

## CALENDAR

**Sunday,**  
 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts in Rm. 108  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship - Rev. Jody Alderman  
 12:00 p.m. Acolyte Training  
 1:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting -  
 Paula Matson's Home

**Monday,**  
 9:30 a.m.– 3 p.m. Kindermusik  
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
 7:00 p.m. UMW– Jeanie Lee Home

**Wednesday,**  
 6:00 p.m. BYOPicnic @ 8th Street Bulkhead  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday,**  
 9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Kindermusik

**Sunday,**  
 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts in Rm. 108  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

**Monday,**  
 9:30 a.m.– 3 p.m. Kindermusik  
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
 10:00 a.m. Shake Your Soul  
 6:30 p.m. SPRC Meeting

**Wednesday,**  
 6:00 p.m. Picnic & Petersburg Boat Cruise  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday,**  
 9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Kindermusik

### September 26, 2017

**The Ladies, Literature and Laughter September Book Club** will meet at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at the home of Gwen Fulcher-Young, located at 2103 Summer Hill Lane, Augusta, GA 30904. Phone: 706-731-0832 or [gfy@gwenfulcheryoung.com](mailto:gfy@gwenfulcheryoung.com).

Gwen will lead our discussion of *Praying For Strangers* by River Jordan. Please notify Gwen that you will attend. We welcome you to join us!

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St. John United Methodist Church  
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 Augusta, GA 30903-0444

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## NEWS FROM THE PEWS ST. JOHN UMC

736 Greene St.; Augusta GA 30901  
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[www.stjohnaugusta.org](http://www.stjohnaugusta.org)

September 10-23, 2017

This has been a difficult time for many over the last few weeks. We have had several deaths in our congregation. We have seen the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and those displaced by the flooding in Houston. We have seen racial violence on TV in Charlottesville. We are filled with loss, and we wonder, “Why?”

As United Methodist we see ourselves as critical thinkers. (That’s a good thing.) We are not afraid of hard questions but are careful about simplistic answers. Recently, our new Young Adult class has been studying Adam Hamilton’s book *Half Truths*. The subtitle is *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other things the Bible Doesn’t Say*.

When something horrible happens, we try to make sense of it. We cry out, “Why?” Some people say, “Well, it must be God’s will.” To say “everything happens for a reason” sounds like God is directing everything. God gets unnecessarily blamed for a lot of the bad that happens in this world. Maybe God does have an overall plan, but we get to work out the details. We refer to God as a loving parent; one who is not a micromanager but invites us to make choices. God allows us great freedom. The choices we make have consequences but even still that doesn’t work when we think about hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornadoes.

Romans 8:28, “We know that God works all things together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purposes.” We hear that incorrectly. Paul isn’t saying God makes everything happen. He is saying that no matter how bad something is maybe some good will come out of it.

Suffering happens. Suffering is not something God puts on us, but it is a part of life. A lot of the whys of this world we may never get answered, but part of an answer is that God is with us in our suffering. The cross reminds us that God is not removed from us. Maybe the question we ask now is, “What’s next? Where, Lord, do you want me to go from here?”

The peace of Christ be with you,  
 Jody

\*Much of the thoughts in this article came from Adam Hamilton’s, *Half Truths*.

**Worship Service  
September 10, 2017**

**Sermon: Instructions for the church or Can't we just get along?**

*Sermon Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20  
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14*

**Worship Service  
September 17, 2017**

**Sermon: How many times should we forgive?**

*Sermon Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35  
Exodus 14:19-31; 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 18:21-35*

**Church Happenings**

**September 10th:** Acolyte training after 11am worship. All young people who meet these requirements are invited: willingness to serve, able to participate through full hour worship service, and able to lift cross or candlelighter.

**September 11th:** United Methodist Women (UMW) will meet at the home of Jeanne Lee at 7 p.m. Woman of all ages are invited to come explore fellowship, service opportunities, and bible study on the 2nd Monday of each month. Contact Mary Ottinger, 706-836-1308, for more info.

**September 13th:** 6 p.m. Bring your own picnic and let's meet at the picnic tables at the 8th Street Bulkhead at Riverwalk!

**September 20th:** 6 p.m. Join us for a Petersburg Boat Ride and picnic! \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 5-12. Reservations required. Forms can be found online.

**September 27th:** Junior Choir at 5 pm with parents' meeting; 6 pm Dinner, Adult program & UMYF. No adult choir.

\*7pm St. James Conference in Sanctuary, followed by a joint communion service, then the St. John conference. All church council members are encouraged to attend.

