



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

# STEEPLE NOTES

JUNE 2020

## In-Person Worship Will Resume Sunday, June 21

It's been almost three months since worship services were held in St. John's UMC, with closure forced by the coronavirus pandemic and the many safeguards put into place. There's no doubt that St. John's UMC members and guests been missing this important aspect of their spiritual lives.

But good news! Pastor Wade Lindstrom and church leaders announced this past weekend that St. John's UMC will resume in-person worship in one combined and blended worship service on Sunday, June 21, 2020 (Father's Day). The service will be held at 10 a.m. in the Community Life Building.

Social distancing will be mandatory, and masks will be required. Small clusters of chairs will be set ahead of time and available throughout the room. No nursery will be available and no

*Drive-Thru Communion is set this Sunday, June 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the front parking lot. Worshippers will remain in their cars and will receive the pre-packaged elements with special Communion liturgy, plus a prayer. See you this Sunday in the parking lot!*



congregational singing will be planned. School classes will be held on ~~Sunday~~ **Saturday**. Please read Pastor Wade's pastoral column on Page 2 and a description of the three phases on Page 3.

Cleaning and preparation teams will

be formed to prepare for the June 21 worship service and those scheduled beyond that date.

If you are willing and able to serve on a team, please contact Pastor Wade Lindstrom at 991-4342.



Sacrament of Baptism for St. John's youth Jackson Claunch and Evan Hudson was celebrated at the beach on May 13, with Pastor Wade officiating. (See more photos and story on Page 7.)

## Two Baptisms Celebrated; 2020 Graduates Honored



Luke Fomenko, 2020 graduate from Flour Bluff High School, was one of three church youth who received a gift basket. Presenting the basket is Leslie Albrecht, Youth Director. (See related story on Page 7.)

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

## Looking Ahead to Whatever “Normal” Will Be

Summer is here. The weirdest school year in memory is effectively over and we are cautiously beginning to look toward the future, uncertain of what “normal” will be.

Our church buildings have been mostly empty and dormant for two months. Just like the flowers and plants that are now showing their new growth and beautiful Spring presence, we are all beginning to contemplate our own coming out of isolation and into a warmer season.

I have been asked recently about if or when the church was going to “reopen.” My first response is always that we never closed. We simply have been avoiding gathering in our buildings. Many of us who grew up in churches sang the old hymn, “I am the Church, You are the Church.”

One of the verses includes this line: “The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is people.” That has never been more apparent to me than over the last 10 weeks.

### **Applause for Staff and Laity!**

The church staff (both paid and unpaid staff has continued to work non-stop since the stay-at-home order began.

Bookkeeper Barbara Benton has worked diligently to keep our financial affairs in order, as well as having an integral role (along with members of our Finance Committee and Trustees Committee) in helping us through the process of applying and receiving a federal Paycheck Protection Loan/Grant so that we could protect payroll for teachers and staff at the Children’s Learning Center as well as church staff.

Cathy McRorey, our administrative assistant, has kept communication and administration current by working from home and coming to the office at times. Music, children’s, youth, and worship staff and servants have worked hard to make sure we could quickly re-orient ourselves toward online worship and execute that each week. Deep thanks should go to all of these and more.

### **Confirmation Classes Completed**

We have been able to complete our Confirmation classes and are ready to confirm our class as soon as we can get together. Several work groups, study groups, and committees

have continued to meet through Zoom Meetings. We have had several folks assist with three celebration of life services for deaths in our community.

### **Unstuck Group Update**

On May 12, a group of church leaders met during a 5-hour Zoom meeting with Mark Meyer of the Unstuck Group. The Unstuck Group assists churches in assessing their current condition and then planning to work toward adjusting to changing circumstances and launching the church into a new season of ministry with our community.

On June 2-3, we held a second set of meetings with Mark Meyer over two days (about 16 hours) to move ourselves toward strategic action and increased health and vitality within our congregation and our community.

While this is a small group of about 13 people, the recommendations they will make to the church will require many of us to participate in order to execute an exciting vision.

