

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

**2019 Word of the Year:
SERVE**

March 2019

Some of you remember when we had gas station attendants ask, “Fill ‘er up? Check your oil?”

If you have ever run out of gas, you know how frustrating it can be. I try to always have at least a quarter of a tank at all times. We probably all know the feeling of traveling down a lonely expressway being low on gas and not knowing where the next gas station is. So, what about your spiritual gas tank? Are you running on fumes? When was the last time you filled up your spiritual tank?

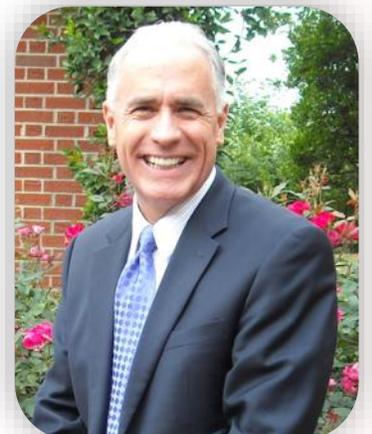
March is here and the season of Lent begins. This is a season to fill up our spiritual tanks. It is a time to remember and travel with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are at the center of our faith. Each year as we move towards the cross and the empty tomb, we remember the stories of Jesus. We are reminded that we are all on a journey like the Israelites in the wilderness, like the disciples with Jesus. We move through life in this Lenten season hearing the call of God to “take up your cross and follow Me.” We do so in prayer, in study, in silence, in solitude, and in worship. I hope that you will create space in your day for time apart with God. Don’t use kids or a job to be your excuse. Get up earlier or stay up later, but find 10 extra minutes a day to simply sit and be still; pray, listen, relax in God’s presence, and allow God to love you. Allow God to fill your tank.

As a part of our discipline during Lent we will be working through a study on Wednesday nights called *The Jesus Challenge: 21 Days of Loving God and Neighbor*. In worship, we will begin in the Gospel of Luke, but towards Holy Week we will transition into the Gospel of John. We will also have a special emphasis collection on World Service. I hope you will make plans to be here on Wednesday nights and Sundays for study and worship.

Someone once said that “everything changes but nothing stays the same.” This can be just one more Lenten season filled with routine, or it can be a season of great renewal. Life is filled with a variety of ups and downs, but I do know one thing: it is better to have our spiritual tanks full when the stresses of life come our way.

Blessings to you during this Holy Season. “Fill ‘er up?”

Jody



Travel with the Choir?

Would you like to join us for a road trip to Toccoa GA?

John Brown, a former associate minister at St John, invited our adult choir to sing a concert at his current church, First UMC Toccoa. Some members of the congregation have expressed an interest in traveling with the choir for this opportunity to see John again, to see a bit of Toccoa and another UMC, and to hear the choir's concert.

If you'd like to be counted in on the fun, contact me.

Sunday, March 24, departing at noon from St. John and traveling by chartered motor coach. Returning approximately 9:30pm.

-Jamie jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org

Concerts by Lucia and Belles Canto



Our young women's ensemble, Lucia, is joining with a similar choral group from Aiken, Belles Canto, for two concerts – one here, and one in Aiken.

We hope you can join us for one of these performances. We're excited about singing with another group and working with our friend, their director, Diane Haslam.

Friday night, March 29 at 7:30pm, here at St John Augusta.
Sunday afternoon, March 31 at 3pm,
at St John's UMC Aiken

Pray for our **Church Council** as they meet on Tuesday, March 19. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting at 6:30 p.m. All 2019 church council members are invited. Please RSVP for dinner reservations by Sunday, March 17, by emailing or calling the church office. (Donations appreciated for dinner costs.)

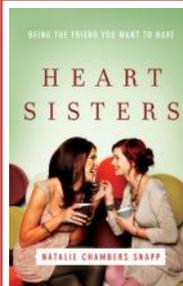


Church Workday!

Saturday, March 16, 8am-12pm
Bring your work gloves, roll up your sleeves, and help clean up the church's exterior and grounds. Let us know in the church office so we can

prepare the to-do list! Weekday work opportunities are also available under our Building Manager's direction. Contact tjames@stjohnaugusta.org. Thanks in advance!

WOMEN'S RETREAT



Join us for the Annual Women's Retreat to be held at Asbury Hills Camp and Retreat Center in Cleveland, SC, March 22 - 24. Cost is \$175 to include lodging, meals, and retreat supplies. Space is limited. Financial assistance is available. Our theme this year is "Heart Sisters" based on the book by Natalie Chambers Snapp.

Contact Nichole today.

UMW (United Methodist Women) will meet at the home of Jeanne Lee on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. The UMW Towers circle will meet Thursday, March 14 at 10:30am in the private dining room of St. John Towers.

UMM (United Methodist Men) will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Yong Park on the Georgia Cannabidol Study and Medical Use of Marijuana Derivatives. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm with the program to start at 7pm. Please notify the church office if you will attend. 706-724-9641

CURRENT NEEDS

- ☞ **Ushers** - Training session on Sunday, March 10 after 11 a.m. Worship
- ☞ **Clothes Closet** - Volunteers on Tuesdays and Saturdays
- ☞ **Wesley Foundation** - Drivers on Monday nights
- ☞ **Office Helpers** - Monday-Thursday
- ☞ **Sound Techs, Donut Bringers, and Offering Counters** - Sundays. Contact Nichole

Beautiful weather means people are asking about our lake property. Workdays will be coming up in May to fully prepare the property for the summer season, but members are welcome to go any time. You may pick up a gate key and restroom key for personal use from the church office. Please review the guidelines for lake site use on our church webpage, www.stjohnaugusta.org/programs.



