



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

# STEEPLE NOTES

## NOVEMBER 2022

### November 6 Worship Services Include Communion, Remembrance of Those Who Have Died in the Faith

This Sunday's worship includes Pastor John Cochran's sermon titled "We Are Grateful in All Things," in addition to Holy Communion. A special remembrance at both the 9 a.m. and 11:17 a.m. worship services is planned for the following church members who have died in the faith during the past 12

months and who now rest in the Church Eternal.

They include Rick Darst, Eleanor Eyring, Jerry Harrison, Lynne Hudson, Peggy Laux, Frank Nance, Fay Sassman, Ivan Shaver, Suzy Shepard, Robin Smith, Charles Teas, Karen Throop, and Dorothy Tullos.

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

Let's continue to increase attendance at both worship services. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come with you to worship.

### Daylight Saving Time Ends

2 a.m. Sunday, November 6, 2022

**"FALL BACK"** (you'll pick up an extra hour of sleep). Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before Sunday morning or you will be very early to church!



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

### Annual Church Business Meeting Set Sunday, Nov. 13; All Are Invited

From Pastor John--

Grace and Peace, St. John's UMC!

October is behind us and November is upon us. As we reflect this month on gratitude, I feel that it is important to tell you about our Annual Church Business meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2022. The meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. One of the things we should express gratitude for is our church and our church family.

We request your presence at this annual meeting as we discuss where we have come from this past year and look to the new year ahead.

We will be voting on new St. John's Foundation Board members, lay delegates, pastor's salary compensation, new Leadership Board members, and other church business. We will also be given a financial report on the Church's state. Copies of these reports will be available at the November 13 meeting.

These reports and others are part of the paperwork we submit each year to the Coastal Bend District office and the Rio Texas Annual Conference. The Coastal Bend District meeting is at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Grace UMC, and our laity is invited.

Please plan to join your fellow church members at this important St. John's church business meeting on Sunday, November 13, at 12:30 p.m.

**GRATITUDE**  
for our church and church family



Pastor John Cochran

# The Connexion

## Gratitude Is More Than “Thank You”

Peace and Grace, Sisters and Brothers!

2022 is coming to an end very quickly. Halloween is behind us and “Turkey Day” is just around the corner. Yet, November seems to be a month that is often skipped over, or rushed through in our excitement to get to Christmas. When this happens, we miss out on an opportunity to practice and exhibit two critical Christ like traits: Gratitude and Grace.

Colossians 3:15 says, “ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Have you ever stopped to consider what gratitude really means, or to associate gratitude with grace? We often think of gratitude as the act of being thankful for what we have, who we share it with, and occasionally, even the one who makes it all possible. And while it is all of that, gratitude is actually so much more. Gratitude means showing appreciation and requires us to return kindness. Gratitude doesn’t stop when we acknowledge how thankful we are, how blessed we are, and how fortunate we are. Gratitude, authentic, deeply meaningful thankfulness moves us to share all that we have, all that we hold close to our hearts with those we encounter.

A grateful stomach reaches out to share their abundance of food through the sharing of a meal, no matter how small. A grateful heart shares a smile because their heart is overflowing with joy for all that God has given them, and they just cannot keep it in. A worker who is grateful for the gift of employment gladly gives more than is required. A grateful mourner comforts others who mourn through prayer and simple presence. A grateful

spouse or parent sees past the minor inconveniences to the abundance of love passed from God through those we hold so dear. You see, gratitude and grace are not defined by our circumstances. That means, sometimes gratitude and grace are hard to feel, and hard to share. It is hard to be grateful and to exhibit grace with the child who has lost their way, or the spouse we no longer relate to. Gratitude and grace are challenging when the bills pile up, the diagnosis is terrifying, and the road is dark and uncertain. We find it difficult to be graceful, and thankful when others hurt us with their words, or disappoint us with their actions.

Whatever the case may be, instead of allowing our circumstances to rob us of God’s peace, that is when we need to dig deeper. Start by praying for that person or that circumstance. Take a moment to acknowledge all the good that has been shared, and all the good that will yet be. Open your heart to a God who is always good, even when the moment doesn’t feel like it. And search, actively seek, prayerfully for the reason to be grateful and the means and ways to return the kindness, also known as grace.

This November is also the month Advent starts (November 27). My prayer for all of us is that by reflecting on gratitude and grace this month, we will be able to approach Advent with hearts bursting full of gratitude for the grace that is the heart of Advent. You see, I am so grateful for a God who loved me, for a grace I could never deserve that Jesus Christ showed when he came to die for me. I pray that God reminds me every day and that I am moved to express small acts of kindness because of that.

This year during the first Sunday of Advent, we will “Hang” the greens. If you are not familiar with this ceremony you don’t want to miss out! It will be celebrated in both services. I encourage everyone to take part in it, be a reader, carry the greenery, or whatever role you fill. The “hanging of the greens” is a beautiful Methodist tradition in which we learn how the traditional Christmas colors and decorations remind us of God, of Jesus, of the Holy Spirit, and of the GRACE poured out for us through the birth of a child.

