



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

STEEPLE NOTES

JULY 2022

Aloha Sunday Welcomes Rev. John Cochran

Sunday, June 26, was a special day of welcome for St. John's 19th senior pastor since its founding in 1955--the Rev. John Cochran, appointed to serve by Bishop Robert Schnase of the Rio Texas Conference.

The day was filled with historic Methodist liturgy, special music, and a sermon by the new pastor titled "New Directions." Worship attendance was 40 at the 9 a.m. traditional service; 71 in the 11:17 a.m. contemporary service; and close to 90 for the luncheon meal served by members of the Cochran family--Pastor John, his wife Cassandra, and two of their five adult children Becca and Jake.

(See pastoral message on Page 2 and additional photos and text on Page 10.)



Join Us for July 3 Worship and Communion

A Daily 10 A.M. Prayer for St. John's Community of Faith

Loving God,
Help us to open our eyes to see You.
Help us to open our ears to hear You.
Help us to open our hearts to feel your love and see the vision You have for Us.

AMEN

Join members of your St. John's community of faith at one of the two (or both!) worship services this Sunday, July 3. The traditional service in the Sanctuary begins at 9 a.m., and the contemporary service in the Community Life Building begins at 11:17 a.m.

Pastor John Cochran has added two activities to each Sunday worship service--"Small Talk" for children and weekly Holy Communion by intinction (piece of bread dipped by the worshipper into the chalice of grape juice). Both were included in the June 26 worship services.

The traditional worship team invites church members who have never helped with the communion service or serving as a liturgist to consider volunteering.

Pastor Cochran, a native Texan and also a retired high school teacher, has invited all church members and guests to participate in a daily prayer at 10 a.m. (printed at left and also included on Page 19).



INDEPENDENCE DAY!
Celebrate our nation's 246th birthday on Monday, July 4, 2022

St. John's UMC office will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of the national holiday.

The Connection

By Pastor John Cochran



Greetings from the Pastor's desk, and the NEW Pastor who sits behind it. If we have not had the opportunity to meet, please come by and introduce yourself, and know that for me, a simple Pastor John, or the occasional "Hey YOU" will be more than formal enough.

My wife, Cassandra, and I were joined at our first Sunday of worship at St. John's UMC by two of our five children, Bekah and Jake, our number one son-in-law, Jeremy and two of our three grandsons, LT and Ace. We all left worship feeling loved and welcomed, and overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality shown by our new church family.

Hospitality, something we think of occasionally and freely practice when welcoming friends and family into our homes, or personal spaces or when we ourselves are welcomed by others. Have you stopped to consider what does the Bible say about hospitality?

I believe that hospitality is the offer to extend the privileges of community to those who do not have the standing to expect it, especially those who are vulnerable because they are strangers. Hospitality is an offer to identify with outsiders and to treat them like insiders. Hospitality is extending privilege across difference. Simply put, hospitality is treating others with grace and making an effort to daily "pursue the love of strangers" (Hebrews 13:2), just as God pursued us before we knew him.

Where does God expect us to be hospitable and welcoming to others? Only in the places he welcomes us. For me that means my home, my sacred spaces, the grocery store, the gas station, the park down the street, the hospital and doctor's office, the ball park and hot dog stand.... I could go on, but I think you get the idea.

Thank you for the hospitality shown to my family and me, as we embark on this new journey with you. I hope you will join me in looking for ways to extend God's hospitality to all you meet, in everywhere that you meet them.

Peace and Grace

Pastor John

Trustees' Report

Four repairs are being addressed by St. John's Trustees, as noted by Leadership Board member and Trustees' chair Bruce Hamende:

1. Kitchen A/C--2-stage; one circuit not holding charge; expect repairs this week.
2. Vestibule A/C in the Community Life Building--expect repairs this week.
- 3) On Sunday morning, June 26, the water heater tank of the commercial water heater in the kitchen ruptured; repairs are ongoing.
4. Dishwasher replacement by the Children's Learning Center will meet state criteria in the kitchen, funded by the St. John's Foundation for the Children's Learning Center.

Don't forget that the new ministry called "Joseph's Apprentices" has been active since April and invites volunteer workers. See Page 6 for information about the upcoming Saturday, July 16, workday.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Roy and Christine Molina

Christine and Roy Molina joined St. John's UMC on June 12 by transfer of membership from Ankeny United Methodist Church in Ankeny, IA.

Roy is a retired oncologist and hematologist, practicing in the Midwest since 1984, but he grew up in Corpus Christi and graduated from Mary Carroll High School in 1973. Christine holds a PhD in Microbiology and is originally from California. She loves bird watching, mystery shows, and her cats. Roy enjoys music, plays piano, and is a regular at the gym. Both enjoy gardening, growing orchids, and spending time with family. They reside at 8113 Calvary (78414). The couple has been attending the traditional worship service and adult Sunday School classes for several months. Roy said, "We very much enjoy the warm welcome and activities at St. John's."

Contact information:

(Roy) drroymolina@gmail.com;

(Christine) Christine.molina@gmail.com

Welcome to Christine and Roy Molina!



Barbara Otto

Barbara Otto, a lifelong Methodist, joined St. John's UMC in early May by transfer of membership from Island in the Son UMC. She retired from US Silica Company in 2012 and moved from Ada, OK, to Spring, TX. In May 2020, she moved to Corpus Christi to help with her older brother.

Barbara graduated from Oklahoma City University in 1972 with a BA in History. She likes to read mysteries and work Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Barbara resides at 4038 Manhattan (78412) and shares her home with her daughter and three grandchildren.

Contact information:

Email: babsotto@gmail.com; 580-310-4633

Welcome to Barbara Otto!



Marti Veith
Children's Ministry
Director

Check Out This Line-Up of St. John's Children's Activities in July! Bring your kids, grandkids, and their friends!

Ms. Marti Veith, who joined the St. John's UMC staff in May as parttime Children's Ministry Director, has been busy getting Sunday School in place and planning children's activities for the summer. Here are some dates for Children's Ministry Activities in July!

* Sunday, 7/10/22: Sundae social @ 12:30-1:00pm in the CLB: Make your own ice cream sundae treats and fellowship.

* Sunday, 7/17/22: Movie Day @ 12:30-2:00pm in the CLB. Have lunch and watch a movie together. Enjoy some popcorn and treats

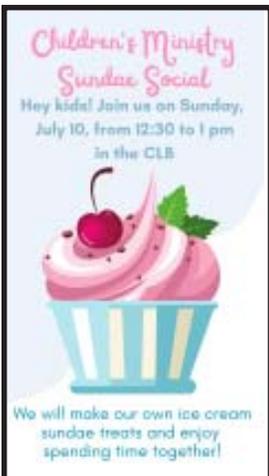
* Sunday, 7/24/22 Splash Day @ 12:30-2:00pm in the church front yard area. Have lunch and splash in the sprinkler toys and pools. Popsicles to follow!

