



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

STEEPLE NOTES

OCTOBER 2020

In-Person Worship Resumes Sunday, October 4

St. John's is glad to be meeting in person again...it's been a long 6 months+ since we were all together in our two Sunday morning worship services. We know, however, that several of our church members/families are not ready to return just yet. Remember that St. John's will continue its online Sunday service at 11 a.m. and everyone is encouraged to tune in. A special thank you to several church members who helped prepare the worship space, did some landscaping and yardwork, and made phone calls to church members.

Notes for this Sunday and throughout October:

- * One service only at 10 a.m. Sunday in the Community Life Building
- * Safety precautions in place: please wear your mask and plan to sit in chairs pre-arranged for small groups or singles; tables available for families; the area has been sanitized and cleaned, as per protocols.
- * No printed materials, no coffee or snacks, and no congregational singing are planned; we will have special music, however. Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday--World Communion Sunday. (See story, Page 8.)

LOOKING AHEAD

BLOOD DRIVE, OCT. 18

St. John's UMC will host a blood drive on Sunday, October 18, 2020, from 8 am -1 pm in the front parking lot. Appointments are required, and blood donors must show an ID. Be watching for an email for the link for online registration.

TRUNK AND TREAT, OCT. 31

The Family Ministry team is putting together a socially distant Trunk or Treat event. The event has been held for a couple of years in the church's front parking lot, with a large crowd of trick-or-treaters stopping to receive candy. More details will follow but we are planning on 5-7pm on Saturday, October 31. Get your favorite costumes ready, and buy a bag or two of candy to share.

GETTING CHURCH CAMPUS READY TO REOPEN

Gerri and Benny Cason and Carolyn and Rawley Martin teamed up to trim shrubs and do some landscaping care as St. John's prepared to resume in-person worship services.



Reminder

JOIN US FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

Join fellow worshippers on Sunday mornings at 10:50 a.m. for the 11 a.m. online worship service. Great sermon, beautiful music, and video clips. Sign in at 10:50 a.m. to enjoy online chat with fellow church members.

<https://sjmethodist.online.church/>
or
<https://www.facebook.com/SJUMC>

Special thanks to all those involved in creating and helping produce the worship programs.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Expressions of Gratitude

After 26 weeks of online worship only, we resume worship October 4 with a single service in our Community Life Building.

I am so grateful to all of the people from staff to musicians and others who have been so dedicated to making worship happen online, to those who have been calling and checking on people, those who have helped maintain our campus and landscaping and to a new video team that will be relieving me of some of my video production duties.

I am also grateful that we are close to completing fund-raising to bring Harley Mathews on as a pastoral intern for the next year until he enters seminary. See the article about Harley in this same issue of Steeplenotes.

I plan to take some time off during October, so our preachers this month in addition to me are Rev. Steve Stephens and Harley Mathews. We will continue to meet online and in person in a combined service at least through Nov. 1. Our theme for preaching and worship will be Community.

I am really proud that so many of you continue to be a faithful and serving community to others even though our Sunday worship was suspended for so long. It is gratifying to serve a church that really grasps the idea that the church is a people called to serve.

I pray that we all continue to be a church led first by Jesus and that we continue to love each other and our community is this season of political tension and uncertainty related to the COVID-19 virus.

It is a joy to serve with each of you. I hope to encounter you in worship soon!

Peace, Pastor Wade

Rio Texas Conference To Hold Virtual Meeting-Oct. 3

The COVID-19 pandemic caused hundreds of conferences across the United States to be postponed or rescheduled in recent months, including the 2020 Annual Conference of the Rio Texas Conference.

That conference, to which more than 2,000 laity and clergy delegates usually attend, had been scheduled in early June in Corpus Christi.

The typical 3-day conference was reformatted to include several Zoom meetings for clergy and other Methodist leaders, plus a session for elected church delegates this Saturday, Oct. 3.

St. John's delegates are Leslie Albrecht, Rick Darst, Robyn Cobb, Julie Fomenko, and Alexa Waldrop.

Letter to Church Invites Support of Internship



Harley Mathews

Pastor Wade Lindstrom mailed a letter recently to church members to invite financial support to create an internship position that would be filled by Harley Mathews, a longtime church member and recent graduate of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Harley plans to enter seminary studies in Fall 2021 and is available to work in a local church ministry setting to prepare him for his calling to a possible clergy position in the United Methodist Church. He met with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), chaired by Darlene Duncan, via a Zoom meeting last month.