In closing, my prayer for you this month is to truly, deeply and prayerfully find yourself with a grateful, graceful heart. A heart so thankful for all the ways that God loves you, and blesses you, that you have no time, no room, and no need for anything else.

I would also like to thank my staff, the CLC, and all of St. John’s congregation for the many wonderful gifts, meals, and cards. My heart overflows with love and gratitude for each and every one of you. You have truly made Cassandra and me feel loved. --Pastor John

**NOVEMBER 2022 SERMON SERIES**

November 6 (All Saints)-- We Are Grateful in All Things; Scripture: Ephesians 5:17-18

November 13--An Attitude of Gratitude; Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

November 20--Gratitude Blesses Others; Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

November 27--First Sunday in Advent, “Altogether Peace.”

# SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 3 (Breakfast With Santa)

By Cathi Garza

St. John's United Methodist Church will once again host **Breakfast With Santa** on Saturday, December 3, from 9-11 am in the Community Life Building. This is a community outreach event and everyone is invited to attend. This is also a church-wide event and will require lots of volunteers to help welcome in our guests, prepare breakfast, assist Santa as he poses for photos with the kids, pass out coloring sheets to kids, etc.

**Planning Meeting Set Nov. 10**--We will have a planning meeting on Thursday, November 10, at 6 pm in the church Conference Room. Please make plans to attend!



## KRIS KRINGLE MARKET (during Breakfast with Santa)

Donations of "almost new" Christmas or Giftable items can be brought to the Community Life Building or left in the Church Office beginning Monday, Nov. 28 (between 9am - 3pm Mon-Thurs.) Baked goodies need to be packaged ready to sell and brought by 8:30 am on Saturday, Dec. 3. The proceeds from the sale will benefit St. John's UMC Ministries. For more information or to help set up, price or cashier, contact Joyce Hamende 361-438-5115 or Glenda Sanders 361-946-9508.

## Calendar Dates

### November 2022

Nov. 1-5: Pictorial Directory Photography (through Saturday, Nov. 5)  
Tuesday, Nov. 2: 11:17 Worship Team meeting, CLB  
Tuesday, Nov. 8: Leadership Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room  
Thursday, Nov. 10: 6 p.m. Planning Meeting for Breakfast with Santa, Conference Room  
Sunday, Nov. 13: Worship and Communion; \*\*\* Church Business Meeting at 12:30 p.m. in Sanctuary (see story on Page 1); all members encouraged to attend  
Thursday, Nov. 17: Thanksgiving luncheon for Veterans, 11 a.m., CLB (details to be announced; call Gerri Cason for info)  
Saturday, Nov. 19: Coastal Bend District Charge Conference, 9:30 a.m., Grace UMC  
Sunday, Nov. 20: Worship and Communion; following worship services, decorating for Advent and Christmas  
*Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 23-25---St. John's Office Closed for Thanksgiving*  
Sunday, Nov. 27: First Sunday in Advent; "Hanging of the Greens" worship services and Communion (see story on Page 12)

### December 2022

Saturday, Dec. 3: 9-11 a.m., Breakfast with Santa--pancakes, Kris Kringle Market, and more; see story on this page.  
Sunday, Dec. 4--Second Sunday in Advent; worship and Communion  
Friday, Dec. 9: 6:30 p.m., Traditional Christmas Pageant for children in Children's Ministry and Children's Learning Center (see Page 4)  
**More activities to be highlighted in the December SteepleNotes**

## Advent Devotional Book Available for Purchase

**ALMOST CHRISTMAS, A Wesleyan Advent Experience**, is a devotional booklet for this year's Advent study sermon series, beginning Sunday, Nov. 27. St. John's UMC has ordered 50 devotional books at \$10. Please call Cathy McRorey in the church office at 361-991-4342 to reserve a copy.

Sermon titles for Advent and Christmas Eve, based on the sermon series "Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience" are:

November 27, Altogether Peace;  
December 4, Altogether Hope;  
December 11, Altogether Love;  
Dec. 18, Altogether Joy; and  
Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: Almost Christmas.

# From Our Children's Ministry



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

In Sunday School, Nathaniel and Damien Martin, our twins, along with Clinton and Oliver, had fun with the October lessons and look forward to the November curriculum.

"The twins even bring their new bibles they received from St. John's UMC and are learning how to use them to learn about God's word and God's love," Marti said.

Thank you to my dedicated volunteers--Dee Dee Williams, Cricket McHale, Camille Veith, Wayne and Karen Carden, Marianne Robert, Robert Garza, Gerri Cason, Glenda Sanders, and Robyn Cobb for helping teach our precious children. We could not do this without you.

We are still needing a few volunteers to teach Sunday School so if you are interested, please contact Marti at [marti.sjmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:marti.sjmethodist@gmail.com).