Our Children's Sunday School is upstairs every Sunday from 10:15-11:00 am. We welcome our precious children, ages 5 to Grade 5, to join in our lessons and songs. We would love to meet and teach your little ones, so please bring them and invite friends to come along as well. We've had a wonderful time with twins, Araya and Athena. as well as with Oliver and Clinton.

For those who would love to help, the Children's Ministry is in need of volunteers to help with weekly Sunday School on a rotating basis. Please contact Marti immediately if you are interested.

She can be reached by email at marti.sjmethodist@gmail.com or at (361) 991-4342, ext. 104. She has office space at the church.

Important Announcement: For all volunteers who serve children (and older adults), we have the Safe Gatherings training to complete. As this publication went to press, an online training/in person training was scheduled Thursday, June 30, from 6-8 p.m. The website to register is www.safegatherings.com. Training on-line is also available, and scholarship funds are available to cover the registration fee.



In the Mission Field ...

Hotdogs in the Park, held Saturday, June 4, at South Bluff Park near downtown, served about 40 homeless folks

Church members Gerri and Benny Cason, Robert Garza, Connie Hahn, and Janice Cagle were on-site, with support from several others in furnishing hot dogs, buns, water, etc. The Food Pantry furnished bottles of sanitizer. The team prepared for 100; served about 40 at the South Bluff Park, and delivered remaining food to another agency.



St. John's is passionate about mission outreach. Share your ideas with Pastor John in the coming weeks.



Children's Learning Center Has New Staff Member



St. John's Children's Learning Center (CLC), which serves about 60 infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers, is blessed to have Becky Hope join the staff.

Here's a message from Becky:

My name is Rebecca "Becky" Hope and I joined the team at St. John's UMC via the church's outreach ministry program: Children's Learning Center. I have been a member of the United Methodist Church my entire life and have served on numerous committees as well as worked as a Church office manager. Prior to working for the church, I worked in the corporate world as a PICK BASIC programmer.

My family and I are active members at St. Luke's UMC. I am a certified lay servant and enjoy spreading the Good News. I also have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science with a minor in Communication and emphasis in secondary education. I have been married for 24 years to my husband, William "Bill" Hope, and we have two beautiful and amazing children, Amanda, who is 24, and Forrest, 17.

The Power of Prayer—“God’s Got This!”



By Dawn Manjarris , Seekers Class Member

A day date with my hubby! Golf clubs in the car. Not a cloud in the sky. Low humidity and perfect temperatures. It was November 2nd and a beautiful Fall day in Corpus Christi. My husband and I headed to our local course, Gabe Lozano, to play nine holes. On the fifth hole, the text came across my phone. It was from my daughter Jenn. Her sister-in-law Allison lived in Vermont and was six weeks pregnant and had a gush of bleeding. She asked Jenn if I was still in a prayer group. Will you ask her to pray for me? She had miscarried a few months ago, and was anxious and scared of losing this baby, too.

I quickly showed my husband the text. Let's pray right now I said to Jon... in the middle of the fairway, sitting in the golf cart, we held hands and called on God's power and help to keep this precious baby protected and growing healthy to full term. We asked Him to cover Allison and her husband Dan with the perfect peace that surpasses all understanding to guard their heart and mind in Christ Jesus. We thanked Jesus for shielding them and keeping this baby in His perfect care.

We finished playing that hole; and then I needed to make a stop at the course's port-a-potty up ahead. I opened the door, stepped inside and proceeded to lock it. To my surprise, on the inside of the door was this verse from Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Are you kidding me! I felt a rush of relief. I knew God was telling me... I heard you and I've got this!!! Have faith in my sovereign care over Allison and her baby. Don't worry! Rest and surrender in my power and peace.

He tells us call unto me, call unto me — always and anywhere — it doesn't matter. I am here and available... much prayer, much blessing. He longs to lavish us and help us. That day he was affirming to me, "I got this!" This I knew for sure! The next day I wrote what happened in my prayer journal. In the months ahead, this family was on my mind and in my prayers.

Fast forward eight months later. God did not disappoint! On June 11, 2022, Marianna Sunflower Strohl was born healthy and welcomed into this world. She is here... God's masterpiece, fearfully and wonderfully made, a precious baby girl! A miracle! And once again, I am humbled, blown away and lifting praise, gratitude and glory to my "over the top" God for answered prayers!!!! Be still and know that I am God!

Tutoring Returns to St. John's

By Elaine Clanton Harpine

We have three students registered for tutoring so far this summer. All three students have registered for online tutoring.

We are offering both in-person and online tutoring this summer. We offer free tutoring for all ages. We have a first grader going into second grade in the fall, a third grader going into fourth grade in the fall, and a ninth grader in high school. We are very excited to be able to help these three students who are struggling in reading.

We will be using my new book and tutoring curriculum program called: Why Can't We Teach Children to Read: Oh, but Wait We Can, A Step-by-Step Plan for Teaching Your Child to Read.

We will provide free curriculum for any volunteers who would like to help

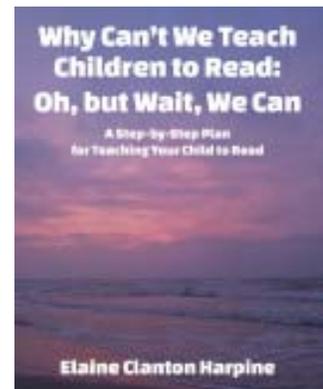
tutor this summer. The curriculum uses the vowel clustering teaching method, and it is easy to use. So far students in previous years in the program have made excellent progress.

- A 15-year-old, who failed for 9 straight years, learned to read in 3½ months.

- A fifth grader, reading at the 2nd and 3rd grade level, moved up to the sixth-grade level in reading in only 21 weeks with one-hour, once-a-week tutoring.

- A second grader mastered difficult vowel sounds through online tutoring. Vowel clustering works with all ages and teaches students to break words down into letter sounds, thus improving fluency and comprehension.

We are still making plans to reopen the Reading Clinic at St. John's this fall. We are searching for grants and fund-



ing, and we would like to hire 10 university students to work as tutors for our Reading Orienteering Club program.

If you know of organizations or grants that we might apply to for financial assistance, please let us know.

For more information, contact: Elaine Clanton Harpine at 361-867-8040 or clantonharpine@hotmail.com

Joseph's Apprentices--July 16

Joseph's Apprentices are making a difference at the church and in our community. They will gather on Saturday, July 16, at 7:30 a.m. at St. John's Community Life Building.

Marti Veith and Marianne Robert will provide coffee and a light breakfast which the team will enjoy before their devotional and prayer. They then move on to designated projects on the church campus, trying to finish before noon. Their goal is to tackle various maintenance, clean-up, spruce-up, painting, grounds projects, and more! There are projects for all ages, male & female, and for all skill levels. Many hands make light work. We can find a place for you to share your time and talents.