### **People of God Have Been at Work**

So, you can see that very tangibly, the church never closed. The people of God have been at work. You all have continued to pray for one another, to participate in online worship.

Several of you have been making masks for any number of people. Last number I heard was that over 600 masks had been delivered. You have been diligent to let me know when people were struggling or needing help. Church people have delivered groceries and meals to those who couldn’t and shouldn’t leave their homes.

### **Options for Re-Launching**

However, as our Corpus Christi community begins to venture out, we felt it was time to consider our options for re-launching our in-person operations.

I had the pleasure this week of meeting with leaders from our Trustees Committee, Traditional Worship Team, and 11:17 Worship Team to discuss what that might look like.

(Continued on next page)

## KEY ELEMENTS AND THREE PHASES

### Key Elements Guiding our Thought Process

These key elements guided our thought process:

- Safety: We are committed to providing a safe and clean environment for anyone who comes to church for any reason.
- Phasing our re-entry and assessing as we go.

### Three Phases Identified

We agreed to prepare for re-entry in the following phases:

#### Phase 1 – Resume Administration office operations on Monday, June 1, 2020.

1. This will include wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and wiping surfaces several times each day. The church office will be open Monday-Wednesday 9:00am – 3:00pm; Thursday 9:00am – Noon; Closed Friday.
2. Online worship will continue and must continue to be part of our normal operation. We have and will be able to reach people who have not been or cannot be with us in person.

#### Phase 2 – Resume in-person worship only, with one combined and blended worship service in the Community Life Building on Sunday, June 21, 2020. We will be forming cleaning and preparation teams to ensure that the following are in place.

1. Masks will be required for everyone in attendance. People will be encouraged to wear their own masks, and we will also have a supply available for those who do not have one.
2. Seating will be set up with social distancing in mind, including some clustered seating for family groups.
3. Maintain six feet of social distancing, not just inside the building, but from the moment we leave our cars.

4. Have no physical contact between people (hugging, shaking hands, etc.)
5. Provide and remind people to use hand sanitizer each time after touching or using anything in the worship space.
6. Remind congregation not to touch their face after touching any surface.
7. There will be no congregational singing to prevent community spread. (Musical options are being considered as we plan and may include recorded music)
8. There will be no Sunday School or small group meetings during Phase 1, and the nursery will be closed during this phase.

#### Phase 3: Date To Be Determined

In Phase 3 we will begin with Sunday small groups that will only meet in spaces where we can assure social distancing. This may require several groups to meet in alternate spaces. Other things being considered for Phase 3 include essential community groups and services, including Food Pantry, recovery groups, and health clinics.

### Our Christian Story

Our Christian story is one that includes many stories of people and nations that have been upended and exiled. From those experiences, God's people persevered, grew strong and emerged to change the world. There is much to do in the coming days and weeks.

My hope and prayer is that we will emerge from this upended time with a spirit of charity and cooperation. Our leaders are leading us through uncharted territory, and it is likely that we and they will encounter mistakes and unintended consequences despite motives to do the very best for everyone.

I miss each of you and I look forward to being able to encounter one another again. May God bless our community, local, state and national leaders along with medical workers and researchers who are daily on the frontlines of this pandemic.

Peace, Pastor Wade

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# Jo Anne Wilshusen's Legacy Lives On in St. John's Foundation



**Jo Anne and John Wilshusen**  
The Wilshusens were active members of St. John's UMC for more than 60 years. Jo Anne died on March 25, 2020, in Glen Rose, TX, where she lived after relocating from Corpus Christi to live closer to her son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Elaine Wilshusen. Her husband John Hill Wilshusen died in Corpus Christi on January 17, 2016. Both are buried at Seaside Memorial Park.

By Sue Hoyt, President of Foundation

The St. John's Foundation has just received a check from New York Life Insurance in the amount of **\$23,723.22**, which represents the proceeds from the life insurance policy JoAnne gifted to the foundation some years ago. Yes, JoAnne continues to give to her beloved Church! The check has already been submitted to Frost Bank Wealth Advisor Mike Brell to be invested in the St. John's Foundation account in accordance with the *Investment Policy* of the Foundation.

