



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

STEEPLE NOTES

APRIL 2021

“Christ Is Risen...He Is Risen Indeed”

Two Worship Services Set This Sunday, April 4

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but...did not find the body of the Lord Jesus...” (Luke 24:1-3)

St. John’s UMC will celebrate the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus at two services this Sunday, April 4--at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary (traditional service) and at 11:17 a.m. in the Community Life Building (contemporary service). In addition, worshippers are invited to bring a fresh flower or piece of greenery to decorate a large white cross placed beneath the bell tower. The “Flowering of the Cross” on Easter Sunday has been a tradition at St. John’s for many years, but was not done in 2020 during the pandemic. Come join St. John’s family of faith in worship this Sunday!

Holy Week services planned also included Maundy Thursday on April 1 in the Fellowship Hall (6 p.m., walk the labyrinth) and Good Friday on April 2 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary (Tenebrae service of scriptures and hymns).

Protocols to protect the health of worshippers include everyone wearing a mask and social distancing in both worship areas.

The nursery will be available for infants and young children for both services.



New Simplified Leadership Structure Approved at Church Conference

Forty-seven church members participated in the Church Conference (either in-person or via Zoom) that was held last Sunday, March 28, following the Palm Sunday worship service. The Rev. Karen Boehk, Assistant to the Coastal Bend District Superintendent, presided.

The purpose of the meeting was to

vote on a motion brought forward by the Church Council to approve a new simplified leadership structure that would consolidate leadership roles in Finance, SPRC, and Trustees to a 12-member Board that would meet monthly. Ministry teams would continue to strengthen the vision and mission of St. John’s, and those chairs would attend the meetings to report on activities and events.

All monthly meetings of the new Leadership Board will be open to church members. The new structure will be implemented over the coming weeks. Anyone interested in completing a Board Nomination Form may request one and submit it in the next couple of weeks.

A copy of the meeting minutes, prepared by Lay Leader Chris Garcia, is available and can be requested by contacting Cathy McRorey, Administrative Assistant, at 991-4342.



The Rev. Karen Boehk poses with Pastor Wade Lindstrom at the Charge Conference.

Reminder

ONLINE WORSHIP AVAILABLE FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Join fellow worshippers from your home by tuning in to the pre-recorded services prepared for Good Friday & Easter Sunday. Online services will continue every Sunday in the future.

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

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WADE LINDSTROM

Belonging

I was asked recently why we have a service named 11:17. When we were thinking about updating the service one of interesting things we noticed was that worship was supposed to start at 11:15 and we were often a couple of minutes late, usually because we were all visiting. There was a half joking suggestion that we name it after the late starting time. I think that came from a desire within the leadership of the service to emphasize the relaxed nature of the service's vibe.

For fun we started looking at scripture verses that occurred in Chapter 11, verse 17 of the Bible. It was through that exercise that we happened upon Numbers 11:17 in the Old Testament:

"17 I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself."

The discussion that followed centered around the idea that we felt that there was presence of the Holy Spirit among those who gathered, not just in that service but in St. John's United Methodist Church in general. There was a desire in the room to pass that along to anyone who we connected with so that they might feel God's presence and movement here and might want to join in the work to which we are called.

So, in reality 11:17 is more of a desire than a meeting time. Several years ago, before I arrived, St. John's adopted a vision that said, "We are a community of Faith with a place for you! A place to belong...a place to believe...a place to become!" So, 11:17 isn't another service that you may or may not attend, it is an expression of belonging that belongs (see what I did there?) to all of us at St. John's and the community that surrounds us.

I always tell new guests that if your church has anything tangible to offer to people, that it was God's before it was ours. So, that means that we freely give it to anyone who desires. That is what belonging means. I hope each of us knows that we belong here and that we also know and tell others they belong here without qualification because they belong to God. THAT is an Easter message!

I hope to see you in person or online throughout this Easter season that begins on April 4 and runs through May.

! Pastor Wade

Reminder

ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUES!

