

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

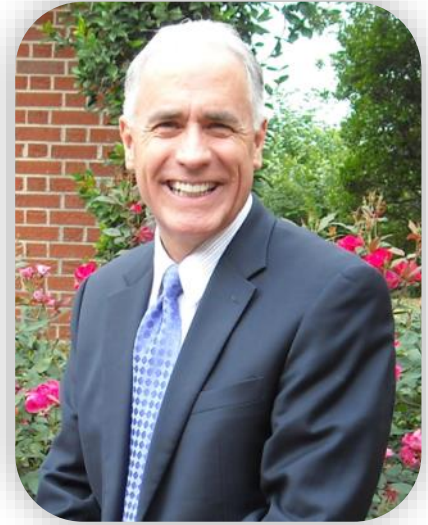
April 2021

AND YET, WHAT IF...

Where is this God of all creation?  
Where is this God now - gone?  
A year of fear and failure, a year of Covid's dread;  
Of empty hearts and sanctuaries;  
Of layoffs, loneliness, and loss;  
Of broken hearts and broken futures;  
Of death and sorrows gloom;  
Of empty chairs around the table.  
We're tired and weary. The waiting has been long.  
And Yet, and yet, and yet, what if?

The clouds of darkness passed, winter now has ended.  
The spring returns again and brings new life; the flowers come to bloom.  
The pain of the cross is lifted. The waiting now is through.  
The dread of death is ended. The dread of death is gone.

The empty tomb before us brings joy, and hope returns.  
As morning sun arises, the birds begin to sing; our hearts begin to soar.  
Our possibilities awaken.  
The final word is now, not death.  
The final word is life: life anew and life abundant.  
Although he bore the cross alone, Christ rose instead, we're not alone.  
God is not dead, God is not gone.  
He lives, he lives, he lives, instead.



- Jody Alderman, March 2021

*He Is Risen!*



## REOPENING THE SANCTUARY IN APRIL

In addition to our livestreamed worship online, we hope to offer in-person worship at St. John UMC at **11am** beginning **Easter Sunday, April 4**. It will be great to worship together again in our beautiful sanctuary. However, your health remains our greatest concern. For this reason, we will continue to monitor Covid-19 case numbers and trends for our tri-county area and communicate any changes to our plan. If you are in an at-risk category, we encourage you to stay home and continue to watch our worship online. If you have received a vaccine and/or feel comfortable gathering inside, you can call the church office Monday-Thursday to reserve your spot each Monday preceding Sunday worship. Full details online

### Holy Week and Easter Services

#### Maundy Thursday, April 1

A Communion Worship Video link will be posted on our website, YouTube, and Facebook.

#### Good Friday, April 2

A Worship Video link will be posted on our website, YouTube, and Facebook.

**Easter Sunday, April 4** Doors open at 10:40am for seating. Please follow these guidelines:

- Wear a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times. If you do not have one, we will have some available.
- Use the new touchless hand sanitizers as you enter and leave the building.
- You will be escorted into the Sanctuary by the ushers before worship and escorted out by the ushers at the conclusion of the service. Both Greene St and Telfair St entrances will be available based on your needs. The entrance from the parking lot at Telfair St. is handicap accessible.
- The other parts of the building will not be open, but there will be limited access to bathrooms. The nursery open date has yet to be determined.
- There will be no congregational singing. Although hymn texts will be printed in the bulletin, we ask you to silently meditate on the hymn as the soloist sings.
- Dispose of any personal trash (bulletins, etc) as you leave the building.
- Please maintain 6 feet of social distancing between your family group and others from the time you leave your car until you return to your car.

## Easter Egg Hunt

CHILDREN AND PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE ST. JOHN UMC EASTER EGG HUNT! AFTER THE 11:00 AM EASTER SERVICE, GATHER OUTSIDE IN THE COURTYARD ALONG 736 GREENE STREET WITH YOUR EASTER BASKETS FOR A FUN HUNT!

- Distanced fellowship is encouraged outside after the service.

And, of course, most importantly, monitor yourself for fever, cough or shortness of breath before deciding to come to worship. If you have recently been sick or diagnosed with Covid-19, follow CDC guidelines for the recommended quarantine period. We will still livestream the service.

## This Month in Worship

11am In-Person and Online:

**April 4, 2021**

Resurrection the Ultimate Healing

**Scripture:** *Mark 16:1-8*

*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Matthew 10:1-8*

**April 11, 2021**

The Healing Mind of Faith

**Scripture:** *Acts 4:32-35*

*Psalm 133, John 20:19-31*

**April 18, 2021**

Miracle of Presence

**Scripture:** *Acts 3:12-19*

*Psalm 4, Luke 24:36b-48*

**April 25, 2021**

The Good Shepherd

**Scripture:** *Acts 4:5-12*

*Psalm 23, John 10:11-18*

### **UMM Scholarship 2021 Due Sunday, May 2**

Applications are being accepted for the 2021 Vivien Stoppelbein Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the United Methodist Men. Open to a church member who is a high school graduate and is enrolled, or has been accepted for enrollment, in a university, college, technical school, or seminary, and who has not been awarded the scholarship more than once previously. DUE Sunday, May 2. Application online at [stjohnaugusta.org/umm-scholarship](http://stjohnaugusta.org/umm-scholarship)

## HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

**MARCH 2021**

**Bless this House:**

In memory of Buddy Holbrook by Patty and Curt Strickland

In memory of Dennis Hayes by Patty and Curt Strickland



Beautiful weather means people are asking about our lake property. Workdays will be coming soon to fully prepare the property for the spring and summer season, but members are welcome to go any time. Members may pick up a gate key/restroom key for personal use from the church office. Please review the guidelines for lake site use on our church webpage, [www.stjohnaugusta.org/lake-ministry](http://www.stjohnaugusta.org/lake-ministry).

Groups sometimes rent out the pavilion or lodge, but you may still visit the property. You can check the calendar on our website under the news tab or linked at the top of every newsletter. For member camping or multi-day use, please reserve the dates by contacting the church office and request a lodge key in case of inclement weather. 706-724-9641 or secretary [@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:@stjohnaugusta.org)

## In Our Prayers

Nancy Clements, Sawyer Branham, our reopening team of volunteers, our staff, our military at home and abroad, the global pandemic, and the troubled corners of our world.



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



St. John United Methodist Church  
welcomes you and your family to...

# GREAT BIG beautiful WORLD

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us June 4-6 at the St. John UMC Lake Property  
for a weekend of fun, learning, and exploring  
God's Great Big Beautiful World.



Visit our website to register or learn more:

[StJohnAugusta.org](http://StJohnAugusta.org)



Upcoming:

## April 24 - Ladies' Garden Tea at the Lake!

Join us at 3pm for fellowship  
and snacks by the lake.

Tickets are \$5. Details online.

## April 25 - New Life Sunday.

During the worship service,  
we celebrate the babies born  
in the past year. Please send  
parent names and baby's  
name and date of birth to

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

### CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

Phone: (706) 724-9641

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

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)

**Nathan Owens, Facilities Manager**

[facilitymgr@stjohnaugusta.org](mailto:facilitymgr@stjohnaugusta.org)

**Brandon Germany, Custodian**

Our office is open regular hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm.

However, please call for  
appointments with staff.

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. Call first 706.724.9641

Or go online to [stjohnaugusta.org/donate](http://stjohnaugusta.org/donate) to  
give your tithe to the  
general budget or other  
fund designation.

Point your phone  
camera at this screen  
code to go directly to  
the website.



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