



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

STEEPLE NOTES

NOVEMBER 2020

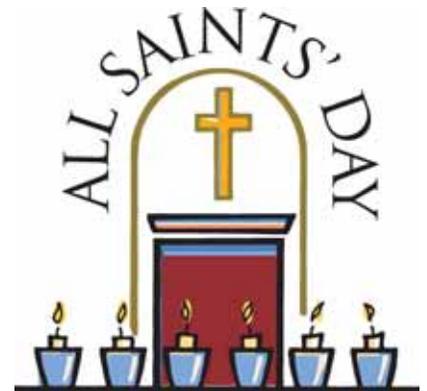
Sunday, November 1, Is All Saints Sunday, Communion

All Saints Sunday is November 1, and two special aspects are scheduled during the service--Holy Communion and recognition of 11 church members who have died in the faith and are now among the "cloud of witnesses" mentioned in Scripture. (See related story on Page 8.)

Please plan to join us if you are able and if you feel comfortable being in the in-person service which begins at 10 a.m. in the Community Life Building.

The following church members will be remembered: Gloria Caravantes, Mary Beth McNorton Ferrell, Nicki Davis Fischer, Charlene Hardy, James "Jim" Heslep, Arlene Kilsby, Robert "Bob" Mayes, William "Bill" McNair, Gene Sherman, Jo Anne Wilshusen, and John Zimmerman.

Special reminders: One service only at 10 a.m. Sunday in the Community Life Building. Safety precautions observed: please wear your mask and plan to sit in chairs pre-arranged for singles, small groups, and families; the area has been sanitized and cleaned, as per protocols. No coffee or snacks will be available.



Holy Communion will be served, and all who desire a closer relationship with Jesus Christ is welcomed. Pre-packaged juice cups and wafers will be available. Church members and friends who want to pick up the Communion elements to use during Sunday's online service are invited to come to the church front parking lot between from 8:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m. to pick them up from Leslie Albrecht.

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.

** TIMELY REMINDERS

"Trunk or Treat" Cancelled -- The third annual "Trunk or Treat" event that had been announced for Saturday, October 31, in the church parking lot has been cancelled. If questions, talk to Leslie Albrecht or Cindy Straub.

Daylight Saving Time Ends -- Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 1, with clocks "falling back" one hour. We'll pick up that hour of sleep we lost last March when Daylight Saving Time began. Be sure to reset your clocks before you go to bed so you'll be on time to church!

Election Day on Tuesday, November 3 -- If you are a registered voter and have not already accomplished Early Voting or have plans to mail in your Ballot by Mail, please plan to VOTE on Tuesday, November 3. Voting hours on Election Day are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at every location.



Fish Fry Planned by UMM, November 7 -- Take-out only, 4-6 p.m. (See story on Page 5.)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

An Opportunity to Simplify Our Leadership Structure

I am excited to tell you that St. John's United Methodist Church Council agreed this past Monday, October 26, to begin to move on a proposal to evolve its leadership structure beginning in early 2021. For now, this proposed change is a work in progress.

Over the next 3 months, we will be offering a series of listening and question and answer sessions to the entire congregation. These sessions will be offered both in Zoom and in-person meetings.

The proposed change will combine three of our administrative committees into one board that serves the administrative function of the current Trustees, Finance, and Staff-Parish Relations committees. So, rather than up to 30+ people working in these administrative capacities, a board of 12 people will take on that role.

The idea is that we can then allow more people to be free to serve and contribute to the church's mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The United Methodist Church created this path to an alternate structure in our *Book of Discipline* over a decade ago, and many churches in our Rio Texas Annual Conference and in the Coastal Bend District have shifted to this simplified and more accountable structure. This structure is specifically addressed in the most current 2016 *UMC Book of Discipline*, paragraph 247.2.

The duties and responsibilities of the traditional four administrative committees — finance, personnel (Staff/Pastor Parish Relations), property (Trustees), and administrative board — can be combined into a single governing leadership team. This simplification of your structure allows a streamlined and clear line of accountable leadership:

- The governance responsibilities of fiduciary work (goal assessment, financial and facility oversight, and legal responsibilities), generative work (creativity, teambuilding, new questions), and strategic work (creating plans for the future) take priority in the lay leadership team's work.

- The management of the day-to-day church should be the responsibility of the pastor and staff (paid and unpaid).

- The laity of the church are equipped for ministry.

When leadership moves to the simplified, accountable leadership structure, the church begins to align all its resources to the congregation's mission and unique vision. Those resources include such things as time, energy, people, facility, budget, or calendar.

This change will allow more lay people to devote time to doing hands-on ministry, rather than committing to serve on committees. The structure could reduce the number of planned administrative meetings from 40 meetings per year to 12 meetings per year. It's a more fluid structure for

decision making and empowers people to do the work Christ calls us to do. The meetings will be regularly scheduled, and will be open to the congregation, except when personnel discussions are addressed.

