



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

# STEEPLE NOTES

AUGUST 2022

## Blessing of the Backpacks Set August 7 for Students, Educators

Join members of your St. John's community of faith at one of the two (or both!) worship services this Sunday, August 7. The traditional worship service is held in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m., and the contemporary worship service is held in the Community Life Building. There's nothing more powerful than worshipping together, singing praises to our God, hearing a Spirit-filled sermon, and sharing our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Pastor John Cochran's sermon this Sunday is titled "Breaking the Chains That Bind You," with scripture from Galatians 5: 1-26.

Other sermons for August are titled "Remembering Our Baptism," "The Holy Spirit," and "Hello God, You There?"



The "Small Talk" gathering of children and youth during the 11:17 worship service is drawing more than a dozen every Sunday. Pastor John's remarks are followed by singing and signing "Jesus Loves Me."

Be in worship every Sunday, and bring your children and grandchildren, other family members, friends, and neighbors.

## School Supply Drive Under Way for Montclair Elementary Teachers

There's excitement in the air as the 2022-2023 school year gets under way at local schools, and St. John's members, always supportive of mission outreach, are helping contribute to that excitement!

St. John's is collecting school supplies for the 25 classroom teachers at Montclair Elementary School, located directly behind our church on Kentner Street. The teachers have been asked to furnish specific lists to help guide the purchases.

A welcome breakfast for the teachers will be held Friday morning, August 5, in the CLB, coordinated by church member Connie Hahn. Once the supply lists are gathered, announcements will be made at Sunday's worship services, and sign-up sheets will be available. Thanks in advance for your generous spirit.



Do you have your ticket for the "Tea Time with Friends" fundraising event on Saturday, August 13, offered by St. John's United Women in Faith? If not, there's still time to buy a ticket at \$15 per person; call Glenda Sanders. More than a dozen table hostesses are setting beautiful tables! A delightful food fare of sandwiches, scones, cheesecake bites, and hot tea is planned, along with a Silent Auction and a Women of the Bible fashion show. What a great time for fellowship and mission! Proceeds from this event will be split to benefit the church and United Women in Faith's pledge to mission. (See more info, Page 11)

**You Are Invited To Recite This Daily 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

# The Connexion

## Grace and Peace in the Midst of the Morning Chaos!

Grace and Peace!



Pastor John Cochran

The first of August has arrived, and we all know what that means, the dog days of summer. The heat is oppressive, patience is in short supply, and the last of summer vacations are coming to a close. Teachers and other staff are returning to the classrooms, and parents have begun the process of getting their families ready for a new year.

As the quiet of summer gives way to the business of the new year, the first day arrives and brings a flood of feelings: excitement for some, anxiety for others, stress for most, exhaustion for all, and just for good measure a little hustle and bustle and a pinch of chaos. Parents, children, and teachers get so wrapped up in managing the excitement and chaos that it is easy to forget God...or, at the very least, to put God on a shelf because we just don't have time.

But what if this year, we made a conscious decision to embrace the chaos differently. Instead of moving God out, what if we invite Him in, what if we draw closer to the one who calls to us all? In other words, start your day with a quick prayer before your feet hit the floor, and once the kids are up and dressed, stand together as a family and ask God to guide you through the day. You might be surprised just how calm your day can become.

I personally like the reminder that comes from Psalms 46:1-5. It goes like this:

**“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.”**

What if your ride in the car simply included the peace of the morning, and a simple family prayer that said “God, we love you and we trust you, and we know you are with us whatever may come today.”

Oh, and lest the rest of us stumble thinking “I don't have any kids at home.” I know God is calling me to pray for my grandson and all those he encounters in his school day. Might he be calling you to pray for our teachers and the students as well?

In closing, let's don't let the day control us and our families. Instead let's commit to allow God to guide us and our families and friends in education through the day by lifting it all up to Him.

May your joys be as bright as the morning, and have a wonderful school year!

--- Pastor John

# Congratulations to our Children's Learning Center!

## Texas Rising Star Honor Again--4 Stars



Robin Smith, Board Chair, poses with CLC Director Adela Garcia (holding the Texas Rising Star certificate) and Pastor John Cochran.

St. John's United Methodist Church Children's Learning Center has again received 4 Star rating from Texas Rising Star,

The Texas Rising Star program is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care programs participating in the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Child Care Services program. Texas Rising Star certification is available to licensed centers and licensed and registered child care home facilities that meet the certification criteria.