The original policy of \$50,000 was reduced to \$25,000 in November 2007 when a loan of \$14,800 was made from the policy to renovate the bathrooms in the Sanctuary Building. Today Church members are enjoying these lovely bathrooms, thanks to JoAnne. By reducing the face of the policy, all future premiums were paid from the cash value and dividends, as well as the annual interest on the loan.

At its next meeting, the Directors of the Foundation will entertain a motion to add this \$23,723.22 to the John and JoAnne Wilshusen Fund already established in the Foundation. The current Fund represents the proceeds from the sale some years ago of a house in Kerrville, which The Wilshusens also bequeathed to the Foundation. This Fund balance on December 31, 2019, was approximately \$74,000 (much lower now in this pandemic). The earnings from this Fund at the direction of The Wilshusens are distributed to Missions in even years and to Church Needs in odd years. The motion will direct that earnings from the proceeds of the insurance policy be distributed in the same manner.

What a wonderful legacy JoAnne leaves to St. John's! What a lovely way for JoAnne to keep giving to the missions and needs of St. John's and to be remembered. John and JoAnne's gifts will live in perpetuity.

Brochures on the Foundation are located around the Church; members are encouraged to consider leaving a legacy gift to the Foundation by either adding to an existing fund or creating a new account in a person's name (minimum of a \$50,000 gift). Please contact President Sue Hoyt at 991-7785 or [suehoyt@aol.com](mailto:suehoyt@aol.com)

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

By Church Staff

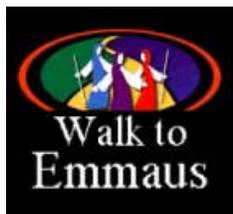
*Thank you so much for your support, past and present, of St. John's Food Pantry! We have served hundreds of individuals in recent months.*

*We are sad that we have been unable to distribute food during the past few weeks because of COVID 19. We hope to resume our distribution soon, but until then....*

*If you, your family, neighbors, or other folks or families you know need food, please know that nonperishable food items are available through the Pantry and we want to share them.*

*You can call 991-4342 or email Cathy McRorey at [catherine.sjmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.sjmethodist@gmail.com).*

## Reminder



The Coastal Bend Emmaus Community, in recent correspondence and Facebook posts, has notified Emmaus members and leaders that "we will gather again in the future when safety and health can be assured." The 2020 Men's and Women's Walks to Emmaus have been cancelled and will be rescheduled in 2021, depending on availability of the retreat center and other factors.

## NEW HOURS

### Church Office Reopens; Note These New Hours!

Effective June 1 and until further notice, the church office has reopened with these new hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thursday, 9 a.m.-Noon

Friday, Closed

Visitors to the church office should wear a mask, be mindful of others, and limit their time in the office. If the front door is locked, please ring the bell. The church staff can be reached by phone, 991-4342, or by email to [catherine.sjmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.sjmethodist@gmail.com).

Anyone needing to reach Pastor Wade Lindstrom directly can call or text his cell phone, 361-960-4021.

## NOTE OF THANKS

To Our Church Family,

There is no tragedy in life like the loss of a child. Our oldest son, Jason Bruce Sanders, age 43 died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on May 9, 2020.

We are especially appreciative of those of you who shared your personal loss of an adult child. It was good to read the notes and talk about the death, the loss and the pain. We also appreciated the good memories many of you shared of Jason.

We are so grateful for your outpouring of love and prayers and thinking of us with your gifts, phone calls, cards, flowers, plants, food and monetary donations in memory to St. John's UMC and to United Methodist Women during this time of sorrow.

