

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter  
of St. John UMC



September 2019

We had a special time in church the last Sunday of August as we celebrated Promotion Day. We recognized our young learners moving into different classes, and we celebrated the beginning of Confirmation class for older students ready to explore their faith choices and make a decision to become full professing members of St. John. But we also recognized that we are all learners and seekers of the faith. All teachers and students were invited to come forward as Jody led us in a blessing on the new school year; and we, as a congregation, pledged our support to the Education Ministry at St. John.

What does that mean? It means that we, as Children of God, reaffirm these truths:

1. Learning is a gift from God. "...Wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul." Read more on the value of knowledge in Proverbs 2:1-11.
2. God has called each of us to serve, and he equips us to do the task. We are not all called to teach, but we can pray, we can organize, or we can give a helping hand or an encouraging smile to learners and leaders in our church and community. Read 1 Peter 4:10.
3. We are never too old; we never stop learning. From childhood and throughout adulthood, whether in schools or in our church and community, we have the opportunity to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Read Proverbs 9:9.

Much of the congregation remained in their seats as we invited all teachers and students to come forward. We jokingly admitted that, if you had, there would be no one left in the pews. But I hope you do realize that we wish to support you in whatever teaching role you have inside or outside of St. John and that we also encourage you to always be a student. We invite you to grow along with us. There are many Sunday School classes to visit; there are many programs on Wednesday nights. There is always a need for you to share knowledge with others or be open to growing in knowledge as you lead. We all grow in different ways: some by reading; some by teaching; some by hearing; some by doing; and all of us maturing in faith.

And so, we invite you to study with us. And we encourage you to bring a friend along.

In our church, friends quickly become our new family. Some say we overuse the phrase 'church family.' But I really feel that we are a family. Like any healthy family, we may have our squabbles and different viewpoints, but we choose to love each other and listen to each other. That is what make us St. John. We grow, we listen, we love, we serve.

Join with me in a prayer from the Book of Worship:

*Lord, we trust you to bless our times of study, so that we may grow in faith. To bless our times of fellowship, so that we may truly live as brothers and sisters in Christ. And to bless our times of prayer and worship, so that we may be enriched in our spirits. We pray all this as Disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Your sister in Christ,  
Nichole Kuehl, Director of Programming and Education



M&M Club is our weekly Wednesday night program for children and youth. Each week, we will learn about some of the needs in our community and around the world and how to take action. We will focus on a different mission theme each month. At 6:40, all children and youth will be dismissed from Wednesday Night Dinner. They will gather in the Big Room and learn about the mission of the month. They will then break out into small groups.

- Pre-K-1st Grade will meet in Room 210.
- 2nd-5th Grade will meet in Room 215.
- 6th-12th Grade will meet in Room 214.

M&M Club will dismiss at 7:30 and kids may be picked up from the Big Room. Our theme for September is “Praying Here, There, and Everywhere.” Kids are encouraged to bring a friend!



### Midweek Sabbath

5pm on Wednesdays, Rm 210  
Starting September 11, 2019

Sometimes we need to take a break, do something creative, connect with God and connect

with others. We invite adults to sneak away while your kids are in choir, or come on over to church an hour early and be a part of this new small group. Anyone can join! We will create a relaxing atmosphere where we will read scripture, engage in discussion, color, and create. Nursery is provided.

**Church Council Meeting** Tuesday, September 17  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting at 6:30 p.m. All 2019 church council members are needed for discussing important items for several upcoming church events.

Please RSVP for dinner reservations by Sunday, September 15, by emailing or calling the church office. (Donations appreciated for dinner costs.)

## SEPTEMBER MEANS BACK TO (CHURCH) SCHOOL!

We are all called to be learners. And some of us are called to be teachers! Teachers and helpers at all age levels are needed.

On Sunday mornings, many adult classes, such as the Minter class (Fellowship Hall), the Misfits (Rm 112), the Adult Fellowship class (Rm 108), and the Towers class, use the current *Adult Bible Studies* curriculum from Cokesbury. Student books and teacher books provide you with everything you need for discussion. The Growing Christians class (Rm 110) studies the lectionary, which is the prescribed readings for each Sunday’s worship. If you are interested in being on the substitute list for teachers, that is very helpful, too!

There are three Sunday School classes for children, and they all use Cokesbury’s *Deep Blue* curriculum. It is in an easy-to-lead format with Bible stories and activities. During the fall semester, all youth will attend the confirmation class, which uses a curriculum called *Collaborate*. Each Sunday School class has one lead teacher and one or two assistants who also serve as substitute teachers. We always welcome new teachers and assistants who will show the children that they are important and loved, and will teach the children these important Bible truths. Our most immediate, specific need is an assistant for the Older Elementary class, grades 3-5.

Have a new idea for a class? We welcome the input! Small group studies work well on Wednesday evenings at church or anytime during the week at personal homes! Please let Nichole know of your ideas.

## Children’s Choirs begin September 4!



Our children learn musical skills and spiritual concepts through singing and movement in choirs. They also learn how to be leaders in worship. We offer three groups for children on Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00pm, September – April.

**Cherub Choir** for ages 3-4 (parents are welcome to attend)  
Room 204, Director: Megan Hoglund

**Wesley Choir** for younger children, Room 206  
Director: Jean Lancaster

**Junior Choir** for treble voices, older elementary – high school, Choir Room (Rm. 202)  
Director: Jamie Council Garvey

For more information, join us for a parent meeting in the Choir Room at 5pm on September 4!