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. Tune in at 10:50 a.m. to enjoy online chat with fellow church members and friends near and far:

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



Sunday Mtgs

- First Sunday - Devotional/Online
- Second Sunday - Full Service
- Third Sunday - Small Group
- Fourth Sunday - Community Building
- Fifth Sunday - No Meeting

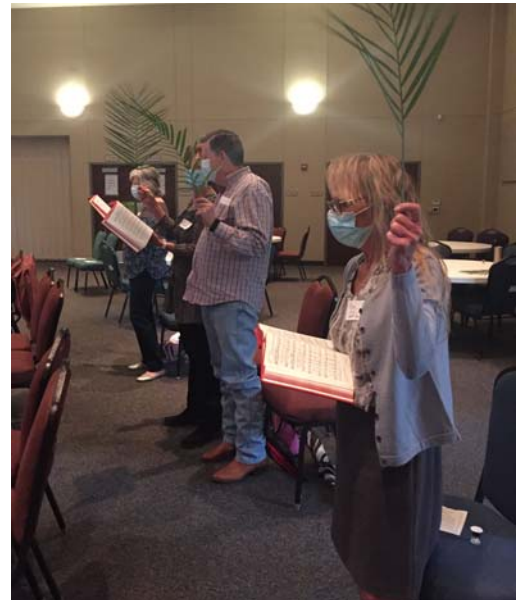
**SEE YOU THIS MONTH
INVITE A FRIEND**

Palm Sunday Worship Service

The Palm Sunday worship service sermon and scripture focused on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the first day of Holy Week (Passion Week). Check out these photos.



(Cutlines, above right and clockwise) Leslie Albrecht leads the opening hymn as Kim Bryce accompanies her on the piano; worshippers wave their palm fronds during the Palm Sunday service; soloist Madeleine Bryce and keyboardist Dorothy Pallotti received applause for the two hymns they performed; worshippers wave their palm fronds.



Rio Texas Conference Announces Two New Appointments

The Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, who has served as District Superintendent for both the Coastal Bend and El Valle Districts for several years, has been appointed as Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Clergy Excellence, effective July 1, 2021.

Bishop Robert Schnase said, "Dr. Lopez has navigated the district work with God's grace, leading during the initial phases of Hurricane Harvey recovery in the Coastal Bend and engaging the challenges and justice issues along the border in the Rio Grande Valley with distinction."

He added, "Robert's genuine faithfulness, creativity, energy, and humility will serve him well as assistant to the bishop. I look forward



Rev. Robert Lopez



Rev. Laura Brewster

to working with him in this new role."

Succeeding Dr. Lopez as District Superintendent will be the Rev. Laura Brewster, a native of Pharr, TX. She holds a degree in Journalism and worked for several years as a broadcast journalist.

She eventually felt God calling her into ordained ministry and has been in ministry for 25 years since earning her Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology in 1995.

She was ordained in the Oklahoma Annual Conference and served a church there before transferring to the Southwest Texas Conference in 2000.

Rev. Brewster has served as pastor in churches in San Antonio, Edinburg, McAllen, and Newcastle, OK. She currently serves on several Conference committees. She is passionate about mission work.

2021 Easter Sunday Lilies
Adorn Our Worship Areas

**REMEMBERING
SPECIAL PEOPLE
IN OUR LIVES...**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Bob and Jeanne Mayes
Rev. Dan and Alice Berger
Martin and Kathleen Onwiler
Nicki Fischer
Jo Anne and John Wilshusen
Ben Wagner
Carole Knoy (daughter)
Dr. James Walker
John R. Zimmerman
Stan and Pamela
Nicki Davis Fischer, sister
Jerry Shivers
E. L. Duncan
Anita Schwein
James and Dorothy Presley
Jennifer Brye, friend
Chris Anderson, brother
Beryl and Andy Anderson, parents
Bill and Cleo Cobb, parents
Nicki D. Fischer
Margaret D. Clepper
Brian Thomas
Rick Graham
Thomas Bass