Thank you all for supporting us during this time of immense grief. A memorial service at St. John's UMC in celebration of Jason's life has been set for Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

-- Charlie & Glenda Sanders

## EMPOWERING WOMEN HEIFER PROJECT

**"Today I am something. I have substance; I have animals; I have crops. My group gave me the inspiration, the idea and the confidence to do all this." — Ganga Khanal, Jirouna, Nepal**

***The Vision of United Methodist Women:  
Turning faith, hope and love into action  
on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.***

*By Carole Salsberry, President  
St. John's UMC United Methodist Women*

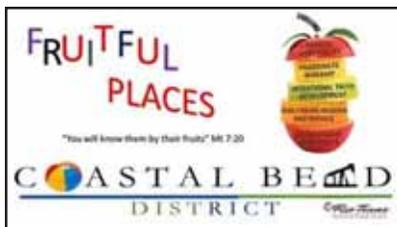
*"IT TAKES A VILLAGE" is one of the Empowering Women Heifer Projects that will benefit directly from our donation of \$200 from United Methodist Women and church friends. This program enables families to pool key resources and share expenses, so there are greater profits for everyone. The United Methodist Women's gift will foster an even greater sense of community as Heifer helps local farmers develop groups and meetings where they can each share the lessons they've learned. By sharing their experiences, these families should have more support and resources to lead to greater success.*

*We agree with the Heifer Project, that there is not a better way to celebrate a special "village" than by making a gift in honor of United Methodist Women that will provide community-based approaches that help many people leave poverty behind. Our foremothers were advocates for change; change and growth continue to be at the heart of United Methodist Women's sisterhood and mission. We are so pleased that the \$200 in donations received will be sent to Heifer International. Thanks to everyone who supported this mission project.*



# Lay Pastoral Congregational Care Training Set June 27; Free on Zoom

By Rev. Linda Morrow  
Coastal Bend District



The Districts of the Rio Texas Conference have gotten together and we want to offer a FREE training for lay servants, certified lay ministers, prospective lay servants, and others that may be interested in learning more about Lay Pastoral Congregational Care.

Given the crazy things that churches are dealing with today we wanted to offer this course as an overview and introduction to this complex topic. You will not get fully trained in this complex topic but we'll be covering the basics and providing some information about further training if upon completing this introduction you feel a strong call to dig deeper into this topic.

The course will be offered via Zoom on Saturday, June 27, 2020. You can join via computer, smartphone, or even dial in to participate. The course will run from 8:30 am until 3:30 PM.

Participants are encouraged to purchase and read the book, *Lay Pastoral Care Giving* by Tim Farabaugh, ahead of the class, but it is not required.

At the end of this course the participants should be able to:

- understand and discuss the concepts of Congregational Care;
- demonstrate appropriate interactions in a caregiving situation;
- describe life and faith passages;
- discuss the relevancy of sensitivity and supportive environments;
- describe and discuss various situations and conditions they may encounter.

To register, please sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/congregational-care-now-and-then-registration-106414913872>

You should receive the Zoom information for the meeting when you register. Please save that to the calendar invite so you can have it on the day of the session.

Thanks and we hope to see you there.

-- Scott Maderer, conference chair of Lay Servant Ministries

## CASTING YOUR BALLOT IN EVERY ELECTION IS IMPORTANT; Be sure to vote in the July Texas Primary Run-Off Election

Tuesday, July 14, is the date of the Primary Run-Off Election. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Monday, June 15. July 2 is the last day to sign up to VOTE BY MAIL. Early Voting will be June 29-July 10. Election information plus a sample ballot for the July 14 election will be available on the Nueces County website/County Clerk's section. Additional info also is on the Texas Secretary of State's website.

## Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying  
down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are  
there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"
- <sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made; your works are  
wonderful, I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of  
the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in  
your book  
before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

# Baptisms in the Padre Island Surf!



Jackson Claunch (left); Evan Hudson (right)

By Leslie Albrecht  
Director of Student Ministries

WOW! Where has the time gone? While we have been staying safe at home time keeps marching on, even though it seems to stand still at the same time.