The Texas Rising Star program offers three levels of quality certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) to encourage child care and early learning programs to attain progressively higher levels of quality. These certification levels are tied to graduated enhanced reimbursement rates for children receiving child care scholarships.

Numerous research studies have shown that children who attend higher-quality early learning programs are more prepared for school entry than children who do not attend high-quality programs. Child care and early learning programs that achieve Texas Rising Star certification, offering quality care that exceeds the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Child Care Regulation (CCR) minimum standards, are in a better position to positively affect the physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development of children.

## Successful Fundraiser Held for *Thy Kingdom Come* Concert

By Adam Mathews

Hello, St. John's family! Here's an update on your *Thy Kingdom Come* (TKC) service.

As you know, TKC band members went on the road during July to spread the gospel to music scenes in Chicago, Kansas City, and Little Rock. With help from a generous gift from the St. John's Foundation, TKC band members were able to preach and share Jesus's love with over 700 kids in these cities.

We want to say thank you to church and community members who supported our July 30 fundraiser. We were able to make over \$1,500 in sales, with supporters enjoying a meal of grilled chicken, rice, and beans. A special thank you to Danna Sharpe, Janice Cagle, and Leslie Albrecht for their donations of food items and desserts and for their help putting on this fundraiser!

Our next TKC event will be on Saturday, September 3. This will be our 2nd annual anniversary show at St. John's in the Community Life Building. An amazing band called Close Your Eyes is coming! This band, one of the biggest Christian metal bands from 2013-2017, is doing a reunion tour with our church being stop #1! Save the date!



(Above) Jason Houlihan, Janice Cagle, Adam Mathews, Leslie Albrecht, and David Pallotti pose in the kitchen; (at left), a little horseplay under a hot Texas sun on July 30 while the chicken is cooking on the grill.

## Joseph's Apprentices--August 20

Joseph's Apprentices are making a difference at the church and in our community. The group will gather on Saturday, August 20, at 7:30 a.m. at St. John's Community Life Building, enjoy a devotional and breakfast fare, then move on to designated projects on the church campus. Bruce Hamende, Trustees' chair, said the group tries to finish up before noon. If you can provide juice, coffee, and light breakfast fare, please volunteer to do so! Special thanks to Marianne Robert and Marti Veith for furnishing breakfast fare.

The goal of Joseph's Apprentices 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. Please consider sharing your talents and time with Joseph's Apprentices!

Let Bruce know if you can participate on August 20 and also if you've noticed some things that need to be repaired, cleaned, painted, or otherwise addressed. Contact Bruce Hamende at 361-548-8510. Also let Bruce know if you would like to lead the devotional or prayer. Chris Garcia will provide breakfast fare on August 20. Volunteers are needed to sign up to bring breakfast for Sept. 17 and Oct. 15. Go to [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) for "Provide Breakfast: Joseph's Apprentices"



### Upcoming Third Saturday Dates for Joseph's Apprentices:

August 20

September 17

October 15

## Beautiful Oil Painting Is Gift from the Wilshusen Family



Sudan, Circle of Friendship, oil painting is displayed in the hallway outside the Conference Room.

This oil painting, titled **SUDAN, CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP**, was "commissioned" by the late Jo Anne Wilshusen, a longtime member, leader, and faithful disciple at St. John's United Methodist Church. Jo Anne had seen a black and white photo in a newspaper that captured a group of African women and children standing in a circle in Sudan. Jo Anne was captivated by the photograph, perhaps because she had traveled to Africa and had seen first-hand the importance of community, friendship, and faith, or because she fully and faithfully embraced the United Methodist Women's purpose of mission for women, children, and youth.



Jo Anne Wilshusen

Jo Anne shared the photograph a few years ago with fellow church member, Mrs. Chris Knioum, who was an accomplished local artist (now residing in Bastrop, TX) and asked Chris if she could use the photo for inspiration to create a colorful oil painting that Jo Anne could display in her home. Chris agreed, and within a few months, she presented this beautiful painting to Jo Anne.



Jo Anne Wilshusen posed with artist Chris Knioum when Chris presented the painting to her.

After Jo Anne's death in March 2020, the Wilshusen Family gifted the painting to St. John's UMC for display in the church she so dearly loved. The Friendship Sunday School Class, which Jo Anne taught for more than 50 years, along with the Contemporary Christian Issues (CCI) Sunday School Class, have hung the painting in the hallway outside the Conference Room.

# Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry has had a busy summer! Our precious children have enjoyed a Sundae social, a Movie Day and a fun-in-the-Sunday with a Splash Day!

Thank you to all of the parents, guardians, family and friends who have helped show our little ones a great example of church during these celebrations.