I believe this structure will allow us to focus more intently on the mission and vision of the church and help us align our resources with that vision. Having a strong leadership board focused on mission and vision will also allow us to equip one another to do the more important work of the kingdom of God.

On the occasion when there are pastoral changes, it will be less disruptive, because the leadership of the church will own the vision and keep driving forward.

Please watch for church communications as to the schedule of our listening/question and answer sessions.

Hope to see you on Sundays at our in-person worship gathering at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Life Building and/or online at 11:00 a.m. at <https://sjmethodist.online.church/>

Peace, Pastor Wade

SUNDAY SERMON NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

November 1 - Saints; Scripture - Matthew 1:1-17

November 8 - Brides; Scripture - Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 - Talents ; Scripture - Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 - Kings; Scripture - Matthew 25: 31-46
(Harley Mathews to preach)

November 29 - Come Awake; Scripture - Mark 13: 24-37

Honoring our Veterans: *Special Meal Planned*

By Gerri Cason

For the last 7 years, the Seekers Sunday School class has sponsored an annual luncheon for the HUD-VASH Veterans. HUD -VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA that combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

This year, we are planning a Thanksgiving Box Lunch TO GO. We will put the boxes together at the church and case workers for the veterans will pick up and deliver the box lunches. Be watching for the work hours.

In the past, we planned for and served approximately 60 men and women. This year's event date is Wednesday, November 18.

This project is a churchwide outreach project, and your help and assistance is needed. I've identified what the planning team will need and how YOU can help.

- Cash Donations
- Styrofoam TO GO BOXES, small and large
- Lunch will be Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Corn Casserole, Green Beans, Gravy, and Connie Hahn's Homemade Rolls. (Always a HUGE hit, and she has already committed to bake some this year!)

Desserts: Apple Pies, Pumpkin Pies, Cherry Pies, and Brownies.



In November 2019, the annual luncheon for veterans was held in the Community Life Building. The 45+ attendees were so appreciative, and those who staged the luncheon felt blessed to have undertaken this special project.

This year, because we can't thank them in person for their service to our country, we want to include at least **one hand written note** for each box.

I will have note cards this Sunday's 10 a.m. worship service so everyone who wants to participate can pick up and prepare a card.

{ Volunteers are needed! Gerri Cason can be reached at 361-739-3904 or by email at gerricsn@aol.com if you have questions or want to volunteer to provide food or help fix the boxes

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 on Wednesday mornings. Be sure to check the Constant Contact email sent each week to confirm a planned event/date. Your UMM supports more than 30 charities, plus the St. John's Scholarship Fund, and continues to send greeting cards weekly.

Order your favorite pies for Thanksgiving. PIES, PIES, PIES!
\$20.....look for UMM members on Sunday morning near the Bell Tower.
For info: Call Bryan Thompson at 361-563-0126

UMM PIE SALE:

Check out these 10-inch pies that are available for \$20: Apple, Pumpkin, Cherry, Pecan, French Silk, Butterfinger, Key Lime, and Peanut Buttercup.
For \$25, , Quatro Cheesecake.
Orders taken through Sunday, Nov. 1; pay with cash, credit card, debit card, check.
Anticipated pick-up date around Nov. 19.

First In-Person Worship on October 4, 2020, Full of Smiling (Masked) Faces and Cordial Greetings! (See additional photos on Page 6 from the October services)



The return to the church campus on October 4 was a great day, with about 70 worshippers masked and socially distancing themselves in the Community Life Building. Thanks to Brian Claunch and Tonya Delk for their help in setting up and sanitizing the room and to a dozen other folks who cheerfully accepted designated tasks related to welcome-back protocols.

(Pictured above and clockwise):

Nancy Busby and Robyn Cobb at the registration table; Benny Cason greeting; Robin Blue and Dorothy Pallotti sharing their voices; Adam Mathews with his camera; Carole Salsberry and Glenda Sanders at the front door; Gerri Cason and Lynn Bridges greeting; and Pastor Wade Lindstrom at the Communion table.





Fish Fry (Take-Out Plates Only) Set Saturday, November 7

Sponsored by St. John's United Methodist Men

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Take-out plates only from the Community Life Building

Each plate \$10; includes delicious fried fish, 2 sides, roll, dessert.

Pay at the door; only 150 plates will be available.

Let your neighbors, friends, office colleagues, family members, and others know that the Fish Fry proceeds will support church ministries.