It hardly seems possible that the time has come to say goodbye to our Seniors: Jackson Claunch, Moody HS; Luke Fomenko, Flour Bluff HS; Victoria Garcia, Collegiate HS (and also a Del Mar College associate degree),; Justin Patton, Tuloso-Midway HS; Jacob Perez, King HS; and Hayden Calhoun, Smithson Valley HS.

During this time we also had two of our youth baptized: Jackson Claunch and Evan Hudson.

It was an amazing experience at the beach. Several of you joined us and many of you may have seen the video during our online service May 17.

At this time, Jackson was also confirmed as he was going to spend the summer in Michigan with family.

Evan and the rest of our 2020 Confirmands will be confirmed at a later, still pending, date.

I'd like to take a moment to shout out to Harley Mathews with our congratulations for graduating from TAMU-CC. Best wishes to Harley and his wife Amanda, whatever the next step will be.

# Gift Baskets for Our Graduates!



Tori Garcia receives a gift basket from Mariah Delk



Jackson Claunch has a big smile as he holds his gift basket.

## Readers, please note:

Psalm 139 (which is printed on Page 6 in the right-hand column, was referenced by Pastor Wade Lindstrom in the Sacrament of Baptism liturgy for Jackson and Evan. As you remember your own baptism, read the Scripture again and reflect on it as a personal devotional.

# CHURCH CHATTER

## Scholarship Applications Due Friday, June 5

Scholarship applications are due in the church office on Friday, June 5. If the office is closed, please put the application in an envelope and drop it in the front door mail slot.

The scholarship committee will convene soon to make selections.

A reception to honor our High School graduates and scholarship recipients will be planned for late June.

It's not too late to make donations to this important fund, so please keep our scholarship applicants in mind! All donations are much appreciated.

--Marianne Robert  
Scholarship Chairperson

## Your Tithes & Offerings Keep Ministries Alive

John Wesley's three simple rules of "do no harm," "do good," and "stay in love with God" are encouraging words with regard to stewardship and to our financial gifts (tithes, loose offerings, and special gifts).

Finance Chair Darron Bergstrom reminds us, "Even though we have been blessed with pledges and other contributions year-to-date, please continue giving as you have planned for your original tithe. Any additional giving is greatly appreciated."

## St. John's United Methodist Men



St. John's United Methodist Men look forward to the time when the weekly Wednesday morning Breakfast and Fellowship can resume.

2020 Officers:

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

## In Memoriam: Robert "Bob" Mayes

April 30, 1933-May 13, 2020

Robert "Bob" Shelton Mayes, a member of St. John's UMC for more than 40 years, passed away on May 13, 2020. A funeral service was held May 19 at Seaside Funeral Home with Pastor Wade Lindstrom officiating.

A native of Brownwood, TX, Bob attended high school in Austin and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a business degree. He later joined the Army and served in Germany. Bob worked for the Corpus Christi Army Depot as a controls systems analyst and was among the first to work with desktop computers and new technology. He retired from CCAD after 32 years of civil service.

Bob made St. John's UMC his church home in the early 1980s and enjoyed serving as usher, greeter, attending Sunday School and worship, and being a member of United Methodist Men. He also dedicated a lot of his life to the Boy Scouts, and both his sons were active in scouting. Bob served as Pack Master of 225 that was located at and sponsored by St. Johns.

Bob loved sports, including tennis, ping pong, pool, and water skiing, and he and his wife enjoyed traveling.

Bob is survived by his wife of 23 years, Jeanne Cazassis Mayes; daughter, Kelly Rene (Bobby) Smallwood of San Antonio and sons, Randall Robert (Kristi) Mayes of Houston and Darryl Patrick (Sherry) Mayes of Corpus Christi; and six grandchildren.



Bob Mayes

## Giving Statements Mailed to Members

Church Bookkeeper Barb Benton mailed **Giving Statements** late this week to all families and individuals at St. John's UMC. The printouts identified all financial giving (pledges and tithes, special gifts, memorials, and offerings) from January 1 through May 31, 2020.