Family Movie Night was a great success on October 15 on the church lawn. The Cochran Family singlehandedly provided a night for families with an outdoor seasonal movie, "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," plus hotdogs, popcorn and water for all. About 60 people, including lots of children, showed up. Thank you so much for all of your hard work, Cochran Family. We love and appreciate you. (See Page 5 photo.)

Trunk-or-Treat was an exciting evening of family fun on Sunday, October 30. The precious children were so happy and excited to come out and trick or treat. Thank you to all who donated money, candy, and toys and those who decorated their vehicles to host our trick or treaters. (See list of the church participants on Page 8.)

A special thanks to Pastor John and Cassandra for providing the Bouncy House and treat bags to make this an extra special event. And kudos to Connie Hahn for preparing the hotdogs and offering them to our guests and to Chris McHale for serving as DJ with some terrific music. It truly takes a village!

(See Trunk-or-Treat photos on Page 8.)

## Upcoming Children's Ministry Events:

**Thursday, November 17:** Our children will be making thank you cards in Sunday school to present to Veterans who are being invited to the church for lunch on November 17. The event will be held in the Community Life Building. (See related story on Page 11.)

**Sunday, November 27:** The children will be participating in the "Hanging of the Greens" during our worship services. They will help hang Chrismons on the trees. We will also sing traditional Christmas carols during the service. Plan to attend!

**Saturday, December 3:** 9-11 a.m., Breakfast with Santa in the CLB. Enjoy pancakes and an extra visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. (See story, Page 3)

**Friday, December 9:** At 6:30 p.m. in the Community Life Building, our Children's Ministry precious children will join with our Children's Learning Center (CLC) children to present a traditional Christmas pageant together. Watch for more information!



Nathaniel and Damien Martin, twins who participate in Children's Sunday School, are sweet and love attending, said Marti Veith. "They had fun with the October lessons," she added.



The three-hour delay of St. John's Pumpkin delivery on Saturday, October 1, was a blessing in disguise for Marti Veith, Children's Ministry Director. She got some help from teenagers from Flour Bluff ISD who worked with her to clean out some closets! Thanks to these sweet helpers who then stayed to help unload the 5,000 pumpkins.

# CHURCH MINISTRIES



**Calling All Blood Donors:**  
**Sunday, Nov. 20, 8 a.m.-1 pm.; Front Parking Lot**  
*Donors invited to make appointment on-line*  
*“Give the Gift of Life!”*

## **Sunday, November 20 (Decorating for Advent)**

Advent and Christmas decorations will be retrieved from storage areas, and decorating will be accomplished in both worship areas after worship concludes on Sunday, Nov. 20. The goal? To prepare for the first Sunday in Advent “Hanging of the Greens” services on Sunday, November 27.

Please let Dee Dee Williams, contemporary worship chair, or Chris Garcia, traditional worship chair, know if you are able to help set up the Chrismon Tree and hang wreaths as needed.

## **Family Movie Night Well Attended**

Approximately 70 adults, teens, and children enjoyed the seasonal movie, “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown,” plus hotdogs, popcorn, and water for everyone at Family Movie Night on October 15. Special thanks to Pastor John and Cassandra Cochran for their hard work to make the event successful. Families spread their blankets and lawn chairs for optimum viewing of the movie. Thanks to everyone for joining us!



## **Joseph’s Apprentices Can Use Your Help!**

Joseph’s Apprentices are making a difference at the church and in our community. The work group will gather on Saturday, November 19, at 7:30 a.m. at St. John’s Community Life Building.

After a short devotion plus breakfast fare, designated projects are tackled with the work group ending about noon. Both men and women are invited.

If you can serve as a hostess and provide juice, coffee, and a light breakfast, please call Bruce at 361-548-8510 and volunteer to do so!

The Trustees and Joseph’s Apprentices need your help! Church members should let Bruce Hamende know (361-548-8510) if they notice things that need to be repaired, cleaned, painted, or otherwise addressed on the church grounds.

# “Tabitha’s Touch” Sewing Ministry Has First Meeting

By Donna Linnane

Tabitha (her name in Greek was “Dorcas”) was a disciple of Jesus. She made clothing for those around her, and in Acts 9, she is described as “always doing good and helping the poor.” It seems a fitting name for a sewing ministry here at St. John’s UMC...and here we are.

We had our first meeting on Oct. 21, and it was so encouraging! We are starting carefully, trying not to get overwhelmed in such a busy time of year, but also planning to work together on meaningful projects that bless others. There is an exciting future for our new ministry.

You can be a part of it all, without sewing a stitch!

Besides needing donations of fabric and batting, we will always find useful donations of cash, since there are supplies which will continually need replenishing.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Donna Linnane at (361) 876-5629, or [dlinnane50@outlook.com](mailto:dlinnane50@outlook.com). We especially welcome your prayers as we work to establish an effective ministry that shows Christ’s love to others.



Meeting recently with the new ministry called “Tabitha’s Touch” were (l-r) Donna Linnane, Lina Crumpler, Barbara Otto, Nancy Gilliam, and Carolyn Pence. Missing from the photo was Louise Wagner. Give Donna a call (see story at left) if you would like to participate.