St. John's UMC Prayer List



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]

Recovering in Facility: Bo Estabrook

Recovering at Home: Ivan Shaver, Tom Niskala, Roseann Zammiello

Grieving: Family of Delfina Morales (grandmother of Amanda Mathews); Family of Charlene Hardy;
Family of Carl Windsor (Sam Windsor's brother)

Our Church	Robin Blue	Mike Glover	Elena Martinez	Kelly S.
Coronavirus Victims and Families	Margo C.	Fay Haggerty	Harley & Amanda Mathews	Stephanie Sasser (niece of Debra Patterson).
President Trump	Melissa Brownlee	Kathryn Heslep	Tommie Mercer	Fay Sassman
US Military	Tyler Brownlee	JoAnn Holland	(mother of Leesa Stephens)	Lyneve Shaver
World Leadership	Evalynn Bunk	Elle Silvas Holloway	Judi Oestreich	Suzy Shepard
All School Teachers	Jeff Caravantes	Hopkins Family	Todd Olson	Susan Skidmore
All Parents and students returning to school	Marcia Caravantes	Deborah Jacobs	David Olson	Cindy Straub
Children's Learning Center	Andi Chamberland	Jinnette Family	Roma Onwiler	Richard & Angela Strong
CC Metro Ministries	Margo Chapman	Elene Johnson	Chris Oxley	Terrie & Marie
The Wenholz House	Brian Claunch	Hydie Johnson	Mike P.	Charles Teas
Katherine Anderson in Waco (friend of the Haakers)	Josh W. Cox	Jack Johnson	Dolores Pace	Sara Tucker
Bruce Armstrong	Dana D'Amore	Stacia Johnston	Jack Pace	Dorothy Tullos
Adela Balderas	Mike Dailey	Phyllis Jones	Lisa Pantoja	Louise Wagner
Phillip Balderas	Jan Decovic	Ann Jordan	Roger Pigott	Davris White
	Margaret Earle	Margaret K.	Kelly R.	Betty Wilson
	Family of JT Crago	Dr. Daksha Kalies	Jenna Purdy	Beverly Wilson
	Judy Forbes	Mimi Keen	Dottie Ramella	Doug & Sharon Winnek
	Robert Garza	Charlotte Kunc	Rilla Roots	Mary Lee Woodson
	Brenda Glover	Tommy Lewis		
	Pam Glover	Jeanne Mayes		

Supporting St. John's with Your Tithes and Offerings...

Your continued giving, whether cash or checks or using the text option, is sincerely appreciated! The Finance Committee reported recently that church members who made 2020 pledges and/or give regular offerings have maintained their giving, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your faithfulness! As this fiscal year comes to a close, please continue your giving.

If you want to use the texting option, here's how to do that: Using your cell phone, enter this phone number in the text box: 361-541-6512. You will be sent a link and when you open the link, you will enter the information required and follow the instructions.

THANK YOU for supporting St. John's UMC.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Thursday, November 26

Dear Church:

This Thanksgiving Season is upon us, and although this special national holiday may be enveloped in sadness, loneliness, and uneasiness for many of our families and friends, we remain thankful, hopeful, and faithful, counting our blessings every day.

I am especially thankful for the 64 years that Pastor Harold Onwiler served as a pastor at many churches, including St. John's UMC.

He recently announced his retirement on Facebook, writing "the doctor says that I simply must reduce some of the stress in my life if I am to be able to care for my precious wife as dementia overtakes her. I thank all of you who have encouraged and supported me over the decades. May God bless you each and every one."

Thank you, Pastor Harold, for your 64 years of ministry.

--Chris Garcia, Lay Leader



The Rev. Harold Onwiler

More Photos from Worship Services in October

Noah Lozano and his wife, an important duo with the Thy Kingdom Come service, shared their music; Madeleine, Kim Bryce, and Leslie Albrecht offered special music; retired minister, the Rev. Steve Stephens (Hannah's dad) was a guest preacher on Oct. 18; Mariah Delk and her Grand Pal Chris Garcia posed for a selfie; Kim Bryce and Marcia Caravantes visited; Harley Mathews brought the message during Pastor Wade's absence on Oct. 11.



Meet Harley Mathews, New Church Intern



Harley Mathews

An Introduction of Sorts.

Hello, I am Harley Mathews, the new pastoral intern at St. John's. If I haven't waved at you yet, I look forward to doing so soon and even a possible handshake or hug at some point as we understand more about Covid-19.

I want to briefly introduce myself to the larger St. John's community here in Steeple Notes. I am a recent graduate of TAMUCC with a bachelor's in History with a Religious Studies minor.

During my internship, I will be moving through the stages of the candidacy process as well as applying for graduate school seeking a Masters in Divinity.

I have attended and supported with prayers the Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) service since its debut at our beloved campus in 2009. TKC is something I think every member of our church family should be proud of. It is something I hope to put efforts into during my time as an intern.