IN HONOR OF

Becky and Ross Ford, my daughter
and son-in-law
Pat and Penny
SJUMC Homebound Ministry
Family: Ty, Ryan, Mitchell, Megan,
Emery & Kiernen
Christina D. Garcia
Harley, Amanda, and Adam Mathews
Pastor Wade Lindstrom

IN CELEBRATION OF

Our 50th Wedding Anniversary
on December 26, 2020
Gabrielle and Stanton's engagement
Alexandra Reid
Life, Love, and Happiness

GIVEN BY

Darryl Mayes
Rev. Harold and Roma Onwiler
Rev. Harold and Roma Onwiler
Richard Fischer, Marci, Caitlin, Ryan & Ryleigh
Scott and Elaine Wilshusen, son and daughter-in-law
Louise Wagner
Louise Wagner
Diana and Bill Shaffer
Joyce Zimmerman
Carolyn Pence
Chris Davis Garcia
Jean Shivers
Darlene Duncan
Remembering my mother ...Julie Fomenko
Gaylene Burleson
Robyn Cobb
Robyn Cobb
Robyn Cobb
Robyn Cobb
Ginger Flewelling-Leeds
Ginger Flewelling-Leeds
Leesa and Steve Stephens
Leesa and Steve Stephens
Leesa and Steve Stephens

Clarie Qualls

Carolyn Pence
Jean Shivers
Robyn Cobb

Ginger Flewelling-Leeds
St. John's Worship Teams
St. John's Worship Teams

Bryan and Betty Thompson

Diana and Bill Shaffer
Gail Reid
Gaylene Burleson



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.

In honor of Pastor Wade Lindstrom, a special love offering to the General Fund from Judi Oestreich.

In loving memory of Patricia "Pat" Ponton, a gift to the Food Pantry from St. John's Tuesday Bridge Group.

In loving memory of Nicki Davis Fischer, an undesignated gift from Anita and David Harris.



**SPECIAL THANKS &
SINCERE APPRECIATION**

To church members and staff who assisted with Holy Week event preparations, taped scripture readings audios for the online service for Good Friday, rehearsed music, prepared bulletins for the week's events, and used social media to invite others in the community to join us.

Special thanks also to the more than 30 individuals and families listed at left who placed orders for beautiful white Easter lily potted plants to grace the Sanctuary and the Community Life Building.

A big shout-out to our Nursery staff for planning to man the nursery for the Easter Sunday services. The nursery has been closed for over a year because of the pandemic.

UMW “Call to Prayer & Self Denial” Service Held at John’s

St. John’s United Methodist Women hosted the annual “Call to Prayer and Self Denial” service on March 20 in the Community Life Building, with about 17 in attendance, including members from St. John’s, St. Peter’s by the Sea UMC, First UMC-Corpus Christi, and Kelsey Memorial UMC.

Pastor Wade Lindstrom offered the opening prayer, and Pastoral Intern Harley Mathews assisted with the Power Point presentation and offered the closing prayer.

Special thanks to Leslie Albrecht for leading the music; to Dianne Rumfield and Kathy DeMeulle for participating as readers; and to UMW officers Carole Salsberry, Glenda Sanders, and Chris Garcia for conducting the service

A special offering was taken to support UMW mission work for women, children, and youth.



Captions, top and clockwise: The altar table featured a globe, Bible, and bowls for the annual offering; Carole Salsberry welcomes the gathering; Pastor Wade poses with Karen Van Kirk and Joyce Zimmerman; Coastal Bend UMW president Bertha Castaneda visits with Kathy DeMeulle; Leslie Albrecht shares her talent on the piano; Glenda Sanders gets ready to light the candle on the altar.

FOR GOD’S GIFTS

**O Holy God, open unto me
light for my darkness,
courage for my fear,
hope for my despair.**

**O loving God, open unto me
wisdom for my confusion,
forgiveness for my sins,
love for my hate.**

**O God of peace, open unto me
peace for my turmoil,
joy for my sorrow,
strength for my weakness.**

**O generous God, open my
heart to receive all your gifts.
Amen.**

• *This prayer, written by American theologian Howard Washington Thurman (1899-1981) can be found at #489 in the United Methodist Hymnal.*

Thurman also was an author, philosopher, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the 20th Century. He was profoundly influenced by his maternal grandmother, Nancy Ambrose, who had been enslaved on a plantation in Madison County, Florida.