## Leadership Board Update; Next Meeting on November 8

By Glenda Sanders, Leadership Board Chair

The October 18, 2022, meeting of St. John’s UMC Leadership Board included a meal & fellowship in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month. Pastor John was presented with a large Pumpkin with church members writing what they appreciated about him. Cassandra Cochran was presented with two dozen fall flowers.

Pastor John identified one pastoral goal is to make a connection with TAMU-CC and enhance college ministry. Discussion included a college-age Sunday School Class, an activity for Campus Move In Day, and provide a meal to draw students to our church campus.

We have hired a new custodian, Kristel Friedel who works flex hours. Shaunna Schmidt, Bookkeeper, is working with Becky Thurston, church treasurer on updating the church financial records.

The Nominations Committee has nominated church members to serve in the following categories:

--Wade Williams, Darlene Duncan, Bryan Thompson, and Jack Pace will be nominated to serve on the Leadership Board, replacing four members who are leaving the Board: Chris Garcia, Janice Cagle, Bruce Francis, and Bruce Hamende.

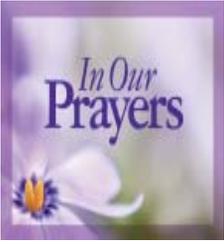
--Lay Leadership Nominations Committee report: 2023—Robyn Cobb, Randy Haaker, Will Straub; 2024--Debi Francis, Connie Hahn, Leslie Albrecht; and 2025-- Jean Shivers, Robert Garza, Bruce Hamende.

--2023 Annual Rio Texas Conference: Leslie Albrecht, delegate; Chris Garcia, alternate; and two at-large delegates, Wade Williams and Xander Nguyen. Annual Conference will be held in June 2023 at the American Bank Plaza.

Chris Garcia, SPRC chair, reported on the completion of the draft Pastoral Compensation Form for 2023 to determine four key numbers (base salary, housing allowance, reimbursable expense line, and medical insurance) in Pastor John Cochran’s plan, totaling \$94,122. The form was approved.

The next meeting of the Leadership Board is Tuesday, November 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Church members are invited to attend Board meetings.



# St. John's UMC Prayer List

**Grieving:** Family of Peggy Laux, Family of Robin Smith, Family of Devina Osborn (longtime friends of John and Judi Edwards), Family of Darlene Muckleroy, Family of Bill Underbrink, Family of Suzy Shepard.

**Hospitalized or Rehab:** Margo and Bob Chapman, Linda Barcus

**Recovering at Home:** Lyneve Shaver, Cathi Garza, Charles Sanders, Carmi Munoz, Michael Reyna, Delores Pace, 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	Rene Cervantes	Cindy Hopkins	Francis Quinn
Our Nation & Leaders	Hadley & Heather	Phyllis Jones	Bud & Lynne
Those who need healing	Christel	Jeff Karel	Richards
US Military	Marjorie Codney	Lucas	Jesse Ruiz
All Pastors & Laity	Betty Collins	Valerie Lichtenberger	Glenda Sanders
World Leadership	Norma Conyers	Jon Manjarris	Terry Schade
Children's Learning Center (CLC)	Thomas Cooper-Hicks	James McMinn	Sam Shivers
CC Metro Ministries	Deborah Crawford	Barbara Mobley	Susan Skidmore
Wenholz Houses	Randy Cross	Joyce Morgan	Morgan Skidmore
Leslie Albrecht	Lina Crumpler	Judi & Kenneth Oestreich	Jenny Skrobarczyk
Roland Albrecht	Janae Cubellis	Mick Pace	Tana Smith
Betty Allen	Daryl Delk	Miles Pace	Cindy & Will Straub
Nancy Anzaldua	Dana D'Amore	Mary Palmer	Sam Straub
Charlie Bauer	Lacey Earle	Steve Palmer	Richard Strong & Family
Iris Brayton	Cindy Fuentes	Joan Paredes (CLC)	Charles & Mickie Trevino
Bonnie Brooks	Robert Garza	Scott Parker	Brad Vela
Tyler and Melissa Brownlee	Caroline Generaux	Debra Patterson	Davris White
John Burleson	Janie Glasson	Barbara Pennington	Sue Windsor
Nancy Busby	James Glover	Aliah Veith Pinto	James Wood
Valerie Caldwell	Pam Glover	Jenna Purdy and Family	Roseanne Zammiello
Marcia Caravantes	Martha Goodner		
	Gloria and Carlos Gonzalez		
	Annie Hatfield		

**Nursing/Long Term Care/Homebound:**  
 Kay Beaver (Sheryl Calhoun's mother)  
 Ella F. Clerkley (Annie Hatfield's sister)  
 Bill & Elaine Harpine  
 Marilyn Henderson  
 Valda Jenson  
 Elene Johnson  
 Ann Jordan  
 Roma Onwiler  
 Dottie Ramella  
 Sue Rees  
 Mary Lee Ress  
 Rilla Roots  
 Betty Sebring  
 Lyneve Shaver  
 Donna Sheffield  
 Sam Windsor

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The Shepherding Care Team (chaired by Judi Edwards) will assemble holiday gift bags for St. John's homebound members on December 7. The gift bags will be delivered on December 11. If you would like to help, call Judi at 361-500-8819.

