



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

# STEEPLE NOTES

APRIL 2020

Let's Worship Together...*even if we're not "together"*

## Palm Sunday, Holy Week Services Can Be Viewed Online



This collage, prepared for the March 15 video shoot in the Sanctuary, features (top and clockwise) Mike Mata, 11:17 worship leader; Hanna Patton-Elliott, Children's Director, and Kim Bryce, Traditional Music Director; Pastor Wade; Scott Boehmer, sound and lighting; and Leslie Albrecht, Student Ministries Director.



The final week of Lent is approaching, and families of faith across the globe, including St. John's UMC, are preparing to observe Palm Sunday this Sunday in a way that could not have been imagined three months ago.

The coronavirus pandemic, along with federal, state, and county guidelines that continue to change weekly, has altered worship plans for everyone. While we would all love to be seated in our sanctuary for worship this Sunday, that won't be possible. But thanks to technology, you can "be in worship" in your own home or space on Sunday.

Pastor Wade Lindstrom and a handful of lay members have pre-recorded St. John's Palm Sunday worship service and will air the program at 11 a.m. this Sunday, April 5. The video will include a live chat, and viewers can request prayers.

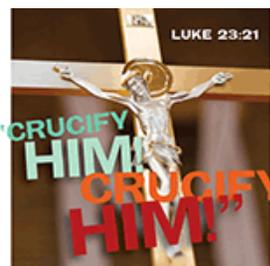
Please read Pastor Wade's message on Page 2 to receive information on how to access the service.

Special thanks to Leslie Albrecht, Hanna Patton-Elliott, Kim Bryce, Mike Mata, and Scott Boehmer for helping make this and other upcoming services a reality.

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' entry, riding a donkey, into Jerusalem, with worshippers carrying and waving palm branches. Palm Sunday signals "the great three days" which are observed later during Holy Week--Maundy Thursday which commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples; Good Friday which captures Jesus' suffering and death on the cross; and Easter Sunday, which celebrates Jesus' Resurrection from the grave.

Other Holy Week services--Holy (Maundy) Thursday, April 9, and Good Friday, April 10--plus Easter Sunday, April 12, will also be pre-recorded and available for viewing online.

<https://sjmethodist.online.church>



### CHURCH MEMBERS AND VISITORS:

You are invited to check your email accounts during the week to capture and read all electronically transmitted church-related announcements and updates regarding St. John's activities and ministry plans. If your email isn't on file, let the pastor know!

Please maintain your financial support of the church, if possible. Offerings and pledges can be mailed to the church at 5300 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, and will be processed weekly by the church bookkeeper. Thank you for your faithfulness and your continued support.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

## Reflections & Updates During This Unprecedented Time

Grace and Peace to all of you!

I really don't know what to say about the unprecedented way that our world has changed in the span of just a few weeks. I just want to share some reflections and updates with you as we continue to walk this unfamiliar territory.

- **OUR GREAT STAFF** - I want to recognize and thank Robin Swope and Ernie Pena for the years of service and care they have each provided our church. I have rarely worked with a church staff that was so committed to their mission and Robin and Ernie are two major contributors.

Due to budget constraints based on our projected giving for 2020, St. John's was forced to eliminate those two positions, and remaining staff members have had their compensation reduced. All of these individuals are capable and competent, and in most cases, we were likely paying them far less than their value. I am grateful for their understanding, and I look forward to a time when we can raise their pay. Please let them know how much they are appreciated.

- **COVID-19 and FINANCE** - The above decisions were made prior to us realizing the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even with those decisions, we are still projecting a significant revenue shortfall. We are reducing expenses wherever we can.

It is going to be crucial that, as we make our way through this crisis, we continue to support the church with our tithes and other giving. Your Finance Committee has worked tirelessly on this year's planned budget and I am grateful for their commitment to this task.

- **WORSHIP** – In order to keep as many people safe and well, we are altering our worship format beginning Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020, so that we are not all in the same room. We also will **NOT BE LIVE ON FACEBOOK** as a result.

