

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

July 2021

Dearest St John Congregation!

Our boxes are packed and we are headed to Augusta! The Nelson Family is looking forward to sharing ministry together with you in Augusta and the downtown community.

As I consider the significance and opportunities of the next season for St. John, it is important that we root our hearts and lives in the grace, mercy, and love of the Triune God whom we know as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. John Wesley's Covenant Prayer helps me center in this way. I invite you to keep this close to your heart and mind in the coming days.

“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.”

Additionally, these next days and weeks are an opportunity to get to know each other personally - I look forward to gatherings, meals, coffees, & visits! Like the horseback-riding ministers of the early Methodist Movement, I'll be saddling up my Jeep to spend time with you all. So send me a text, email, or good old phone call so we can spend time together soon!!!

I'm especially curious about you!

What are you reading/listening to (I'm an Audible guy) right now?

What music (Spotify playlist?) is playing in your vehicle?

What are you most excited to reclaim after this year of Pandemic?

What three words or phrases best describe your dreams for St. John UMC?

Looking forward to seeing you in July!

Peace & Prayers.

Rev. Matt Nelson

mnelson@stjohnaugusta.org



MISSION CORNER

St. John UMC 2021 School Supply Drive

Ginny Allen is again coordinating our annual school supply drive for Heritage Academy and Jessye Norman School of the Arts.

We plan to **collect supplies July 11 - 27, 2021 and deliver them by July 30.** You may drop off supplies in the donation wagon at the church. **JNSA** is planning on 150 students in the tutoring program and we have already collected what they need for that. Any additional supplies are always welcomed. **Heritage Academy** has a large wishlist (also posted at the church and online), including 24 pk crayons, Elmers brand glue sticks, tissue packs, Clorox wipes, #2 pencils, construction paper, and more. Also, cash or a check made out to Heritage Academy or Jessye Norman School with school supply drive on the memo line may be left in the secure donation boxes or at the church office with a note to give it to Ginny Allen. You can also contact Ginny at vallenotr@aol.com for directions about how to leave supplies at her home one mile from I-20/Washington Road. Include your name, address and email with your donations if you would like a receipt for tax purposes. Both programs appreciate our continuing support.

The Clothes Closet at the Mead House is open again!

Upstairs at 430-432 8th Street, Augusta, GA 30901-2249

Gently-used clothing for children & adults

Reopening promotion: \$5 = larger bag / \$2 = smaller bag

Tuesdays, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Starting **July 13, 2021** (No Saturdays at this time)

Masks are encouraged & provided. No paperwork required. (The DCCM office is still closed.)

Volunteers needed for sorting days and for open days! Please contact Debby Barron at 706-855-6347.



By attending worship, you are acknowledging and agreeing to the guidelines we've set in place to ensure a safe and healthy worship service for all.

Recent Updates (June 17, 2021)

- For those who are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times. If you do not have one, we will have some available.
 - You will be greeted by ushers who can assist you if needed. You may sit where you wish, observing the marked off pews for spacing, or you may sit with others at your discretion. Please respect the comfort level of others and maintain social distancing between your family group and others in the building.
 - We do have congregational singing.
- And, of course, most importantly, continue to 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 still livestream the service for you to participate at home.

In the event you should test positive for COVID-19 in the days following attending an in-person worship service, we ask that you will notify the church office and anyone with whom you were in close contact while on our campus. Per CDC guidelines, a close contact is defined as “anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person had any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19.”

This Month in Worship

11am In-Person and Online:

July 4, 2021 Communion Sunday
Guest Preacher, Rev. Jeff Pullium

Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

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

July 11, 2021 Rev. Matt Nelson

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

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

Psalm 20

July 18, 2021

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

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

July 25, 2021

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

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

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

JUNE 2021

General Budget:

In memory of Richard Ward by Bonnie Given

In memory of Lois Blackwell by Allen and Becky Smith



Holy Land 2022

Join Rev. Matt and Anne Nelson, along with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the North Georgia UMC Conference on a 10 day Holy Land journey, starting at \$3,696* from Atlanta, GA departing on February 7, 2022*. Journey to places such as Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, Masada, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, Jericho, Jerusalem, Garden Tomb, and much more! Please email Matt at mnelson@stjohnaugusta.org if you are interested in learning more! Deadline for decision on this February trip is **August 15**.

More details online.

*If these dates don't work for all interested, we could put together our own package!



Join us for an ice cream social after worship on **July 18** to welcome Matt, Anne, Caleb, and Sarah!

In Our Prayers

Lenna Brubaker Applebee, the Dobson Organ Company, our staff, our new pastor Matt and family, our military at home and abroad, the global pandemic, and the troubled corners of our world.

Our sympathies to Judith Goodwin on the passing of her mother, Lois Blackwell.



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

JULY 4

Rev. Jeff Pullium , Retired MCC Minister

JULY 11

Rev. Rick Nevard, Barton Chapel UMC,
Cokesbury UMC, and St. John Towers

JULY 18

Rev. Gary McWhorter, United Methodist
Clergy, Retired

JULY 25

Rev. Rick Herring, Pierce UMC

See our website for a complete list of speakers

Join us! Sundays 8:45 a.m.

July 4 - August 29



St. John United Methodist Church
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CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

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Our office is open regular hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm.

**However, please call for
appointments with staff.**