August will begin with a beautiful tradition called "The Blessing of the Backpacks" at both worship services this Sunday, August 7.

We will hand out special tags to attach to everyone's backpack or book bag. We will pray over our students, teachers, and school personnel as we begin this new school year.

Please join us and bring your school backpack or teacher tote bag and be blessed during this special Sunday observance.

Love in Christ!

--Marti Veith  
Director of Children's Ministry



**Marti Veith**  
**Children's Ministry**  
**Director**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School classes are held every Sunday for ages 5 through Grade 5 between the two worship services. Thanks to several church members who are helping teach and conduct special activities. Is God calling you to help with Children's Ministry activities like Sunday School? Call Marti Veith and visit about it!



**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 will host a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Sept. 6, in the Community Life Building. Be watching for details and plan to purchase tickets. Volunteers are needed! Call Robert Garza.**

### 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 coordinating the card ministry.

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



# St. John's UMC Prayer List

**Grieving:** Family of Catie Bauer, Family of Guy Watts, Family of Terry Reyes, Family of Terry Henson (Kingwood, TX), Family of Mike Bridges  
**Hospitalized/Rehab:** Suzy Shepard (Kerrville), Larry DeCovic  
**Recovering at Home:** Brenda Knoy, Carmi Munoz, Iris Brayton, Michael Reyna, Delores Pace, Jan DeCovic, Janie Alejandro

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  
 Our Nation & Leaders  
 US Military  
 World Leadership  
 People of Ukraine  
 Pastors and Laity of the Rio Texas Conference  
 Kentucky flood victims  
 All who are sick  
 Children's Learning Center (CLC)  
 CC Metro Ministries  
 Wenholtz Houses  
 Adam, Christine, and Sarah  
 Roland Albrecht  
 Charlie Bauer  
 Nick Bauer  
 Jackie Blanco  
 Mike Bridges  
 Debra Scott Brown  
 Tyler and Melissa Brownlee

Terri Brye  
 Nancy Busby  
 Valerie Caldwell  
 Jeff Caravantes  
 Marcia Caravantes  
 Rene Cervantes  
 Margo Chapman  
 Hadley & Heather Christel  
 Teara Cincotta  
 Marjorie Codney  
 Colin R.  
 Norma Conyers  
 Thomas Cooper-Hicks  
 Deborah Crawford  
 Randy Cross  
 Lina Crumpler  
 Janae Cubellis  
 Daryl Delk  
 Dana D'Amore  
 Lacey Earle  
 Judi Edwards  
 Shelly Edwards  
 William Everett  
 Anita Garza

Robert Garza  
 Caroline Generaux  
 Janie Glasson  
 James Glover  
 Martha Goodner  
 Brian Gripp  
 Rick Haaker  
 Donald Hahn (brother of Carole Salsberry)  
 Doris Hatcher  
 Marilyn Henderson  
 Edie Henson  
 Cindy Hopkins  
 Hoffmann Family  
 Jo Ann Holland  
 Elene Johnson  
 Phyllis Jones  
 Stacie Jones  
 Ann Jordan  
 Jeff Karel  
 Family of Loyd Neal  
 Jon Manjarris  
 James McMinn  
 Joyce Morgan  
 Judi and Kenneth

Oestreich  
 Roma Onwiler  
 Mike Otto  
 Mick Pace  
 Miles Pace  
 Mary Palmer  
 Steve Palmer  
 Scott Parker  
 Debra Patterson  
 Barbara Pennington  
 Aliah Veith Pinto  
 Jenna Purdy and Family  
 Francis Quinn  
 Dottie Ramella  
 Mary Lee Ress  
 Bud & Lynne Richards  
 Rilla Roots  
 Carole Salsberry & Family  
 Charlie Sanders  
 Terry Schade  
 Gary Schwartz

Betty Sebring  
 Lyneve Shaver  
 Tom Shearer  
 Sam Shivers  
 Susan Skidmore  
 Jenny Skrobarczyk  
 Tana Smith  
 Sam Straub  
 Richard Strong  
 Ashley Tomek  
 Ralph & Matthew Torres  
 Brad Vela  
 Kimbel Ward & Family  
 Davris White  
 Sam & Sue Windsor  
 James Wood  
 Roseanne Zammiello

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Chapman, Hanna Patton-Elliott
- 3 Marianne Robert, John Shaffer, Juliana Shaffer
- 7 Nikki Nisbet
- 8 Mary Falwell
- 12 Haley Haaker
- 13 Caitlin Martin
- 15 Tyler Brownlee
- 17 David Harris
- 18 Jack Pace
- 19 Anna Neese
- 23 Levi Delk
- 24 James Bryce
- 25 Justin Michaelsen, Mallory Smith
- 26 Lyneve Shaver
- 29 Susan Hoyt
- 30 Rilla Roots

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.