## IN MEMORIAM: Peggy Laux (1930-2022)

Peggy Nileen Laux, 92, passed away October 18, 2022, in Menasha, Wisconsin. She was a longtime member of St. John's UMC who had relocated to Menasha in 2018 to be closer to her family. Peggy was born in Harper, Kansas, and attended high school in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Peggy married Dennis Laux in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the couple then moved to Appleton where they raised their family and Peggy worked at the Institute of Paper Chemistry as a secretary. Peggy moved back to Corpus Christi in the late 1980s to be closer to her family. She worked at Del Mar College as a secretary in the English Department until her retirement.

Peggy was blessed with a beautiful voice and found great joy participating in St. John's Sanctuary Choir and other choirs over the years, most recently with the Y-Not Chorus and Faith United Methodist Church choir in Neenah. Peggy also had the honor to perform with the Del Mar Master Chorus at Carnegie Hall in 2014.

Peggy is survived by two daughters, Karen Apitz of Menasha and Dawn (Carl) Milbrath of Tomahawk; three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren; also her sister-in-law Ceil McClellan of Corpus Christi, and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Peggy Laux

# Trunk-or-Treat Draws Large Crowd

About 16 church members and friends responded to the invitation to bring their vehicles and candy to participate in Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot on Sunday, October 30, from 5:30-7 p.m. Special thanks to those listed at right for their servant hearts and love for the community in providing a safe area, complete with a Bouncy house, for trick or treaters and their families. (Would you have recognized Pastor John in his Batman costume?)



**Thanks to these folks for providing their vehicle trunks and lots of candy and goodies:**

Kristen Hoover and Becca Don and Sheila Chapman  
 Richard Fischer and Marci Ella Mitchell and Sarah Ann Bishop, TAMU-CC students  
 Nancy Busby  
 Mike and Roseann Zammiello  
 Cassandra Cochran  
 Hector and Ashley Hernandez  
 Taylor and Liesl Hecht  
 Debi Francis and Pam Glover  
 Glenda Sanders  
 Cricket McHale  
 Camille Veith and Kitty Hommer  
 Marti Veith and Leslie Albrecht  
 Ty and Robyn Cobb  
 Wade and Dee Dee Williams



# PUMPKIN PATCH Raises Over \$7,000 for St. John's UMC General Budget & Ministries

*Thank you to our AMAZING volunteers!*

By Glenda Sanders,

Thank you all for your support of our recent Pumpkin Patch 2022. We were thrilled to once again offer the beauty of a pumpkin filled lawn to our neighbors. You shared your Christ-like love with a lot of people! Your support helped us have another record breaking year in sales! We sold over \$20,000 worth of pumpkins netting us a profit of approximately \$7,000.

The driver of the 18-wheeler arriving from the Native American reservation in New Mexico was greeted with cheers from the more than 100+ people gathered to unload. In addition to St. John's UMC volunteers, we had 80+ teenage volunteers from Veteran's Memorial HS, Flour Bluff HS & St. Luke's UMC. They unloaded about 5,000 pumpkins including boxes of pumpkins & gourds in about 3 hours (compared to 5 hours last year). Thank you to Connie Hahn for taking care of donuts and pizza for the large group.

We hosted over 600 school children at story time. We also loved hearing from families who had made St. John's UMC Pumpkin Patch a fall tradition and were happy about its return. Special thanks to story tellers Pastor John Cochran, Glenda Sanders, Gilda Henderson, Leslie Albrecht, Marti Veith, Keyla Hernandez Aldabna, Suzanne Roberts, and Dee Dee Williams.

Special thanks to Vic Veit with MG Building for donating and delivering pallets, Wade Williams for picking up Hay Bales. Youth and Tonya & Bryan Claunch for loaning us their igloos. New photo props were provided by Cathi Garza and Suzanne Roberts. Thanks to Jack Pace & Pastor John for staking them in the ground. Pastor Cochran & family organized the Movie Night with over 75 in attendance. Cathi Garcia created and delivered the beautiful banners out front.

Not only did we have fun and met a lot of new people, we raised much needed funds for St. John's UMC. And we let nothing go to waste.

As the patch ended, leftover pumpkins were picked up by folks for their animals and one of our neighbors took the rest to be composted. The associate pastor (who is also a Police Officer) at a local Baptist church picked up pallets to build a Youth Room at his church.

Over 50 sales persons in the main patch were coordinated by Kitty Hommer & Robyn Cobb. Thanks to Kitty and Robyn! Dare I list all the volunteers?

See their names and more photos on the next page!