I came to a call in the Methodist church via a long and winding road of discernment since my teen years. This meant understanding terms like call, missional, wisdom, discernment, and



Harley delivered the sermon on October 11 during Pastor Wade's absence. Harley has been hired to serve as an intern for the next year.

preaching as defined in three major denominations (I am a 'mid-life' Methodist). It also meant seeking a denomination that I can be both challenging and supportive.

I grew up in the wild and free style of worship and preaching of the Assemblies of God tradition, mostly here in Corpus Christi.

My late teens and early twenties included both Methodist churches and Baptist circles that put emphasis on service and study in varying degrees of importance.

My wife, Amanda, grew up in the Disciples of Christ denomination with its devotion to service and the communion table so precious also with our own Methodist heritage.

The core of my yearning for vocational work within the Methodist church as an ordained elder is tied to the deep history of social principles, hands on theology of sacrament and scripture, and the tangible belief in human dignity.

I am a life-long learner, avid reader, and enjoy coffee probably more than is medically acceptable. A fun fact, I

collect Boston Celtics' basketball cards but have never been to Boston! My wife and I own Love Is A Seed, a local jewelry business that is focused on creatively and contemplative collections. This allows us lots of public space to love people and be creative.

I come to contemplative work (i.e., spiritual formation, direction, labyrinth journeys, silence as prayer, and more) through studying the life and work of Thomas Merton and Richard Rohr, as well as personal time spent in silent retreats.

I hope to offer some of these 'spiritual practices' as opportunities for our already and future church family. Covid 19 has increased the human ache for silence and stillness as less of a response to tragedy and more as a means of worship.

Here we are my friends, from all kinds of journeys, together in the relationship of teacher and student. I look forward to this process and the creative ways God has in mind we haven't dreamed up yet. May God bless your November, and may we have some good conversation soon!

What “All Saints Day” Means to Methodists

(This article by Joe Lovino was first published in October 2015 by the United Methodist Communications.)

This Sunday, November 1, is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallows’ (Saints’) Eve, better known as Halloween, but is far more important in the life of the church.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it “a festival I truly love.” On the same day in 1788, he writes, “I always find this a comfortable day.” The following year he calls it “a day that I peculiarly love.”

This may sound odd. United Methodists don’t believe in saints. Right? Well, yes... and no.

Wesley cautioned against holding saints in too high regard. [The Articles of Religion](#), that he sent to the Methodists in America in 1784, includes a statement against “invocation of saints” (Article XIV—Of Purgatory, Book of Discipline ¶104). Wesley did not see biblical evidence for the practice and discouraged Methodists from participating.

However, he also advised against disregarding the saints altogether.

In an All Saints Day journal entry dated Monday, November 1, 1756, Wesley writes, “*How superstitious are they who scruple giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints!*” *If your 18th century English is as rusty as mine, it might help to know that the word scruple means, “to be unwilling to do something because you think it is improper, morally wrong, etc.”* ([Merriam-Webster.com](#)).

In studying John Wesley’s theological method, scholars have found four inter-related theological guidelines: Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason. These are the sources of our understanding of our faith.

By tradition, we mean all that has gone before us in the Christian church. We are part of a long history that goes back through John Wesley, to the early days of the Church, and the apostles of Jesus.

When we think theologically we need to keep in mind the creeds, prayers, sermons, books, music, and all other ways Christians have understood the work of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in their lives.

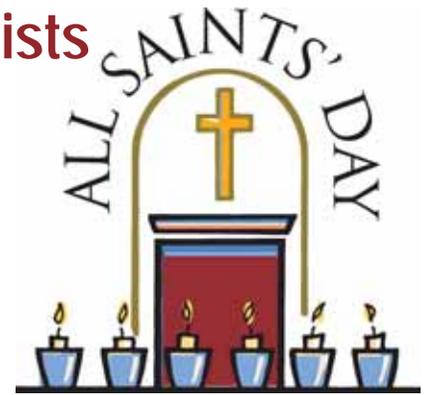
All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a “great cloud of witnesses” surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Charles Wesley, John’s brother, picks up on this theme in his hymn that appears in our United Methodist Hymnal as “Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above,” #709.

Wesley’s hymn tells us those “to glory gone” are joined by the “saints on earth,” whom we also celebrate on All Saints Day. We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share.

Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm’s way.



On All Saints Day we remember all those—famous or obscure—who are part of the “communion of saints” we confess whenever we recite [The Apostles’ Creed](#). We tell the stories of the saints “to glory gone.”

Alongside the likes of Paul from the New Testament, Augustine, Martin Luther, and John and Charles Wesley, we tell stories of the grandmother who took us to church every Sunday. We remember the pastor who prayed with us in the hospital, and the neighbor who changed the oil in the family car.

We give thanks for the youth leader who told us Jesus loved us, the kindergarten Sunday school teacher who showered us with that love, and the woman in the church who bought us groceries when we were out of work.