We'd love to have a head count of who is coming or let us know if you have any special projects in mind that need to be addressed at the church. Contact Bruce Hamende at 361-548-8510. Also let Bruce know if you would like to lead the devotional or prayer.

You will leave with a lighter heart, lifted spirit, and fully encouraged to live for Christ in your life. We strive to consistently build each other up in faith, develop bonds of friendship and show spiritual support for each other. Come and build relationships as you build the church.



Upcoming Third Saturday Dates for Joseph's Apprentices:

August 20

September 17

October 15

Update: *Heart & Soul Resale Shop*

The Heart & Soul Resale Shop, created about one year ago by several local churches as a 501c3 organization, has been successful in receiving donations from the community and support from shoppers from throughout the Coastal Bend and South Texas.

Located at 221 S. Staples at the intersection of S. Staples and Agnes, the resale shop is open to shoppers only on Saturdays and receives donations on Mondays and Tuesdays.

An exciting new aspect of this volunteer enterprise is that the Heart & Soul Board of Directors plans to allocate \$10,000 from monies received in the last several months to several non-profits who have submitted applications for a distribution. More than 10 grant applications were received, said Cheryl Villanueva of Asbury UMC, who serves as coordinator.

"We have increased our weekly profits to around \$1,250," she said. "And we have pulled a lot of the "original" clothes from the racks and replaced with new merchandise. This has increased the purchase of clothing." In addition, Cheryl said Heart and Soul has sold a lot of its furniture donations and are looking for more furniture items, as well as linens.

Cheryl also reported that TJ and Patsy Bird (Bird's Stamps) have donated new front door signage, a huge banner with a mission statement, stickers, and a large stamp, all with the organization logo on them. John Berry (Berry's Jewelers) has graciously donated watch batteries and his time for our watch collection at the shop. God and the community continue to be good to us.

Church volunteers are always welcomed to volunteer time and energy to the Heart & Soul Resale Shop.

Doorsteppers Receive Assigned Dates Through Oct. 9

Eighteen church members currently are active in the Doorsteppers program and have volunteers to deliver a plant and a handwritten welcome note to first-time visitors who worship at St. John's on any given Sunday.

Connie Hahn, who serves as coordinator, recently emailed the July 3-October 9 schedule of assigned dates to Robyn Cobb, Gerri Cason, Joyce Hamende, Jack Pace, Stefani Schomaker, Janice Cagle, Ben and Dana Pallotti, Carolyn Pence, Chris Garcia, Wayne and Karen Carden, Danna Sharpe, Robert Garza, Dee Dee and Wade Williams, and Marianne Robert.

Thanks to these volunteers.

Farewell for Pastor Wade Lindstrom

Thanks to everyone who attended the farewell reception for Pastor Wade Lindstrom on June 12 in Fellowship Hall. He served as pastor at St. John's UMC for four years and announced earlier in Spring 2020 that he would pursue other ministry or work. Best wishes to Pastor Wade with sincere thanks for serving our congregation.



Captions:
Pastor Wade preaching in the 9 a.m. worship service and later getting ready to cut the cake at the farewell reception; Mike Zammiello and Willard Haskell; Dee Dee Williams, Janice Cagle and Connie Hahn; Debi Francis manning the punch bowl; and Lynn Bridges, Kim Bryce, Marcia Caravantes and Pastor Wade pose for a photo.



Fifth Sunday All-Church Supper--Sunday, July 31

It's time for the second 5th Sunday all-church potluck supper! Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 31, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Community Life Building. Gathering time and food dish arrival time is 5:15 p.m. If you can arrive about that time to make sure the serving tables are ready, thanks!

Everyone is invited, including your family members and friends. Please plan to attend!

To have a varied selection of food dishes, please consider the following:

Last names beginning A through G: Salads or Vegetables

Last names beginning H - P: Desserts

Last names beginning Q - Z: Meat dishes or Casseroles

Church volunteers will prepare pitchers of water, lemonade, and unsweetened tea.

If you can stay a few minutes after the event adjourns to help with clean-up, many thanks!

Pastor John Cochran's scripture which formed the theme of his first Sunday sermon at St. John's UMC on June 26:

Jeremiah 29:11
(New International Version)

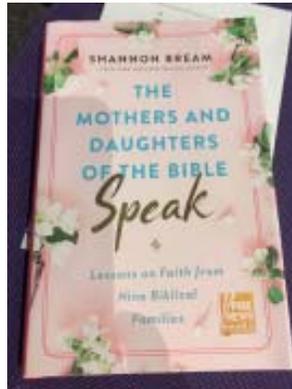
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Seekers Sunday School Class Begins New Study, Has Social Events

The Seekers Class is reading the book titled “The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak--Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families” by Shannon Bream” together as a class for the next 6 weeks. The class discussion is being led by Wade Williams.

The class, which formed more than 30 years ago, meets Sundays at 10 a.m. upstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

The class holds frequent class fellowship events as well as a monthly ladies dinner,
For more information, contact Cathi Garza.



Wade Williams leads the class discussion.



(At left) Seekers Ladies - June Birthday Dinner at Salty Oak BBQ, celebrating Janice Cagle and Cricket McHale's birthdays. Pictured in the group photo are:

Bottom- Connie Hahn, Janice Cagle, Dana Pallotti, Cricket McHale, Barbara Quiñones; Middle- Kitty Hommer, Dee Dee Williams, Marti Veith, Lynn Bridges, Robyn Cobb, and Marianne Robert
Top- Robin Blue, Glenda Sanders, Gerri Cason, Cathi Garza



On June 17, Seekers class members enjoyed a Madhatters Party hosted by Wade and Dee Dee Williams. Pictured above are Eddie and Cricket McHale (center and right) and Janice Cagle showing off their decorated hats.

Special thanks to all those in our congregation who like using their cameras to document St. John's activities. Be sure to visit St. John's FACEBOOK page to see more photos of church activities, including the June 26 welcome of our new pastor.



WINDSOR PARK SCHOOL ALUMNI

St. John's youth member Mariah Delk (center) posed for a photo at Windsor Park Elementary School at the end of the school year with two former church youth members.

Celestial Handbells Being Restored

Through a generous gift from the St. John's Foundation provided last April to St. John's Music Ministries, the Celestial Handbells are being refurbished and restored. They were hand-delivered to a vendor for the repairs and will be returned to the church in a few weeks. The Celestial Handbells, directed by Mr. Kim Bryce, have been an important part of the St. John's Music Ministry for more than 35 years. Come back soon, bells!



St. John's staff members attended the June 27 On-Boarding session with facilitator Rev. Jon Herrin of McAllen UMC and newly assigned Pastor John Cochran and later posed for a group photo. Pictured are (l-r) are Adela Garcia and Becky Hope of the CLC; Cathy McRorey, administrative assistant; Marcia Caravantes, organist; Tonya Claunch & Brian Claunch, weekend custordians; Marti Veith, Children's Ministry director; and Barbara Benton, Bookkeeper. Thank you, staff, for all that you do.