Beginning this week, you can find the pre-recorded worship service live at **11:00 a.m. at <https://sjmethodist.online.church/>**.

I say "live" because this format will run the service and allow several of us to "host" a chat before, during, and after the service welcoming people, answering questions, and offering private prayer to those who desire it.

After the service, we will post a YouTube Link to the service video on our Facebook page and our Homepage ([sjmethodist.com](http://sjmethodist.com)) for alternate viewing. This platform is also free and will give us a better option for registering and meeting new people and continuing to have a live online presence when our lives return to "normal" and we are meeting together again.

- **Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, April 5** - Pre-recorded worship service at 11 a.m. If you want to prepare some bread and juice, I will lead us through a communion liturgy and meditation, and you may serve each other at home.

**Holy Thursday, April 9, 6:30p.m.** – Pre-recorded service on [https://sjmethodist.online.church.](https://sjmethodist.online.church/) Again you may prepare bread and juice for that as well, as we reflect on the Lord's Supper and the last night of Jesus' life.

**Good Friday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.**– Pre-recorded service on [https://sjmethodist.online.church.](https://sjmethodist.online.church/) We will

experience a brief Tenebrae Candle Service.

**Easter Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m.**- Pre-recorded service on [https://sjmethodist.online.church.](https://sjmethodist.online.church/)

- And finally, I want to say I love our church. I am always able to say that, but these last couple of weeks, as I've been unable to see you or hang out with you, I realize that I take your presence and support for granted, at least a little bit.

You all have done a great job of staying connected with one another. I have watched you on social media and email and heard about you through phone calls. It would be easy to complain about our current circumstances, but I have seen none of that.

Please stay in touch with one another. If you feel someone needs a call from me, please call or text me. If you or anyone has a need of any kind, please ask for help. We want to help you in any way we can.

Also, please be in prayer for health workers of every kind, first responders who are also at risk, grocery workers who are keeping supplies available at their own peril.

Please, if you have to go out, consider wearing a mask and gloves, because when you do, you are protecting yourself and your neighbor, and you are helping reduce the number of patients these fine brave workers are taking care of.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. I hope to "see" and "connect with you" this Sunday as we begin Holy Week.

Peace!  
Pastor Wade

# “Drive-Thru Worship” on March 15



Pastor Wade and nine church members helped stage the “Drive-Thru Worship” in St. John’s parking lot on Sunday, March 15. About 30 vehicles participated, with occupants receiving a blessing and prayer and leaving their offerings. Thanks to Mike Mata, Leslie Albrecht, Hanna Patton-Elliott, Christian and Stefanie Schomaker, Malia Schomaker, Becca Maestas, Jackson Claunch, and Chris Garcia.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Marcia Caravantes, Carlene Clark, Jennifer Staiger
- 3 Bruce Best, Charlene Hardy
- 4 Lindsey Jensen
- 5 Joanie Spencer Coughran
- 7 Marlena Flores
- 10 Frank Nance
- 12 Julie Fomenko
- 14 Gary Allsup, Holly Veit
- 16 Robyn Cobb
- 17 Chuck Francis
- 18 Luke Fomenko
- 19 John Crumpler
- 20 Carol Clark
- 27 Sherrie Johnson
- 28 Carol Patton
- 30 Bob Mayes

**NOTE:** If you are celebrating a birthday this month but your name is not listed, OR if your name is included incorrectly in this list, please call the church office at 991-4342 so that church records can be corrected.

## CHURCH CHATTER

### MESSAGE FROM OUR FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS--

Before the church suspended the Food Pantry in late March, volunteers practiced social distancing to the best of their ability, and “we only let one or two people into the church office at a time,” said Cathy McRorey. “We served 38 people on Wednesday and 55 on Thursday.” Leslie Albrecht helped, along with Karen Felts, Willard Haskell, and Cathy McRorey. “It was pretty wild, but we all were glad to help.”

**REMINDER TO CHURCH MEMBERS--**If you know of someone in need of food, please call Pastor Wade at 960-4021 and give him the information or leave a message. He will go to the church, get food items gathered, and arrange for pickup.