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints.

Let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth who have led us to Jesus.

Food Pantry Glad To Again Serve Community

By Cathy McRorey

The St. John's Food Pantry is again open, following a 7-month shutdown! It has been a hard time for us all dealing with the Covid19 virus. As we know, there are so many people in need during this pandemic, so it has been hard not to be open to assist them. We have stayed busy by cleaning up the pantry area, reorganizing, and disposing of the small amount of food (like stale chips) that was out of date.

Every year the Coastal Bend Food Bank has an annual meeting where all the pantries and feeding agencies gather together to hear about the year and fill out their annual paperwork. Due to the virus, the Food Bank did not have that meeting. Therefore, they emailed the paperwork to complete and return to them.

Some notable new requirements in place this year:

1. We are now required to have a committee of from 8 to 10 people to operate an Emergency Box Pantry. This is what St. John's Food Pantry is.
2. New pantries will be required to be open a minimum of two (2) days a month for two (2) hours each day, serve at least 20 households a month, and give a minimum of 25 or 35 pounds of product per household.

We had several church members who graciously agreed to serve with me on our food pantry committee: Leslie Albrecht, Chris Garcia, Willard Haskell, Karen Felts, Randy Haaker, Rev. Wade Lindstrom, Harley Mathews, Hanna Patton-Elliott, and Barbara Benton.

Our pantry committee will not have to meet regularly, but should pantry issues arise, the committee will address them. If you would like to serve on the committee or help volunteer with the pantry, please let the church office know.

As you may know, the St. John's Food Pantry is very generous with the amount of food distributed to our clients. We provide three bags full of groceries--items like canned tuna, canned pork, quick oats, elbow macaroni, raisins, crackers, cereal bars, dried beans, dried fruit, and an assortment of canned soup, canned fruits, and canned vegetables.

We appreciate all the support the church gives its food pantry. Because of your generosity, we are able to help those in our community who are in need. Just this week we helped long-time pantry client Shirley with food. She was hit by a car last year, lives with pain and mobility issues now, and cares for her adult son who is autistic. We saw the Johnsons, a mother and son who have been struggling. The restaurant he works at has been closed due to the pandemic. Ana Lucia was here with her adorable 6-month-old twins, a boy and a girl.

In March 2020, for the 3 weeks the food pantry was open before the COVID-19 shutdown, we served 153 families comprised of 464 individuals.

Our food pantry is open Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to 12 noon. Clients can receive food every 30 days, 6 times a year. We only assist the following zip codes: 78404, 78405, 78411, 78412, and 78416.



Willard Haskell looks out the window in the pantry storage area.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE HOLIDAYS:

For the holiday season, we would like to give our clients some special food items they can use for a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner:

Instant Mashed potatoes

Canned cream of mushroom soup

Canned gravy or gravy mix pouches

Boxed stuffing/dressing

Boxed brownie or cookie mix

Can of fried onions (French's)

Your donations of food or money are greatly appreciated!

Many thanks to those of you who have continually supported the pantry by bringing spaghetti, soup, rice, beans, and more. Special thanks in October to Julie Fomenko for not only donating food, but also some wonderful home-sewn masks! We had several pantry clients take one to use!



You're Invited! 7 p.m.
Sunday, November 8, 2020
Fellowship Hall--In Person and also streamed
on Facebook live; this event is worship and
testimony, a special night. (Nov. 1, online
prerecorded service)

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) Planning Meeting for 2021

By Harley Mathews

The planning meeting held on October 18, 2020, was well attended. We met with the band, and the sound and video techs. The opening question for the evening was "What does TKC mean to you personally?" and the answers were incredible. The theme of "home" and "safety" both showed up most often in the meeting as we discerned how TKC has existed, where it is presently, and where we want it to go.

An important part of being involved in our overall Unstuck Program is bridging acknowledged and unknown divides between services. I brought blessings and prayers from all of us into the conversation and it meant so much to the team! There was testimony about TKC as a place that has saved lives during turbulent times and circumstances.

The facets of TKC have always included live music as a ministry, and the newest vision of TKC has not lost that focus. GratitudeTX is the house worship band consisting of members of St. John's, Pursuit City Church, New Life Church, and First United Methodist Church. TKC being an ecumenical space, where those within and outside the Methodist tradition is one facet of the benefit of such a service.

GratitudeTX has just released an EP August 21st. It has been viewed or downloaded over 2,000 times as of October 22. The band uses stage and presence in the hardcore/punk/metal scene in Corpus Christi to remind people of Jesus' love and mercy as well as letting them know that there is a space

for them in the city to explore faith.

The goals of 2021 include a variety of ways to make TKC more approachable. The audience of the 2009 TKC was mostly a thriving "Christian heavy music" scene which included locally Mariam. As that scene has changed and aged, ministry will look different. The team expressed a desire for more than a "service" (once a month) and more of a ministry.