### SPECIAL THANKS...

When life sends you curves, it sure helps when you have family and friends that can help you straighten them out. So thank you to my family at St. John's for all your prayers, cards, calls and words of encouragement during my recent convalescence. I love you all!  
 --Judi Edwards

### 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 information to be announced.

# Leadership Board Update from the July 19 Meeting

By Glenda Sanders, Chair

The Leadership Board met on July 19, 2022. Pastor John Cochran shared some of his goals he would like the church to pursue including: increased attendance, use social media more effectively by adding short videos to the website and being more informative as to what is going on in the church, and working toward a balanced budget, including making an honest commitment to pay at least half of St. John's annual apportionments for 2022.

Barb Benton, church bookkeeper, has submitted her resignation effective August 31, 2022. Job Description for a parttime bookkeeper is being updated and we will begin accepting resumes. We have hired Sheila Ferrell, Accounting Consultant who is well versed in Quickbooks, to guide us until a replacement is found. The Board voted to change the church pay periods to twice a month on the 1st & 16th instead of the current every two weeks, effective Sept. 1. This would even out the monthly payroll accounting.

The Leadership Board will be considering a financial plan on the viability of paying off the Community Life Building (CLB) debt, which is in the neighborhood of \$230,000.

The Children's Learning Center (CLC) has offered to fund two AEDs (automated external defibrillators). The church will fund one. They are about \$1,400 each. We will be looking into the purchase of the AEDs and updating our first aid kits.

A new water heater has been installed in the Community

Life Building (CLB). The Children's Learning Center is purchasing the water heater with installation at an approximate cost of \$3,800 and the church will fund the electrical upgrade at approximately \$1500.

The Miramar parsonage house is owned by the St. John's Foundation and is now on the market and priced around \$240,000. The pastor's housing allowance for the six months of June through December 2022 is \$7,500. Pastor John Cochran is waiving that housing allowance for 2022 only with the provision that it go toward apportionments during that time period. The total apportionments for St. John's UMC for 2022 are \$45,174.

Current members serving on the Leadership Board include Glenda Sanders, chair; Benny Cason, vice chair; Janice Cagle, Wayne Carden, Bruce Francis, Chris Garcia, Bruce Hamende, Ashley Boren Hernandez, Adam Mathews, Pauline Nguyen, Michael Shaffer, and Danna Sharpe. The Leadership Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

**This month's Leadership Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Interested church members are invited to attend the meeting.**



The Children's Learning Center (CLC) always has a fun calendar for each month, like "Pajama Day" featured in the artwork at left.

The CLC is seeking to hire additional staff members. Please share this information with others who are seeking employment and may have the qualifications required and ask them to contact director Adela Garcia at 361-991-4780.

Student enrollment for the Fall is also under way.

(See related story on Page 3)

# Meet Our 11:17 Worship Band

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By Cathi Garza, 11:17 Collective Chair

St. John's UMC was blessed with the formation of a new contemporary worship band in April 2022. They led worship for the first time on Easter Sunday. Mike Mata is our Worship leader and brought with him three new members to the band and incorporated three existing musicians to form the new 11:17 Worship Band. Our band consists of Mike Mata, Frank Olevitch, Dorothy Pallotti, Adam Mathews, Omar Robertson, Chris McHale, Mari Ramirez, and Eddie Garcia.



Mata

**Mike Mata** is our worship and band leader and plays the guitar and is the lead vocalist. He brings years of music experience. Mike is a single guy with three children and works in outside sales for National Trench Safety. He leads a secular band named The Drive that plays at local venues. For fun Mike likes to play volleyball. Some of Mike's favorite types of music are 80's rock and Christian music. We are blessed to have Mike with us leading the band.



Olevitch

**Frank Olevitch** is a long time church member and a very familiar and loved person at St. John's. He plays acoustic guitar and sings vocals. Frank was our interim Worship leader prior to the formation of the 11:17 Band and has played with all of our bands since the beginning of contemporary worship at St. John's when we started in the Fellowship Hall. Frank is a husband, a dad and a grandfather. He is married to Carolyn who you will often see in the congregation. Frank's favorite type of music is Contemporary Christian music as well as folk music. He still gets together with a group of friends that live across the country for a folk music reunion when they can. Frank is recently retired and hopes to get back to some of his hobbies including tennis, kayaking and fishing.



