

**Calendar**

**Sunday,** **January 1st**  
 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 9:40 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts in FH  
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

**Monday,** **January 2nd**  
 Church Office Closed

**Wednesday,** **January 4th**  
 No Dinner or Programs

**Friday,** **January 6th**  
 9:00 a.m. Homeschool Music Classes

**Sunday,** **January 8th**  
 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 9:40 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts in FH  
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 12:30 p.m. *The Call* Bible study, FH

**Monday,** **January 9th**  
 9:30-3:00 Kindermusik  
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
 7:00 p.m. UMW

**Tuesday,** **January 10th**  
 6:30 p.m. UMM, FH

**Wednesday,** **January 11th**  
 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs  
 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper  
 6:30 p.m. Adult Program, B2B Kids, UMYF  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday,** **January 13th**  
 9:00 a.m. Homeschool Music Classes

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

January 1 –14, 2017

**A POSITIVE LIGHT**

To me it's difficult to know what to write for a front page for the beginning of a New Year. You expect to hear something about starting fresh or that we should set some New Year's resolutions, but that seems so dull. We say to one another "Happy New Year!" and in the back of my mind I wonder, "What does that even mean?"

What could we do differently that would make life better in 2017? 2016 was a year we were bombarded by political campaigns that focused on what is wrong with the world, what is wrong with the system, what is wrong with the leadership. For me it became overwhelmingly frustrating and depressing.

Therefore, this year I want us to consider this: How do we see the world, How do we see the church, How do we see our families, and How do we see ourselves in a positive light? Ask these questions instead of dwelling on what is wrong with the world, or what we don't have, or who is to blame for this problem. Let's try and make a conscious decision and effort to look for what is right with the world. Let's look for God in the world.

I'm not saying we should live in denial. (By the way, denial has served me well. And remember "denial" is not just a river in Egypt.) I'm just saying let's look on the sunny side of life.

Yes, there will still be violence and war and terror in 2017, but we can also note that there will be compassion and community and love and concern for one another. People will stand up for what is right and practice acts of kindness. The sun will shine, and God will be involved in creating. Lives will be changed by the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Our attitude about life is impacted not just by what we see, but by how we see. Although many of the things of this world will still be the same, with a heart of gratitude we are able to see in new ways. There is a verse in Psalms, a prayer really: "Open my eyes Lord, that I may see wonderful things."

*Continued inside...*

**Wednesday Night Supper      January 11, 2017**  
**Program: *Bad Girls of the Bible***  
 Menu: Pork chops / Chicken, mac-n-cheese, black-eyed peas, salad plate, assorted desserts, rolls, 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.

My dad used to quote this old poem, "Two men looked through prison bars: one saw mud; the other saw stars."

My hope this year for each of us will be that we can lift our eyes to the stars and see the wonder of God's creation; see the wonder of God working around us, in us, and through us. Let's keep our eyes focused upward and open to see what great things we can see. This might be the best year yet! Who knows?

Thanks be to God.

Jody Alderman

**Worship Service**  
**January 1, 2017**  
**Covenant Service**

**Sermon: Right on Time**

*Sermon Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13*  
*Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23*

**Worship Service**  
**January 8, 2017**

**Sermon: Servant of God**

*Sermon Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17*  
*Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Act 10:34-43*

**The Ladies, Literature, and Laughter Book Club**

will meet at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at the home of Holley Renno, located at 3535 Lakestone Court, Augusta, Ga. phone: 706-650-1533 or [katorenno@comcast.net](mailto:katorenno@comcast.net). Please notify her whether or not you will attend. Sandy Hobbs will lead the discussion of our book, *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tart. We welcome you to join us.



Safe sanctuary training will be held Wednesday, January 18 at 5 pm or at 6:45 pm in the parlor for all those

who wish to work with our children and youth. RSVP to Nichole, [Ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:Ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org).

**Congratulations** to Evan Kuehl on earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America

**Our Prayers**

**The family of Connie Blancahrd,**

Parmie Lay, Gary DeMore, The family of Jackie Lott, Mark Barron, Eve Richardson, David Lewis, Don Gordon, Curtis Oglesby, Jane Zeyfang, 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

Communion Stewards

Communion Bread Baker

Acolyte

Crucifer

Offering Counters

Sound Technicians

**Sunday**

Preaching  
Liturgist

Lay Reader

Ushers

Acolyte

Crucifer

Offering Counters

Sound Technicians

**January 1st**

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman

Allen Smith, 9 a.m.

Lee Herndon, 11 a.m.

Shirley Markle, 9 a.m.

Dan Griggs, 11 a.m.

Bob Zeyfang, 9 a.m.

Charles Piercy, Chair; Gerry Aldridge; Gary Crook; Colin Gordy; Carol Klein; Lansing Lee, III; Tim Maund; Charlie Tudor; William Walker, 11 a.m.

Laverne Garrard, 9 a.m.

Nesbit and Ann Dasher, 11 a.m.

Paula Matson

Harper James

Aiden Grant

Marion Butler and Bubba Nash

Ronald and Donna Strom, 9a.m.

Nichole Kuehl, 11 a.m.

**January 8th**

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman

Allen Smith, 9 a.m.

Jim Garvey, 11 a.m.

Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.

Judith Goodwin, 11 a.m.

William Walker, Chair; Bill Bohling; Don Gordon;

Susan Gordon; Colin Gordy; Phil Hargrove; Dennis Hollins;

Lansing Lee, III; Tim Maund; Curt Strickland; 11 a.m.

Sam Tudor

Cooper Kight

Rolston Wilder and Steve Hobbs

Ronald and Donna Strom, 9 a.m.

Michael Young, 11 a.m.

**HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS**

**Budget:** In memory of Eric Ottinger and Jackie Lott by Charles & Joan Piercy. In honor of Nesbit & Ann Dasher by G.A. & Judith Dasher.

**Bless This House:** In memory of Eric Ottinger and Jackie Lott by Robert & Sally Fisher. In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Evans, Sr and Mr. & Mrs. Jack Z. Greenway by Paul & Corinthia Greenway.

**Pastor's Discretionary:** In memory of High & Flossie Mobley by Pat Barker.

**Music:** In memory of Janice Radke Roberts by Dennis & Patricia Hayes. In memory of Jackie Lott and Eric Ottinger by Lansing & Jeanne Lee

**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. 8<sup>th</sup>, or Tuesdays at noon, led by Nichole Kuehl, beginning January 17<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> after dinner with *Blood Brothers: the Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel* by Elias Chacour, led by Jane Baldrige.

Find books online, at area bookstores, or reserve a copy through the church office. Some are available in large print or ebook editions.

**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 Russell Blanchard in the passing of his mother, Connie Blanchard.

In Memoriam:

Jacqueline Lott

April 17, 1930— December 13, 2016