This will look like a quality online community, a more specialized 2nd Sunday service, a small group, and monthly opportunities to serve our community and build relationships with each other. All of this with GratitudeTX also influencing the local music scenes.

The age group is late 20s to late 30 year olds who have been rejected by churches in the past or have not found something that appeals to them. Having only one "worship service" a month means focusing on a very Wesley value of small groups during the month and service.

Ideas that came from the meeting included passing out water to bus riders downtown, seeking out the LGBTQ and other often religiously marginalized groups, as well as tattoo shops, music venues, and college campuses.

Del Mar College seems to have the largest community that we are seeking to serve although the proximity of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi means work there also. An important discussion was that TKC doesn't want to "compete" with other ministries, but to seek out 'unchurched' people. This, according to Barna group, means people who have not been active in a faith service or experience in 6 months or more.

The team will meet two other times in 2020 to plan a cleaning day for the Fellowship Hall, explore costs for a new projector and lights, advertising materials, and a sign to be mobile both during services and for physical promotion in the city.

As communion and prayer are important parts of TKC's service, we are going to put in a "Prayer Wall" that is similar to the one at the 11:17 service as well as a designated table for communion. Implementing more streamlined spaces for communion, audio/video, and prayer will mean a more organized look for visitors.

Advertising for TKC included ideas such as more clear signage, online ads, and eventually a point-person for social media presence, as well as stickers/tees/pins/etc that the audience is used to seeing. We have spoken to the logo designer for GratitudeTX and will have a clean and vectorized logo by mid-November.

We are grateful for the whole team and their devotion to marginalized people in our city with a heart for Christ.

Thank you David, Andrea, and Dorothy Pallotti, Noah Lozano, Ramon Dorame, Harley and Adam Mathews, and Stephen Authement for the hard work and dedication to the good news.

We hope you can pray with us as we move toward more work as a ministry of St. John's and creating weekly opportunities for people. For more information, contact Harley Mathews at 361-834-9197 or harley.sjmethodist@gmail.com.

St. John's Children's Learning Center



We are off to a great year despite the pandemic and the necessity of following all the CDC, Health and Safety, and Licensing guidelines and standards. We were able to purchase a MIST disinfectant fogger and are using it to sanitize the CLC after the children have left for the day.

We have just successfully completed our annual fundraiser, and our profits will be used so the staff can order supplies and materials for their classrooms.

The children have been busy during the fall festivities making art projects for the classrooms and to take home. The photos show Ms. Vee and Ms. Klara's babies in Nursery II having fun painting pumpkins!

At this time we have several openings in the following classrooms:

Nursery 1: 6 wks to 8 months

Nursery II: 8 months to 12 months

Young 2 year olds

Pre-K: 4 & 5 year olds

Please spread the word to your families and friends that the CLC has openings and would like to serve more families. For more information, call CLC Director Adela Garcia at 991-4780.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL WHO USE FELLOWSHIP HALL...

We need your assistance....

Our Children's Learning Center uses the Fellowship Hall weekdays from 9am-10:45am and 2:50pm-4:45pm for indoor recess when it's too hot, too cold, rainy, etc. for them to play outside. Our daycare teachers can't supervise pre-schoolers AND put away furniture at the same time. To ensure the safety of our kids, please make sure if your group uses Fellowship Hall, that everything is put away before you leave. This includes ladders, trash, tables and chairs. We don't want any obstructions for the kids to get into or have an unsafe play environment. Thanks for everybody agreeing to work together and keeping our kiddos safe!

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, Communications Team)

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Adam Mathews
- 4 Mike Martin, Harley Mathews
- 10 Hannah Veit, Karley Boswell, Kharis Boswell
- 11 Phillip Keys, Nicolas Pantoja, Fay Sassman
- 12 Mary Jane Fox, Becky Oliver, Justin Patton, Louise Wagner
- 15 Bill Herrman
- 17 Leonora Jones
- 19 Ty Cobb
- 20 Nancy Busby, Nathan Darst, Carolyn Martin
- 21 Spencer Beard, Sandra Rodriguez
- 22 Dorothy Tullos
- 24 Bo Estabrook, Sylvia Ramsey
- 25 Dottie Ramella
- 26 Bill Moellendorf
- 27 Odin Elliott
- 29 Diana Fusselman, Donna Hatcher

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



UMM PIE SALE IN PROGRESS



Bryan Thompson and Robert Garza, representing the United Methodist Men, have been selling pies near the Bell Tower for the past two Sundays and will continue until November 1. This annual PIE SALE is a major fund raiser for UMM, and your purchase will be appreciated. (See related story on Page 3.)