Scholarship Committee News



For many years, St. John's UMC has awarded scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have been active in church ministries. This year, St. John's has three prospective graduates!

Scholarship applications are available in the church office during regular business hours and should be submitted no later than May 1. They will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, and awards will be announced in May.

As always, the Scholarship Committee appreciates donations (small or large) to the Scholarship Fund by individual church members, groups, and organizations to help fund the scholarships. Questions can be directed to Marianne Robert, Scholarship chair.

St. John's UMC PRAYER LIST



Hospital/Rehab: Melissa Brownlee

Recovering at Home: Roseann Zammiello, Dave Michaelson, Charlie Sanders, Jan DeCovic, Tyler Brownlee

Grieving: Family of Martha Louis (Adela Garcia's cousin) who died unexpectedly on March 16; Family of Iris Johnson (Robin Cobb's sister's mother-in-law); Family of Mike Martin, who died in Wisconsin, on Feb. 5 (see story at bottom of page).

Please pray for those on our prayer list. If you have someone you want to add or remove, please call the church office @ 361-991-4342 or email Catherine McRorey @ catherine.sjmethodist@gmail.com. Prayer concerns will be removed after 30 days unless staff is notified to keep individuals on the list.

Our Church	Greta Brooks	JoAnn Holland	Lee Navarro	Tom Shearer
Our Nation	Margo C	Hopkins Family	Juan Ochoa	Susan Skidmore
President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris	Robert C	Deborah Jacobs	Judi Oestreich	Teresa Skidmore
US Military	Valerie Caldwell	Jinnette Family	Todd Olson	Teresa Smith
World Leadership	Jeff Caravantes	Hydie Johnson	David Olson	Leesa Stephen's Mom
All School Teachers	Marcia Caravantes	Jack Johnson	Roma Onwiler	Cindy Straub
St. John's Children's Learning Center	Rene Cervantes	Stacia Johnston	Mike P	Richard & Angela Strong
CC Metro Ministries	Margo Chapman	Phyllis Jones	Dolores Pace	Terry & Marie
The Wenholz House and director Bruce Armstrong	Josh W. Cox	Ann Jordan	Jack Pace	Charles Teas
Katherine Anderson	Dana D'Amore	Justin	Mary Palmer	Earlene Thorne
Cathy Barber	Levi Delk	Margaret K.	Roger Pigott	Sara Tucker
Cassie Barber	Tonya Delk	Candy Keiper	Jenna Purdy and the Purdy Family	Dorothy Tullos
Adela Balderas	Judy Forbes	Mimi Keen	Dottie Ramella	James Van Horn
Philip Balderas	Danielle & Joshua Forbes	Charlotte Kunc	Amie Ramsdell	Louise Wagner
Catie Bauer	Robert Garza	Kristie and son Jack	Mary Lee Ress	Kimbo Ward
Robin Blue	Pam Glover	Tommy Lewis	Marianne Robert	Davris White
	Dr. Nila Clepper Gordon	Lindstrom Family	Rilla Roots	Beverly Wilson
	(Brownsville)	Steven B. Long	Fay Sassman	Doug & Sharon Winnek
	Joe H.	Lily Major-Hunter	Ivan & Lyneve Shaver	Mary Lee Woodson
		Tommie Mercer	Sam Shivers	
		Tom Moore	Suzie Shepard	

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Martin, 61, who with his wife Carla joined St. John's in 2018, died on February 5, 2021, in De Pere, WI, from acute myeloid leukemia. Mike was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was an avid reader and loved outdoor sports. A veteran, he served in the US Army for 25 years before retiring as a master sergeant. He served as a journeyman for a few years, then went back to school, graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 2012. He worked about three years with Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development before retiring. In addition to his wife Carla, Mike is survived by three children, six grandchildren, father, two brothers, and a sister. A celebration of life is planned later in Wisconsin.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE: 2021 BUDGET

By Darron Bergstrom, Finance Chair

Dear Church:

After receiving approval of our 2021 PPP Loan, St. John's Finance Committee was able to finalize our 2021 budget.