Message from Retired Pastor Steve Purdy's Family

(Sent to the Rio Texas Conference by Vickie Purdy)

Dear Friends:

We are not attending Annual Conference this year, but I wanted you all to know that I wish we had been there. My husband, Steve Purdy, is now off disability leave and is officially retired. He does have some significant health issues, but his spirit is good. We moved to South Carolina to be closer to our older daughter and her family.

Our younger daughter, Jenna Purdy, has been battling cancer for two years now. Her stem cell transplant in October has been a huge success. She just finished her last immunotherapy infusion and will have a CT scan in a few weeks, but the last one was completely clear and she seems to be doing very well. I know many of you have kept us in prayer and encouraged us all through these past few years. God has been so good to us. We are so very grateful!

I'm still working my private counseling practice with Texas clients via telehealth. It has been a blessing and I don't plan to quit for at least a couple of years.

I just want to say that I still feel connected to you all and have loved our many retreats over the years. I miss you and many other friends there. I also really miss my HEB!!! Lol.

Blessings to you all! Vickie Purdy

SAVE THE DATE:

Beautiful Holiday Music Planned

The W. B. Ray High School Winter Concert, an event that brings together more than 60 talented high school choir students, their families, and the community, is scheduled to be held at St. John's Sanctuary at 7 pm on Thursday, December 15. The church plans to host a light luncheon at 12 noon for the students and their director Mr. Kim Bryce who will rehearse the program a few hours ahead of the concert. Save the date---you won't want to miss a memorable rehearsal and concert of secular and sacred Christmas and Advent music.

AROUND THE CHURCH...

(At right and clockwise: Mike Mata and the Praise Band; Small Talk with Pastor Cochran and children; Trio of Leslie Albrecht, Donna Linnane, and Marti Veith with Kim Bryce in the Sanctuary; and Holy Communion on June 26.



(Above) The Rev. Lisa Rush of FUMC, Corpus Christi, shares her faith story with the CCI/Friendship Sunday School classes after being guest preacher at St. John's worship services on June 19.

ENGAGE IN MINISTRY!

All church members and guests, whatever their age, are needed to serve on Ministry Teams to accomplish church goals and ensure successful activities that make our church special, engaged in ministry, and serving God with our various gifts, talents, and interests.

Some teams that are already active (but need more members) include the Building or Landscaping teams, Joseph's Apprentices, the Kitchen team (chairman needed); the Care & Concern/Bereavement team, the Scholarship team, the traditional worship team (especially needs 9 a.m. liturgists and Communion servers), Doorsteppers, Sunday Morning Greeters, and the Offering Counters' team (two counters meet every Monday morning at the church).

Other teams active in the past and needed in 2022 (but are not fully organized yet) include Mission & Outreach team, Hospitality and Special Events team, Website/Social Media team, Children's Ministry team, Stewardship team, and Youth Ministry team. The United Methodist Men and the United Methodist Women (now called "United Women in Faith") always welcome new participants!

Where is God calling you? Prayerfully consider these church ministry and service opportunities.



St. John's UMC Prayer List

Hospitalized/Rehab: Suzy Shepard (Kerrville), Larry DeCovic, David, Gary Schwartz

Recovering at Home: Judi Edwards, Danna Sharpe, Brenda Knoy, Carmi Munoz, Iris Brayton, Marilyn Henderson, Michael Reyna, Jan DeCovic, Roseanne Zammiello

Grieving: Family of Tammy Reyes, Family of Dorothy Tullos, Family of Eleanore Eyring, Family of Lynne Hudson

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

Our Church	Marcia Caravantes	Robert Garza	Mick Pace	
Our Nation & Leaders	Rene Cervantes	Caroline Generaux	Miles Pace	
US Military	Margo Chapman	Nancy Gilliam	Mary Palmer	
World Leadership	Cissy and Patrick	Janie Glasson	Steve Palmer	
People of Ukraine	Hadley & Heather	James Glover	Debra Patterson	
St. John's CLC	Christel	Martha Goodner	Scott Parker	
CC Metro Ministries	Teara Cincotta	Brian Gripp	Barbara Pennington	Tara Smith
Wenholz Houses	Betty Collins	Rick Haaker	Aliah Veith Pinto	Sam Straub
Roland Albrecht	Norma Conyers	Donald Hahn (brother	Jenna Purdy and	Ashley Tomek
Janie Rose Alejandro	Vicki & Jim Cooper	of Carole Salsberry)	Family	Ralph & Matthew
Charles Anderson	Thomas Cooper-Hicks	Doris Hatcher	Francis Quinn	Torres
Larry & Patricia B.	Deborah Crawford	Hoffman Family	Dottie Ramella	Brad Vela
Charlie Bauer	Randy Cross	Elene Johnson	Mary Lee Ress	Marti Veith
Nick Bauer	Lina Crumpler	Phyllis Jones	Bud & Lynne	Kimbel Ward &
Jackie Blanco	Janae Cubellis	Stacie Jones	Richards	Family
Debra Scott Brown	Dana D'Amore	Ann Jordan	Rilla Roots	Guy Watts
Nancy Busby	Demetrious	Jeff Karel	Terry Schade	Davris White
Tyler and Melissa	Shelly Edwards	James McMinn	Betty Sebring	Sam & Sue Windsor
Brownlee	Jimmie Elam	Joyce Morgan	Lyneve Shaver	Harley Wilson &
Terri Brye	William Everett	Judi and Kenneth	Tom Shearer	Family
Cissy & Patrick	Lou Foxwell	Oestreich	Jean Shivers	James Wood
Valerie Caldwell	Shiney Fronkier	Roma Onwiler	Susan Skidmore	
Jeff Caravantes	Anita Garza	Dolores Pace	Jenny Skrobarczk	

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kelli Huey, Abel Patton, Mary Catherine Ocker
- 2 Martin Pace, Lisa Spencer, Becky Thurston
- 3 Sheila Chapman, Tonya Claunch
- 5 Charlie Sanders
- 6 James Bell, Mr. Robin Smith
- 7 Sarah Coughran
- 8 Jeff Crumpler, Adela Garcia, Cathi Garza
- 10 Clark McAllister
- 13 Henry Ocker, Joey Lewis
- 14 Teresa Smith, Shelley Veit
- 17 Alan Nisbet
- 18 Lindsey Olevitch
- 19 Connie Haralson, Molly Smith
- 20 Debi Francis
- 21 Samantha Waldrop
- 23 Willard Haskell
- 25 Peggy Laux
- 27 Wayne Carden, Sheree Hall

NOTE, If your name was omitted from the Birthday List, or if you see other errors, please call Cathy McRorey in the church office at 361-991-4342.

Save the Date for Coastal Bend Women's Retreat

A Coastal Bend District Women's Retreat will be held Friday-Sunday, October 21-23. The theme is "The Beauty of Our Scars." Keynote speaker will be Kara Oliver of The Upper Room, Nashville, TN.