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 Charlene Hardy, wife of Robert Hardy, a gift to the Worship Fund from Chris Garcia; a gift to the Care/Concern/Bereavement Fund from Louise Wagner; and a gift to the Building Fund from Dr. and Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt.

In loving memory of Carl Windsor, brother of Sam Windsor, a gift to the Food Pantry from the CCI Sunday School Class, which Sam attends.

In loving memory of Bob Mayes, a gift to the Care/Concern/Bereavement Fund from Louise Wagner.

In loving memory of Jo Anne Wilshusen, a gift to the Care/Concern/Bereavement Fund from Louise Wagner.

In loving memory of John Zimmerman, a gift to the Care/Concern/Bereavement Fund from Louise Wagner.

In loving memory of Nicki Fischer, gifts from Ginger and Phil Leeds; Tommie Gray from Albuquerque, NM (Nicki's cousin); Sandra Ulbrich; Louise Wagner; and Sandra and Richard Hill.



NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet online for its Wednesday, November 11, meeting. The program this month will be: "Yes Lord, I am Thankful!" The program and business meeting will be from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.. Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Elaine Clanton Harpine at 361-867-8040 or clantonharpine@hotmail.com for more information.

COASTAL BEND DISTRICT UMW

At the annual Coastal Bend District's United Methodist Women's annual meeting, the following officers were elected (including two from St. John's): Bertha Castaneda, Kelsey Memorial UMC, President; Annoise Jarbeaux, St. Peter by the Sea UMC, Vice President; Jo Bell, St. Paul UMC, Secretary; Andrea Gibbud, Goliad UMC, Treasurer; Eddie Jackson Mathis, St. Paul UMC, Mission Coord. for Spiritual Growth; Carole Salsberry, St. John's UMC, Mission Coord. for Social Action; Joyce Jordan, Port Lavaca UMC, Mission Coord. for Education; Chris Garcia, Mission Coord. for Membership, Nurture, and Outreach; Kathy Demeulle, FUMC-Corpus Christi, Secretary of Program Resources; Lisa Oliver, Kelsey Memorial UMC, Communication; and Committee on Nomination: Hope Garza, Kelsey Memorial; Annette Pfeil, Port Lavaca UMC; and Marisela Garcia, Kelsey Memorial UMC.

CHURCH CHATTER

Card Ministry

A group of adults and children at St. John's UMC continues to send cards to shut-ins, nursing home residents, and others in our family of faith who can use a bit of cheer as the coronavirus pandemic stretches longer than we ever expected.

If you would like to join our outreach ministry and send cards and/or letters each month, contact Robyn Cobb at racobber@gmail.com or Elaine Clanton Harpine at clantonharpine@hotmail.com

MISSION OUTREACH IN ACTION

Wenholz Women's House Receives New Microwave

Gerri Cason, an active member of St. John's UMC Outreach Team continues weekly deliveries of donations to the Wenholz Women's House each Friday. This week, the residence had a special need for a new microwave. Due to a generous donation from Jewels Clothing & Accessories, owned by church member Suzy Bergstrom, Geri was able to purchase a brand new microwave and make the delivery last week.

Other donations needed at Wenholz House include:

Womens clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry

Toiletries including shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.

Twin-size sheets

Food items

Monetary donations or gift cards to HEB or Walmart

Church members and church friends may take donations to the church office during regular office hours or to Gerri's front porch. Gerri would appreciate a phone call to 361-739-3904, prior to your drop-off. Thanks!

(See related Mission story on Page 3)



Wenholz House Manager JoAnn Hight is pictured with one of the residents as they receive the new microwave.

An Invitation To Help United Methodist Church, Refugio

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REFUGIO, TEXAS

Tiny House Raffle
Tiny House Raffle. Built to Housing Code.
8'x12' Tiny House - Painted to your choice!
Built by Del Mar College Students to House Code!
Window - Locking Door - Delivery Included!
Saturday 5 December 2020 / 3:00PM
Do Not Have to be Present to Win!
ATTENDEES ELIGIBLE FOR DOOR PRIZE DRAWING!

WILL CUSTOMIZE COLOR UPON REQUEST
DELIVERY WITHIN 100 MILE RADIUS.

PIC-COLLAGE

United Methodist Church, Refugio, has leased for a crazy low amount, an area/building on our campus, to Del Mar College. Del Mar is providing classes teaching folks how to become a carpenter/contractor.

The class work this year consisted of the students building a 8 ft X 12 ft Home, i.e.- built to Residential Building codes, including Hurricane code. The building is really a storage home that looks like a home. For a donation to the church, folks have an opportunity to win the Home. Tickets are \$35 per ticket, or 4 for \$105.

100% of the proceeds will be used to pay down the the church's apportionment for 2020. This is a fund raiser for the Methodist Church in Refugio and if we get a lot of involvement, it will really assist us in our endeavors to keep the Church in the Black ink.