Also included in the envelope was a contact sheet with specific information. If you see any errors in either the financial giving record or the contact sheet, call Bookkeeper Barb Benton or Administrative Assistant Cathi McRorey during new church hours to discuss errors or record updates.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Philip Sims
- 9 Ryan Cobb, Sarah Edwards
- 10 Faye Wilkins
- 11 Andrea Arevalo
- 13 Janice Cagle
- 15 Bryan R. Thompson
- 18 Noe Arevalo, Melissa Brownlee
- 19 Sue Windsor
- 25 Karen Van Kirk, Alexa Waldrop
- 26 Mary Ann Billings, Dorothy Pallotti
- 28 Mary McAllister
- 30 Billy Thompson

**NOTE:** If your birthday is not listed, is included incorrectly, or if there is some other error, please call the church at 991-4342.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

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 and will be acknowledged to the family. Be sure to designate which fund should receive your gift. Gifts to the Memorial Fund also may be given anonymously.

In loving memory of Jason Bruce Sanders, son of Glenda and Charlie Sanders, a gift to the Scholarship Fund from Chris Garcia, an undesignated gift from Ronald J. Sanders of Comanche, TX; and a gift to the Building Fund from Dr and Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt.

Also in loving memory of Jason Bruce Sanders, undesignated gifts from Judith and Kenneth Oestreich and from Mary Jane Fox.

In loving memory of Bob Mayes, husband of Jeanne and father of Darryl, Randall, and Kelly, a gift to United Methodist Men from Gaylord and Sue Hoyt and a gift to the Scholarship Fund from Chris Garcia.

Also in loving memory of Bob Mayes, a gift to United Methodist Men from Mary Jane Fox and an undesignated gift from John Strain of Coppel, TX.



## CHURCH LOST AND FOUND

Have you lost something at church? Maybe a set of keys, sunglasses, eye glasses??? Cathi McRorey wants to hear from you by the end of the month if you can claim one of the items pictured here. Otherwise, the items will be disposed of. Call Cathi at 991-4342 if you think one of these items belongs to you.

## Hymn History: THE SERVANT SONG

By Chris Garcia, Lay Leader

I love hymns, whether I'm singing them or just reflecting on the words and phrases in each verse. Many hymns have a scripture that inspired the hymnist, and I enjoy reading that scripture as I reflect on the hymn itself.

One of my favorite hymns in recent years is "The Servant Song" which is found only in *The Faith We Sing* supplement hymnal published in 1989 by the United Methodist Church.

It's a small book with a black cover and captures 284 songs, all reflecting "recently written hymn texts, praise & worship, non-Western music, gender neutral texts," and more.

"The Servant Song" has five stanzas (printed at right) and a very simple melody easily sung by children and adults alike. It was published in 1978 by Richard Gillard (born in 1953 in Britain), a self-taught guitarist who had almost no formal musical training but loved playing in a folk style.

This hymn's message is perfect for the time we are living in and speaks about empathy and compassion toward others, specific ways to show love, and walking a journey together. It's a hymn for the whole planet!

### STANZAS:

*Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I might have the grace to  
Let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey;  
We are family on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the miles and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joys and sorrows  
Till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in Heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.*