REVENUE

Church Revenue - \$479,159.39

CLC Revenue - \$601,611.80

Total Revenue - \$1,071,771.19

EXPENSES

Church Expenses - \$478,572.36

CLC Expenses - \$601,611.80

Total Expenses - \$1,080,284.16

Projected Shortfall - \$8,512.97

We applied for a PPP loan (Payroll Protection Plan Loan) last year for \$120,000 (\$90,000 for the CLC and \$30,000 for the Church). The PPP loan was to cover payroll expenses and other qualifying expenses for two months to assist businesses and non-profits during the pandemic.

We applied for the same amount this year and received approval. It will be very helpful until we get through this calendar year. Hopefully, we can find other revenue sources as the economy reopens and recovers.

The CLC (Childrens Learning Center) has been a part of our church for a number of years and has been a profit center in years past. Due to the pandemic, it has struggled to break even as we are anticipating this year. Hopefully, it will become a profit center once again as the economy recovers.

The CLC has its own tax-ID, board, and set of books as a self contained operation, but has always had a close relationship with the church. Members of the Church have historically served on its board, and pastors through the years have provided Christian education and worship experiences for the children and staff.

The Finance Committee believes St. John's can offset the \$8,512.97 projected shortfall with fundraisers including the Fall Festival. Historically the revenue from that event alone would cover this shortfall. We are also planning on having a fish fry sometime in May.

Any additional support via pledges or weekly tithing would be greatly appreciated as we navigate this difficult time. Thank you all for your continued support of St. John's and its mission to engage our community.



By Cathy McRorey

It has been an up and down month for us in the food pantry. Some days we were busy with lots of people coming in and other days we were slow. We are getting more of our regular clients coming back to us once again and that is good to see.

We are hopeful that as more people are vaccinated, we will all be able to get back to normal.

I was talking with a client last week who was frustrated, as she has mobility issues and has not been able to get a shot yet. We discussed several options for her, but at least she can come to St. John's Food Pantry for food.

Food Pantry News

We are gearing up for summer when the kids are out of school and the need for parents to provide even more meals is great. We have already purchased some individual cereal bowls and grape jelly. We hope to get applesauce, healthy breakfast bars or fruit snacks, freezer pops and more to hand out starting in May.

The food bank has not had any canned meat for us to order. We have many cans of tuna, but can use the following:

- Canned chicken
- Canned spam
- Canned beef
- Canned pasta (like Chef Boyardee ravioli, Spaghettios) as they are easy for kids and homeless to open and eat.

Freezer Pops



Fruit Roll Ups

We will also take donations of hygiene items:

Bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, plastic comb, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, etc. Travel sizes are great.

Thank you so much for all your donations and support of your food pantry. It is a great outreach and ministry to our community.

We have had many clients who have told us other pantries are closed so they so very happy we are here.

Memorial Service for Jay Dean Mathews: Being the Church!

By Harley Mathews, Pastoral Intern

What does Family Ministry look like?

On March 25, 2021, our church was host to Jay Dean Mathews' memorial service thanks to the bereavement team.

At the 6 p.m. service were many friends, family members, online participants, and church family members also.

In a world where grief and death can be something we take on in very small and isolated ways due to Covid-19, St. John's showed up in a way that could only come from a grounded service to Jesus in our world!

I want to thank Chris Garcia for reaching out to our family even while Dad was in the hospital and keeping up with me about anything we might have needed. On the evening of the service, Mary Jane Fox supplied chocolate cake, Debi Francis brought brownies, Leslie Albrecht brought a cookie tray, Connie Hahn brought lemon bars, Karen Van



Kirk brought pineapple cream cake, and Amanda Mathews brought homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Tonya Delk and Brian Claunch set up tables and tablecloths in a wonderful blue color, and Connie arrived to meet Chris an hour early and both stayed through the service and refreshment time.

