

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

March 2020

Take time to let God love you.

Lent is a season of prayer and fasting that lasts from Ash Wednesday to Easter. These are days that people have traditionally abstained from certain foods or pleasures so that it will cause us to deepen our dependence on God. These 40 days (except for Sundays) are to imitate the life of Jesus when he fasted in the wilderness for 40 days.

Some people today give up smoking, or chewing gum, or cursing, or eating meat. But it is possible that we miss the point of the season if this is all we think Lent is about. The real reason for Lent is a preparation for the death and resurrection of Christ. It is a time of self-denial and reflection. What we are really to give up is our sin. These are solemn days in which we yield our lives more fully to the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is not a season to beat ourselves up; it is a time that we allow ourselves to be loved by God. It is a time to not just give up some things but to *give* some things. It is a time to ask: "What is God looking for from us?" In Isaiah, Chapter 58, the Lord tells us what God's wants from us. The acceptable fast of the Lord is about feeding the hungry, about releasing people from their burdens; it is about clothing the poor.

Yes, this season I'm considering giving up Facebook, giving up TV, giving up meat. That is fine if I can do it, but the real fast is about doing the things God wants me to do. If this season means anything, it will be that in the reflection I will hear and listen to God's call to do something for others. I hope that we all will use this season wisely as we listen for God and respond to God's call in our lives.

Use this season to invite others to participate with you in worship. More people are open to a personal invitation than any other invitation. People who may have not been to worship in a long time will appreciate your invitation. Tell them you will sit with them; really let them know that you want them to worship with you and they will come.

Blessings to you.

Jody Alderman



Mission Corner

- Did you know we have a **Mission Directory** listing all the agencies St. John supports and how you can help? Find printed copies outside the office or look on our website under the programs/serve tab.
- New **Donation Station** near the women's bathroom. This will be our main collection point for ongoing needs.

- Look for a **Mission Trip survey** coming soon in the newsletter and on the website!



Save the Date for

St John UMC

Vacation Bible School

Theme: Great Big Beautiful World

Ages 3 and up

Evenings June 22-25

Contact Pam Light or Alison Wright
to volunteer!



July 13-17, and
Sunday, July 19

For questions,
please see Lindsey.

Rising 1st - 3rd grade, 9am-1pm \$100
Rising 4th -12th grade, 9am-3pm \$125
Sibling Discount available. Extended hours available at extra cost.
Register online at www.stjohnaugusta.org/music/fine-arts-camp/

“I’m All In” Campaign

Hopefully, you received a letter regarding the challenge to increase your pledge and/or your giving for 2020. We know this is a stretch for some, but if all of us will do something to be “All In,” we feel confident that we can reach our goals for 2020. Let’s do something *extra*-ordinary. We will display a thermometer tracking our pledging and our giving. Check it out each Sunday and see our progress. And THANK YOU for being “**ALL IN!**”

UMM (United Methodist Men)
will meet in the fellowship hall
on March 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Men and women are invited to hear
guest speaker Rabbi Shai Belooseky
discuss “Judaism Today.”

A light supper will be served at 6:30pm.

\$7 per person

Please RSVP to the church
at 706-724-9641

UMW

(United Methodist Women)
will meet on March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Location to be Determined

The UMW Towers circle will meet
Thursday, March 12 at 2:00pm in the
private dining room of St. John Towers.

Annual St. John UMC Women’s Retreat!

Join us for a Seaside Escape!
Friday, March 13th –
Sunday, March 15th
at 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 to
register. Space is limited!



For more information on all our ministries and programs,
visit www.StJohnAugusta.org

This Month in Worship

Worship Service: March 1, 2020
Led Into the Wilderness

Sermon Scripture: *Matthew 4:1-11*
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 (UM 766)
Romans 5:12-19

Worship Service: March 8, 2020
Amelia Bedelia

Sermon Scripture: *John 3:1-17*
Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 121 (UM 844)
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Worship Service: March 15, 2020
Give Me a Drink

Sermon Scripture: *John 4:5-7*
Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95 (UM 814)
Romans 5:1-11

Worship Service: March 22, 2020
Not Knowing and Knowing

Sermon Scripture: *John 9:1-11*
1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23 (UM 754)
Ephesians 5:8-14

Worship Service: March 29, 2020
Death Stinks

Sermon Scripture: *John 11:1-6, 38-45*
Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130 (UM 848),
Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Budget:

In memory of Juanita Weddle by Nesbit and Ann Dasher

CWC:

In honor of Chuck Moon by Dan Griggs

World Service Fund Lenten Challenge

World Service is one of the seven apportioned funds of the United Methodist Church. These monies are used to build new churches, prepare clergy and laity, expand Bible studies for youth ministry, and pay missionaries' salaries. Each local church is apportioned its fair share. During this season of Lent you are encouraged to make a weekly offering into the Giving Banks that have been provided on Sundays. One suggestion is to fast one meal a week and put the difference in the offering bank. On Easter we will turn in our banks and celebrate the risen Christ!