Groups sometimes rent out the pavilion or lodge, but you may still visit the property. You can check the calendar on our website under the news tab or linked at the top of every newsletter. For member camping or multi-day use, please reserve the dates by contacting the church office and request a lodge key in case of inclement weather. 706-724-9641 or secretary @stjohnaugusta.org

For more information, visit us online at www.StJohnAugusta.org

This Month in Worship

Worship Service: March 3, 2019
Change and Choice

Sermon Scripture: *Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)*
Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99 (UMH819)
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Ash Wednesday Service: March 6, 2019
Telling The Truth Can Set You Free

Sermon Scripture: *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH785)
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Worship Service: March 10, 2019
Temptation

Sermon Scripture: *Luke 4:1-13*
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
(UMH810), Romans 10:8b-13

Worship Service: March 17, 2019
God's Grief

Sermon Scripture: *Luke 13:31-35*
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Worship Service: March 24, 2019
Love Changes Us

Sermon Scripture: *Luke 13:1-9*
Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8(UMH788)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Worship Service: March 31, 2019
The Grumbling of Good People

Sermon Scripture: *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*
Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32 (UMH766),
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Budget:

In honor of Mary Ottinger by Melinda Starnes

Bless This House:

In memory of Charles Stewart, Jr.
by Lang and Sherri Rivers, J. Steven and
Helen Stewart, Robert Bowen, Jr., Nancy
and James Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott
Woodward, and Jane P. Engstrom

In memory of Beth Dupree Farokhi
by Barbara and Gary Abair



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated worldwide on March 17. The patron saint of Ireland often used the three-leaf clover to teach the Trinity. Wear your green to church on March 17!

Concerts with a Cause presents:

Take 3

3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 10, 2019

Lindsay Deutsch, violin ◊ Susan Boettger, piano ◊ Lila Yang, cello

A love offering will be taken for *The Lydia Project*.

Free, open to the public. Nursery provided.

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



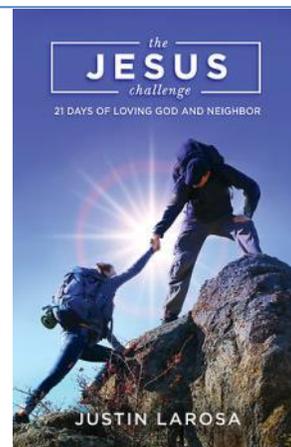
March 5 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Variety Show!

Join us at 6pm on Tuesday, March 5th (Mardi Gras) for pancakes and sausage! We will have a king cake to crown our king and queen and present a variety show featuring jokes and musical performances. All ages welcome. Reservations appreciated, but not required. Cost \$5. Kids 5 and under are free.

The Jesus Challenge:

21 Days of Loving God and Neighbor

We will engage in this study on Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 13-April 3. This challenge will help us become more attentive to our relationship with God. It invites us to move from forgetfulness to remembering, from being distracted to becoming intentional, and from self-sufficiency to reliance on God, so we can live lives that center on loving God and loving others as ourselves. Pick up your book Sundays or Wednesdays. Suggested donation \$15.



In Our Prayers

Craig Bonner (Jody's brother-in-law), Barbara Troxell, Eve Richardson, Bob & Sally Fisher, Leonard Brubaker, Paul Ottinger, Curt & Patty Strickland, Monika Hogleund, Roselle Burt, Jencie and Phil Hargrove, Tim and Carolyn Maund, Joe Martin, our military at home and abroad.

Condolences to Don Gordon and Steve Leone in the deaths of their fathers.



Wednesday Night Programs in March

5:00 pm Children's Choirs

6:30pm 3/6 - Ash Wednesday Service,
Sanctuary, for all ages.

Adults: Fellowship Hall

3/13 - Lent Study Introduction - *The Jesus
Challenge*

3/20 - *The Jesus Challenge* Week 1

3/27 - *The Jesus Challenge* Week 2

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)
(6th - 12th grade), Rm. 214

M & M Club (Methodists & Missions)
(Pre-K - 5th Grade), Rm. 109

Nursery provided, ages 0-5. 5pm-9pm



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

begins on March 10. Spring
Forward so you're not late to church!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Join us for supper and fellowship each Wednesday night.

March 6

Sandwiches
Salad
Soup
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

March 20

Pork Chops/Chicken
Macaroni and Cheese
Cabbage
Salad Plate
Peach Cobbler
Corn Bread
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

March 13

Chicken with Mushrooms
Rice
Broccoli Casserole
Salad
Banana Pudding
Rolls
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

March 27

Lasagna/Chicken
Green Vegetable
Corn on the Cob
Tossed Salad
Brownies
French Bread
Milk, Tea, and Coffee

Cost: Adults: \$7; Youth (7-12) \$3; Children (3-6) \$1; Children under 3 are free. For a new reservation, 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.

PRAY - GIVE - SERVE

I recently met with the Leadership of the church and asked: What are the questions that we should be asking as a church in order to be the church of Jesus Christ? Here is what they came up with:

How are we seeking to discern God's will for the church?

Are we giving enough?

How do we determine what the members of our church are already doing in mission to the community?

Do we really know the needs of the community?

Where and how are we to serve more effectively?

We always want to make sure we are asking the right questions. I think all of these answers help us to focus our mission: "To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, in all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." St. John has been a church called by God to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to this community for over 220 years.

As we move forward, I hope that you will continue to **pray, give, and serve.** These are exciting days for St. John as we seek to hear God's call to be the church in a growing city.

~ Jody



St. John United Methodist Church
736 Greene St
Augusta, GA 30901