**Gratitude Devotional:** On Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be able to pick up a copy of a devotional booklet written by the members and friends of this church, young and old. It will be our guide to inspire us and encourage us as we consider how we can respond to the grace of God. We hope that each family or individual will use it around the breakfast or dinner table to encourage conversation about how we can be more grateful. Be praying for your church as we reflect on how gracious God is and how grateful we are. Submissions still needed! Please email it by September 10 to [tfryant@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:tfryant@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Our Prayers**

**Chuck Moon, Dorothy Millen, Bobby James,** The Family of Cameron Johnson, Don Beck, Levings Laney, Betty Petersen, Phil and Jencie Hargrove, Hildred Allard, 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 The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman  
Liturgist Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.  
Jeff Pullium, 11 a.m.  
Lay Reader Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.  
Jeanne Lee, 11 a.m.  
Ushers Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.  
Charles Piercy, Lead Usher; Gerry Aldridge; Colin G. Gordy  
Paul Greenway; Bubba Nash; Warren Spooner, 11 a.m.  
Acolyte Jack Kyzer  
Crucifer Madison Hixon  
Offering Counters Libby Hargrove and Clara Claussen  
Sound Technicians Ronald and Donna Strom, 9 a.m.  
Michael Young, 11 a.m.

**September 10**

**Sunday**

Preaching The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman  
Liturgist Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.  
Becky Moon, 11 a.m.  
Lay Reader Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.  
Chip Matson, 11 a.m.  
Ushers Bob Zeyfang, 9 a.m.  
Charles Piercy, Lead Usher; Gerry Aldridge; Colin G. Gordy  
Paul Greenway; Bubba Nash; Warren Spooner, 11 a.m.  
Acolyte Abby Kight  
Crucifer Cooper Kight  
Offering Counters William Walker and Melissa Spurr  
Sound Technicians Ronald and Donna Strom, 9 a.m.  
Bobby James, 11 a.m.

**September 17**

***Concerts with a Cause***

**September 24 3:00 pm**

**Timothy Albrecht, concert organist**

"creative, fertile imagination ... electric performances ...  
Lisztian virtuosity." – The American Organist

**The cause: The Hale Foundation**

**HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS**

**Bless This House:** In memory of Bill Bohling by Carol & Bill McGahee. In memory of Cameron Johnson by Beth Lee; Chip & Paula Matson; Corinthia & Paul Greenway; Curt & Patty Strickland; Doris Goodwin; Earl G. Wright; Kathy Knick; Nesbit & Ann Dasher; Tom & Becky Rogers; Frann & Jim Bennett; Deborah Alford; Stephen & Gail Sims; Marsha & George Varner; Jeanne Lee; Marion & Anna Butler; Charles & Joan Piercy; Linda Norton; Claude & Pamela Bussey; Dale & Jodi Roper; and James & Linda Jarrard. In memory of Lansing Lee, Jr. and Levi Hill, III by Annie W. Boyce. In memory of Lansing Lee, Jr by Virginia Allen.

**Budget:** In memory of Levi Hill, III by Fred & Patricia Sims; Mr. & Mrs. Ben Tarbutton, Jr.; and Richmond Supply Employees. In honor of Patty Strickland's Birthday by Frances Altizer.

**Kitchen Fund:** In memory of Levi Hill, III and Cameron Johnson by Dennis & Patricia Hayes. In memory of Cameron Johnson by William and Linda Walker.

**Mead House:** In honor of Libby Hargrove by Nesbit & Ann Dasher.

**Music Memorial:** In honor of Rose Kirkpatrick Scott's Birthday by Alicia Scott Wagner & Anna Scott Huser. In memory of Cameron Johnson by Evelyn Byrd.

**UMCOR:** In memory of Bill Bohling and Levi Hill, III by Sally & Bob Fisher.

**PACESETTER GROUP MEETING**

Monday - September 25th - 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

We are happy to have the PRIMETIME SINGERS from Trinity UMC as our guests and entertainment this month. Join us as these awesome seniors spread the gospel through song. You will fondly remember your favorite patriotic songs, hymns, folk songs and southern states medley (Georgia on my Mind).

You won't be able to resist singing along. Invite your friends, especially those who need a special BLESSING!

\*No lunch will be provided as the kitchen and fellowship hall undergo renovations. Enter through the back door from the Telfair St. parking lot and come directly to the sanctuary.

**UMM (United Methodist Men) Rescheduled:**

meetings will resume on October 10 with a presentation by Margaret Woodward from the Downtown Business Development Office. Everyone is invited to attend.