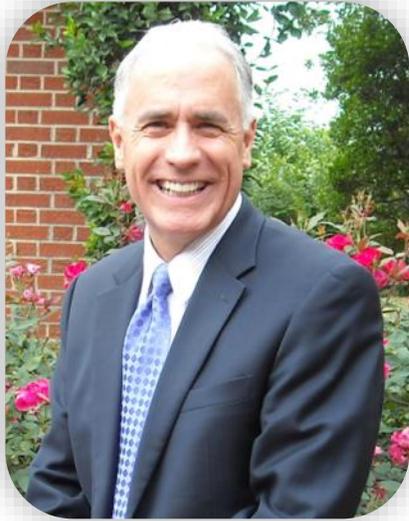


NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

June 2021



Parting words from Rev. Jody Alderman

June 20, 2021 will be my last Sunday in the pulpit after 38 years of pastoral ministry. And that includes my 5 years as your pastor. I am sad and happy at the same time. Sad that I am leaving this congregation, sad that I will not be the shepherd of a flock, sad that I won't be writing sermons. (Well, maybe not that sad about that). I know you think my sermons fall out of heaven, but really they are toil. I like writing them but I have struggled with scripture and with my own soul, what to say and what not to say. Through the years I struggled with my own insecurities, doubts, and even depression.

I am happy in that I will be able to spend more time with my wife and grandchildren. I will be able to relax on Saturday night. I will be able to travel and hike and bike. I think I will simply take some time to breathe.

In regards to preaching, I have always felt that I was able to say whatever I thought that God was calling me to say and that I have never been censored by any of the congregations I have served. Have they always liked what I preached? NO, but a lot of the scripture forces us to struggle. Scripture, if we honestly look at it, confronts us as much as it comforts us. I hope that as your pastor I have been able to do both, in love. *continued inside...*

A message from Rev. Lindsey Solomon

Almost 20 years ago, I took Intro to Youth Ministry at LaGrange College. I was listening to God's call on my life and remaining open to wherever God would send me. It felt natural and right to be in that class, learning about youth ministry. But I also wanted to consider my call very carefully. I knew ministry was important business. In college, I would tell people I wanted to be a florist when I grew up, but I was a religion major because I just really liked the classes.

In Intro to Youth Ministry, we read a book called The Godbearing Life by Kenda Creasy Dean. The entire book was very formative, but it was the benediction on the last page of the book that stuck with me:

Go now to smuggle God into your world

Holding tight the hands of those with whom you share the way

May your lives show forth God at every turn

And may your hearts and your roads be set ablaze with holy fire.

What a brilliant word for us. In my time at St. John, God has gone with us both in the church and beyond. We have walked together and held hands through the joys and the sorrows. And we have been empowered by Holy Fire to bring light to our church and our community.

And now, as I continue in my ministry- not as a florist- and as you continue in your ministry as the vibrant, welcoming and affirming, musical congregation that you are, may your hearts and your roads be set ablaze with holy fire.

Rev. Lindsey
Solomon
and family



Continued from front....

I have 1000 things to say and yet I have had 5 years to say most everything I have wanted to say. I guess it's time to simply sum up:

Trust God.

Know that God is with you in good and bad times.

Know that God has power over death and over dead lives.

Know that life is to be lived fully - not with the breaks on.

Love God and Love people.

I wish I had been a better pastor, preacher, and administrator. I wish I had spent more time visiting, more time studying, more time working with the staff. Please forgive me for my shortcomings. Know that I love you and have been proud and honored to be the pastor of St. John. Know also that I feel really great about the future of St. John; you have established yourself in this community as a hospitable congregation, who welcomes all. You have reached out to this community and have always striven for excellence in music. And I believe that your new incoming pastor, Rev. Matt Nelson, is a wonderful match for this congregation. Pray for him and his family. Greet them with the love that you have shown me and Debye.

Finally:

“May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back, the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.”

I hope I will be able to hug your neck before I leave.

In the service of Christ, with all my love,

Jody



Join us for a baseball game on Saturday, June 12th at 6:00pm at the new stadium across the river! The game will end with fireworks! We have purchased reserved tickets for \$10, for ages 4 and up. Children 3 and under are \$1 and can be purchased that night at the gate. (But if you want your child to have their own seat, they must get one of our reserved tickets.) Email or see Nichole on Sundays or in the church office, Mon- Thurs, 9am-3pm.