The letter identified several goals for Harley's internship, including outreach to college students, group studies with Thy Kingdom Come participants that could include integrating TKC members into more of the life of the church, monthly sermon commitment, and development of spiritual formation events for the whole congregation based around the concepts of Belong, Believe, Become.

The internship would need to be funded outside the current church budget, Pastor Wade said. Harley would work approximately 20 hours a week, which equates to \$10,000 over the next 12 months. A commitment from the Rio Texas Conference to cover \$3,000 has already been confirmed.

Church members who see the value of this internship and who are willing and open to contributing to his salary are invited to contact Pastor Wade immediately at 361-960-4021. "No amount is too small or too large," Pastor Wade said, adding "your commitment can be spread over 2020 and 2021."

Food Pantry To Reopen October 14

Volunteers Needed....Can You Help?

We are excited to announce that we will reopen our Food Pantry on Wednesday, October 14, 2020! We've been closed for more than 6 months, and we are ready to serve our clients again. St. John's will open its normal pantry hours from 9am - 12 noon on both Wednesday, Oct. 14, and Thursday, Oct. 15.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help with the pantry, please contact Cathy McRorey at 361-991-4342. Volunteers are needed who can be on site at 8:45 am, who have a heart for helping others, and a wonderful smile to share!

Thanks to everyone who has brought items over the past several months to keep the Food Pantry stocked. Your generous spirit is sincerely appreciated.



ITEMS NEEDED IN THE FOOD PANTRY:

1 or 2-lb bags of white or brown rice

1-lb packages of spaghetti or other pasta

Canned Pasta, Canned Soup



Thy Kingdom Come – October 11th; Join Us!

As we reach toward the finish line of 2020, we are continuing a series on Jonah to wrap up an adventure of a year!

We are looking forward to both a livestream of the **Thy Kingdom Come** (TKC) service as well as in-person worship on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

This month we will look at Chapter 2 of Jonah. The question we are asking from this Old Testament prophet is “what do we do when our enemies are loved by God?”

This is an ongoing theme at **Thy Kingdom Come** as we make every attempt to be inclusive and live a corporate lifestyle of grace rooted in Chris-

tianity. The worship will be led by GratitudeTX who just released their debut EP.

The title of the sermon being given by Harley Mathews is “Seeking God in the Darkness.”

In the future, we hope people will look back at 2020 and see how we became more loving and kind. This series and service will have all of that in mind.

TKC is held on the Parade Street side of the church. Communion will be served.

Thank you for considering visiting either in person or digitally on Oct. 11!

For more information, call Harley Mathews at 361-834-9197.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS MAILED OCT. 1

“Quarterly giving statements are provided to donors, and donors are encouraged to reconcile the giving statement to their records and report discrepancies to someone who is not involved in counting the offering or recording contributions.” From *Guidelines: Finance 2017-2020*. Copyright c 2016 by Cokesbury. Used by permission.

Dear SJUMC families: According to these guidelines, contribution statements detailing 2020 giving were mailed 10/01/2020. Contact Cathy McRorey at the church office, 991-4342, to report any discrepancies. St. John's UMC's last statement of the year will be prepared 01/01/2021.