Concerts with a Cause

presents

Rastrelli Cello Quartet

March 29, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Rastrelli's mission is to perform music "between the genres," mixing works by Bach, Saint-Saens and Tchaikovsky with that of George Gershwin, Dave Brubeck and The Beatles.

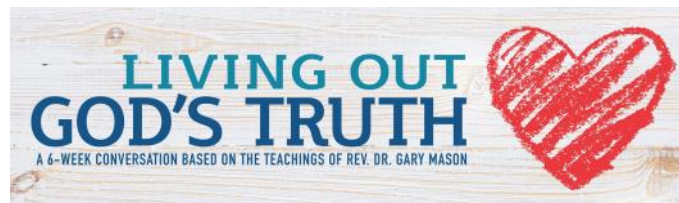
The cause: RECing Crew

Free, open to the public. Nursery provided.



Lenten Series 2020

We are offering two options to ignite your Lenten journey.
Choose one or both!



Living Out God's Truth: Peace in a Divided World

Sundays, March 1 - April 5

5pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

This North Georgia conference resource encourages six weeks of discussion and exercises to reconnect to grace and a social holiness at this divided time. All members and guests are invited to join us.

Nursery provided. Register online or see Nichole.

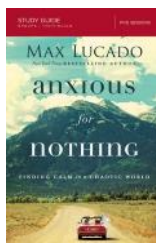
Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World

March 4 - April 1

6:30pm - 7:30pm after supper

Based on Max Lucado's book, various leaders will guide us through scripture, discussion, and exercises as we reflect on the promises of Philippians 4:4-8.

Registration is not required, but please see Nichole for a study book. (Suggested donation of \$10.)



In Our Prayers

Bob and Sally Fisher, Leonard and Margaret Brubaker, Chuck and Becky Moon, Curtis Carter, Bob Claussen, Michael Washausen, all 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 March

5:00 pm Children's Choirs

6:30pm Adults, Fellowship Hall

3/5 - 4/1 *Anxious for Nothing* study

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

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

A group is forming in the Augusta District for persons interested in LGBTQ Full Inclusion. The goal is to create community and advocacy in our churches as we move forward as United Methodists. St. John will host the first gathering on Sunday, March 15. We will gather at 6:00 pm for a potluck supper and fellowship. The program will begin at 6:30 with guest speaker Rev. Emily Bagwell. For more information or if you would like to help with this gathering, contact Beth Dixon.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

Join us for supper and fellowship each Wednesday night.

March 4

Chicken Marsala
Rice

Mixed Vegetables

Green Salad

Ice Cream

Rolls

Milk, Tea and Coffee

March 11

Beef Stroganoff/Chicken

Buttered Noodles

Mixed Vegetables

Fruit Salad

Rolls

Peach Cobbler

Milk, Tea and Coffee

March 18

Chicken Tetrastini

Yellow Squash

Roasted Vegetables

Rolls

Pineapple Cake

Milk, Tea and Coffee

March 25

Lasagna/Chicken

Broccoli Normandy

Corn on the Cob

Green Salad

French Bread

Orange Cake

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.

Holy Week is Masters Week

Thursday, April 9 6:00 pm supper

6:45 pm Holy Thursday service

Friday, April 10 12:00 pm Good Friday service

Sunday, April 12 9:00 am-10:30 am Breakfast, FH

10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt,

11:00 am Combined Worship
Service

CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

Phone: (706) 724-9641

Rev. Dr. Jody Alderman, Senior Minister

Ext. 13 jalderman@stjohnaugusta.org

Rev. Lindsey Solomon, Associate Pastor

Ext. 15 lsolomon@stjohnaugusta.org

Jamie Council Garvey,

Organist/Director of Music

Ext. 14 jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org

Nichole Kuehl, Program Director

Ext. 16 ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org

Jennie Cowart, Church Secretary

Ext. 11 secretary@stjohnaugusta.org

Vanessa Mozingo, Financial Secretary

Ext. 12 vmozingo@stjohnaugusta.org

Tim James, Building Manager

Ext. 15 tjames@stjohnaugusta.org

Etelka Mayo, Church Cook/Hostess

Ext. 17

Brandon Germany, Custodian



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