

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

IGNITE

January 2020

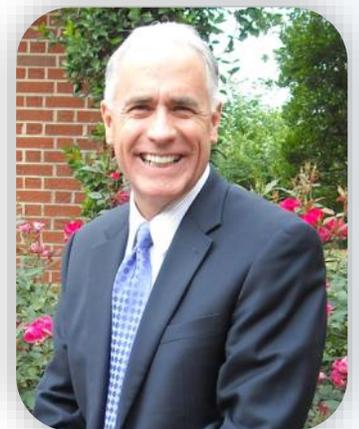
January 2020 you expect me to say something about New Year's resolutions and reevaluating our priorities, but no, not this year. Set all that aside. Instead, I want us to focus on our word for the year: IGNITE. Webster says Ignite means to catch fire, to kindle, or to burn. What does ignite mean for us? What does it mean to awaken our souls?

After a big season like Christmas, we are potentially depleted, emotionally spent, fragile, distracted and burnt out. What we need is rest, renewal and revival. So instead of making a list by prioritizing our goals and our daily tasks, let's consider how we might allow the Holy Spirit to anoint us with God's power and might.

Before we can turn the world upside down, we need to have *our* world turned upside down. We cannot share the love of Christ if we haven't experienced it, or if we have allowed the light of Christ to grow dim within us. We need to make sure the fire of the Holy Spirit has breathed new life into us. Therefore we pray: "Come, Holy Spirit, come."

At St. John, we want to be a place and a people where hearts are ignited, and once ignited, we can't help but share the love of Jesus Christ. We will place our confidence in God, not in our ability. We will place our trust in God, not in any skill we might have. We will expect God to use our efforts knowing we are not perfect. We will pray in humility for God's help and we will give thanks for what God is about to do, and is already doing, in hearts and lives.

Prayer: Oh God, IGNITE in us a passion for You which will in turn Ignite the lives of others. Use this year 2020 to be a time of awakening, of renewing, and of sharing the message of your love in powerful and meaningful ways to others. In all we do, may we do it for you. To God be the glory. **Amen.**



United Methodists are a Global People

by Dr. Jody Alderman



We sometimes think in the church that what we do is all local, but we forget the power the United Methodist church has as a global denomination.

We are a people responding to the needs of others around the

world, sharing the love of Jesus Christ in words and in deeds. For example, we support primary schools in Madisi, Malawi, a country in Southern Africa; we provide support to the churches in Russia, and to orphanages in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo; we supply emergency food distribution to Tacloban, Philippines; and we gather groups of Korean United Methodist to pray near the North Korean border.

Historically the Methodist Church has supported higher education by starting dozens and dozens of colleges and theology schools in the United States and around the world. Just a few years ago we started the Africa University that is going strong. We also have started many primary and elementary schools, including a German-speaking class for immigrants entering Europe. We have been involved in starting hospitals and clinics around the world. We sponsor mission trips to Honduras and many other Latin American countries. We support worship services in Mu'er, Shanghai China and offer a Methodist Zimbabwean worship service in Alberta, Canada.

(These listed here are a small portion of what we do around the world.)

Does the larger church have its problems? Certainly, just like the local church. But let us remember that our focus is to spread the love of Jesus Christ in how we live, in how we give, and in what we do. I hope we can all say: "I'm proud to be a United Methodist!"

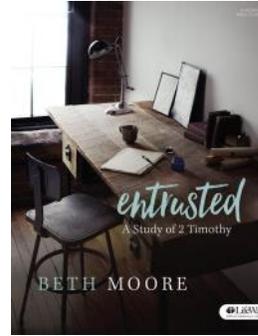
St. John Clothes Closet

-Winter Coats Still Needed!-

& Sign up to volunteer at:

<https://stjohnaugusta.org/news/current-needs/>

Winter Wednesdays Bible and Movie Studies



A study on 2 Timothy by Beth Moore: *Entrusted*. Led by Patty Strickland, will start on January 8 and involves an introductory video. The following five weeks will be group discussion on the weekly homework topics. (First week homework completed by Jan 15.) Workbook needed. A suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated or you may find it online yourself. Sign up by emailing Nichole at ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org.



For another option on Wednesday nights, we will show the movie *I Can Only Imagine* and discuss redemption and forgiveness. On January 8 we will watch the entire movie after supper (optional if you have already seen it), and the following 4 weeks we will view movie clips as we discuss the various topics. There is an optional journal with daily homework for deeper reflection.

