

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John UMC

August 2021

Oh, the Dog Days of Summer!

Add a little Augusta humidity and what a recipe for sweating and relaxing by the pool, right!? But this is an exciting time of year, too, as our educators and children get back to school, as well as the ways our church community can move into a new rhythm and season for the fall and beyond. What might the future hold for St John Church?

New seasons, as we learned last year during a Pandemic, reminds us of the ways we need to look to the past to understand our present and live faithfully into our future. New seasons invite us to assess our values and commitments. As United Methodist we are faithful, missional, committed, spirit-filled, deeply rooted, connected, resilient, justice-seeking and diverse children of God. No matter what, God is with us, and we continue to have opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation the world!

Let us continue to worship together and explore “Cornerstone Living” as we look at John’s Gospel in connection with Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. This will lead us into mission and loving our neighbors. Who we are as Methodists and Wesleyans should be a powerful expression of Grace and Love in the Augusta community.

What are the ways we can be the United Methodist Church for this area? How might we in a new season embody these values and embrace the faithful expression of the Kingdom of God here and now? St John is participating in a campaign from our UMC Communications resource throughout August. The People of God campaign, and a new invitation to #BeUMC, will invite us to share the joyful connections we find in our community of faith. Share your stories in person or online through our social media on Instagram and Facebook . Celebrate God’s love at #StJohnAugusta to #BeTogether and #BEUMC for our community and world around us.

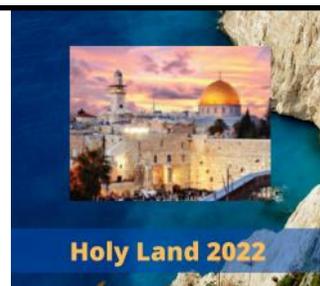
Peace & Prayers.

Rev. Matt Nelson



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 more!

Please email Matt at mnelson@stjohnaugusta.org if you are interested in learning more! Details online.



MISSION CORNER

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 (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.

St John Reopening Worship Guidelines UPDATE: 07.28.2021

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.

Attendees must agree to abide by the following guidelines for worship:

- For those who are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times.
- We allow congregational singing. Due to elevated CRSA levels of new infections and the Delta Variant of Covid-19, masks are strongly encouraged for worship and congregational singing until further notice.
- 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 offer livestream services.
- Touchless hand sanitizers are available as you enter and leave the building.
- 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.
- The other parts of the building are open for Sunday school and bathrooms. The nursery is staffed and open for children 0-5 years old. If you are bringing a child to the nursery, please fill out the form to update our rosters.

If you test positive for COVID-19 within a few days of attending a worship service, please 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 "Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread the coronavirus starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.



Thank you.

The St John United Methodist Church Reopening Team

Allen Smith (chair), Betty Aldridge, Mark Barron, Nesbit Dasher, Lee Herndon, Di Johnson, Chip Matson, Mary Ann Scaper, Michael Young

This Month in Worship

11am In-Person and Online:

August 1, 2021 Communion Sunday

Rev. Matt Nelson

Scripture: John 6:24-35

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Ephesians 4:1-16

Psalm 51:1-12

August 8, 2021 Rev. Matt Nelson

Scripture: John 6:35, 41-51; 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Ephesians 4:25-5:2, Psalm 130

August 15, 2021 Rev. Matt Nelson

Scripture: John 6:51-58

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Ephesians 5:15-20

Psalm 111

August 22, 2021 Rev. Matt Nelson

Scripture: John 6:56-69

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Eph. 6:10-20; Psalm 84

August 29, 2021 Rev. Matt Nelson

Scripture: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

James 1:17-27; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

JULY 2021

General Budget:

In memory of Lois Blackwell by Mr. and Mrs.

Robert Newburn

Music Memorial:

In memory of Lois Blackwell by Curt and

Patty Strickland

In Our Prayers

Our schools, educators and students, our homebound members, our staff, our new pastor Matt and family, our military at home and abroad, the global pandemic and the recent increase in the Delta Variant, and the troubled corners of our world.

Join our prayer team on Mondays at 9:30am.



St. John UMC

Mid-Year Finance Committee Report – July 2021

Chip Matson, Finance Chair

Since my last report, Church activities have progressed at a rapid pace – we are meeting in person, singing, and generally enjoying a return to a normal not experienced in over a year. And for this we are most thankful!

It also means our expenses will be going up to support our activities – security, nursery workers, etc. We planned on things opening up, although not this quickly. I believe we can cover these expenses in large part due to our careful approach to developing our 2021 budget.

We have some unexpected positive things to report:

- A member donated \$5,000 towards our apportionments.
- Beginning June 1, 2021, for the period of June - August, the North Georgia Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will fund the church portion of HealthFlex health insurance premiums from the CBOPHB "Current Benefits Reserve" fund. This will save us \$3,768 this summer.

Also, in staff expenses, we will continue to accrue some savings going forward with the consolidated finance secretary and church secretary positions. Having said that, we are reviewing our office staffing situation to make sure we have the hours we need to keep things running smoothly. Our new minister has a lower salary and housing allowance which will also save us funds for the last six months of the year. This was already factored into our budget plans.

For the first six months of the year we have received \$244,665 in contributions and have spent \$259,698. This includes the one-time inclusion of our payroll protection funds (\$61,000). It does not include any of the Endowment funds that we can use for building maintenance and the salary of our building manager. And we have a number of prepaid pledges that we will be able to draw on in the second half of the year.

We have paid two months apportionments and our Missions commitments for the first six months. Our plans are to pay an additional 2-3 months of apportionments and then see how we finish up the summer.

Here is a summary of where we are with our budget through June 30th :

Budget	\$288,413
Contributions	\$244,665
Actual expenses	\$259,698

Your quarterly giving statements should be arriving shortly in your email inbox or USPS mailbox, depending on your preference.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving and support of the ministry and mission of St. John UMC.

Lakeside Worship

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

Join us for a Labor Day picnic Monday,
September 6. We'll have fellowship and
water fun and eat around 12. We provide
the meat and drinks. Bring a side dish or
dessert to share!

AUGUST 1

Jenn Byrd, Retired Lay Reader
South East District UMC

AUGUST 8

Rev. Sandy Heslop, UMC Clergy, Retired

AUGUST 15

Sandy Hobbs, Lay Speaker
St. John UMC

AUGUST 22

Rev. Donald Combs, Lakeside UMC

AUGUST 29

Rev. Matt Nelson, St. John UMC

See our website for a complete list of speakers

Join us! Sundays 8:45 a.m.

August 1 - August 29

Stay connected!

Remind texts: text @stjohnumc to 81010

Sign up for our weekly enewsletter:

email Nichole or Jennie

CLERGY AND STAFF OF ST. JOHN UMC

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Rev. Matt Nelson, Senior Pastor

Ext. 13 mnelson@stjohnaugusta.org

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Nichole Kuehl, Program Director

Ext. 16 ntkuehl@stjohnaugusta.org

Jennie Cowart, Church Secretary

Ext. 12 secretary@stjohnaugusta.org

Nathan Owens, Facilities Manager

Ext. 15 facilitymgr@stjohnaugusta.org

Our office is open regular hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm.

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



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