

## Calendar

<b>Sunday,</b> 9:00 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<b>April 9th</b> Morning Worship Coffee and doughnuts in FH Sunday School for all ages Morning Worship Lucia Rehearsal
<b>Monday,</b> 9:30 - 3:00 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>April 10th</b> Kindermusik classes Prayer Group Shake Your Soul UMW
<b>Tuesday,</b> 12:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>April 11th</b> <i>The Armor of God</i> Study UMM, FH
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>April 12th</b> No Dinner or Programs
<b>Thursday,</b> 10:30-12:30 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	<b>April 13th Holy Thursday</b> Kindermusik classes Holy Thursday Supper Holy Thursday Service, Sanctuary Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday,</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>April 14th Good Friday</b> A Service of Tennebrae
<b>Saturday,</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>April 15th</b> Easter Egg Hunt, Thomas Home
<b>Sunday,</b> 9:30– 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>April 16th Easter Sunday</b> Brunch in FH Morning Worship
<b>Monday,</b> 9:30 - 3:00 9:30 a.m.	<b>April 17th</b> Kindermusik classes Prayer Group
<b>Tuesday,</b> 12:00 p.m.	<b>April 18th</b> <i>The Armor of God</i> Study
<b>Wednesday,</b> 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<b>April 19th</b> Children’s Choirs Wednesday Night Supper Adult Program, B2B Kids, UMYF Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday,</b> 10:30-12:30	<b>April 20th</b> Kindermusik classes
<b>Friday-Sunday,</b>	<b>April 21st-23rd</b> Women’s Retreat

Non-Profit Org.  
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Augusta, GA  
Permit #411

St. John United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 444  
Augusta, GA 30903-0444

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## NEWS FROM THE PEWS ST. JOHN UMC

736 Greene St.; Augusta GA 30901  
Office : 706.724.9641 Fax: 706.724.9644  
www.stjohnaugusta.org

April 9—22, 2017

What does it mean to be a gracious church?

A few years back the United Methodist church adopted a marketing phrase using this motto, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.” Maybe you have seen it? But I wonder, how open are our hearts, how open are our minds, and how open are our doors?

In *If God Is Love* by Phillip Gulley and James Mulholland there is a chapter called “A Gracious Church.” These authors suggest that historically the church has not always been very tolerant or open. We have been guarded. We have identified through the years those who are worthy and those who are not; we have been guilty of judging our brothers and our sisters. We have made mistakes. Hopefully, we are beginning to understand that hospitality is what we offer to all people. It doesn’t matter if we agree with them; it doesn’t matter their nationality or race or theology. It doesn’t matter if they are covered in tattoos or if they have blue hair. We are called to love people. Period.

Irenaeus, one of the earliest Christian thinkers, was suspicious of diversity. “He accused all those who disagreed with him as being heretics, frauds and liars. He suggested that Christians need not ask any further questions--all of the important issues were already resolved.” Believe it or not, Irenaeus had a lot of support. But Jesus didn’t talk like that; he encouraged questions and conversations. He listened and told some great stories. The stories he told were intriguing and thought-provoking. When you heard a story of Jesus, it seemed to stick with you and challenged you. He told us to ask, to seek. Jesus wasn’t bothered by our doubt or our questions.

A gracious church is a place where people can feel safe, where people can come with questions and doubt and struggles. We try not to give simplistic answers, especially to hard questions; we try to listen. To be gracious is to enter into the lives of others with empathy and compassion. Jesus willingly went to the cross; he accepted pain, torture and death. In that act we see God’s love and forgiveness. He was real; he was vulnerable; and he was authentic. He tells us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us.

The miracle and the mystery of the cross is that God in Jesus Christ entered into our humanity fully. When we the church can start seeing the cross not as just a shiny symbol to hang around our neck but see it as a reminder of entering into the hurts of this world; when we can start being gracious; when we can start listening and empathizing with others; when we can start acting more like Jesus; then the world will start to notice. Then the world will beat a path to our doors.

Blessings to you during these Holy days.

Jody Alderman

**Worship Service**  
**April 9, 2017**

**Sermon: Triumph Turns Into Terror**

*Sermon Scripture: Matthew 26:14-27:66; 27:11-54  
Matthew 21:11; Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29; 31:9-16,  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11*

**Worship Service**  
**April 16, 2017**

**The Dawning of a New Day**

*Sermon Scripture: John 20:1-18  
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4*

**Holy Week Schedule**

Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday  
Wednesday, April 12—No dinner or programs  
Thursday, April 13—Holy Thursday:  
6 pm Dinner, 6:45 pm Worship Service, 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal  
Friday, April 14—Good Friday: 7pm A Service of Tennebrae  
Saturday, April 15—Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am  
Sunday, April 16—Easter Sunday: 9:30 am Brunch in Fellowship  
Hall, 11 am combined Worship Service

**Holy Thursday Night Supper April 13, 2017**

**Program: Holy Thursday Service**

Soup, salad, sandwiches, tea, and coffee.

**Wednesday Night Supper April 19, 2017**

**Program: Half Truths**

Meatballs, chicken, spaghetti, mixed vegetables,  
tossed salad, lemon cake, french bread, tea, and coffee.