St. John's UMC Prayer List



Hospitalized: Ivan Shaver

Recovering in Facility: Bo Estabrook, Kathryn Heslep

Recovering at Home: Tom Niskala, Roseann Zammiello

Grieving: Family of Nicki Fischer

Our Church	Melissa Brownlee	Mike Glover		
Coronavirus Victims and Families	Tyler Brownlee	Fay Haggerty		
President Trump	Evalynn Bunk	JoAnn Holland		
US Military	Jeff Caravantes	Elle Silvas Holloway		
World Leadership	Marcia Caravantes	Hopkins Family	Chris Oxley	LTJG Steven S. Suarez
All School Teachers	Andi Chamberland	Deborah Jacobs	Mike P.	Crew of USS Alabama
All Parents and Students returning to school	Margo Chapman	Jinnette Family	Dolores Pace	Luke Tauriac
Children's Learning Center	Brian Claunch	Elene Johnson	Jack Pace	Terrie & Marie Charles Teas
CC Metro Ministries	Josh W. Cox	Hydie Johnson	Lisa Pantoja	Sara Tucker
The Wenzel House	Dana D'Amore	Jack Johnson	Kelly R.	Dorothy Tullos
Katherine Anderson in Waco (friend of the Haakers)	Mike Dailey	Stacia Johnston	Jenna Purdy	Louise Wagner
Bruce Armstrong	Jan Decovic	Phyllis Jones	Dottie Ramella	Kimbo Ward
Kathy Barber	Family of JT Crago	Ann Jordan	Rilla Roots	Davris White
Adela Balderas	Family of Mary Beth Ferrell	Margaret K.	Kelly S.	Betty Wilson
Phillip Balderas	Family of Nicki Fischer	Mimi Keen	Fay Sassman	Beverly Wilson
Robin Blue	Family of Jerry Swift	Charlotte Kunc	Lyneve & Ivan Shaver	Doug & Sharon Winnek
Margo C	Family of Jason Sanders	Tommy Lewis	Suzy Shepard	Mary Lee Woodson
	Judy Forbes	Jeanne Mayes	Susan Skidmore	Roseann Zammiello
	Robert Garza	Tom Moore	Cindy Straub	
	Pam Glover	Judi Oestreich	Richard & Angela Strong	
		Todd Olson		
		David Olson		
		Roma Onwiler		

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 like to add someone or return someone to the prayer list. [Emergency messages to Pastor Wade--960-4021]

THANK YOU...

Dear Church:

On behalf of Nicki Fischer's husband, Richard, and her daughter, Marci, I want to thank you for your love and support for Nicki during her almost three-year illness. Her journey ended August 27 and she is now in the loving arms of our Savior. Throughout the months she was ill and being cared for at home, your sweet cards, phone calls, gifts, and food treats made days special for her and for Richard. Nicki loved her church, and she knew how much she was loved through all your thoughtful remembrances.

Sincerely,

Chris Davis Garcia (Nicki's sister)

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."

Thank you for giving to your Church!

Looking Ahead:

Coastal Bend Day of Giving--November 10

Coastal Bend Day of Giving brings the region together as one community, raising money and awareness for dozens of local nonprofits during the 24-hour online giving challenge. Your personal gift can make a difference to local non-profits. St. John's Foundation, which selected some local mission recipients earlier this summer, will make those donations online in November because the gifts will be doubled! If you need more information, please contact the Coastal Bend Community Foundation which administers this special giving opportunity.

Rio Texas Conference Issues Covenant on Anti-Racism (September 24, 2020)

As members of the Rio Texas Conference Cabinet, Conference Directors, and Conference Secretary, we assert:

Our nation has arrived upon a moment of reckoning regarding the sin of racism that has permeated American hearts, systems, and communities since our founding. This same racism has also shaped American Methodism since our earliest days and continues to mark our life as the Rio Texas Conference. We believe that both the suffering of people of color and their lives, faithfulness, and giftedness are bound closely to the heart of God, and as baptized Christians, we have committed ourselves “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression, in whatever forms they present themselves.”

Together we covenant to the following:

We will work intentionally, individually and collectively, to seek out and confront the presence of racism in our own hearts, attitudes, and actions. We will approach this as a spiritual discipline, in faithfulness to our Creator and to Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We will listen to the voices and experiences of Black, Hispanic, Asian, and other persons of color as we learn to act more justly.



We will work together to identify the sinful patterns and practices of racism in our conference, our churches, and our communities. We will take concrete steps to repent and take concrete steps toward equity. We will give ourselves fully to the ongoing anti-racism work our bishop has announced.

We acknowledge that anti-racism is both a perspective and a journey. We will strive to listen, speak, and act with honesty, courage, grace for ourselves and others, and a sincere desire to learn and grow. We will maintain our focus on the needs of those most harmed by racism in all its forms.

We will put our faith in our good and gracious God and will trust that the work of anti-racism will bring blessing and healing to all people.

St. John's United Methodist Men



2020 Officers:

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

St. John's United Methodist Men look forward to the time when the weekly Wednesday morning Breakfast and Fellowship can resume. But they have enjoyed weekly outdoor gatherings in the front parking lot. Be sure to check the Constant Contact email sent each week to confirm a planned event/date. UMM also supported the 2020 Scholarship Fund to help provide funds for three high school graduates. Your UMM supports more than 30 charities and continues to send greeting cards weekly. Word has it that a Fish Fry might be in the works! Be watching for details.

