

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

September 2020

We are currently in Reopening Phase 1 see inside for details

I miss our St. John family! I know you miss each other, too.
So let's gather in person, safely distanced, at the lake.*

I keep looking for *new possibilities* in the midst of this challenging, heart-breaking pandemic.
We have decided not to gather indoors for worship. But here's our blessing: We have beautiful lakefront property at the lake where we can gather safely in person. Perhaps we will remember the Covid era as giving us at least this one new possibility – more lakeside gatherings for music, fellowship, and worship.

Your St. John staff is creating meaningful outdoor programs for you for the month of September.

Sundays:

- 10:00 am Worship at the Chapel Under the Pines (livestreamed)
- 11:00 am Adult study and discussion at Chapel Under the Pines
Children Sunday School lesson at the Pavilion
- 11:30 am Bring your own Picnic

Wednesdays:

- 6:00 pm Gathering and music for young people
- 6:30 pm Bring your own Picnic
- 7:00 pm A brief service of Evening Praise and Prayer on the pavilion point



All people of faith agree that we find God most easily in nature. These services and activities, held outdoors, offer us a blessed opportunity to appreciate more fully the natural world that God has given us. Yes, there will be challenges. There might be rain. There might be bugs. There might be wind. But won't we experience God in new ways if we pray and sing and tell our stories by the water, smelling the trees and watching the birds soar?

I hope you can join us,
Jamie


*Masks are encouraged in situations when you cannot maintain safe social distancing. We have some available for you. Bring your own chair if you can to help us spread out around the property. Signs will direct you to more accessible drop-off points for the physically challenged. Driving directions are on our website.
Address: 12553 Hwy 28 South, Clarks Hill, SC 29821

Thank you for donating to our School Supply Drives for Heritage Academy and Jessye Norman School of the Arts and for the Teacher appreciation drive for Davidson Fine Arts!

Continue to check our website and Facebook for our next mission opportunities.




Mission Corner

There are many ways to grow in your faith through service. Contact Missions Chair, Jane Baldrige, or Program Director, Nichole Kuehl, to learn how you can use your gifts and time for the work of the Kingdom of God.



St. John United Methodist Church Augusta, Ga

REOPENING PHASES as of July 29, 2020

1	Greene St. campus is closed Staff will work limited hours on staggered schedule. Appointments only. Masks required.	<p>St. John United Methodist Church is working to keep the safety and well-being of our members and community in top priority as we reopen. For more information call our office at:</p> <p> 706-724-9641</p> <p> www.stjohnaugusta.org</p> <p>Follow our social media channels for regular updates:</p> <p> @StJohnAugusta @StJohnumclake</p> <p>or text @stjohn1798 to 81010</p>
2	Office is open/outdoor areas open for small groups Social distancing required. Masks required inside. Bring own chairs. Limited bathroom access.	
3	In-person worship begins Social distancing & masks required. Limited building access.	
4	Reopen church facilities with limited to no restrictions This final phase will begin when our public health officials declare the pandemic is under control or a vaccine/treatment for COVID-19 is readily available.	

Colors based on data from globalepidemics.org

The St John Task Force on Health and Safety for Reopening has been meeting and planning over these last 5 months. Our priority is to make the best decisions for the health of our congregation. This colored phase model will take the guesswork out of our decisions to move forward or to reverse our course. This will also make our process observable by the congregation and the community. Thank you for your prayers, Allen Smith, Lay Leader

This Month in Worship

10am Lake and Online Worship:

September 6, 2020

The Cost of Deliverance

Sermon Scripture: *Exod 12:1-14*
Ps 149, Rom 13:8-14, Matt 18:15-20

September 13, 2020

Extravagant Forgiveness

Sermon Scripture: *Matt 18:21-35*
Exod 14:19-31, Exod 15:1b-11, 20-21, Rom 14:1-12

September 20, 2020

Is God Fair?

Sermon Scripture: *Matt 20: 1-16*
Exod 16:2-15, Ps 105:1-6, 37-45, Phil 1:21-30

September 27, 2020

What is the Question?

Sermon Scripture: *Matt 21:23-32*
Exod 17:1-7, Ps 78:1-4, 12-16, Phil 2:1-13

Music Notes

What's your Favorite Thanksgiving Hymn?

