

Calendar

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	December 18th Morning Worship Coffee and doughnuts in FH Morning Worship Lucia Rehearsal
Monday, 9:30 a.m.	December 19th Prayer Group
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.	December 21st Chancel Choir Rehearsal No Dinner or Programs
Friday, 12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	December 23rd Readers' rehearsal Choir, orchestra rehearsal
Saturday, 9:45 p.m. 10:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	December 24th Doors Open Concerts With a Cause Lessons & Carols
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	December 25th Fellowship Morning Worship
Monday - Tuesday	December 26th - 27th Church Office Closed
Wednesday,	December 28th No Dinner or Programs
Saturday, 4:00 p.m.	December 31st Youth Bowling Party

Get your books for these Winter Studies!

The Call: the Life and Message of the Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton. This includes a dvd component as we visit the places Paul journeyed. We have 2 class options to fit your schedule: Sunday afternoons at 12:30 p.m. led by Nesbit Dasher beginning Jan. 8th, or Tuesdays at noon, beginning January 17th at our Brown Bag Bible Study.

Methodism 101 will be offered for 4 Sundays, Jan 22 – Feb 12 at 10 am in the library. Led by our pastor, Dr. Jody Alderman, this is an introduction to what Methodism is all about for new members, visitors, or those who want a refresher!

We continue our book club on February 1st after dinner with *Blood Brothers: the Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel* by Elias Chacour, led by Jane Baldrige.

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

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS ST. JOHN UMC

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December 18 — December 31, 2016

We live in a world wrought with disaster, terror, violence, and destruction.

In our own lives we know that a crisis can strike at any time. We are in a struggle between good and evil, between life and death, and yet the season of Advent calls us to hope, to peace, to joy, and to love. The story of the Christ Child has the power to awaken us out of our darkness.

With Christmas Day approaching will we consider some of the greater truths that God has revealed to us in the scripture, and will we believe them? Jesus taught us to consider the lilies and how they grow, the birds of the air and how God feeds them, or the fact that God knows the number of the hairs on our head and the number of the days of our lives. The scripture reminds us again and again that this is the day the Lord hath made, and so we can rejoice in it.

How many times have I been guilty of worrying about the days that were in front of me, worrying that I could not measure up, worrying that things would not work out, worrying that the days ahead have some dread in them?

Einstein was an interesting, brilliant character of the past century. One time he was asked, “What is the most important question that a human being needs to answer?” How might you answer that? There are a lot of things that we could come up with, but Einstein said this: “We need to answer the question, is the universe friendly or not?”

What an unusual answer and yet ... Our attitude, our outlook is linked to our faith. If we believe the universe is “friendly,” we believe that God is on our side; and that people generally are good and helpful. We believe that good things are in store, and we accept that when trouble comes, it has the capacity to teach us about loving more; it teaches us about the quality of the life we choose.

If we see the world as unfriendly, then we live in fear. We restrict where we go and what we do. We limit our love of others to a small circle. We live our lives holding back, and life becomes bitter and uninspiring. We do all we can to brace ourselves for the next crisis.

If Christmas can come alive to us once again, it can shine the light into our own lives. It can change us, renew us, fill us.

Hear the angel say to the shepherds once again: “Fear not: for I bring you good tidings of great joy for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Let the message of the angel soak into your soul today.

It is my prayer for you that the light of Christ will fill your hearts once again with hope, joy, peace, and love. Have a Merry Christmas!
Jody Alderman

Worship Service

December 18, 2016

ADVENT: What Are You Expecting?

Sermon: Who Were You Expecting?

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Psalm 80:1-7;17-19; Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7

Worship Service, 11 a.m. only

December 25, 2016

ADVENT: What Are You Expecting?

Sermon: Why? Because!

Sermon Scripture: John 1:1-14

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12

Celebrate with us Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

Concerts with a Cause at 10:30pm
with guest artist, Russell Joel Brown
A service of Lessons & Carols at 11pm
Seating begins at 9:45pm. Nursery provided.
An offering will be taken for
the United Methodist Children’s Home.

Then join us Christmas morning, Sunday, December 25
for Worship at 11am

Fellowship begins at 10am with warm drinks and cookies

The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday,
December 26th and 27th, as well as Monday, January 2nd.

There will be no Wednesday night suppers or programs
December 21st, 28th, or January 4th.

Our Prayers

Parmie Lay, Gary DeMore, The family of Jackie Lott,
Mark Barron, Eve Richardson, David Lewis, Don Gordon, Curtis
Oglesby, Glenn Markle, Jane Zeyfang, Tom Rogers, Cliff Richards,
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

Sunday

Preaching
Liturgist

Lay Reader

Ushers

Acolyte
Crucifer
Offering Counters
Sound Technicians

December 18th

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman
Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Jim Garvey, 11 a.m.
Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Linda Gordy, 11 a.m.
Bob Zeyfang, 9 a.m.
Charlie Tudor, Chair; Bill Bohling; Gary Crook;
Mark Fissel; Phil Hargrove; Curt Strickland, 11 a.m.
Ellie Kyzer
Jack Kyzer
Charles Piercy and Bob Claussen
Ronald and Donna Strom, 9a.m.
Carol DeLoach, 11 a.m.

December 25th

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman
Vic Johnson
Jim Garvey
Charlie Tudor, Chair; Bill Bohling; Gary Crook;
Mark Fissel; Phil Hargrove; Curt Strickland
Sam Tudor
Aiden Grant
Charlie Tudor and Ted Klein
Bobby James

Christmas Love Offering:

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like our congregation to express appreciation to the church staff with a love offering this Christmas. Throughout the year our staff has provided outstanding service to us. Please place your check or envelope marked “Staff Christmas Offering” in the offering plate on Sunday. Also, please take time to thank these fine folks for all they do for us throughout the year.

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Budget: In honor of Ann and Nesbit Dasher and Carol Capers by Betty and Gerry Aldridge.

Bless This House: In honor of the Growing Christians Sunday School by Betty and Gerry Aldridge, In honor of the Misfits Sunday School Class by Patty and Curt Strickland.

DCCM: In honor of St. John’s volunteers by Betty and Gerry Aldridge.

St. John Towers: In honor of St. John Towers by Bob and Sally Fisher.

Christmas Gift Ideas

Grateful is a richly beautiful children’s book. This book was created around the song by our CWC artist, John Bucchino. As part of their Julie Andrews Collection, Harper Collins published this children's book, which was awarded the Parents’ Choice Gold Award. Jamie is holding on to a few copies of the book for another week in case St John folk want to make a purchase for Christmas gifts. \$20 each. We also sell choir cds and note cards featuring our stained glass windows. See Jamie or inquire at the office.

REMEMBER... According to IRS regulations all 2016 contributions — **including stock** — **MUST** be made **on or before Saturday, December 31st**. Please understand our obligation to adhere strictly to IRS regulations **with no exceptions**. Contributions made by mail must be received no later than December 31st and postmarked accordingly.

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men will meet Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 for a meal, followed by a program at 7:00 p. m. featuring Kimberly Blanchard, who will speak on The Homeless in Augusta. Everyone, both men and women, is invited to this meeting. Reservations appreciated by calling the church office.

St. John wishes to extend sympathy to Mary Ottinger in the passing of her brother, Eric, and to Kathy DeLoach in the passing of her mother, Jackie Lott.

Check out our Advent Calendar of Events at stjohnaugusta.org