Please feel free to contact the pastor Steve Strahan at 830-237-8361 or strahan-steve@yahoo.com or the Rev. Linda Morrow, Director of District Ministries at the Coastal Bend Office, 3510 Gollihar (78414); call 852-8268 or 361-215-9970 if anyone has any questions or would like to make a donation.

**Tiny House Raffle – Built by Del Mar College Students
Window – Locking Door – Delivery Included!**

Saturday, December 5, 2020, at 3:00PM

Do not have to be present to win. Attendees eligible for door prize drawing.

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. Included in the nonprofit list are several near and dear to many St. John's members---Wenholz House, Salvation Army, Wesley Community Center, and more!

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 its 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.

Four indicators that reveal when God is calling us to take a first step of faith:

FEAR— Fear reminds us of our weaknesses, lack of control, and how much we need God to help us do what he wants us to do. God wants us to overcome our fears and, with his help, be part of his redemptive purposes on earth. FEAR can point us to the direction God wants us to go so we learn that he can be trusted.

FRUSTRATION— Frustration with the world's brokenness can motivate us to trust God to try to make a difference in the world, to bridge the gap between fallen reality and our sense of God's desires. FRUSTRATION can move us to action in a cause greater than ourselves.

COMPASSION— Compassion motivates us to think beyond ourselves to help meet others' needs—in our own communities or around the world. Compassion links our heart with the heart of God. COMPASSION for less-fortunate people can prompt us to reach out as Jesus did and touch people in practical ways.

PRAYER— When we realize we can't accomplish anything without God's help, we are compelled to pray. And God can teach us so much as we PRAY--his leading, how he answers prayer, how much we depend on him.

(Author and source unknown)

COASTAL BEND DAY OF GIVING

DONATIONS DOUBLE!

MISSION
Wenholz House provides transitional rehabilitative housing and support services to clients so they may regain and maintain stability, reenter the workforce, and live clean and sober lives free from addiction.

WHEN
Tuesday, November 10th, 2020
A 24-hour online giving event
(Prescheduled donations open November 1st through 9th)

WHY
Each of the 50 local nonprofits participating must raise at least \$22,000 in that one day to receive the maximum donor-doubling match.

HOW DO I DONATE
www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org/wenholzhouse

This event is managed by:



IN MEMORIAM Charlene Hardy



Charlene Hardy, a member of St. John's for more than 15 years, died October 7, 2020, following a long illness. She was a co-teacher of the Friendship Class for many years and active on the Traditional Worship Committee. Charlene was 93 and is survived by her husband Robert.

Advent Season Begins Sunday, November 29

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.

Advent: (November 29-December 24, 2020)

The Christian Year begins with the season of Advent. This first of the seven Church seasons is a preparatory season of four weeks including four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. The term Advent (from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming”) proclaims the coming of the Lord Christ — whose birth we prepare to celebrate again, who comes continually in Word, Sacrament and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

The liturgical color for Advent is purple or blue, representing both penitence and royalty. The primary symbols of Advent are the Advent Wreath and the Chrismon Tree.



The ornaments that are placed on the Chrismon Tree each year were handcrafted by former and current church members over the past 40 years or so.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR READING PROGRAM

By Elaine Clanton Harpine

Our reading clinic is getting closer to reopening, but we will still 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 are switching to an online program for the remainder of this year. We hope to return to our St. John’s program in the Community Life Building whenever the Health Department says that it is safe.

Our reading clinic at St. 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

appreciated all of the hard work that St John’s members and community workers provided. You truly made a difference

We need you to help us once again teach children to read. Yes, teaching on-line is different, but if you are home and available, this may be a perfect outreach project for you.

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 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 will provide free teaching videos for the students, but it is essential that we have someone to work directly with each child. I have started testing and registering students. We will set a start date as soon as we have a list of volunteers. Come, help teach a child to read. For more information, contact: Elaine Clanton Harpine, PhD. at 361-867-8040 or clantonharpine@hotmail.com

Safety Training Requirements---Please Note!

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 for clarification. A computer is available at the St. John's church office for your use if needed.



**Together We Can Change
the World.**

BE. GO. DO.



**A message to the FLOCK...from Leslie Albrecht,
Director of Student Ministries
(leslie.sjmethodist@gmail.com)**

Look for a Socially Distanced Gathering Coming Soon!

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

Harley Mathews, Pastoral Intern/TKC

Adam Mathews, Worship and Online Technician/TKC

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: Open on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon.

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER: Open 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call Director Adela Garcia at 991-4780 if questions.

WORSHIP SERVICES: In-person worship at 10 a.m. Sunday in the Community Life Building and 11 a.m. online;

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 December 2020 issue is Friday, November 27.

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