Send me your favorite hymn of thanksgiving.

We'll accept as many as 3 from each of you.

We are creating a virtual hymn festival for Thanksgiving.

It will be built around your favorites, as much as is possible.

What hymn says Gratitude for you?

What hymn do you need to sing every Thanksgiving?

What hymn will bring you comfort for this unusual November?

I look forward to hearing from you. Please send by email. Deadline: Sept 15.

Jamie jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

MARCH - AUGUST 2020

Altar Guild:

In memory of Roy & Paul Ottinger by Ginny Allen

Budget:

In honor of Laurie & Abbot Easterlin by Judith & Greg Goodwin

In honor of Ray & Mattie Hadden by Sylvia Hutsell

In honor of Judith & Greg Goodwin by Lauren Easterlin

In honor of Charles Piercy's birthday by Betty & Gerry Aldridge

In memory of Chuck Moon by Joan & Charles Piercy, Allen & Becky Smith, Will & Linda Walker

In memory of Muriel Williamson by Frances Bennett, Greg & Judith Goodwin, Sandy Lewis, Martin & Janet Wintermantel, Philip & Leight Merry Cupp, Allen & Becky Smith

In memory of Philip Hargrove by Joan & Charles Piercy

In memory of Roy & Paul Ottinger by Greg & Judith Goodwin, Jeanne & Lansing Lee, Allen & Becky Smith, Margaret Brubaker, Joan & Charles Piercy

In memory of Bob Claussen by Allen & Becky Smith

In memory of Woody Wolfe by Allen & Becky Smith and W. Wynn Riley

In memory of Wayne Greenway by Joan & Charles Piercy

In memory of George Nelson by Judith Goodwin

CWC:

In honor of Jeanne Lee by Annie Hamilton

Lake Ministry:

In honor of Betty & Gerry Aldridge by Mary Thompson

Music Memorial:

In memory of Chuck Moon by Jeanne & Lansing Lee

In Our Prayers

Jim & Eve Richardson, Mildred Nunnery, Michelle, Dan & Anya Blake, Vanessa Mozingo, Pat Herndon, Patty & Curt Strickland, Bob & Sally Fisher, Leonard & Margaret Brubaker, Jody Alderman, our military at home and abroad, the global pandemic, and the troubled corners of our world.



Sincere condolences to the family of Dottie Allen, who passed away August 12, 2020.

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

Join our **Remind text groups!**

For reminders about worship, schedule changes, reopening changes, etc...

Text @stjohn1798 to 81010.

If you are new to Remind, they may ask you to create an account and/or download the app. You do not need to do that to just receive messages from St. John.

We also have a text group for the lake ministry. Text @stjohnlake to 81010 if you want those updates that just pertain to lake.

Remember that Facebook, our website and newsletter provide the most information during this time.

Please check those platforms.

<https://StJohnAugusta.org>

On Facebook search:

“St John UMC Augusta”

“St John UMC at the Lake”

UMW (United Methodist Women) will meet at the home of Nichole Kuehl (on the back deck). If you would rather join us by Zoom, email Nichole for the link at ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org. Our first meeting is **Monday, September 14, 2020**.

Finding Peace in an Anxious World by Erin James-Brown is the UMW study book for this year. Buy your own copy or let Nichole know if you would like her to get you a paperback book.

Description: The 2020 Spiritual Growth Study by staff of the Urban Village Church, uses the book of Proverbs and “The Serenity Prayer” as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding. Using “The Serenity Prayer” as a scaffold, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.

We appreciate your continued giving by check, cash, credit card, or automatic bank transfer.

Please mail checks to the church at:

St. John UMC

P.O. Box 444

Augusta, Ga 30903

Or drop by during office hours:

Mon– Thurs, 9am –3pm

Or go online to stjohnaugusta.org/donate to give your tithe to the general budget or other fund designation.

All members were recently mailed or emailed a report on the Church Finances at the Mid-Year Point. If you did not receive a copy or email, please contact Jennie or Vanessa in the office.

CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

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**Please remember that in the red phase,
our office is open limited hours.
Please call before you come by.**



St. John United Methodist Church

736 Greene St

Augusta, GA 30901