**Cost:** Adults: \$7; Youth (7-12) \$3; Children (3-6) \$1;

Children under 3 are free. To reserve or cancel, call the church  
office at 706-724-9641 by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before.

Or fill out an online supper reservation form.

**Upcoming Wednesday Nights**

April 26, 2017 Program: Bible Trivia in FH,  
Back 2 Basics Kids End-of-Year Celebration upstairs  
May 3, 2017 Program: Junior Choir Performance and Awards Night  
*Break for the Summer.* See you on Wednesdays after Labor Day!

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School the week of June  
12th! Please be in prayer about how you can serve the children of  
St. John and our community. Details coming soon!

**Our Prayers**

**Lizzie Grant**, Bill Bohling, David and Hildred Allard,  
Glenn Markle, Gary DeMore, David Lewis, Don Gordon,  
Curtis Oglesby, Tom Rogers, The Hale House, New Bethlehem  
Community Center, The Stith Mead House,  
Military at home and deployed overseas,  
and the troubled corners of our world.

**Sunday**

Preaching  
Liturgist

Lay Reader

Ushers

Acolyte

Crucifer

Offering Counters

Sound Technicians

**April 9th**

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman  
Allen Smith, 9 a.m.  
Dennis Hollins, 11 a.m.  
Allen Smith, 9 a.m.  
Becky Moon, 11 a.m.  
Kathy Morris, 9 a.m.

Charlie Tudor, Lead Usher; Gerry Aldridge;

David Brunk; Mark Fissel; Carol Klein; Lansing Lee, III;  
Bubba Nash; Roy Stampley, Jr.; Jimmy Thompson, 11 a.m.

Catherine Blanchard

Simon Grant

Libby Hargrove and Clara Claussen

Ronald and Donna Strom, 9a.m.

Michael Young, 11 a.m.

**Sunday**

Preaching  
Liturgist

Lay Reader

Ushers

Acolyte

Crucifer

Offering Counters

Sound Technicians

**April 16th**

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman  
Jim Garvey  
Nesbit Dasher

Charlie Tudor, Lead Usher; Gerry Aldridge;

David Brunk; Mark Fissel; Carol Klein; Lansing Lee, III;  
Bubba Nash; Roy Stampley, Jr.; Jimmy Thompson, 11 a.m.

Harper James

Anna Doster

William Walker and Melissa Spurr

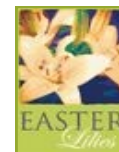
Bobby James

**Easter Lilies** — Honor a loved one with lilies for Easter  
Sunday. Easter lilies will be used to decorate the sanctuary  
for Easter worship services. Memorials and honorariums  
will be listed in the worship bulletin. Options for ordering:  
1. Fill out an order form, found in the church lobby  
beneath the music bulletin board or online.

2. Or contact Jamie: [jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org)

Cost: \$15 per plant. Deadline for orders: **April 9th.**

Proceeds benefit our music ministry for children and youth.



**HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS**

**Bless This House:** In memory of Al Fisher by Charles & Joan Piercy.  
In memory of J. Clarence Jackson, Jr. by Charles & Joan Piercy. In  
memory of Robert P. Peterson and in honor of the Uncle of Jamie  
Garvey by Charles & Joan Piercy.

**Endowment:** In memory of J. Clarence Jackson, Jr. by Caroline  
Durst. In memory of J. Clarence Jackson, Jr. by Sandy Lewis.

**Kitchen Fund:** In memory of Faye & Jack Jackson by Jackson /  
McGahee family.

United Methodist Men will meet April 11 at 6:30 for dinner (\$7.00)  
with the program at 7:00 p.m. Buddy Holbrook will be our guest  
speaker. All are welcome! Please notify the Church Office if you plan  
to attend. 706-724-9641



**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

**April 15th:** Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m.  
at the home of Kelly and Sarah Thomas,  
813 Kamel Circle, Augusta, GA.

We'll have treats, story time, egg-hunting and  
pictures with the Easter bunny. Rain location:  
the Church Fellowship Hall. Check Facebook for weather updates  
beginning Friday the 14th.

**Baby Sunday is April 30th!**

Every year we celebrate the new babies born into  
the St. John family! Please send baby's name and  
birthdate to [tfryant@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:tfryant@stjohnaugusta.org)  
to make sure we recognize your family during the  
11am worship service. Lemonade and cookies  
follow in the courtyard, weather permitting.

Worship Training Event April 30th for existing and new worship  
stewards (lay readers, liturgists, communion stewards, ushers, greeters,  
pew janitors, acolytes, sound techs.) All those interested, contact Paula  
Matson at 706-394-6824 or [paulacmatson@gmail.com](mailto:paulacmatson@gmail.com). Lunch at  
12:30pm with training following. Contact Nichole to reserve nursery.



**Register for Choir Camp online!**

Monday, July 10th – Sunday July 16th!

Rising 2nd – 8th graders.

Details online at [www.stjohnaugusta.org/music/choir-camp](http://www.stjohnaugusta.org/music/choir-camp)