify Bookkeeper Barb Benton of any errors or omissions. Tentative dates for 2020 statement mailings will be May 2020 and September 2020. If you do not receive your giving statement, let Barb know so that she can confirm your mailing address.

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

--- Barb Benton

STATE OF THE CHURCH

	DEC 2019	2019 YTD
Budgeted Receipts (2019 Budget: \$542,738)	\$ 45,228.17	\$ 542,738
Pledges Made	\$ 32,440.74	\$ 389,288.00
Pledges Paid	\$ 41,657.50	\$ 381,174.18
Pledges + or (-)	\$9,216.76	(\$8,113.82)
Gifts Received	\$ 61,417.06	\$ 527,828.89
Apportionments (Total 2019 apportionments assigned: \$65,161)	\$ 532.92	\$16,897.95

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.

FEBRUARY 2020 MEETINGS

Confirmation con Queso

***Sunday, February 9 & 23 @ 3 pm
at Jason's Deli on Airline

Church Council -- Monday,

February 3 - 6:30 pm - Conf. Room

St. John's Foundation--

Wednesday, February 5 @ 11 am -
Conference Room

Shepherding Care Team--

Thursday, February 6 @ 10:30 am -
AB Room 2

Traditional Worship--Tuesday,

February 11, 6:30 p.m., Conf. Rm.

Outreach -- Thursday, February 13

@ 6:30 pm - Conference Room

Kitchen Team--Monday, February

17 @ 2 pm - CLB

Finance --Monday, February 17 @

6:30 pm - Conference Room

Trustees--Thursday, February 20 @

6:30 pm - Conference Room

CLC Board --Monday, February 24

@ 12 noon - Conference Room

SPPRC -- Tuesday, February 25 @

6:30 pm - Conference Room

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	JAN 2020	JAN 2019
9 a.m. (Traditional)	76	81
11:17 a.m. (Contemporary)	69	82
Sunday School	54	94
Visitors	12	18
<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i> (monthly, 1st Sunday, 7 pm)	22	--

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.



For the Christmas play cast party, the children and youth created a gingerbread church. See information about Palm Sunday play on Page 9.

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

BLOOD MOBILE DATES FOR 2020

April 26, June 28, August 23,

October 18, and December 13

Thanks to all the blood donors who gave blood on Feb. 2.

The Corpus Christi community appreciates your commitment to ensuring that blood is available for those who need it.

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

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 MARCH 2020 issue is Friday, February 21.

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

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