# St. John's UMC Prayer List



**Hospital/Rehab:** Charlene Hardy

**Recovering at Home:** Roseann Zammiello, Tom Niskala

**Grieving:** Family of Jason Bruce Sanders; Family of Bob Mayes

*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	Dana D'Amore	Mimi Keen
Coronavirus Victims and Families	Mike Dailey	Jim & Jill Kelly
All School Teachers Everywhere	K. Davidson	Charlotte Kunc
President Trump	Patricia Davis	Randy L.
US Military	Nicki Fischer	Tommy Lewis
World Leadership	Judy Forbes	Leann Love & Family
CC Metro Ministries	Elizabeth Gallaway	Claudia Lizcano
Phillip Balderas	Robert Garza	Elena Martinez
Joe Barrera	Pam Glover	Jeanne Mayes
Alicia Bargas	Mike Glover	Tom Niskala
Buff Betz	Fay Haggerty	Judi Oestreich
Robin Blue	Kathryn Heslep	Roma Onwiler
Melissa Brownlee	Elle Silvas Holloway	Chris Oxley
Tyler Brownlee	Hopkins Family	Mike P.
Margo C.	Deborah Jacobs (sister-in-law of Patrick Taber)	Dolores Pace
Jeff Caravantes	Hydie Johnson	Jack Pace
Marcia Caravantes	Jack Johnson	Lisa Pantoja
Samuel & Annette Carter	Stacia Johnston	Kelly R.
Andi Chamberlain	Phyllis Jones	Dottie Ramella
Margo Chapman	Ann Jordan	Jennifer Ridgeway
Betty Collins	Linda Jordan	Sherry Rizzo & Family
Josh W. Cox	Marta Juarez	Richard Rodela
	Margaret K.	Lupe Rodriguez
	Dr. Daksha Kalies	Rilla Roots
		Kelly S.

Linda S.  
 Glenda and Charlie Sanders and Family  
 Fay Sassman  
 Ivan Shaver  
 Lyneve Shaver  
 Susan Skidmore  
 Richard & Angela Strong  
 Sarah L. Taber (daughter of Patrick Taber)  
 Charles Teas  
 Terry & Marie  
 Sara Tucker  
 Dorothy Tullos  
 Marla Warfield  
 Davris White  
 Betty Wilson  
 Beverly Wilson  
 Mary Lee Woodson

Darron Bergstrom May 27, 2020

## CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Below is the Financial report as of 4/30/2020:

I hope this finds you all safe and well. I miss seeing all of you on Sundays. Hopefully, we can begin seeing each other in person sometime soon. Below is an update on the Church Financials year to date. I feel we have been very blessed with your continued support during this time. God Bless.

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$184,520.48	155,556.88	28,963.60
Expenses	\$166,501.67	166,685.89	184.21
Net	\$18,018.81	11,129.00	28,779.39

Please keep in mind we ended last year with a \$12,485.99 deficit, so at this point we have surplus of \$5,532.82

These numbers do not include the Children's Learning Center (CLC) which YTD has a Net Shortage of \$7,645.44.

St. John's UMC did receive a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan, a government stimulus loan to help businesses and non-profits continue payroll during the coronavirus mandate stay-at-home period. The loan will cover payroll expenses for two months and will not need to be repaid if 75% of the amount is used for payroll. This should have a positive effect on our financials assuming the CLC can become fully operational within the next month. (Note: the CLC reopened on June 1.)

Please contact me, if you have any questions.

# Changes Announced for 2020 Rio Texas Annual Conference

## New Dates Also Set for General and Jurisdictional Conferences

The information in this story was provided by Bishop Robert Schnase's office at the Rio Texas Conference through the Rio Texas website:

Given the ongoing risk of gathering in large numbers due to COVID-19, we have decided to postpone the 2020 session of the Rio Texas Annual Conference, scheduled for June 10-13, in Corpus Christi. Although some gatherings may be allowed legally by that time, we do not consider it wise or responsible to proceed with planning an event of the size and scope of our conference session. This decision was made by the Bishop and the Secretary of Annual Conference, in consultation with the Uniting Table, the Annual Conference Design Team, and the Cabinet.

This year's work of the Rio Texas Annual Conference will be accomplished by the following means:

- A virtual meeting of the clergy session will be held via Zoom at its currently scheduled time, 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10. The report normally shared at that meeting will be made available ahead of time for questions and editing.

The online session will then move through the report, voting on matters of clergy status and recognizing clergy milestones. (Pastor Wade Lindstrom will represent St. John's UMC.)

- A one-day, in-person session of the Annual Conference has been scheduled for **Saturday, October 3, 2020, in San Antonio**. At this event, the conference will act on the 2021 budget, as well as celebrate retirements, memorials, and ordination.