Guess What's Coming? PIES, PIES, PIES!
Pie Orders will be taken soon!
Contact Bryan Thompson for more information

SAFETY TRAINING REQUIRED:

If you are a Sunday school teacher for children or youth, a youth worker, nursery worker, Food Pantry volunteer, church office volunteer, volunteer with Vacation Bible School (VBS), or if you visit shut-ins and home-bound members, you will need to go through this Children & Vulnerable Adult SAFETY TRAINING required by the Rio Texas Conference, or renew your certification if you have already completed the training in the past.

Go to: [HTTPS://SAFEGATHERINGS.COM](https://safegatherings.com)

If you have any questions on who needs the training or you aren't sure if it applies to you, feel free to contact the church office and we can assist you. A computer is available at the St. John's church office for your use if needed.



READING CLINIC: We Need Volunteers for Online Program

By Elaine Clanton Harpine

Our reading clinic is making plans to reopen, but we will be reopening online. After speaking with the Health Department, it has been decided that the best way for us to open is with an online program. The reading clinic at St John's combines many ages working together in small groups. Sitting six feet apart would not be feasible; therefore, we will switch to an online program for the remainder of this year.

Yes, we do eventually plan to return to our hands-on clinic in the CLB, but the children cannot wait. Many children need help today.

Our reading clinic at Saint John's was very successful last year. We even had two students move up two grade levels in reading after only 48 hours of instruction. We appreciate all of the hard work that St John's members and community workers provided. You truly made a difference.

Now, we come seeking more help. We need you to help us once again teach children to read.

The reading clinic will remain free to all children who are in need of help in reading. The online program will be a one-on-one tutoring type program using vowel clustering.

We must have volunteers. We will need one volunteer for each child registered. All curriculum materials will still be provided free of charge. All we're

asking for is a time commitment from volunteers to work with children in need. You'll be working online from your home on your home computer. I will provide an online training program, and I'll be working with the volunteers and students at each session. I'll also facilitate the link with the students.

So, if you have been looking for a community service project that you could do safely from your home, this may be just the project for you. You do not need to be a teacher or have any experience in education. All ages can work with this program. I have successfully worked with middle school age volunteers through seniors from the community.

I will provide free teaching videos for the students, but it is essential that we have someone to work directly with each child. Children who cannot read are not able to read and follow directions without assistance.

We will start testing and registering students as soon as we have a list of volunteers. Come, help teach a child to read. For more information, please contact Elaine Clanton Harpine at 361-867-8040 or at clantonharpine@hotmail.com

If you teach a child to read, you really can change the world.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Laurie Bryce
- 2 Vilma Lozano
- 4 Frank Olevitch, Sue Rees
- 5 Jack Johnson
- 7 Jennifer Ainsworth, Ann Herrmann, Larry Oliver, Diana Shaffer, Seth Thompson
- 10 Sam Windsor
- 11 Earl Jones, Betty Sebring
- 12 Roy Staiger
- 13 Jeff Blue, Jonathan Bryce, Pastor Wade Lindstrom
- 16 Virginia Scott
- 17 Gerri Cason, Steve Lewis
- 18 Robert Garza
- 20 Elizabeth Balderas, Lynn Bridges, Sheryl Calhoun
- 21 Barbara Benton
- 22 Judi Oestreich, Dana Sharpe
- 23 Carole Salsberry, Jean Shivers
- 24 Valda Jensen, Patricia Moellendorf
- 25 Candi Jinnette
- 29 Taylor Cason, Ronald Waldrop
- 31 Janae Cubellis, Jim Falwell, Kristina Thompson

If you are missing from the OCTOBER birthday list or note any errors in the listing, please call the church office, 991-4342.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE NEW URLS:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SJUMC>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stjohnmethodist>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sjmethodist/>

(Provided by Cathi Garza)

CHURCH CHATTER

Letter Writing Project

Church volunteers and Scouts are continuing letter writing and sending cards to members at nursing homes, those who may be sick, and to those who are quarantined at home and might need a cheery card or letter to brighten their day.