The Bereavement Fund provided sandwich and fruit trays, cheese/crackers, and chips and dips! Each table had a set of small gifts for the guests (thank you, Amanda) as well as flowers and printed photographs throughout the worship space.

The main flowers on the altar were donated by Donna Titus from Always

in Bloom floral shop, thanks to organization from Adam Mathews.

This is the kind of service-oriented lifestyle that makes me proud to be your intern & member, and promote all that St. John's is doing. As we embrace our presence in the world, that will always include those who are grieving and needing spiritual rest.

You, church, granted me and my family that, as well as friends who now have a beautiful image of what being Methodist is all about!

Thank you,
The Mathews Family.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

NOTE: If your name was omitted on the birthday list, or if you see other errors, please call Cathy McRorey at the church, 991-4342.

St. John's United Methodist Men



The United Methodist Men invite you to their weekly meeting every Wednesday morning at 7 a.m., in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own breakfast fare and coffee, and be sure to wear your mask!

Officers for 2021:

Robert Garza, President; Jim Falwell, Vice President; Gary Schwartz, Secretary; Darron Bergstrom, Treasurer

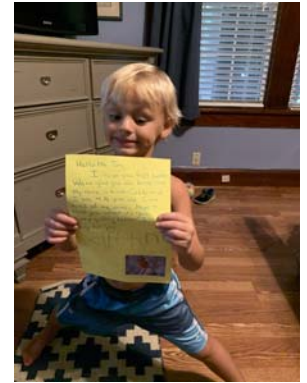
The members of St. John's United Methodist Men support several charities and have an outreach card ministry. If you have a friend or family member who needs a special greeting, please let Gary Schwartz know.

A Trip Down Memory Lane



Captured in the March, April, and May SteepleNotes: Activities continued even though the church locked down in March 2020 because of the pandemic. A drive-through communion was held in the church parking lot in mid-March and marked the total shuttering of the church building, its ministries, and its worship services. The Seekers Class held a virtual meeting on Zoom to check on class members; Kieren Cobb, grandson of Robyn and Ty Cobb, kept busy at home preparing letters and cards to send to homebound members; graduate Harley Mathews participated in a drive-through graduation ceremony at TAMU-CC; two of the Confirmation Class's 12 members (Jackson Claunch and Evan Hudson) were baptized in the surf on Padre Island, with Pastor Wade Lindstrom officiating.

Last March, as the community, state, nation, and world began its shutdown in order to protect the world's inhabitants from COVID-19, who would have thought that over a year later, the pandemic is still here and we are still praying for a return to a more normal life?



Friendship/CCI Adult Classes Meet at 9:15 a.m. Each Sunday; Join Us!

The Friendship Class and the CCI (Contemporary Christian Issues) Class, each with more than 35 years' history at St. John's, cordially invite you to join them for Sunday School.

Currently they meet from 9:15 to 10 a.m. every Sunday, but the schedule will depend on future worship schedules. At some point in the future, the classes hope to return to their classrooms in the Administration Building.

Face mask mandates and social distancing protocols remain in place.

Chris Garcia, CCI teacher, completed a 6-week study that used the book "Listening at Golgotha." Attendance averaged about 10, and all appreciated reflecting on the words spoken by Jesus on Good Friday as he hung on the cross.

Those words included "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing. Today you will be with me in Paradise. Woman, here is your son...here is your mother. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? I am thirsty. It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

A new study will be announced soon. Please watch for details and plan to join us for Sunday School.

THANKS...

From Elaine Clanton Harpine

Thank you to everyone who has been so faithful in sending greeting cards. While some of our members are able to gather, other church members are not. Thank you for remembering those who cannot attend church or receive visits from friends. You have been very faithful with our card ministry.

If you know of someone who should be included in the card ministry, please contact me.