St. John UMM

The United Methodist Men will meet in the church Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 14. Our speaker will be Colby Kukelski on "Estate Planning for Young and Old." 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



January 20 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and we are going to celebrate his legacy with a day of service! Families of all ages are welcome to meet in the Fellowship Hall and then go into the community to care for our neighbors. We will meet at 10am and will be done by 12pm. After we serve, families

are invited to gather at a nearby restaurant for lunch!

For more information on all our ministries and missions, visit us online at www.StJohnAugusta.org

This Month in Worship

Worship Service: January 5, 2020
A Star is Born

Sermon Scripture: *Matthew 2:1-12*
Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20,
Ephesians 1:3-14

Worship Service: January 12, 2020
Baptism

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

Worship Service: January 19, 2020
Come and See

Sermon Scripture: *John 1:29-42*
Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Worship Service: January 26, 2020
Gone Fishing

Sermon Scripture: *Matthew 4:12-23*
Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9,
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Compass Points Fund:

In honor of Fran Butterworth by Sylvia Hutsell.

Budget Fund:

In memory of High and Flossie Mobley by Pat Mobley Barker.

How To Improve Your Life In 2020

- ◆ If you are able, walk every day
- ◆ Put some quiet into your day
- ◆ Be thankful everyday
- ◆ Do something for others and for yourself
- ◆ Pick out a good attitude each day
- ◆ Let your light shine
- ◆ Practice giving
- ◆ Keep the Word of God in your heart
- ◆ Don't be afraid to set a goal or to plan
- ◆ Don't be afraid to change your plans
- ◆ Serve

IGNITE Workshop for Leaders

Saturday January 25, 9am-1pm

for Church Council members and committee chairs

The Rev. Stephen Soulen will inspire us, engage us, and challenge us to discover what it means for us to be the church of Jesus Christ in downtown Augusta. In preparation, we need to consider these questions for discussion:

What are the biggest problems of the world?

What does Jesus have to say about these problems?

At the workshop, we will reflect on what we are doing and what Jesus preached. We will consider how we share faith and what is meant by "Your kingdom come on earth." We will look at new ways to do church.

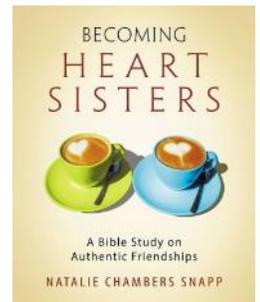
Register online beginning January 8.

UMW - The United Methodist Women continue *Wesley Bible Studies* on Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. We will meet on Monday, January 13 at 7pm (place to be determined). The Towers circle will meet Thursday, January 9 at 2:00pm in the private dining room of the Towers.



Fill Your Cup! UMW invites ladies of all ages to a winter coffee gathering at the Foundry, 801 Greene St, on Saturday, Feb 1 from 9:30am to 11am for devotion and fellowship time. (Plus freshly-brewed coffees, lattes, and pastries!) Space is limited. Reserve your free spot today! Details online.

Then, beginning Monday, February 3, join us for a Brown Bag Bible Study at noon. This 6 week study will be on *Becoming Heart Sisters: A Bible Study on Authentic Friendships* by Natalie Chambers Snapp. A closed Facebook group will be created for the study for you to still participate even if you cannot attend the weekly meeting and also to enhance our study with discussion, prayers, and resource sharing. Get your book from Nichole or online.



In Our Prayers

Eve Richardson, 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.



Wednesday Night Programs in January

5:00 pm Children's Choirs, resuming Jan. 15

6:30pm Adults: Fellowship Hall

1/8 - *I Can Only Imagine* movie or *Entrusted* Bible Study introduction

1/15 - 2/5 - *I Can Only Imagine* Study

1/15 - 2/12 - *Entrusted* Bible Study

Children, and Youth: Methodists & Mission (M&M Club) - God's Dream

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

No Supper, Choirs or Programs January 1.

The Ladies' Literature and Laughter Book Club will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 14 at the home of Sally and Bob Fisher. Please notify Sally whether or not you will attend. The book will be *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng .

We welcome you to join us.

CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

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Etelka Mayo, Church Cook/Hostess

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Brandon Germany, Custodian

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Join us for supper and fellowship each Wednesday night.

January 1

No Supper

January 8

BBQ Pork/chicken, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Brownies, Rolls, Milk, Tea, and Coffee

January 15

Chicken and Dumplings, Corn on the Cob, Broccoli Casserole, Fruit Salad, Assorted Dessert, Rolls, Milk, Tea, and Coffee

January 22

Meatballs/chicken, Spaghetti, Green vegetables, Tossed Salad, Ice Cream, French bread Milk, Tea, and Coffee

January 29

Baked chicken, Stir-fried Rice, Peas and Carrots, Salad, Pies, Rolls, Milk, 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.



St. John United Methodist Church
736 Greene St
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