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



We welcome people of all ages. Parents are requested to stay and participate either in the Adult class or as volunteers; this is not a drop-off event. Youth have the option of volunteering or attending the adult class. Families have the option of bringing a tent and camping out. For your safety and the safety of others, appropriate Covid-19 guidelines will be kept. The entire VBS will be held outdoors.

It's not too late to register!
StJohnAugusta.org/vbs-2021

So long! Farewell!

Join us for a retirement

reception after 11am worship service on June 20!

We will honor Rev. Jody Alderman as he moves into retirement and honor our long-term hostess Etelka Mayo, who retired last May. We will also bid Rev. Lindsey Solomon and her family farewell as she moves to a new appointment. We are still collecting a love offering for them through June 13. Donate by check marked for “love offering” or online.

REOPENING UPDATES at StJohnAugusta.org/reopening-updates

This Month in Worship

11am In-Person and Online:

June 6, 2021 Communion Sunday

Odd Words

Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

1 Samuel 8:4-20; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Psalm 138

June 13, 2021 Graduation Sunday

Rev. Lindsey Solomon

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; 2 Cor. 5:6-10, 14-17;

Psalm 20

June 20, 2021 Father's Day

Last Day for Rev. Alderman and Rev. Solomon

A Last Word

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

1 Samuel 17:32-49; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Psalm 9:9-20

June 27, 2021

Guest Preacher: Rev. Beth Sanders

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Psalm 130

June 13 is Graduation Sunday

Please send graduate name, school, accolades, and future plans to secretary@stjohnaugusta.org to be recognized during the worship service. The 2021 recipients of the Vivien Stoppelbein Scholarship will also be announced by UMM.

In Our Prayers

Kim Hodges & family, John Cook, Carol & Ted Klein, Danny Clark, Molly & Erik Engle, our staff, our new pastor Matt and family, our military at home and abroad, the global pandemic, and the troubled corners of our world.



HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

MAY 2021

Lake Budget:

In honor of those who support the activities of St. John's Lake Ministry by Betty Aldridge.

Reverend Matt Nelson New Pastoral Appointment to St. John UMC beginning July 5th

“Connect, Grow, Serve” is Matt’s ministry mantra. More broadly expressed, his passion is to help people *connect* with God and one another, *grow* in their faith, and *serve* the world.



Matt grew up in Augusta and graduated from Georgia Southern University (BS, Construction Management, 1997). After college, Matt began worshipping at a United Methodist Church and was drawn to the church’s doctrine, theology, and practice. In that setting, he felt a call to ordained ministry. While attending Duke Divinity School (M.Div., 2005) Matt served as a youth minister (Davis Street UMC, Burlington, NC) and, later, as a student pastor (City Road UMC, Henderson, NC).

In the North Georgia Conference, Matt has served Aldersgate UMC (Associate, Augusta, 2004-2006), Asbury UMC (Pastor in Charge, Augusta, 2006-2010), Inman Park UMC (Pastor in Charge, Atlanta, 2010-2015), Peachtree Road UMC (Associate, Atlanta, 2015-2017), and most recently, Hickory Flat UMC (Pastor in Charge, Canton, 2017-2021).

Matt and his wife, Anne, have two children, Caleb (16) and Sarah (13). Matt’s hobbies include watching the Duke Blue Devils shoot hoops, playing golf (as often as possible), and brewing beer at home.

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

Lakeside Worship

For 56 years, we have offered lakeside worship services to the community at our Clarks Hill property. Come enjoy the lake worship at 8:45 a.m. and still make it back to the 11:00 a.m. service at St. John!

Find us on Facebook at St John UMC at the Lake
Get reminders by texting @stjohnlake to 81010

JUNE 6

Rev. Lindsey Solomon, St. John UMC

JUNE 13

Dennis Sodomka, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

JUNE 20

Rev. Jody Alderman, St. John UMC

JUNE 27

Rev. Beth Sanders
Mission Specialist, UMC South East District

JULY 4

Rev. Jeff Pullium, Retired MCC Minister

See our website for a complete list of speakers

Join us! Sundays 8:45 a.m.

June 6 - August 29



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