Pallotti

**Dorothy Pallotti** plays keyboard and backup vocals. She has been a part of SJUMC since she was born as her parents Ben and Dana have been members since they were youngsters. Dorothy has played with our various contemporary bands throughout the years. She is a Computer Science Advisor and Adjunct Instructor at Del Mar College. Dorothy is single and active with the Corpus Christi Chamber Orchestra at Del Mar. For fun she likes to read, quilt and scrapbook. Her favorite types of music are rock and country but she likes several types depending on her mood at the time.



Mathews

**Adam Mathews** is a ball of energy and has been around SJUMC since he was a teenager. He plays bass guitar and is also in the Thy Kingdom Come worship band and plays with another Christian metal band, GratitudeTX. The band recently road tripped and played at various venues in several states. Adam is currently a business marketing student at Del Mar and works as a photographer and videographer. He does several things around the church other than music and is an awesome chef. His favorite type music is Christian punk rock. He says he is single but no time to mingle!

# Meet Our 11:17 Worship Band



St. John's UMC and 11:17 Worship is very blessed and happy to have all of these talented musicians play and sing for us each Sunday. All of them are volunteers and consider the time they are worshipping with us is giving back to God. Make sure to let all of them know how much we appreciate them.



McHale

**Chris McHale** attended St. John's in March with his parents Eddie and Cricket and immediately filled the need for a drummer. He is extremely talented. He is a percussionist and drummer with 25 years of music experience. Chris started his own band when he was 16 years old and has played with numerous bands in various states throughout the years. Chris works as a remodel technician with E&E Construction. He enjoys swimming, camping, the outdoors, drum circles, food and nature. He is a quiet but multi-talented guy. He loves all types of music.



Ramirez

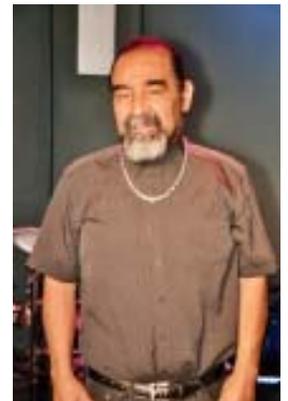
**Mari Ramirez** plays keyboards and is a talented vocalist. She is a single mom currently in a relationship. She has an adorable daughter who frequently attends worship. Mari has her own band "Lucy Morrison" and plays with The Drive. Her favorite type of music is classic rock and the Blues. For fun, Mari loves being in the pool and spending time with her family. We are very happy to have her with us on Sundays.



Robertson

**Omar Robertson** plays guitar with the band. He is a young married dad with two kids and works as a general contractor. You will usually find him smiling while up on stage and really enjoying playing music. He also plays with The Drive band and enjoys classic rock music. Omar likes to play softball. He lives in the Calallen area and we really appreciate him making the drive in on Sundays to be a part of 11:17 Worship.

Rounding out the band is **Eddie Garcia**. He is a drummer and alternates playing with Chris McHale. Eddie is a professional truck driver. He is single and loves being a disciple for Jesus Christ. He uses his opportunities to witness to those he comes in contact with. He enjoys playing Contemporary Christian music and can sing in both English and Spanish. We are grateful to have Eddie in the band.



Garcia

## 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 and may be given anonymously.

In loving memory of Dorothy Tullos, mother of Donna Wesling and Don Tullos, an undesignated memorial gift from Judi Oestreich.

Honorariums recognizing Pastor John and Cassandra Cochran and church staff members Cathy McRorey and Barbara Benton from Judi Oestreich.

In loving memory of Lynne Hudson, mother of church youth member Evan Hudson, an undesignated gift from Friends at the NAMI Greater Corpus Christi office (National Alliance on Mental Illness).



**CCI/Friendship Sunday School Class**---Class members present on July 31 posed for a photo to send to our dear friend Suzy Shepard, who remains in Kerrville convalescent center. The class has begun a study of favorite Psalms, with class members suggesting their personal favorites for reading and discussion. Come join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room.

## SAVE THESE DATES

### Tuesday, September 6

United Methodist Men's pancake supper will be held the day after Labor Day, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Community Life Building. (FMI: Robert Garza)

### Saturday, October 1

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. (FMI: Glenda Sanders)

### Tuesday-Saturday, November 1-5

It's time 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, please contact Chris Garcia, Lay Leader, at 361-244-4193, or send email to [garciachris1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachris1714@gmail.com). An event chairperson is needed.