**CANCELLATIONS GALORE--**Beginning in early March as the coronavirus pandemic started to take shape, church activities were cancelled for everyone’s safety. The list included UMM, UMW, small groups including Sunday School classes, in-house worship, the Lenten luncheons, the play scheduled for Palm Sunday, all the senior adult ministries’ activities, the 5th Sunday dinner, the Easter Egg Extravaganza planned on April 4, Shepherding Care team deliveries to the homebound, the Easter STEM challenge planned for April 11, the reading orienteering class, regularly scheduled committee meetings, Confirmation Class social event and meetings, and more.

# Remembering JoAnne Wilshusen, Long-Time Member



JoAnne Wilshusen

JoAnne (Donaldson) Wilshusen, 92, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. She was a member of St. John's UMC for more than 60 years until she relocated to Glen Rose, Tx, about two years ago to live closer to her family.

JoAnne was born June 27, 1927, to Herschel Arthur Donaldson and Geraldine (Scott) Donaldson in Little Rock, Arkansas. The eldest of four siblings, Joanne lived in Houston where she graduated as valedictorian of her high school and was a pre-med student at Rice Institute (now Rice University).

She met and married the love of her life, John Hill Wilshusen, in 1948. They settled in Corpus Christi in 1956 where they raised their three sons.

JoAnne possessed a singular devotion to the United Methodist Church at the local, conference, and national levels. She was a devoted congregant at St. John's and held many leadership positions through the years.

She taught the Friendship Sunday School Class for almost 50 years and was active and in attendance at almost every event, meeting, worship service, and activity.

JoAnne held a deep rooted passion for social justice and mission work and represented St. John's in mission trips to Haiti and the

Democratic Republic of Congo. She was a former president of United Methodist Women and also was a founding supporter of Corpus Christi Metro Ministries and a Board member of the Wesley Community Center.

JoAnne will be dearly missed by her family and all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, John Hill Wilshusen; son, Doug Wilshusen; and grandson, Brian Wilshusen.

She is survived by two sons, Scott (Elaine) Wilshusen of Glen Rose and Greg Wilshusen of Corpus Christi; sisters Mary Linda (Adalid) Verastagui of Cedar Park and Marlowe (Dean) Niemeyer of Austin; brother, Robert (Sally) Donaldson of Tulsa; four grandchildren: eight great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and many treasured friends.

A private graveside service for her family was held at Seaside Funeral Park on March 31. with Pastor Wade Lindstrom officiating.

A Celebration of Life service will be celebrated at St. John's sometime in the future. Friends may remember JoAnne through donations to St. John's Memorial Fund.

(The Seaside Funeral Home website has a complete obituary prepared by the family. An abbreviated copy was published in The Corpus-Christi Caller-Times on March 31.)

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## Prayer for a Pandemic

*(By Cameron Bellm, a Seattle, Washington, mother of two;*

*shared by Pastor Wade at St. John's March 8 worship services)*

May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home  
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close  
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market  
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



11:17 a.m.

### Worship Service

THANKS to St. John's member and photographer Cathi Garza for providing these photos taken on March 1 at the 11:17 worship service: Praise band, children's message, and prayers and sending forth for Pastor KP who was appointed Interim Pastor at The Journey UMC in Kyle, TX.



## BOOK STUDY Planned After Easter by Pastor

Hello, friends. Well, it's a new day in the world and in the church. Pastor Wade is offering a new book study focusing on becoming a more missional community.

This class will start the week after Easter. It is the type of study that might require up to 20-30 minutes of contemplative work at home each day on your own and a once a week Zoom meeting for 8 weeks.

It will be based on a book titled "The Tangible Kingdom" and a workbook called "The Tangible Kingdom Primer." The total cost of both the book and workbook will be in the \$30 range. There will be some scholarships available and interested folks should talk privately with Pastor Wade.

We would encourage you by saying that the rhythm of this study will closely follow a recommended daily rhythm that can, and likely will, continue afterward and perhaps become part of a participant's daily spiritual practice.