May all the blessings of Easter be with you and your family.

Encountering the Ancient Ways



By Harley Mathews, Pastoral Intern

I want to invite you to your own experience of Christ this month and the months to come. What does that mean?

Well, there is a post-Resurrection sermon series that we are going to actively encounter together. That means that you are present and a participant! I have felt like church at times is something I attend rather than participate in, and Christ has called us brothers and sisters, not slaves! (John 15:15)

This series that will happen from April 11 to May 30. Each week you will be given a physical element that will collectively create physical ways to engage God and neighbor. This series is about grounding ourselves in encounters with God, Christ, and Spirit so that as we engage our community, we are able to do so from a grounded and solid base. As I am reminded often in my internship, we cannot give what we don't have!

That means that each one of us creating spiritual disciplines in our daily lives naturally and spiritually manifests missional living. Missional is not conversion; it is when we encounter Christ's presence in our relationships. It is communal. That is much easier when we are encountering God in daily ways and recognizing God in one another not just on Sunday mornings or at "religious" spaces.

We will encounter Wesley's Three Simple Rules, Lectio Divina, Simple Paths for daily practice, the Sacraments, Lord's Prayer, Testimony, the Wesley Covenant Prayer, and Labyrinth practices. These will include small gift items to use in your daily prayer life and during the services. We hope to creatively engage ancient paths so that as we look to reach out to serve others we bring with us a centered and worshipful life.

Wade, myself, and others will join us to walk through these practices each week and we will continue reflections on Thursdays. I personally look forward to learning from you all the depth of Christ's presence in your lives, we can build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

My request of you is to invite a neighbor, coworker, friend, or family member who would be encouraged to encounter God. Also, that when you arrive in person or online, that we can all come to encounter ourselves in worship, prayer, scripture, and communion. I am honored to be with you during this series.

Grace and Peace.

Encountering the Ancient Ways

A new sermon series that will help you to tangibly engage God's presence in your life. Beginning April 11.



Resurrection is a revolution.

Revolution – def – “a dramatic and wide-reaching change in the way something works or is organized or in people's ideas about it.”

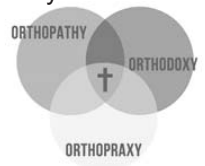


Belong – Do no harm.

- The best ways that we can love another is to reaffirm their belonging, and in contrast, the worst behavior we can have is a formal or interpersonal rejection of belonging for a person by their very personhood.

Believe – Do good.

- Belief is both about orthodoxy (right/healthy belief) (adoration) and orthopraxy (right/healthy action) (service) and orthopathy (right/healthy emotion) (affections).



Become – Stay in love with God.

- The orthopathy portion of our vision of a church creates pathways to discipleship.
- Discipleship is the lifestyle that incorporates belief and belonging of ourselves and all others.

History of Hymn--“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

William W. Walford (1772-1850, England)

William W. Walford was blind, but this did not make him worthless. On the contrary, as he sat by the fire in his English home in the mid-19th century, his hands kept busy, whittling out useful objects, such as shoehorns. His mind was active, too.

Called on to preach from time to time in a rural English church, Walford composed sermons in his head to deliver on Sundays. He memorized a huge amount of the Bible which he quoted verbatim in his sermons. Some of his folk thought he had memorized the entire Scripture, cover to cover. William also composed lines of verse. And he prayed.

The Rev. Thomas Salmon, a New York native, lived in Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, from 1838-1842 where he pastored the Congregational Church at at Coleshill. He became acquainted with Walford and tells this tale of what happened one day, while he was visiting the blind pastor:

“...He repeated two or three pieces which he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. “How will this do?” asked he, as he repeated the following lines, with a complacent smile touched with some light lines of fear lest he subject himself to criticism. I rapidly copied the lines with my pencil as he uttered them, and sent them for insertion in the *New York Observer*, ‘if you should think them worthy of preservation.’”

The *New York Observer* did consider them worth preserving, and they were published on September 13, 1845. The hymn has since been translated and published in Spanish, Portuguese, Hawaiian, Dakota, French, German, Tagalog, Swedish, and Norwegian.