**Location: Zephyr Encampment
151 FM 3162, Sandia TX 78383**

Information furnished by the Coastal Bend District Office of the United Methodist Church; Cost and Registration Coming Soon; All Women Invited!

IN MEMORIAM

Eleanore Eyring

Eleanore Herrman Eyring, age 94, passed away on June 2, 2022.



She was born July 12, 1927, in San Antonio, TX and was a member of St. John's UMC with her husband Byron since 1991.

She was employed as Vice President at Corpus Christi Savings and Loan, then worked at ARADMAC (Corpus Christi Army Depot) as Executive Secretary under various US Army commanding officers.

Before her illness, Eleanore was active in United Methodist Women and various church ministries.

She is preceded in death by her husband Byron Eyring of almost 60 years who died about 10 years ago and her son, Army 1st Lt. Ken Eyring.

Eleanore is survived by sons Bill Eyring (Cheryl) and Kerry Eyring (Trina) and daughter Linda Eyring Cox (Bob); five grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Pastor Wade Lindstrom conducted a graveside funeral service on June 11 at Seaside Memorial Park. St. John's Bereavement Team delivered a fruit tray to the family following the service.

Donations in memory of Eleanore may be made to Bokenkamp Children's Shelter at 5517 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 or an organization of your choice.

Dorothy Tullos

Dorothy Millicent Hill Tullos passed away at the age of 98 on May 28, 2022, in Lakeway, TX. Dorothy was born on November 22, 1923, in San Antonio, TX, the 20th and last child of William & Emma Hill. Fourteen of the Hill siblings lived to adulthood.



When she graduated from Breckenridge High School, Dorothy went to work for San Antonio Drug Company as a secretary. In the summer of 1945, she met Donald A. Tullos and they married on January 12, 1946. After living in Austin (where their son Donald H. was born) and in Galveston (where their daughter Donna was born), the couple moved to Corpus Christi in 1954. Dorothy remained in Corpus Christi until January 2022 when she moved to Austin to be closer to her daughter for end-of-life care.

Dorothy was a stay-at-home mom until around 1965 when she went to work for the Medical Center Pharmacy. Around 1977, she went to work for Del Mar College where she became the secretary in the English Department. She retired at the age of 71.

Dorothy was a long-time member of St. John's United Methodist Church, where she was active with the United Methodist Women, served on various committees, sold more pies than any of the men for the United Methodist Men's annual fundraiser, and decorated for various church events and celebrations. When she was in her 80's, she could often be found driving around delivering food to the homebound members of her church.

She was honored by the United Methodist Women of Corpus Christi as the woman of the year in 2018.

Dorothy is survived by her son, Don Tullos (Pat) and her daughter Donna Wesling (Steve) as well as her five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a memorial service in Corpus Christi at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. John's UMC in Dorothy's memory.

Mission: To help men grow in Christ, so others may know Christ.



St. John's United Methodist Men

UMM meets every Wednesday at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and invites all men to participate. Bring your own breakfast fare!

UMM Card Ministry

The United Methodist Men will send a greeting card expressing appropriate sentiments for birthdays, get well, condolences, etc. to all names and addresses submitted to them. Access the SJUMC website and fill out the form. Robert and Cathi Garza are helping send cards while Gary Schwartz, secretary, continues to recover. Get well soon, Gary!

<https://www.sjmethodist.com/umm-card-request/>

Food Pantry News



Thank you so much for all the support you give YOUR St. John's Food Pantry.

We have seen a slight increase in the number of clients we are serving each month. In May we served 235 individuals comprised of 76 households. We are anticipating that with the rising cost of food and gas, we will continue to see an increase in the clients we help.

The Coastal Bend Food Bank will be having its Agency Relations Conference on Friday, July 15, at First UMC. Church members and Food Pantry volunteers Gerri Cason and Willard Haskell will attend this meeting on our behalf. This is the first time in three years that they have been able to have an in-person and on-site meeting.

We can use the following items in the pantry:

- * 1 or 2 pound bags of rice (white or brown)
- * 1 or 2 pound bags of spaghetti
- * Granola bars
- * Canned pastas or ready-to-heat meals (not frozen or refrigerated)

Summer is always a challenging time for many families. With school out, and with current economic concerns, it is not as easy for the families we serve to feed their children.

Please know that any food or monetary donations you give to your Food Pantry is greatly appreciated.

Memorial Gifts

Financial gifts given in memory of, in celebration of, or in honor of family members, friends, and church ministries are placed in St. John's UMC Memorial Funds. The funds include Building, Choir, Youth, Scholarship, Food Pantry, Care & Concern/Bereavement, Worship, and Undesignated for general church needs. Gifts in any amount are sincerely appreciated. Gifts may be given anonymously

In loving memory of Eleanore Eyring, a gift to the Bereavement Fund from Chris Garcia and a gift to the Building Fund from Mary Jane Fox.

In loving memory of Dorothy Millicent Hill Tullos, mother of Donna Wesling and Don Tullos, undesignated gifts to their aunt from Dorothy and Whitney Hill of Castle Rock, CO, Chris Garcia, Bryan and Betty Thompson, Joyce Zimmerman, Pam Glover, and Terry McDaniel & Company of Austin, TX.

Also in loving memory of Dorothy Tullos, gifts to the Food Pantry from Willard Haskell and Nancy Busby; a gift to the Building Fund from Mary Jane Fox; and undesignated gifts from Debi and Bruce Francis and from Shannon Lollar of Lakeway, TX., a friend of Dorothy's daughter Donna.

In loving memory of Charles B. Teas, gifts to the Food Pantry from Willard Haskell and Nancy Busby; a gift to the Building Fund from the CCI & Friendship Sunday School Class; and undesignated gifts from Betty and Bryan Thompson, Cathy Chaney of Beeville, TX., Jane and Gene Frazier of Aransas Pass, TX; and Welder Leshin, LLP.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS!

FLOCK News: Calling All Youth



No Youth Sunday School This Sunday; Youth Swim Party on Saturday, July 9

No Youth Sunday School will be held this Sunday, July 3, but a special activity is coming up. All youth are invited to a swim/video party at the Schomakers' house at 264 Cape May on Saturday, July 9, from 4-8 p.m. to kick off our new study, The Salvation of Dr. Who. Please plan to be there! If questions, please call Leslie Albrecht, Director of Student Ministries, at 361- 537-7199.

Going forward, starting on Sunday, July 10, we won't have Sunday school during the regular time. We will meet after the 11:17 worship service (about 12:15 p.m.) until 2 p.m. More details to come.



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group has continued meeting this summer at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room for fellowship and study. Bring a light lunch with you to enjoy. If questions, please call the church office at 991-4342. Karen Van Kirk recently led the study group, in the absence of Suzy Shepard who remains in a convalescent center in Kerrville.