So this course would be both learning and spiritual formation along with community building. Pray about this. After you pray, if you would be willing to participate, please let Pastor Wade know by text or email. You may order your own books or the church can order them for you with porch delivery when they are received. (See links below)

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Wade know what days and times would be best for the meetings.

Keep in mind that our current status of staying at home may (or may not) change before we complete this experience. If you have questions, text, call or email Pastor Wade at: 361-960- 4021 - Cell phone, OR [wade.sjmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:wade.sjmethodist@gmail.com).

LINKS to order books:

<https://www.amazon.com/Tangible-Kingdom-Creating-Incarnational-Community/dp/0470188979>

<https://www.amazon.com/Tangible-Kingdom-Primer-Missio-Publishing/dp/B002PJARWU/>

### May 1 Friendship Luncheon Cancelled

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, a local ecumenical group of churches that includes St. John's UMC, has cancelled its annual May 1 Friendship Luncheon. The luncheon was scheduled to be held at First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi.

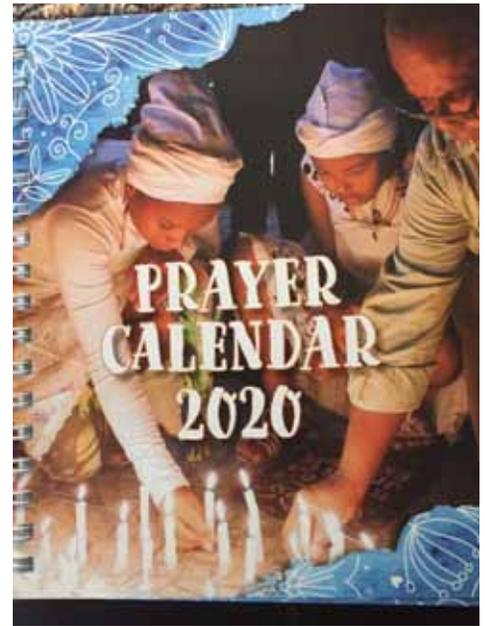
The United Methodist Women Prayer Calendar is located at

[www.facebook.com/umwprayercalendar](http://www.facebook.com/umwprayercalendar)

By Glenda Sanders, Chair, Naomi Quest Circle

Looking for things to do while staying at home during the pandemic? Check out the UMW Prayer Calendar to put your faith, hope and love into action with a daily mission focus, birthdays of people in mission, holidays, lectionary readings and prayer lists of United Methodist missionary personnel and projects. Themed sacred spaces—our encounters with God and neighbor—each week features stunning photographs of United Methodist Women and Global Ministries projects and partners in the U.S. and around the world.

The 2020 Prayer Calendar explores light—the experience of God’s light shining on and through us. It uses words and images to bear witness to God’s light and to dramatize the various ways in which holy light brightens our individual and corporate dark places. The prayers here help us to shine light on situations and sorrows in our world, challenging us to expose abuse and evil that leave many people in shadows of despair and fear.