**“Advice from a pumpkin: be well-rounded, get plenty of sunshine, give thanks for life's bounty, have thick skin, keep growing, be outstanding in your field, think big.”**

--Unknown



# Thanks to Everyone Who Helped With Pumpkin Patch Success!

Leslie Albrecht  
Lynn Bridges  
Janice Cagle  
Sheila Campbell  
Karen Carden  
Sherry Carter  
Tonya Claunch & Mariah Delk  
Robyn Cobb  
Pastor John Cochran  
Marsha & Eddie de la Garza  
Brielle Delrossi  
Karen Felts  
Debi & Bruce Francis  
Chris Garcia  
Pam Glover  
Randy & Cindy Haaker  
& Haley Haaker  
Connie Hahn  
Willard Haskell  
Wyatt & Ashley Hernandez  
Jo Ann Holland  
Kitty Hommer  
Donna & Mike Linanne  
Tami & Jeff Longino  
Pauline Nguyen  
Jack Pace  
Dana Pallotti  
Dorothy Pallotti  
Marianne Robert  
Suzanne Roberts  
Glenda Sanders  
Jean Shivers  
Stephanie Shomaker  
Ashley Steehler  
Betty & Bryan Thompson  
Shelley Veit  
Marti Veith  
Dee Dee & Wade Williams



**OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!  
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE TIME AND  
EFFORT YOU EXPENDED TO ENSURE  
A SUCCESSFUL PUMPKIN PATCH!**



## St. John's Children's Learning Center (CLC) Celebrates Fire Prevention Month

October was Fire Prevention Month and the firefighters from Station 11 at Airline came to visit St. John's Children Learning Center. The children were full of excitement seeing the big red fire truck. The older children have been studying fire safety to earn their Jr. Fire Marshal certificate. The children had the opportunity to climb on the truck and to help hold the fire hose! As the firefighters left, we heard the siren and the horn.

Did you know that the CLC publishes a monthly newsletter for its parents with lots of classroom news and special events coming up? Request a copy from the church!

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### EDUCATION REPORT:

## ACT Scores Lowest In 30 Years

By Elaine Clanton Harpine, Ph. D.

On October 12, 2022, the ACT released dismal news. More than 40% of graduating seniors in 2022 did not meet any of the college-readiness benchmarks—English, reading, math, and science.

The ACT press release stated, “The national average ACT Composite score for the high school class of 2022 was 19.8, the lowest average score in more than three decades, according to data released today by ACT, the non-profit organization that administers the college readiness exam. It is the first time since 1991 that the average ACT Composite score was below 20.0.”

When Janet Godwin, ACT CEO, was asked for a reason, she said “systemic failures” of the educational system. Yes, COVID played a role, but she said COVID was not the major problem. ACT scores were declining before COVID.

In education, the term “systemic failure” means the school’s ability to help those in need. Janet Godwin concluded the interview by saying that to “...return to the pre-pandemic status quo would be insufficient and a disservice to students and educators.”

It's time for a change. We need to change how we teach students in the classroom, especially students who struggle to learn to read. For links to the actual news release, see my reading blog at <https://www.groupcentered.com/reading-blog>

--Elaine Clanton Harpine, Ph. D.

[www.groupcentered.com](http://www.groupcentered.com)

[www.twitter.com/groupcentered](https://www.twitter.com/groupcentered)



## Administrative Assistant Cathy McRorey Leaving

October 25, 2022

Dear Pastor John and Church:

It is with a heavy heart and much sadness that I formally submit my notice of resignation as the church administrative assistant at St. John's UMC. I have loved my time here and am so very blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family.

Many of you know that my husband Larry is a UMC Pastor, and we have been serving these last several years at First United Methodist Church, Portland.

To everything there is a season, and our time in Portland is coming to an end. God is calling Larry in a new direction, and we will be relocating to Kerrville in December.

I want to thank this congregation for their love, grace, and support during my time here. You all hold a special place in my heart. My last day here at St. John's UMC will be Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Much grace and peace to you all,  
Cathy McRorey



## Be Sure To Be in Worship--Sunday, November 27!

Join us on Sunday, November 27,  
at either the 9 a.m. or 11:17 a.m.  
worship service as we celebrate a  
time-honored

Methodist tradition called  
"Hanging of the Greens."

This worship service will include  
some special elements to  
acquaint us with the season and  
its traditional decorations,  
scripture, and music.

The service will also include  
Holy Communion.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Financial gifts given in memory of, in celebration of, or in honor of family members, friends, and church ministries are sincerely welcomed by St. John's UMC. All gifts are placed in the General Fund unless otherwise indicated. Gifts may be given anonymously.

In loving memory of Dorothy Tullos, an undesignated memorial from the CCI/Friendship Class.

In loving memory of Frank Nance, an undesignated gift from Chris Garcia.

In loving memory of Peggy Laux, an undesignated gift from the CCI/Friendship Class which Peggy attended for many years.

In loving memory of Robin Smith, husband of Teresa Smith, a gift to the Food Pantry from Willard Haskell.