CHURCH * * CHATTER

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, October 1

The 2022 Pumpkin Patch at St. John's UMC has been confirmed. Pumpkins are scheduled to arrive at the church on Saturday morning, Oct. 1, at 9 a.m. Volunteers will be needed to unload the truck and place the pumpkins on the pallets. Be watching for details on how you can participate with pumpkin sales and story-telling for local school groups. The Pumpkin Patch will be manned the entire month of October (hours to be announced).

Tuesday-Saturday, November 1-5

It's time for St. John's UMC to produce a new Church Pictorial Directory, with all members and families as well as guests photographed for free the first week in November. If you want to lead or help coordinate this activity with other volunteers (such as greeters for each day as families arrive for their photo session, promoting participation, taking ministry photos around the church, or helping design the directory pages), please contact Chris Garcia, Lay Leader--call or text, 361-244-4193, or email, garciachris1714@gmail.com.



By Adam Mathews

Hello, St. John's family! Here is what's happening in July with your Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) heavy metal worship service.

This month is full of events for the Thy Kingdom Come crew. We start the month off with a interview with Micah from the band Oh Sleeper on July 8th.

Then, the TKC band ministry GratitudeTX is going to play several shows in the Midwest: Joplin and Kansas City, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; and Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 16-18 and July 23. Prayers will be appreciated for safe travel and low gas prices. We are so excited to be able to travel and spread the Love and Grace of Christ to the hardcore and metal communities in these cities.

For the last event in July, we are holding a BBQ fundraiser to help raise money for our annual TKC concert in August. The fundraiser will be on Saturday, July 30, in the Community Life Building. The menu and other details will be announced soon.



BRIDGE

Interested in Playing Bridge or Learning To Play? Check out the Tuesday Bridge group!

Tuesdays, July 12 and July 26
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Room 1,
St. John's UMC Administration Bldg.
If questions, please contact Judi Edwards
at 361-500-8819 or at judiluvgram@usa.com.



United
Women
in Faith

**Fun, Fellowship, Food,
Entertainment, Silent Auction
with proceeds to benefit UWF and Church**

St. John's United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) invites you to SAVE THE DATE for "Tea Time with Friends," a special fund raising event scheduled on Saturday, August 13, in the Community Life Building.

Event Chair Glenda Sanders has scheduled a Tea Planning Meeting on Sunday, July 10, at 2 p.m. in the Community Life Building. We are looking for table hostesses and others who would like to participate, plan, and ensure a successful event.

Hostesses:

Detailed written instructions will be provided once you sign up. As a hostess, you will have the opportunity to reserve all or some of the seats at your table. Each hostess will decorate a table for eight with their choice of decor including a centerpiece and place settings. The place settings do not have to match! This is a great opportunity to use your fine china or your tea cup collection!

Decorations can be as simple or extravagant as you desire. We will set up an email network to help hostesses borrow items from each other so don't worry if you are missing something. Contact Glenda Sanders at 361-946-9508 cell/ text or sanders.glenda@att.net.

Reserve your seat by paying your hostess or contact Glenda Sanders as noted in previous paragraph. Deadline to RSVP is August 1. Wear your tea party hat if you desire. Seating is limited and by advance reservation only. Tickets will be available beginning July 10.

Children Invited:

Little Ladies & Gents table reservations are due by August 1 for ages 5-12. Seating is limited so please respond asap. Boys are encouraged but not required to wear a vest or tie. Go to Pinterest for ideas. Children will be seated at their own decorated table with special refreshments and activities. To RSVP or to volunteer to assist with children, contact Marti Veith, Children's Ministry Director, at 361-991-4342, ext. 104.

"Tea Time with Friends"
August 13, 2022, at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
\$15.00 tickets
St. John's United Methodist Church



Church members Suzy Shepard and Louise Wagner worked together as hostesses to prepare their beautifully decorated table for the August 2019 Tea held in the Community Life Building. Their table was one of about 18 sponsored for that event.

Nursery Guests:

Childcare for ages 4 and younger will be provided with advance reservation by Aug. 1 in the Nursery. They will have their own Tea Party also! Please plan to bring any special food needs or infant formulas. RSVP to Glenda Sanders or Marti Veith.

Food Preparation by Volunteers:

Volunteers are invited to volunteer to prepare tea sandwiches, deviled eggs, or scones. Contact Connie Hahn, 361-774-3954 (cell or text) or go to Sign Up Genius (available on July 10)

Silent Auction

Silent Auction items can be brought to the church office or to the Community Life Building any time but no later than noon on Friday, August 12. We are especially looking for new or like-new inspirational items, gift baskets, and gift certificates valued at \$20 or more.

Program Book Advertising

To place an ad in the Program Book (business card size, half-page, or full page, contact Chris Garcia, 361-244-4193 (cell or text). Prices begin at \$25.

Fashion Show

Women of the Bible Fashion Show. Contact Glenda Sanders if you are willing to be a model!

Rio Texas Annual Conference 2022

Mission Together | Juntos En Mision

By Leslie Albrecht and Cathy McRorey

The Rio Texas Annual Conference took place on June 8 and 9 in McAllen, Texas. This was first time in three years we were all able to meet in person and that in and of itself was the best part of the conference. Yes, it was hot and humid. Something we who live on the coast know very well, but the weather was nice and there were lots of hotels, shops, and restaurants near the McAllen convention center where we attended the conference.

The conference opened on Thursday morning with the clergy and lay sessions. The laity session was opened with a prayer by Oscar Romero, read by Iris Chavez, district lay leader in the Las Misiones District. (Bishop Romero was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while conducting Mass as Archbishop of San Salvador. In 2012, Romero was declared a martyr by Pope Francis, which paved the way for his beatification in 2015 by Pope Benedict XVI and his canonization by Pope Francis in 2018.) The prayer is as follows and it resonated with us as we have continued to move forward through COVID and the future of our denomination.

A Step Along the Way

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the masterbuilder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

--Amen.



This overview of the 2022 Rio Texas Annual Conference was jointly prepared by Leslie Albrecht, St. John's UMC lay delegate, and Cathy McRorey, lay delegate representing her home church of FUMC-Portland. Both traveled to McAllen, TX, June 9-10, 2022, to participate.

We heard from Rev. Karen Horan about conference leadership development, fresh expressions, and planting churches. She urged the laity to work with their pastors and congregations to keep moving forward and to develop more candidates for ministry. She encouraged us to reach out to her and the conference office for assistance. She also recommended the following books, "Deep Roots/Wild Branches" by Rev. Michael Beck, and "Walking with Nehemiah" by Rev. Joseph Daniels as good resources to help us strengthen our congregation and move us onward.

Rev. Diana Philips discussed connectional ministries and also said that if you have questions or need assistance with the Simplified Board Structure to contact her office.

Rev. Tanya Campen directs faith formation/intergenerational discipleship for the Rio Texas Conference. You can access her ministry offerings at www.riotexas.org. Rev. Campen also oversees the conference child/youth/vulnerable adults safety program, "Trusted Con Confianza." She said that in the 5 years of using this program we have certified over 14,000 people in our conference. She and her team will be working this summer on revamping and updating this program to keep it fresh and up to date.

