

CALENDAR

Sunday,
9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
3:00 p.m.
Monday,
9:30 a.m.
Wednesday,
5:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:40 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
Friday,
1:00 p.m.
Saturday,
1:00 p.m.

Sunday,
9:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
Monday,

Tuesday,

Wednesday,

Sunday,
9:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
Monday,

Wednesday,

December 17
Morning Worship
Christmas Breakfast, FH
Sunday School for all ages
Morning Worship
Lucia Rehearsal

December 18
Prayer Group

December 20
Junior and Wesley Choirs
Supper, Fellowship Hall
Birthday Party for Jesus, Choir Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

December 22
Christmas Eve Readers' Rehearsal

December 23
Christmas Eve Choir and Orchestra
Rehearsal

December 24
Coffee and doughnuts, FH
Sunday School for all ages
Morning Worship, Combined

December 25
Church Office Closed

December 26
Church Office Closed

December 27
No supper or programs

December 31
Coffee and doughnuts, FH
Sunday School for all ages
Morning Worship, Combined

January 1
Church Office Closed

January 3
No supper or programs

Wednesday, December 20

At our last supper for the year, we will recognize new members and new babies!

Following supper, its our annual Birthday Party for Jesus! The Childrens' choirs present the nativity through carols in the choir room. We finish with a giant birthday cake!

Non-Profit Org.
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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
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www.stjohnaugusta.org

December 17—January 6, 2017

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’” Luke 2:10-12, NRSV

I hope you will read these words again slowly and allow them to sink into your soul. God does not want us to be afraid. God is coming close, very close, uncomfortably close. “Here, hold the baby.” That phrase sends great joy into many of our hearts, but it also sends some fear. Holding a baby, if you have never done it very much, is scary, at least for the first few times. It is a rather miraculous experience to hold a baby. But who really is afraid of a baby? Babies are dependent on whoever is taking care of them. Ponder this: God became a baby?

“What are we waiting for?” has been our theme for Advent; and I ask it again: in your life what are you waiting for? Some material gift? Some peace? Some security? Some relationship? Some insight? Some new awareness of God?

Are we waiting for the realization that the Christ child could remove our fear? Why should we be afraid if God is for us?

During this busy hectic season I hope you will pause and reflect on Philippians 4:8 as it reminds us, “Whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is admirable,... think on these things...” The final phrase is “put into practice the things that you have learned ...and the God of peace will be with you.”

Think, ponder, and practice Christmas this season. Be still and you may even find God’s peace.

Jody Alderman

**Worship Service
December 17, 2017**

Advent: What are you waiting for? Who?

*Sermon Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; I Thessalonians 5:16-24*

**Worship Service
December 24, 2017**

Advent: What are you waiting for? A baby? How?

*Sermon Scripture: Luke 1:26-38
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27*

**Worship Service
December 31, 2017**

**Guest Preacher: Sandy Hobbs
God's Gift of Peace**

*Sermon Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Luke 2:22-40*

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 Sundays. Also, please take time to thank these fine folks for all they do for us throughout the year.

Our Church Secretary, Traci Fryant, has had to leave her position at St. John for family reasons. We will miss her smiling face in the office, her caring spirit, and the hard work she has done to keep the office running smoothly for us.

We have started looking for a new church secretary. We have posted the position on the www.wafj.com/jobs website. If you know someone that would be a good candidate, please refer them to that site.

Molly Engle will be working with us temporarily until we find a replacement, and office volunteers are, of course, still welcome.

You may continue to address correspondence to tfryant@stjohnaugusta.org or to secretary@stjohnaugusta.org

Thanks, Chip Matson, Chair of SPRC

Give the gift of time and service to your church!
Office helpers needed one day a week and offering counters on Sundays. Please call or email the church office.

Our Prayers

Thomas Doster & Family, Vivian Stampley, Jim Richardson, Sally Fisher, Leonard Brubaker, Dorothy Millen, Don Beck, 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, 11:00 a.m.

Preaching
Liturgist
Lay Reader
Ushers

Acolyte

Crucifer

Offering Counters

Sound Technicians

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Preaching
Liturgist
Lay Reader
Ushers

Acolyte

Crucifer

Offering Counters

Sound Technicians

December 17

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman
Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Jeff Pullium, 11 a.m.
Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Judith Goodwin, 11 a.m.
Bob Zeyfang, 9 a.m.

Charlie Tudor, Lead Usher; Mark Fissel; Don Gordon;
Suzanne Gordon; Lansing Lee, III; Donna Leone;
Vivian Stampley; Roy Stampley; 11 a.m.

Catherine Blanchard
Russell Blanchard
Charles Piercy and Anna Butler
Ronald and Donna Strom, 9 a.m.
Logan Kuehl, 11 a.m.

December 24

The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman
Jim Garvey
Linda Gordy
Charlie Tudor, Lead Usher; Mark Fissel; Don Gordon;
Suzanne Gordon; Lansing Lee, III; Donna Leone;
Vivian Stampley; Roy Stampley

Aiden Grant
Sam Tudor
Charlie Tudor and William Walker
Carol Capers

December 31

Sandy Hobbs
Vic Johnson
James Grant
Charlie Tudor, Lead Usher; Mark Fissel; Don Gordon;
Suzanne Gordon; Lansing Lee, III; Donna Leone;
Vivian Stampley; Roy Stampley

Anna Doster
Evelyn Thomas
Bubba Nash and Charles Piercy
Logan Kuehl

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Advent Décor: In honor of Jamie Garvey and the St. John Choirs by Sandy Lewis. In honor of Anna Butler by Charlie & Elizabeth Tudor.

Bless This House: In memory of Laura Adams and Jason Cunningham by Joan & Charles Piercy. In honor of Curt & Patty Strickland; Frances Altizer; and Beth Lee by Tim & Carolyn Maund.

Budget: In honor of Bob Clausson's 93rd Birthday by Mr. & Mrs. William E. Walker. In honor of Nesbit & Ann Dasher by Neal & Floride Dickert.

Christmas Decorations: In memory of Lansing Lee and Bill Bohling by Elizabeth Chesnut.

Clarks Hill: In memory of Paul Kent Plunkett, Jr. by Carol S. Robertson. In honor of Butch & Phil Hargrove; Roy & Roy, Jr. Stampley by Gerry & Betty Aldridge.

DCCM: In memory of Levings Laney by Margaret & Leonard Brubaker.

Misfits Class: In honor of the Misfits class by Patty & Curt Strickland.

Music Memorial: In memory of Cameron Johnson and in honor of the St. John Chancel Choir by DiAnne Johnson.

Wednesday Night Supper December 20, 2017

Menu: Ham/chicken, roasted potatoes, green vegetables, coleslaw, birthday cake, 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. You may also fill out a supper reservation form online under the programs tab.

9:00 am Chapel Service:

Our 9:00 am worship service will be held in the Chapel Dec 17. We will *not* be having a 9:00 am worship service on December 24 nor December 31. We will resume the normal 9:00 am worship schedule on January 7, 2018.

REMEMBER...According to IRS regulations all 2017 contributions — **including stock** — **MUST** be made **on or before Thursday, December 29th**. Please understand our obligation to adhere strictly to IRS regulations **with no exceptions**. Contributions made by mail must be received no later than **Wednesday, December 27th** and postmarked accordingly.