### Saturday, December 3

Breakfast With Santa is planned on Saturday morning, December 3, in the Community Life Building. Cathi and Robert Garza will chair this mission outreach event, which includes a pancake meal and a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus (the Falwells). Watch for more details!



## Food Pantry News

Greetings from Gerri, Karen, Willard, and Robert, your St. John's Food Pantry volunteers! We have had another busy month at the pantry. We served 341 individuals which comprises 116 families.

Our largest ethnicity group is Hispanic and when you look at ages of those served, we helped 122 children, 113 individuals in the 19-54 age group, 44 individuals in the 55-64 age group, and 62 individuals who are 65 year of age or older.

Gerri and Willard attended the Coastal Bend Food Bank Agency Relations Conference held on July 15. They heard about all the services the food bank offers, learned about what other pantries are doing, and received the latest forms and paperwork we use to keep ourselves going and in compliance with all government agencies.

One exciting bit of information was that once the new Food Bank opens, it will triple the amount of space it has to hold and maintain food! In approximately 2 years, they will have new programs available to enter all client information into a computer database. This will keep our records and enable us to calculate and transfer data to the Food Bank quicker and more efficiently.

Thank you, Gerri and Willard, for representing our pantry.

\*\*\*\* **We can use the following items in our pantry this month: 1 or 2 pound bags of rice (white or brown); 1 pound packages of spaghetti; Hygiene items**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Fellowship, Food,  
Entertainment, Silent Auction,  
with proceeds to benefit UWF and St. John's**

St. John's United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) invites you to participate in "Tea Time with Friends," a special fund raising event scheduled on Saturday, August 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Life Building.

Chairing the event is Glenda Sanders, with Connie Hahn coordinating the food items to be served. Special thanks to several church members who have either donated funding or volunteered to bring sandwiches, deviled eggs, desserts, and more.

A special Children's Table will be set and special activities planned there by Marti Veith. There's room for about 12 boys and girls, so let Marti know if you have a child, grandchild, or little friend coming.

Little ones in the nursery will even be participating, so please get those youngsters registered.

Lots of items have already been received for the Silent Auction, but if you have a special item or two, please deliver it to the church office no later than Wednesday noon, August 10.

During the event, a love offering will be collected to benefit at-risk women, children, and youth. Checks may be made payable to "St. John's UMW."

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Annual Church Conference  
Scheduled October 18**

An important and annual meeting required of all United Methodist churches is the Annual Church Conference.

The agenda for the church conference includes several required agenda items, including filling vacancies on the 12-member Leadership Board and the Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee; approval of the Pastor's compensation package for the coming year; review of the church membership roll; and review of the church year. In past years, the Annual Church Conference also has served as the annual meeting of the St. John's Foundation, with new Board members elected as needed.

Following the church conference is a meeting set by the Coastal Bend District (of which we are a member). That meeting has been set for Saturday, November 5, from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., at Grace UMC, 14521 Northwest Blvd (in Calallen). This meeting is mandatory for all pastors, who will deliver their church's completed Charge Conference packets to the District Superintendent.

Lay Leaders and other church members are invited to attend.



**Monthly Birthday Gathering  
Held by the Seekers Class Ladies**

About a dozen ladies from the Seekers Sunday School Class met in July for the their monthly celebration of birthdays. Enjoying fellowship at PJ Chang's Restaurant at La Palmera Mall were Danna Sharpe, Dee Dee Williams, Cassandra Cochran, Dana Pallotti, Shelley Veit, Cindy Straub, Robyn Cobb, Marianne Robert, Glenda Sanders, Cricket McHale, and Tonya Claunch.

The Seekers Class is continuing the book study on The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible for approximately 6 more weeks.



A Daily Prayer for St. John's Family of Faith  
--Pastor John Cochran invites all members and visitors at St. John's UMC 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

## Calendar at a Glance

(Holy Communion, served every Sunday in both worship services, is open to all who desire a closer walk with Jesus Christ. If you would like to serve as a communion steward at the 9 a.m. worship service, please let Lay Leader Chris Garcia know.

### AUGUST

Sunday, Aug. 7--Worship services at both 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m., with Blessing of the Backpacks for children and youth of all ages, plus teachers educators.

Tuesday, Aug. 9--First day of school for CCISD and other local districts.

Saturday, Aug. 13--11 a.m.-1 p.m., United Women in Faith "Time for Tea" event in CLB (See information elsewhere in this publication)

Sundays, Aug. 14, Aug. 21, and Aug. 28--Worship services at both 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.