We heard reports from most of the lay leaders from each district in our conference about what was going on in their area and their churches. Bishop Robert Schnase thanked and encouraged us by reminding us that it is the "everyday disciples who make the difference."

All pastors and laity were able to worship together with the musicians from Valley Praise leading us in song. It lifts the spirit when we hear a room of Methodists singing!

Bishop Schnase brought us a message titled "The Baptism," telling us the story as a young pastor working in the valley and how the baptism he never performed is the one he carries with him wherever he goes. Two additional take-aways from his message were first, Isaiah 35:10 "and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing

will flee away,” and second, his statement “borders we regret are the ones we didn’t cross.”

The first plenary session took place after lunch, and we passed several consent agendas whose reports were included in our conference reports. Bishop Schnase told us we are “better together and that we need connection with one another.”

Bishop Schnase provided delegates with some interesting statistics about the Rio Texas Conference:

- Our conference is comprised of 74 counties with 340 congregations.
- We have more than 150 years of ministry...and we are the only bilingual conference.
- Pre-COVID, our average worship attendance was 40,672. In 2021, our average worship attendance was 29,229.
- Our churches are: 80% Anglo/white, 12.6% Hispanic, 3.78% Black, and 2.72% Other.
- Our communities are: 56.71% Hispanic, 35.1% Anglo/white, 4.47% Black, 2.19% Asian, and 1.46% Other.
- Our church communities don’t match our surrounding communities.

He expressed that the Rio Texas conference is a blending of heritages. We include and encompass the Rio Grande Conference—Hispanic conference, the Western District Conference—Black congregational conference, and the former Southwest Texas Conference, and we were formed out of mutual love and respect for one another. It was our history of love and care for one another that lead us to be the first to welcome female clergy, to establish the Methodist Healthcare ministries, and to introduce many other programs throughout our conference.

Bishop Schnase discussed the United Methodist Church General Conference that will be held in 2024. He addressed the issue of disaffiliation from the UMC and the protocol proposal from 2020. In 2019 a special session provided guidelines where churches who no longer wished to be a part of the UMC could disaffiliate with the Rio Texas conference and the UMC. This process includes fully paying their apportionments for 2 years, a six-month discernment process, and attendance to other outlined details.

He stressed that EVERY congregation remains a part of the Rio Texas Conference UNLESS its congregation chooses to leave. Although the protocol set forth in the 2019 session will end in November of 2023, the bishop stated that there is no rush or deadline for disaffiliation. “Disaffiliation is not something we need to discuss in our churches, but if we do have these discussions, we need to be transparent, gracious,

Leslie Albrecht and daughter Natalie pose with the Rev. James Amerson, who served as associate pastor at St. John’s from 2000-2002.



kind, and show respect for one another,” he said. “ We all belong to Jesus Christ..”

The conference continued with many reports and celebrations: Huston-Tillotson University, Lydia Patterson Institute, the Report on the Bishop’s Task Force on Race and Culture, approving of the trustee report, finance report and budget, and more.

Delegates had an opportunity on Friday morning to attend various Learn and Serve mission opportunities from learning about the Rio Grande Valley and making bags for the Bolsitas con Bendiciones ministry to making bunk beds at First UMC McAllen for CarePortal.

The one Cathy attended was with the U.S. Border Patrol. “It was interesting hearing about their jobs and what they do in their work on the Rio Grande border,” she said.

Delegates celebrated the retirements of 17 clergy in our conference and wished them well. Rev. Steve Purdy, who served as St. John’s senior pastor from 1996-2002, was among the retirees.

Church appointments (including Rev. John Cochran to St. John’s UMC) were fixed, and our own Coastal Bend District Superintendent, Rev. Laura Brewster, thanked everyone for coming to McAllen and the Valley for the 2022 conference, adding she hoped we had a better love and understanding for the area and its people. She then invited everyone to attend next year’s Rio Texas Annual Conference in Corpus Christi.

Here is the closing benediction from the Service of Retirement: “Now we move into a new day, God of grace, claiming your new promise for us. We offer our gifts, our experience, our wisdom, and love to you. Con la ayuda del Espiritu Santo, nos comprometemos a tu mision y tu proposito. By your Spirit, walk with us onward, keep us close to one another, and use us for your good purpose. We pray and ask it in the name of Christ. Amen.”

-- Respectfully submitted by Leslie Albrecht, lay delegate, St. John’s UMC, and Cathy McRorey, lay delegate, Portland UMC

July-August Church Calendar at a Glance

JULY

Sunday, July 3--Worship services with Communion at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.

Monday, July 4--Fourth of July national holiday, church office closed.

Wednesday & Friday, July 6-7, Food Pantry open, 9 a.m.-noon.

Sunday, July 10--Worship services with Communion at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Children's Ministry activity (see story on Page 3)

Tuesday, July 12---Memorial service and reception for Mrs. Lynne Hudson, mother of St. John's youth member Evan Hudson, 1 pm. in Community Life Building; reception hosted by the Bereavement Team to follow.

Sunday, July 17--Worship services with Communion at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Children's Ministry activity (see story on Page 3)

Tuesday, July 19--Monthly Leadership Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room; Glenda Sanders, chair, presiding. Church members invited to attend. (See related story on June Meeting minutes on Page 19.)

Sunday, July 24--Worship services with Communion at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Children's Ministry activity (see story on Page 3)

Saturday, July 30--BBQ Fundraiser to benefit Thy Kingdom Come; more details to come.

Sunday, July 31--Worship services with Communion at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; Fifth Sunday churchwide potluck supper, 5:30-7 p.m., Community Life Building (see story on Page 7)

AUGUST Calendar

August 7--Worship services with Communion and Blessing of the Back Packs for children and educators.

Saturday, August 13--11 a.m.-1 p.m., United Women in Faith "Time for Tea" event in CLB; (see story on Page 15)

Saturday, August 20--Thy Kingdom Come heavy metal community concert, 5-9 p.m. in the CLB; more details to come.

On-Boarding Sessions Held With New Pastor, Staff, Laity



As part of a new initiative in the Rio Texas Conference called "On-Boarding," two sessions--one with church staff in the morning, the other with the Leadership Board and laity that same evening--were facilitated by the Rev. Jon Herrin of McAllen FUMC on Monday, June 27, at the church. The purpose of the "On-Boarding" initiative is to give newly assigned pastors an opportunity to meet the staff and laity and engage in conversations beneficial to both as they welcome a new pastor. (Above, Pastor John Cochran offers his responses to questions posed by laity; below, the Rev. Jon Herrin leads laity representatives through five key questions to assess their expectations and to reflect on the congregation's strengths and expectations.



Highlights from the June Leadership Board Meeting

St. John's UMC has been averaging 88-100 people in Sunday Worship and there have been 24 visitors this year.

