

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

March 2021



It is hard to believe that we have been out of the sanctuary due to the Covid Pandemic for one year. It seems like we have been in the season of Lent forever. We are all tired of it. I am proud of what we have been able to do. Our decisions have been well-informed. We have adjusted the best we knew how. We worshiped at the lake property until it got too cold. We miss our fellowship and in-person worship, but we have increased our technology to improve our livestreaming capabilities. However, I am mindful there are some in our congregation who have not be able to view any of our worship services for a year and that is heartbreaking to me.

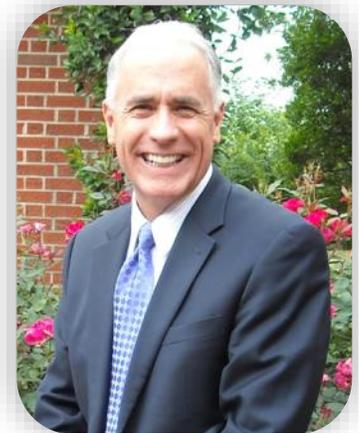
During this season of Lent I can't help but think about the Israelites in the wilderness. They wondered if Moses had taken them out into the desert to have them all die. They wondered if the Promised Land was real. They began to whine and complain and quarrel. In Numbers 21 there is an unusual story about God's reaction to all the complaining. The camp is filled with poisonous snakes and the complaining people are bitten. It is a troubling passage. God punishes the angry flock but then he creates a way out. A bronze snake is put on the end of a pole and held up for all the people to see and the people repent and the relationship to God is restored.

Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect, to confess; it reminds us that we too are called to look upon the cross of Christ. We are not to focus on all the troubles but to focus more on God's mercy and grace. We sing "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou has promised, draw the world to thee."

Blessings to you as we draw closer to the cross, join in as we livestream, join in the Tuesday Zoom discussion, participate in the planned outdoor activities, and pray for healing for ourselves and the nation.

Stay tuned, good things are coming our way!

Jody Alderman



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, we invite you to follow the guidelines set forth in a letter to the congregation that was mailed and emailed and reserve a space in the sanctuary **by March 25**. If you do not have internet access, call the church office Monday-Thursday to reserve your spot. Full details are on our website. StJohnAugusta.org/worship-reservation/

Welcome New Church Staff Members!



Austin Jackson is our new worship technician. He is a musician with an Associate's degree in Audio engineering, who runs his own AV production company, SLife Studios. We are excited about the skills he will bring to St. John, not only for our Sunday services, but for future video productions as well. Austin will be a great addition to our already wonderful staff, and we are looking forward to him joining our team.



Nathan Owens is our new facilities manager. He has experience and certifications in wiring, piping systems, HVAC systems and landscaping. Nathan is currently enrolled at Aiken Technical College where he is working on his Associates Degree in Industrial Maintenance, and he is also a member of the National Guard. Nathan will take on caring for our beloved building and its many projects.

This Month in Worship

11am Online Worship:

March 7, 2021

Healthy Anger

Scripture: *John 2:13-22*

Psalm 19, Matthew 9:27-33

March 14, 2021

The Healing Mind of Faith

Scripture: *John 3:14-21*

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Matthew 9:18-26

March 21, 2021

Restoration

Scripture: *Matthew 8:18-27*

Psalm 8, John 12:20-33

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Parades and Pain

Scripture: *Mark 11:1-11*

Mark 14:1-43:65, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29,

Matthew 9:1-8

HOLY VESSELS



A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY

Tuesday Evenings in March

7p.m. by Zoom

Worship Discussion and Themed Reflection Exercises

Outdoor Activity as weather permits

3/9 Week 3: Mental Healing

3/16 Week 4: Intellectual/Racial Healing

3/23 Week 5: Environmental Healing

3/30 Week 6: Integrated Healing

<https://stjohnaugusta.org/lent-2021/>

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

FEBRUARY 2021

Budget:

In memory Leonard Brubaker by Steve and Sandy Hobbs

In memory of Harriet Ottinger by Steve and Sandy Hobbs

In memory of Buddy Holbrook by Steve and Sandy Hobbs

In memory of Buddy Holbrook by Allen and Becky Smith

Music:

In memory of Mary Louise Dixon by Margaret Brubaker

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.

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

In Our Prayers

David Allard, Tonya Griggs,

The Walpert Family, The

Moreadith Family, The Clark

Family, our military at home and

abroad, the global pandemic,

and the troubled corners of our world.



Sincere condolences to the family of Fred Moreadith, who passed away January 20, 2021.

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

Covid-19 Memorial Service



Sunday, March 14, 6 pm
StJohnAugusta.org

736 Greene St, Augusta, Ga
outdoors by candlelight

Join us for a candlelight service remembering those who have passed from Covid-19 on this one year anniversary of the pandemic in the United States. We will gather outside on the steps of the church and along Greene St if you wish to stay in your cars. The service will last from 6:00 pm to 6:20 pm.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday March 28

Maundy Thursday April 1

Easter Sunday April 4

Please stay tuned to the website and email for details on these upcoming services.

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 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.

CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

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Organist/Director of Music

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Jennie Cowart, Church Secretary

Ext. 11 secretary@stjohnaugusta.org

Nathan Owens, Facilities Manager

facilitymgr@stjohnaugusta.org

Brandon Germany, Custodian

Our office is open regular hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm.

However, please call for
appointments with staff.



St. John United Methodist Church
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Augusta, GA 30901