Tuesday, August 16-- 6:30 p.m., Leadership Board Meeting

Saturday, August 20 --Joseph's Apprentices gather at 7:30 a.m.(see story on Page 4)

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 3---Thy Kingdom Come heavy metal music concert in the Community Life Building; free; 6 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day weekend)--Worship services at 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m.; (church office closed on Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day)

Saturday, Sept. 10--9:45 a.m., Coastal Bend UMW United Women in Faith Annual Meeting, FUMC-Corpus Christi

Sunday, Sept. 18--Children's Sabbath celebrated during both worship services, with presentation of Bibles to Grade 3 students.

## Local *Justice for All Immigrants* Office Awarded \$120,000; Immigration Attorney Is Hired

Earlier this week, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas presented a \$120,000 grant to establish the office titled **Justice for All Immigrants** which will be located in the Coastal Bend District office of the United Methodist Church at 3510 Gollihar. The office phone number is 361-365-7553

It was also announced that an immigration attorney has been hired, and that the funds will help with the following:

- Educating the community about the immigration process and laws, and their roles in that system.
- Holding legal clinics open to the community.
- Providing training to Methodist Healthcare Ministries' staff members and their partners.
- Providing individualized legal assistance in the referrals from Methodist Healthcare Ministries' staff, and
- Providing direct legal representation for all Justice for All Immigrants clients.

President and CEO of Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Jamie Wesolowski, said in a news release that, "by ensuring our immigrant neighbors have the legal information and access to quality legal services, we are helping them to advance and thrive in the communities we serve."

# Wall Hanging Prepared as Farewell Gift for Pastor Wade

By Doug Nicholas

Pastor Wade Lindstrom and I had two conversations I will always treasure. The one thing we both had in common was experiencing God's presence in a 12 Step AA meeting. Wade had said he never had a hint of a calling for God until he sobered up. I have always said I was never going to find God in a church but after finding a Higher Power of my understanding in a 12 Step Recovery meeting-house, I find God in almost everything I see.

I sobered up and then slowly began waking up. In 1988, I watched a PBS production called, "The Power of Myth." In a 6 part series of interviews, which drew a huge national viewing audience, Joseph Campbell revealed the value and benefit of myth to Bill Moyers. Joseph Campbell was a scholar and Professor of Mythology at Sarah Lawrence College for 39 years. Bill Moyers was a former presidential press secretary, a nationally recognized journalist and PBS foremost spokesman and interviewer, at that time.

Early in the interview, Moyers asked Campbell how he became interested in such an obscure subject as mythology.

Campbell said, "I was 6 years old when my father asked if I would like to witness the 'Buf falo Bill Wild West Show' at Madison Square Garden. After the show, my father asked if I would like to talk to any of the performers? "Oh yes, dad," Joseph replied. "Who would you like to talk to, son," his father asked? "Could I talk to the Indian Chief," Joseph asked. "Chief Iron Tail?" his father asked? "Yes, sir, " Joseph replied.

When Chief Iron Tail was brought out to meet this wealthy patron's 6-year-old son it must have seemed awkward. "Do you have a question for me?" Chief Iron Tail asked. "Yes sir," Joseph said. "Do you say a prayer before you kill a buf-falo," Joseph asked.

A relieved Chief Iron Tail sought to explain to the boy the Indian's belief of a Great Power in the sky that provides for all our needs and how indebted every man is to that Great Power 's wisdom, strength and provision.

Years later, the scholar Joseph Campbell would state, "Myths and dreams come from the same place--and often serve the same purpose. They stem from deep, subconscious realizations that can only express themselves symbolically. The myth is the public dream and the dream is the private myth."

Back to Pastor Wade's gift from the CCI/ Friendship Sunday School Class... what is the significance of these images on an animal hide? Could these be of deep subconscious realizations that can only be expressed symbolically?

Yes, certainly. While I can't say that I understand everything, it still speaks to me.



Doug Nicholas

Before there was a written language or a signature, a hand print could easily signify a person's identity and presence. The handprint image/symbol is found everywhere one sees cave art. Each handprint symbol might also represent the community living in that cave. In this particular wall art, there are symbols of wildlife as well as symbols of life and death.

Even though cave art is the oldest human and Neanderthal expressions on earth, the man or woman who drew these symbols had many of the same feelings and concerns as you or I have in the 21st Century. A need to love and be loved. A need for respect. A need for security. A need for understanding. A place to lay his/her head, and a need to express.