If you would like to volunteer to make a card each month or write a letter, let us know. Children, teens, and adults are welcome to join us. If you know someone who we should include on our list, please let us know. We want everyone to know that they are special and that God loves them. Help us spread God's love.

For more information, contact Robyn Cobb or Elaine Clanton Harpine.

Family Devotional Program Online

Hanna Patton-Elliott, Children's Director, began producing a short Family Devotional Program in early July. The program is accessible online. Be sure to tune in every week. It's a wonderful way for families to come together each week.

Hats Off to the Video Production Team

A big shout-out to Adam Mathews, Team Leader; Tonya Delk, Levi Delk, and Carrie Darst for serving on the church's video production team. You are all appreciated!

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 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 Nicki Fischer, wife of Richard and mother of Marci, gifts to the Food Pantry from Libbie Payne and from the CCI Class which Nicki attended; also undesignated gifts from JoAnn Holland and from Gwen G. Newkirk of Helena, AR (Nicki's cousin).

Also in loving memory of Nicki, gifts to the Building Fund from Roberta Jo and Willie Jo Kostka, Dr. and Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt, Carolyn Pence, and Mary Jane Fox.

Also in loving memory of Nicki, undesignated gifts from Leroy Steinocher and Family, Joyce Zimmerman, Debi and Bruce Francis, Sue and Sam Windsor, Jerry Harrison, and Elaine and Scott Wilshusen of Glen Rose, TX.

Also in loving memory of Nicki, gifts to the Care & Concern/Bereavement Fund from Chris and Richard Garcia and from Paula and Leigh Smith of South Royalton, VT (Nicki's cousin).



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION ON SEPT. 6

About 25 church members and friends participated in the Drive-Thru Communion on Sept. 6 in the front parking lot. Special thanks to Pastor Wade, Leslie Albrecht, Natalie Albrecht, and Chris Garcia for being on site.



NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Two important meetings are on the calendar for United Methodist Women--the Rio Texas' sixth Annual UMW Conference and the Coastal Bend District's UMW Annual Meeting.

Both will be "virtual" events on the online ZOOM platform, and participants will receive information on how to register.

The Rio Texas Conference UMW Sixth Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10. The meeting is tentatively set from 9:30 a.m. to noon. More information to come!

The Coastal Bend District's UMW Annual Meeting will be Saturday, October 17, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Members will be asked to prereister for security reasons, but there will be no registration fee.

Officers for 2021 will be elected, and UMW business will highlight the Charter Club for Racial Justice, Reading Program, Candle Burning, and Approved Study Report and Mission Today Report.

Be watching for more details from St. John's UMW president Carole Salsberry.

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP NOTES:

Sunday, October 4th:

Sermon Text: Matthew 21:33-46
Combined In-Person Worship @ 10 am CLB
World Communion Sunday (rail offering)
Online Service @ 11 am

Wednesday, October 6th:

UMM Breakfast @ 8 am by the Scout Hut
Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am in front of the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 11th:

Combined In-Person Worship @ 10 am CLB
Online Service @ 11 am
Sermon Text: Matthew 22:1-4

Sunday, October 18th:

Blood Mobile 8 am -1 pm Main Church
Parking Lot; must register in advance with the Coastal Bend Blood Center

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

This coming October 4, congregations around the globe will celebrate World Communion Sunday. Most of us have heard about World Communion Sunday but may not know much about where the celebration originated.

According to the website of the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor of the NCC) in 1940. Since then, the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity.

The key word for World Communion Sunday is communion, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal—when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper as a lasting remembrance—and of Jesus' sacrifice.

World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. At its best, therefore, World Communion Sunday is both a joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a mind-opening exposure to different Christian traditions from around the world.

In United Methodist Churches around the world, a special offering is collected on World Communion Sunday to fund scholarships for seminarians.

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

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Location: 5300 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Church Telephone: 361-991-4342

Church FAX: 361-991-1840

E-mail Address: st.johnsumccc@gmail.com

Website: www.sjmethodist.com

OFFICE HOURS: (until further notice) Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon; closed Friday.

FOOD PANTRY: Reopening Oct. 14 and 15, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER: 361-991-4780

WORSHIP SERVICES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:

Suspended until further notice because of COVID-19; please participate in each Sunday's online service at 11 am

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 November 2020 issue is Friday, October 23.

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