Rev. Salmon also wrote later that as Walford preached from the pulpit, “he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision, and scarcely ever misplacing a word in his repetition of the Psalms, New Testament, and the prophecies.”

Walford’s hymn, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, which expressed Walford’s genuine joy he found in prayer, has touched hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

[Special thanks to St. John’s UMC member Judi Oestreich for suggesting this hymn selection and providing the accompanying text.]



SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I’ll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

AROUND THE CHURCH...

MIRACLE OFFERING: The total 2020 Christmas Miracle Offering, collected in December, totalled \$5,060 from church members. A check in that amount was submitted to the Rio Texas Conference for apportionments. Thanks to all who participated.

UPDATE ON FORMER MEMBER: For several years, Theresa and Eldon Cass and their three children were active at St. John’s, especially in the worship and children’s ministries. When St. John’s former associate pastor Paul Allan was reassigned to St. Luke’s UMC in the early 2000s, the Cass family moved to St. Luke’s. Theresa will graduate this spring from Perkins School of Theology! She has been serving as a pastor at Pettus and Pawnee UMC churches. She shared that “St. John’s was instrumental in my call to ministry, and I imagine both Nicki Fischer and Jo Anne Wilshusen are smiling down on the Cass family, knowing the seeds they planted in me grew.”

THANKS TO THE SHEPHERDING CARE TEAM: More than 35 Easter gift bags were prepared by the Shepherding Care Team last month and delivered by more than a dozen church volunteers to homebound members and friends who have been unable to be in church because of health issues or pandemic concerns. Thanks to Judi Edwards for her dedication. If you would like to help with the next assembly and delivery, please let Judi know.

“Give us Clean Hands!”: *Thy Kingdom Come* News

By Harley Mathews, Pastoral Intern

The month of March was a great series of opportunities for *Thy Kingdom Come* (TKC)! We have kept up having small baskets of hand sanitizers and flyers at local businesses as well as continue the Gospel of Mark series. This next month we look forward to keep looking at Mark's gospel on April 4th with an online devotional posted to our Facebook and Instagram pages. The 11th, we will have our live service at the Fellowship Hall at 7pm with worship, sermon, and communion as we engage Mark's fast-paced gospel. The 18th we will meet on Zoom for our "Circle Pit" small group, which is increasing in attendance. On the 25th we'll discuss future plans for TKC! Our founding member, David Pallotti, had a sweet baby, and we look forward to new generations jamming with us!

In Christian history, we are entering April in post-resurrection experience, where Christ is calling us all into the world reimagining how God's gift in conquering death through the person of Jesus changes our every day lives. The two questions we engage with every chapter of Mark is; "Who is Jesus in this part of Mark's story?" and "What kind of kingdom is Christ asking us to enter into?" This means that we look for the kingdom in hand sanitizers, in guitar feedback, in the homeless and well off, because ultimately the kingdom is a new world that is always and in every place arriving for us to participate in.

As you pray with us about the future of *Thy Kingdom Come*, know that we are going to be building lay leaders to continue the ministry in sermons, promotion, communication, and other areas. Remember that inviting someone to *Thy Kingdom Come* is inviting someone to a unique and affirming ministry unlike any other Methodist church in our conference. I pray we all begin to invest in sharing with our friends and neighbors and baristas and waitpersons how great St. John's is, and it is for all people to belong, believe, and become who they are.

**THY Kingdom
COME**

**PIERCED PALMS &
EMPTY TOMBS &
SLAM DANCES &
CHANTS**

THY KINGDOM COME
SECOND SUNDAYS @ 7PM
5300 S. ALAMEDA

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/*Thy Kingdom Come* (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. (See Page 1 for special Easter Sunday schedule)

INFORMATION ABOUT STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes, a monthly publication of St. John's United Methodist Church, is emailed to members and guests as a PDF document and is published on the church website. Printed copies are also available at the church. Deadline for the May 2021 issue is Friday, April 23.

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