In fact, the act of creating cave art might be tied to Creator God first imperative when speaking of man... "Let us make mankind in our own image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground" Genesis 1:26

The art displayed in this rendering is a composite from cave art found in France, Germany, Scandinavia and South America. It dates from 4,000-25,000 BCE. Some of the most expressive art in these cave dwellings is of Neanderthal creation.

I want to thank longtime church member Carolyn Pence, a member of our Sunday School class, for preparing the animal hide and sewing a top and bottom seam as well as needed backing to get it ready to be hung.

This wall art was received by Pastor Wade shortly after he returned home early this summer from his pilgrimage in Spain. It was given as a loving present from me and my class.

# Focus on the FLOCK!

By Leslie Albrecht, Director of Student Ministries

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. July saw our FLOCK having a swim party (huge thank you to the Schomakers for hosting us) where we swam, ate, and watched Dr. Who so we would have a reference for our new study "The Salvation of Dr. Who," written by Pastor and author Matt Rawle. In this study Rawle draws on the long-running BBC show to chart the intersection of faith and science.

We interrupted our study almost as soon as we started so that we could help with and participate in the Children's Ministry events--Ice Cream Sundae, Movie Day, and Splash Day. A special thanks to Jacob Claunch, Mariah Delk, and Wyatt Hernandez for helping our Children's Ministry Director Marti Veith set up and get things ready for these events.

I'm also really proud of the way some of the FLOCK are helping with Communion in the 11:17 worship service and also helping encourage the children to join Pastor John for Small Talk.

We will be back to our Study in August. We will not be having Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. and instead will meet for FLOCK studies and activities after the 11:17 service...around 12:30 p.m.

This Sunday, August 7, will be the Blessing of the Backpacks in both worship services, so be sure to bring your backpack or book bag to either service.

Please also plan on meeting me (Leslie) after either service that day so that I can be sure and get the most current contact information for parents and students from 6-12th Grades.



## UPDATE ON:

### 5th Sunday Potluck Supper

Although no photos were taken at the 5th Sunday Potluck Supper held July 31 in the Community Life Building, the 38 or so members and friends enjoyed wonderful fellowship and a great array of food.

Cassandra Cochran reminded us of the words to the Wesleyan Grace (see at right) which we sang as we formed a circle and held hands. Pastor John offered a prayer before we served our plates.

Thanks to all the participants who brought casseroles, ham, pork loin, salads, vegetable dishes, fresh fruit, a sandwich tray, and desserts. Special thanks to Frank Olevitch who arrived with two freshly baked buttermilk pies, still warm and oh, so good! --Chris Garcia



### Wesleyan Grace

Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored;  
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in paradise with Thee.

# Snapshots from Around the Church

**The St. John's UMC nursery is staffed and open every Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. until the 11:17 worship service concludes.**



Our Nursery serves infants through age 4 in a beautiful space located in the Community Life Building. Special thanks to Sharon Staiger and her daughter Jennifer for their expert and loving care. (At right) Cassandra Cochran, wife of Pastor John, holds their tearful grandson Ace outside the nursery.



Pastor John Cochran with Oliver Pinto, grandson of Marti Veith, and Xander Nguyen, the 9 a.m. worship acolyte and son of Dr. Minh and Pauline Nguyen, at the Chancel Rail for "Small Talk."

Church member Betty Thompson poses with a beautiful hibiscus plant outside the front door of the Sanctuary. Thanks, Betty, for providing the plant and offering your tender care, including watering, to ensure those beautiful blooms!



The Wenholz Women's House holds a special place in St. John's UMC mission outreach, and both on-site repairs at the house by Joseph's Apprentices and donations of furniture, housewares, and clothing have been directed to the facility over the years. Wenholz Women's House serves about 20 women of all ages who are in recovery. Earlier this summer, Faith and Jessica shared their witness with the CCI/Friendship Sunday School Class. Marcia Caravantes, a class member, posed with the two women after their presentation.



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

Tuesdays, August 9, August 23, September 6 and September 20.

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](mailto:judiluvgram@usa.com).

## 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, if 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](mailto: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](mailto:st.johnsumccc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sjmethodist.com](http://www.sjmethodist.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; church office closed on Friday. (Office will be closed on Labor Day)

**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 every Sunday at both services.

**NOTE:** *Thy Kingdom Come* heavy metal worship service, held on the second Sunday at 7 p.m., will not meet in August.

### 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 SEPTEMBER 2022 publication is Friday, August 26. Editor: Chris Garcia, 991-2784 or 244-4193; Email: [garciachris1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachris1714@gmail.com)



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