## St. John’s UMC Prayer List



**Hospital/Rehab:** Charlene Hardy, Margaret Earle, Tom Niskala

**Grieving:** Family of Jo Anne Wilshusen

*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	Samuel & Annette	Jimbo	Claudia Liscano	Fay Sassman
Coronavirus Victims and Families	Carter Andi Chamberlain	Elle Silvas Holloway	Elena Martinez	Ivan & Lyneve Shaver
All Medical Personnel & First Responders	Margo Chapman Betty Collins	Hudson	Judi Oestreich	Susan Skidmore
President Trump	Josh W. Cox	Hydie Johnson	Roma Onwiler	Richard & Angela Strong
US Military	Dana D’Amore	Jack Johnson	Chris Oxley	Charles Teas
World Leadership	Mike Dailey	Stacia Johnston	Mike P.	Sara Tucker
CC Metro Ministries	K. Davidson	Phyllis Jones	Dolores Pace	Terry & Marie
Phillip Balderas	Patricia Davis	Ann Jordan	Jack Pace	Dorothy Tullos
Joe Barrera	Rhys Earle	Linda Jordan	Lisa Pantoja	Noe Vela, Jr.
Alicia Bargas	Nicki Fischer	Marta Juarez	Kelly R.	Noe & Melida Vela, Sr.
Buff Betz	Judy Forbes	Margaret K.	Dottie Ramella	Marla Warfield
Robin Blue	Elizabeth Gallaway	Dr. Daksha Kalies	Jennifer Ridgeway	Davris White
Melissa Brownlee	Robert Garza	Mimi Keen	Sherry Rizzo & Family	Wilshusen Family
Tyler Brownlee	Brenda Glover	Jim & Jill Kelly	Richard Rodela	Betty Wilson
Margo C.	Pam Glover	Charlotte Kunc	Lupe Rodriguez	Beverly Wilson
Jeff Caravantes	Fay Haggerty	Randy L.	Rilla Roots	Mary Lee Woodson
Marcia Caravantes	Kathryn Heslep	Tommy Lewis	Kelly S.	Roseann Zammiello
		Leann Love & Family	Linda S.	

# FAVORITE SCRIPTURES FOR YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL TIME

**John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**Isaiah 41:10**

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

**Philippians 4:6-7**

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

**Deuteronomy 31:8**

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

**Psalm 27:1**

“The LORD is my light and my salvation - so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?”

**Reading God's Word provides comfort in uncertain times. What other scriptures help ease your anxiety and fear? Send the scripture to garciachris1714@gmail.com to include in the May 2020 SteepleNotes.**

**Exodus 14:13**

“And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today’.”

**Joshua 1:9**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

**Isaiah 41:13**

“For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

**Psalm 23:4**

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

**1 Peter 5:7**

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

**2 Timothy 1:7**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

# St. John's United Methodist Church

5300 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

**Rev. Wade Lindstrom**, Senior Pastor

(wade.sjmethodist@gmail.com; 361-960-4021)

**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**, Administrative Assistant

**Hanna Patton-Elliott**, Children's Director

**Sharon Staiger**, Nursery Director

**OFFICE HOURS:** The church office remains closed, with staff working at home, during the COVID 19 health crisis. Pastor Wade can be reached at the phone number listed above.



Email: [st.johnsumccc@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsumccc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.sjmethodist.com](http://www.sjmethodist.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/SJUMC](https://facebook.com/SJUMC)

Twitter: @stjohnmethodist

**FOOD PANTRY** (Cancelled through month of April because of COVID 19 health crisis. Reopening will be announced through church constant contact email and Facebook.)

**CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER:** 361-991-4780

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Location: 5300 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412  
Church Telephone: 361-991-4342; FAX: 361-991-1840  
E-mail Address: [st.johnsumccc@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsumccc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.sjmethodist.com](http://www.sjmethodist.com)

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Suspended because of COVID-19 health crisis.

## 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 MAY 2020 issue is Friday, April 24, 2020.

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

Email: [garciachr1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachr1714@gmail.com)

**(This spiritual reflection was provided on a laminated card at St. John's UMC Drive-Thru Worship on March 15 and provided to each participant)**

### WHEN THIS IS OVER

When this is over, may be never again take for granted

A handshake with a stranger

Full shelves at the store

Conversations with neighbors

A crowded theater

Friday night out

The taste of communion

A routine checkup

The school rush each morning

Coffee with a friend

The stadium roaring

Each deep breath

A boring Tuesday

Life itself.

When this ends, may be find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be..we were called to be...we hoped to be...and may we stay that way--better for each other because of the worst. (Laura Kelly Fanucci)

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** *Laura Kelly Fanucci is an author (Everyday Sacrament, Grieving Together), mother of three, and a blogger. She writes about spirituality and parenting at Mothering Spirit, and her writing has been featured on Catholic Mom, the Christian Century blog network, Power of Moms, Practicing Families, and Notre Dame's FaithND website. She works for the Collegeville Institute Seminars on an ecumenical practical theology project on vocation.*