

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC



Day of Service



*They will know we are Christians by our love...*

**February 2020**

Over the past 20 years the church has struggled with its understanding of sexuality. There has been debate after debate, and despite the recent attempt at reconciliation through the Special General Conference vote, tempers flare and people are divided. No issue has polarized the church more in recent history. The struggle has been over ordaining openly gay and lesbian persons for ministry and support for same-sex marriage.

Those from a traditionalist view see same-sex behavior as immoral. Other Christians, however, see an opportunity to support and consecrate same-sex marriage for those that are in committed relationship. The traditionalist point of view finds this inconsistent with biblical interpretation.

The struggle in interpreting scripture is to determine what it says and what it means. For example, Christians today are not required to observe kosher laws. This was one of our earliest battles in the church. So when we see these rules within the biblical text, we disregard them. Likewise, there are as many as five separate passages that tell us in the New Testament to greet one another with a holy kiss (although in most North American churches this is not the practice). How we understand the scripture is at the heart of an answer for the future of the church.

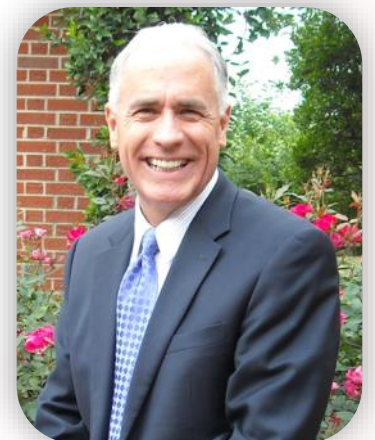
We are not literalists who take every single statement in scripture at face value. We have to understand the scripture as a whole and in light of cultural dynamics of time and place.

I would contend that we always look at the scripture and ask the question "Why?" And we look through the scripture to see and to hear the WORD of God who is Christ. We look through the words to see The Word and, when doing so, meet Christ.

I invite you to continue to pray for the United Methodist church as we move forward. These are important days. General Conference will meet again in May 2020 to deal with these matters yet again. We will be offering resources online to further our understanding of the issue and the process of the General Church.

May God's will be done.

Jody





Save the Date for

St John UMC

Vacation Bible School

Theme: Great Big Beautiful World

Ages 3 and up

Evenings June 22-25

Details coming soon on how you can volunteer!

### CURRENT NEEDS

- Office Helpers
- Offering Counters
- Sound Techs
- Doughnut Bringers
- Clothes Closet – Tuesdays/Saturdays



Welcome, new members! The confirmation class of 2019-2020: (L-R) Adam Kuehl, Birdie Lyda, Evelyn Thomas

### Youth Day In!

Sunday, February 9, 2020

5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

6th-12th graders and their friends are invited to come for a fun night of board games and free pizza. We will meet in Room 108. RSVP to Lindsey so she can have plenty of pizza ready.

### Women's Retreat March 13-15 Hilton Head Island, SC



Rev. Lindsey Solomon will be our leader.

The cost is \$200, which includes lodging, retreat supplies, and meals Friday evening to Sunday morning. Please contact Nichole by February 12 to reserve your spot. Space is limited!

### UMW (United Methodist Women)

will meet at the home of Jane Baldrige on Monday, February 10 at 7pm.

The UMW Towers circle will meet Thursday, February 13 at 2:00pm in the private dining room of St. John Towers.

Save the Date!

Fine Arts Camp

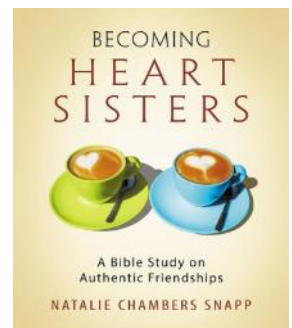
July 13-17

Day time

Rising 1st-12th grade



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. Get your book from Nichole or online. (First week's homework discussed at first meeting, Feb. 3.)



What a great Day of Service! On January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 26 of us gathered to help out in our clothes closet and also pack 235 bags for the homeless! Thanks, everyone, for the donations!