## Food Pantry News

### Please Participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive for Our Pantry Clients!



Dear Church Members and Friends:

Please bring your canned goods and non-perishable food donations to the church office as soon as possible so that we might have a selection of food items to share with our clients for their Thanksgiving meal. The following items would be appreciated:

- Rice, 1-2 lb bags
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Canned corn
- Any size canister of fried onions
- Canned pumpkin
- Canned soup, any kind
- Bag of dried beans
- Cornbread mix
- Mac 'n cheese

If questions or you need more information, please call Cathy McCorey at the church office, 361-991-4342.

The Food Pantry is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to Noon. However, the Pantry will not be open on Wednesday/Thursday, Nov. 23-24. The church office will be closed both days.

### Confirmation Class



### Confirmation Class Planned in Spring 2023 for Grade 6 and Older

Pastor John Cochran plans to schedule Confirmation classes for youngsters 12 or older and any adult who wants to know more about the Methodist Church and has not been baptized. Confirmation Sunday is planned on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

Please call the church office at 361-991-4342 and let the Pastor know that you have a child or grandchild who is interested in participating in the Confirmation classes, or that YOU want to participate.

# “Hello from Kentucky...” update from Harley Mathews



**Amanda and Harley Mathews**  
(Harley served as St. John’s Pastoral Intern in 2020-2021 before leaving for Seminary.)

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brian Claunch
- 3 Adam Mathews
- 4 Harley Mathews
- 10 Hannah Veit, Karley Boswell, Kharis Boswell
- 11 Phillip Keys, Nicolas Pantoja
- 12 Mary Jane Fox, Becky Oliver, Justin Patton, Louise Wagner
- 15 Bill Hermann
- 17 Leonora Jones
- 19 Ty Cobb
- 20 Nancy Busby, Nathan Darst, Carolyn Martin
- 21 Spencer Beard
- 24 Bo Estabrook, Sylvia Ramsey
- 25 Dottie Ramella (her 100th!)
- 27 Odin Elliott
- 28 Wilson Calhoun
- 29 Donna Hatcher

NOTE: If your name or a family member’s 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. If the church does not have your birthdate in its files, please share the information with Cathy.

Hello, St. John’s Family! We wanted to send this note of encouragement and updates about how we are doing in the Louisville area.

Amanda and I are looking forward to our second winter, playing in snow, drinking hot beverages, and wearing all the layers. The sensation of crunching leaves underneath our feet is already exciting us.

I am grateful to have a full schedule this semester at Louisville Seminary and continue to make lasting friendships with students and faculty. As part of my second semester, I have a class that is attached to a congregational placement.

I am proud to say that I will be working with Wall Street United Methodist Church in Jeffersonville, Indiana, for the next two semesters. This work will include preaching, learning more about Wesleyan theology, and administrative learning, as well as building ecumenical relationships.

The church has a longstanding clergy network that combines Roman Catholic, Lutheran, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and others in monthly work and support for one another.

On October 27 I met with the Rio Texas Conference’s District Committee for Ordained Ministry again for a check-in about school and my continuing discernment for serving in the United Methodist Church as an elder.

I will be attending classes with Garrett-Evangelical Seminary for denomination specific courses. These are not part of my full scholarship with

Louisville Seminary, but I am proud to say I was awarded a GBHEM scholarship to help cover part of the cost of the classes next semester.

I am currently very excited for the second part of History of Christian Experience that continues to present questions of how theology intersects historical moment. It has been a key reason for me discerning adding a Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) to this degree which I will apply for between the Fall and Spring semesters. It will only add one year to my program, and I will graduate with a double-master’s degree.

I am still working at the Seminary Library part time and leading, organizing and promoting a student-led Lending Library.

Amanda has been truly making wonderful relationships with the art and farmers’ market communities here. She is not just in the studio but has been making friends and stretching herself in various ways. Learning to navigate schedules, fall hours, winter farmers’ market closures, and more has been a challenge.

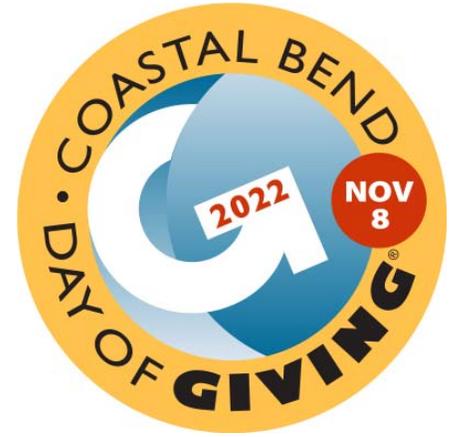
We lost the Jeep Commander many of you knew and loved but have a Toyota Rav4 we named Louie!

We continue to look for the joy in each day! We ask for your continued prayers for energy, sabbath, and grace as we continue this part of our journey.

We think of you often, remember each of you in our prayers, mourn with you as you grieve, and celebrate from afar your successes!