St. John's UMC Annual Conference Lay delegates, elected in October 2019 at the Charge Conference, are all invited to participate at the October 3 event.

They include: Leslie Albrecht, Robyn Cobb, Rick Darst, Julie Fomenko, Alexa Waldrop; and alternates Connie Hahn and Malia Schomaker. Any church member may attend the Annual Conference session as a visitor.

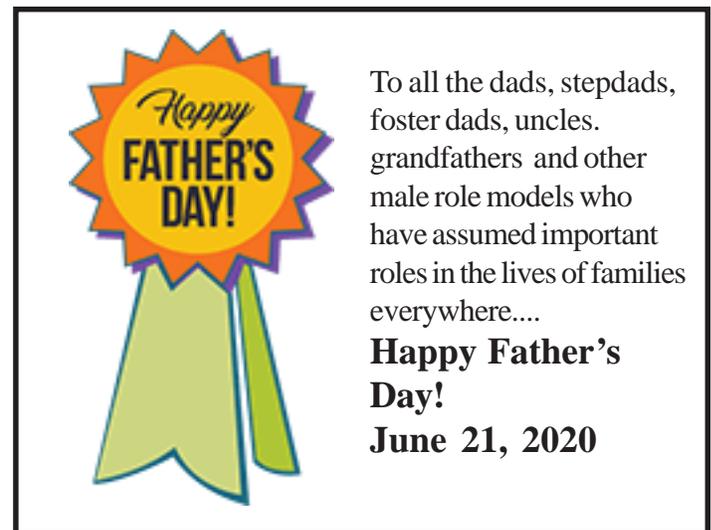
- Annual Conference nominations that would normally be voted on at the Annual Conference will be handled at a later date. This is due to a provision in the Book of Discipline that requires many positions to be filled by Annual Conference election following the General Conference session.

### General and Jurisdictional Conferences

The 2020 General Conference session (originally scheduled May 3-15 in Minneapolis, but cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic) has been postponed to Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

The five Jurisdictional Conferences in the United States (NorthCentral, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western) also have been postponed and rescheduled because of the pandemic. (The Rio Texas Conference is in the South Central Jurisdictional Conference.)

They will now be held November 10-12, 2021, and will follow the General Conference noted earlier. Meeting locations have not been announced.





### FAST FACTS:

The Coastal Bend Blood Center relies on approximately 30,000 altruistic and caring individuals who annually serve as volunteer donors.

The average adult has 10 pints of blood in his or her body; a newborn baby has about one cup.

Donated red blood cells must be used within 42 days of collection; platelets must be used within 5 days of collection; plasma can be frozen and must be used within one year.

Blood donors can make a donation once every 56 days, and platelet donors can give up to 24 times per year.

There are over a million red blood cells in a single drop of blood.

## Calling all BLOOD DONORS on Sunday, June 28

The Coastal Bend Blood Center covers 10 counties and supplies 19 medical facilities. From 125-150 blood donors are needed each day to keep blood on the shelves for our community.

The blood mobile will be parked at St. John's UMC front parking lot on Sunday, June 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The blood drive is open not only to St. John's donors but others in the community. Let your neighbors and work colleagues know about the blood drive!

The Blood Center is taking extra precautions for donors during this COVID-19 pandemic. Beds, booklets & tablets in the van will be sanitized, and social distancing will be observed both inside and outside the bloodmobile. If you have recently traveled, please wait until another time to donate blood.

**Those planning to donate blood on Sunday, June 28, must make an appointment by accessing this link: <https://bit.ly/2V9hWfB> or by calling 361-855-4943.**

All those donating blood will receive a coupon for Bluebell Ice Cream. "Give the gift of life!"

## 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:** See new schedule on Page 5 of this publication.



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**FOOD PANTRY** (Cancelled until further notice because of COVID-19.)

**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)

**WORSHIP SERVICE:** In-person worship resumes on June 21. (see story on Page 1.) **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:** Suspended until further notice because of COVID-19.

### 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 JULY 2020 issue is Friday, June 26, 2020.

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