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

## This Month in Worship

**Worship Service: February 2, 2020**  
**Blessings**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Matthew 5:1-12*  
*Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15*  
*1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

**Worship Service: February 9, 2020**  
**You are the Salt**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Matthew 5:13-20*  
*Isaiah 58:1-9(9-12), Psalm 112 (UM833),*  
*1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)*

**Worship Service: February 16, 2020**  
**The Change Up**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Matthew 5:21-37*  
*Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119 (UM840),*  
*1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

**Worship Service: February 23, 2020**  
**Taking a Hike**

**Sermon Scripture:** *Matthew 17:1-9*  
*Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 99 (UM819),*  
*2 Peter 1:16-21*

### HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

**Budget:**

In honor of Nesbit & Ann Dasher by G.A. & Judith Dasher

**Bless This House Fund:**

In memory of Alec Lee and Phil Hargrove by Curt and Patty Strickland

### CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

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

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

Ext. 13 [jalderman@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:jalderman@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Rev. Lindsey Solomon, Associate Pastor**

Ext. 15 [lsolomon@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:lsolomon@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Jamie Council Garvey,**  
**Organist/Director of Music**

Ext. 14 [jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Nichole Kuehl, Program Director**

Ext. 16 [ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Jennie Cowart, Church Secretary**

Ext. 11 [secretary@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Vanessa Mozingo, Financial Secretary**

Ext. 12 [vmozingo@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:vmozingo@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Tim James, Building Manager**

Ext. 15 [tjames@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:tjames@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Etelka Mayo, Church Cook/Hostess**

Ext. 17

**Brandon Germany, Custodian**

**A Choral Festival  
with Amanda Quist  
February 16, 2020  
3:00 p.m.**



Belles Canto, The Lucia Ensemble, Davidson Fine Arts,  
AU Chorus, St. John Choir

This concert is sponsored by Wyck and Shell Knox.

The cause: Women of Worth

Free, open to the public. Nursery provided.



**February 25, 2020 6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper and Variety Show!**

Calling all artists, sword-swallowers,  
comedians, singers, jugglers, minstrels, mimes,  
belly dancers, acrobats, and contortionists!

Please have your agent contact Nichole by February 23.  
Wages to be paid in all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage!

All ages welcome! Bring a friend! \$5 per person.

### Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, in the Fellowship Hall

Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

All 2020 church council members are needed for discussing  
important items, including 2020 budget.

Nursery provided. Please RSVP for dinner reservations by Sunday,  
February 9, by emailing or calling the church office, 706.724.9641  
or [secretary@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnaugusta.org)

(Donations appreciated for dinner costs.)

### In Our Prayers

Vivian and Roy Stampley; friend of Angie Alderman and her baby; Chuck and Becky Moon; Betty Aldridge; Thomas Doster; Kelly Thomas; Leonard and Margaret Brubaker; Dan, Anya, and Michelle Blake; Judith Goodwin; and all other St. John members, families and friends who are sick, in pain, lonely and/or in need of loving and healing prayers.



## Wednesday Night Programs in February

5:00 pm Children's Choirs

6:30pm Adults: Fellowship Hall

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

**2/12** - Guest speaker, Rev. Karla Daniels

**2/19** - Preparing for Lent

Children and Youth: Methodists & Mission  
(M&M Club), Rm 207

**2/5 - 2/19** - A Home For All

**2/26** - Ash Wednesday service in Sanctuary

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

Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Glisson on March  
27-29. Grades 6-12. Cost is \$150. Non-  
refundable payment is due no later than  
February 16.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Join us for supper and fellowship each Wednesday night.

### February 5

Pepper Steak/Chicken  
Creamed Potatoes  
Green Vegetables  
Tossed Salad  
Peach Cobbler  
French Bread  
Milk, Tea and Coffee

### February 19

Pork Chops  
Roasted Potatoes  
Black-eyed Peas  
Green Salad  
Brownies  
Rolls  
Milk, Tea and Coffee

### February 12

Salmon Patties/Chicken  
Mac & Cheese  
Green Beans  
Fruit Salad  
Pound Cake  
Milk, Tea and Coffee

### February 26

Chicken Marsala  
Rice  
Mixed Vegetables  
Tossed Salad  
French Bread  
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  
Augusta, GA 30901