**EVERY VOTE COUNTS!**  
**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**  
**VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 8**  
**GENERAL ELECTION**



The Coastal Bend Day of Giving, an annual on-line giving which provides funds for dozens of non-profits in our area, is scheduled Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Early Giving is happening right now!  
Go to: [www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org](http://www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org)

This artwork appears on the Coastal Bend Day of Giving website and features a listing of dozens of local and area non-profits who will benefit from the community's generosity. Last year, \$3,782,562 was raised.

Join us for 24 hours of giving to benefit our local nonprofits and make a difference. Coastal Bend Day of Giving brings the region together as one community, raising money and awareness for our local nonprofits during the 24-hour online giving challenge. We inspire people to give generously to nonprofits making our region stronger, creating a thriving community for all.

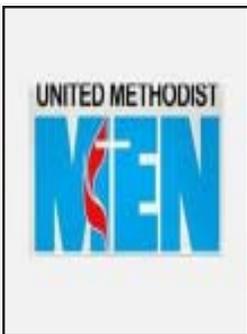
A minimum \$10 donation required.

**The Coastal Bend Day of Giving provides a unique way to address community needs through the services of non-profits:**

\* Helps thousands of residents (over 35,000 in 2021 alone)

\*\* Raises much-needed funds at a very low cost to nonprofits

\*\*Strengthens nonprofits through new donor and volunteer recruitment



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

## St. John's United Methodist Men

### Annual Holiday Pie Sale!

Bryan Thompson and our United Methodist Men took orders through October 31 for their PIE SALE. The pies are expected to arrive on or about Nov. 16. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser which supports UMM mission outreach projects.

### UMM Weekly Meeting

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, thinking of you, and condolences to aunts and addresses submitted to them. Access the SJUMC website and fill out the form or contact Robert Garza, UMM President, at 361-944-2125,

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

# AROUND THE CHURCH



Pastor John visit with several children during Small Talk during the 11:17 a.m. worship service in the Community Life Building.



This wonderful group of men (and a couple of gals) posed for a photo in October after completing some work projects around the church.

**Interested in Playing Bridge or Learning How To Play?** Check out the Tuesday Bridge group! You will be cordially welcomed and have lots of fun!

Tuesdays, Nov. 15 and Nov. 29  
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Room 1,  
St. John's UMC Administration  
Building.

If questions, please contact  
Judi Edwards at 361-500-8819  
or at [judiluvgram@usa.com](mailto:judiluvgram@usa.com).



**There's a place for you to belong!**  
**Have you gotten involved in one of St. John's ministry teams yet? Your time and energy will be sincerely appreciated!**



The altar in the Community Life Building utilized fall decorations, along with some pumpkins from the Pumpkin Patch. Thanks to the worship team and others for their creativity!

## YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS SUPPORT CHURCH MINISTRIES

As 2022 comes to a close, please prayerfully consider how you can support the church and its ministries in the closing months of this calendar year and in the new year ahead. Call Pastor John Cochran if you have questions or need information.

If you are attending either worship service, you may place your financial gift in the white offering envelope available at either service and place in the offering plate/basket ...or you may choose to place your gift in a sealed envelope with your name written on the outside and use the mail drop on St. John's UMC front door.

**TEXT TO GIVE...**Online giving works great for many of our church members and visitors. You may text the amount you would like to give to the church to this phone number...361-541-6512...and follow the instructions given. If you are already registered, you may just text the amount. Your generosity is appreciated.



## A Feast of Gratitude

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
TO EVERYONE!  
Thursday, November 24**

## TAMU-CC Graduate Receives Orders for Germany

Bradley Butcher, who attended St. John's UMC during his four-year collegiate career at TAMU-CC, was commissioned into the US Army as a 1st Lieutenant and Nurse in late August in special commissioning ceremonies held at TAMU-CC. He notified the CCI/Friendship Sunday School class recently that he has orders to Landstuhl, Germany, in January.

Safe travel, Brad, as you begin your military career!



## St. John's United Methodist Church

5300 S. Alameda, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

**Rev. John Cochran**, Senior Pastor

Email: [jcochran@riotx.org](mailto:jcochran@riotx.org); cell phone: (361) 296-4229

**Leslie Albrecht**, Director of Student Ministries

**Kim Bryce**, Traditional Music Director

**Marcia Caravantes**, Organist

**Brian & Tonya Claunch**, Sunday/Weekend Custodians

**Kristel Friedel**, Weekday Custodian

**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

**Shaunna Schmidt**, Bookkeeper

**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.

**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.

**Thy Kingdom Come** heavy metal worship service is not currently meeting.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages**--children, youth, and adults, with starting times about 10-10:15 a.m. Nursery available for infants & children 4 years and younger on Sundays, 8:30-1 pm

### 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 DECEMBER 2022 issue is Monday, Nov. 28.

Editor: Chris Garcia, 991-2784 or (cell) 244-4193.

Email: [garciachris1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachris1714@gmail.com)



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