The Lay Leadership Team chaired by Pastor John Cochran will soon begin looking for four new board members for the 3-year term on the Leadership Board beginning January 2023. Applications & job descriptions can be obtained from the church office or ask Cathy McRorey to email to any interested persons.

The total construction of the Community Life Building was \$2,470,195.86. A loan was taken out in April of 2012. St. John's current loan balance is \$232,688.97 and monthly payments of \$2745 are scheduled through October of 2030 at 3.97 interest. Frost Bank has informed the church if we were able to pay that off as of October 1, 2022, we could potentially save \$38,751 in interest. That amount would need to be recalculated if we couldn't pay it off until 2025 for example.

Trustee expenses for building maintenance to date is over \$10,000. One way for persons to help is to call Trustees chair Bruce Hamende and offer their skills during Joseph's Apprentices work days (see story on Page 6).

Board members are auditing the various Memorial and Trust Funds to determine which ones were not designated funds. They are looking into which funds could be merged together with a more accurate descriptive name.

They will also work on drafting a proposed statement to apply to future Memorial and Trust gifts that are designated by members/donors for a specific purpose. The intent of the statement will be to limit that restricted designation to a certain period of time, after which any remaining money would be released to the general fund.

Church Treasurer Becky Thurston reported that the Children's Learning Center (CLC) received a \$96,000 grant in April 2022 and another is scheduled for June 2022. The CLC Board will meet to determine usage of those funds, all of which must be used in a manner to benefit the Center. The funds must be expended by May 2023. The Leadership Board voted to put these funds in a separate savings account at Frost to allow for accurate tracking and reporting of allocations.

The Miramar Drive parsonage which is owned by the St. John's Foundation will be put on the market soon. The garage door is being painted, but a needed (and expensive) kitchen plumbing reroute will not be addressed. Potential buyers will be provided with this information and the house will be offered as is.

The next regularly scheduled Leadership Board meeting is Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administrative Building. Church members are invited to attend.



United
Women
in Faith

(Additional information from St. John's United Women in Faith -- formerly United Methodist Women--appears on Page 15)

The following statement was issued by the National office of United Women in Faith regarding the recent Supreme Court decision on Roe vs Wade)

NEW YORK, June 24, 2022 –As a leading Christian women's organization committed to the needs of women, children, and youth, United Women in Faith is concerned about the impact of today's Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v Wade, a ruling that had protected women's rights to legal and safe abortion since 1973. We know from women's experiences in the United States that the banning of abortions will not end abortions. Rather, women of financial means will travel to areas where abortion remains safe and legal, while many poor and working-class women and girls will resort to unsafe procedures that could cost them their lives, which happened too often prior to the Roe decision.

Over the years, The United Methodist Church has adopted a position on abortion that calls us to respect both the sanctity of unborn human life and the well-being of the mother, while supporting the legal option of abortion by certified medical providers in cases of "tragic conflicts of life with life." *

As a matter of religious liberty in this country, women are entitled to seek guidance in the privacy of their families and faith traditions or ethical mores in these moments. Religious communities offer guidance on this issue expressly because there are so many differing opinions, questions, and circumstances.

The United Methodist Church has provided such guidance for members (The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline 2016, ¶161 K--see end of story). Other faith communities provide their own guidance. Women must be able to make decisions touching on the multiple lives involved in a pregnancy both because it is a fundamental right and because it is necessary to her free exercise of religious belief.

We call on federal and state legislators to act to protect the lives of women and girls by codifying their right to privacy, to legal and safe contraceptives, and, in tragic conflicts of life with life, to abortions. State-coerced motherhood — like state-coerced sterilization — undermines women's ability to carefully discern and follow God's calling in their lives.

* The United Methodist Church on Abortion

"Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child. We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. The Church shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies such as comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education, advocacy in regard to contraception, and support of initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe."

—¶161 K, The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline



**A Daily Prayer for
St. John's Family
of Faith**

Pastor John Cochran invites church members and visitors to pray the following prayer each day at 10 a.m.:

Loving God,
Help us to open our eyes to see You.
Help us to open our ears to hear You.
Help us to open our hearts to feel your love and see the vision You have for Us. AMEN

NOTICE TO CONGREGATION AND ONLINE VIEWERS:

Changes to St. John's UMC Sunday morning online worship service are being considered. Online services were initiated in April 2020, three weeks after the COVID shutdown, and continued until mid-June 2022. Pastor John Cochran, whose first Sunday at St. John's was June 26, will meet with the worship and multimedia teams to determine future plans of the church's online presence.

**YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
SUPPORT CHURCH MINISTRIES**

If you or your family have not made a financial pledge to St. John's UMC for 2022, please prayerfully consider how you can support the church and its ministries. Call Finance Chair Michael Shaffer or Barbara Benton, church bookkeeper, you have questions or need information.

TEXT TO GIVE...You may text the amount you would like to give to this phone number...361-541-6512...and follow the instructions given. If you are already registered, you may just text the amount.

SUNDAY OFFERING...If you are in a worship service, you may place your gift in a white offering envelope found on the back of a pew or chair in the offering plate.

MAIL OR DROP IN CHURCH MAIL SLOT...You can place your check or money order in an envelope, seal the envelope, correctly address it and mail by USPS or you may drop the sealed envelope in the church mail slot on the front door of the Administration Building.

St. John's UMC prepares individual/family quarterly reports (and annual giving reports after December 31) on all gifts given to the church during the calendar year and furnishes the appropriate report to each member/family for their tax or personal records.

St. John's United Methodist Church

5300 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Rev. John Cochran, Senior Pastor

(Email: jcochran@riotexumc; Cell phone: (361) 296-4229

Leslie Albrecht, Director of Student Ministries

Barbara Benton, Bookkeeper

Kim Bryce, Traditional Music Director

Marcia Caravantes, Organist

Brian & Tonya Claunch, Sunday/Weekend Custodians

Adela Garcia, Children's Learning Center Director

Mike Mata, 11:17 Praise Band Leader

Adam Mathews, Worship and Online Technician/TKC

Cathy McRorey, Administrative Assistant

Ben Seskin, Weekday Custodian

Sharon Staiger, Nursery Director

Marti Veith, Children's Ministry 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: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; church office closed on Friday.

FOOD PANTRY: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-Noon.

CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER (CLC): Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call Director Adela Garcia at 991-4780 about enrollment or general information.

WORSHIP SERVICES: Two worship services every Sunday-- Traditional service at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary and Contemporary service at 11:17 a.m. in the Community Life Building. Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month at both services.

NOTE: *Thy Kingdom Come* heavy metal worship service, held in the past on the second Sunday at 7 p.m., will not be held in July or August. Future plans will be announced.

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 and Facebook. Printed copies are also available at the church. Deadline for the AUGUST 2022 publication is Friday, July 22. Editor: Chris Garcia, 991-2784 or 244-4193

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