## This Month in Worship

September 1, 2019

Speaking: Rev. Lindsey Solomon  
The Line Leader

**Sermon Scripture:** *Luke 14:1, 7-14*  
*Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81, 10-16 (UMH803);*  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

September 8, 2019

A Difficult Word

**Sermon Scripture:** *Luke 14:25-33*  
*Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH854);*  
*Philemon 1:21*

September 15, 2019

Jesus Has Friends in Low Places

**Sermon Scripture:** *Luke 15:1-10;*  
*Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14 (UM746);*  
*1 Timothy 1:12-17*

September 22, 2019

What Does It Mean to Be Faithful?

**Sermon Scripture:** *Jeremiah 8:18-9:1*  
*Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13*

September 29, 2019

Speaking: Rev. Lindsey Solomon

**Sermon Scripture:** *Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15*  
*Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19,*  
*Luke 16:19-31*

### HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

#### **Budget:**

In memory of Vanessa McGehee, by John & Kathy Leysath.

In memory of Gary DeMore by Kathy & Mattie Morris.

In memory of Charlene Helms by Allen & Becky Smith.

In memory of Liz Edwards and Charlene Helms by Joan & Charles Piercy

#### **Bless This House:**

In memory of Charlene Helms by Barbara Sweeney.

In memory of Gary DeMore by Claude & JoAnn Graybill.

#### **Music Memorials:**

In memory of Charlene Helms, Carolyn Maund, and

Elliott Evans by Rosa Lee K. & John C. Scott.

In memory of Carolyn Maund by Samuel Tyson, Jr.

#### **Concerts with a Cause:**

In memory of Beth Lee and Raymond & Winifred Zobel  
by Debbie Alford

#### **Endowment:**

In memory of Elliott Evans by Debbie Alford and Bill & Mariam Higginbotham.

*Concerts with a Cause* presents

*Monica Czausz,*  
*Concert Organist*



September 29, 2019  
3:00 pm

The Cause:  
GAP Ministries



Join us for water fun, picnic, and fellowship  
at the lake on Monday, September 2.

Gates will open at 10am.

For lunch at noon, the church  
will provide the fish and drinks.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Google Directions: 12553 Hwy 28 South, Clarks Hill, SC

**UMW** (United Methodist Women) will meet at the home of Jeanne Lee on Monday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. The UMW Towers circle will meet Thursday, September 12 at 2 p.m. in the private dining room of St. John Towers. We welcome all ladies of the church to attend for bible study, fellowship, and service.

**UMM** (United Methodist Men) will meet Tuesday, September 10 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with dinner before at 6:30 p.m. "Just Five" guys will be playing music for the program. Please call the church office, 706-724-9641, with dinner reservations.

#### **The Ladies' Literature and Laughter Book Club**

will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 10  
at the home of Sally and Bob Fisher.

Please notify Sally whether or not you will attend. We will  
discuss the book *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

We welcome you to join us.

### In Our Prayers

Bette Hancock, Buffy Conklin, Chuck Moon, Trish Patchen, Bob Zeyfang, Bob Claussen, Woody Wolfe, Bob & Sally Fisher, Margaret & Leonard Brubaker, Paul Ottinger, Curt & Patty Strickland, and our military at home and abroad.



For more information, visit us online at [www.StJohnAugusta.org](http://www.StJohnAugusta.org)

**Wednesday Night Programs  
in September**

- 9/4** Adults, Children, and Youth: Prayer Partners
- 9/11** Adults: Neighborhood Prayer Walk  
Children and Youth: M&M - "Praying **Here**, There and Everywhere"
- 9/18** Adults: Fun Funeral Planning  
Children and Youth: M&M - "Praying Here, **There** and Everywhere"
- 9/25** Adults: Rev. Beth Sanders - District Mission Specialist  
Children and Youth: M&M - "Praying Here, There and **Everywhere**"

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

**Amazing Grace**  
Offering 2019

On Sept. 15 we will take up a special offering for Wellroot Family Services.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU**

Join us for supper and fellowship each Wednesday night.

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| <p><b>September 4</b><br/>Fried Chicken<br/>Potato Salad<br/>Baked Beans<br/>Salad<br/>Banana Pudding<br/>Rolls<br/>Milk, Tea, Coffee</p>               | <p><b>September 18</b><br/>Pork Chops/Chicken<br/>Macaroni and Cheese<br/>Green Bean Casserole<br/>Salad Plate<br/>Peach Cobbler<br/>Rolls<br/>Milk, Tea, and Coffee</p> |
| <p><b>September 11</b><br/>Meatballs/Chicken<br/>Spaghetti<br/>Green Vegetable<br/>Tossed Salad<br/>Brownies<br/>French Bread<br/>Milk, Tea, Coffee</p> | <p><b>September 25</b><br/>Chicken Pot Pie<br/>Roasted Potatoes<br/>Green Vegetable<br/>Fruit Salad<br/>Lemon Bisque<br/>Rolls<br/>Milk, Tea, and Coffee</p>             |

**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.

**CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC**

**Phone:** (706) 724-9641

**Rev. Dr. Jody Alderman, Senior Pastor**

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**Rev. Lindsey Solomon, Associate Pastor**

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**Jamie Council Garvey,**

**Organist/Director of Music**

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**Etelka Mayo, Church Cook/Hostess**

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**Brandon Germany, Custodian**



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