

## NEEDS THIS WEEK

**Invitation to Holy Communion:** This Sunday, October 4, Pastor Jeff will lead us through the Great Thanksgiving and through sharing the holy meal together.

In order for you to be prepared, there are a few things for you to get ready:

1. Prepare a place in your home as a small “sacred place” where you can set aside the communion elements. This might be as simple as setting a placemat on your kitchen table or clearing a spot on your coffee table in front of the TV before church starts.
2. On that sacred space, I ask that you place a piece of bread and something to drink that will be used for communion. The bread can be anything that you have in your house - a roll, a tortilla, a cracker, whatever you have available will work. Likewise, the drink can be anything you have. If you have something that contains grape juice, great. But, a glass of water will also work. The point is to use something that will help you participate in this sacrament.
3. Prepare a place in your heart for this holy meal. Celebrating Holy Communion is a means of God’s grace. Simply put, we believe that as we share this meal together, God’s presence is revealed in new ways. My prayer is that this means of grace will be a gift for you and your home.

**Trick or Treat:** We are providing each student at Smith Elementary with a bag of goodies for Halloween. If you would like to donate, please drop off candy (NO nuts) by Tuesday, October 13 in the Church Office. We will need LOTS of candy to fill 425 bags. Don’t worry about dropping off too much candy. Any leftover candy will be passed along to the Smith Christmas Store. If you would like to help us prepare the goodie bags, there is ONE SLOT LEFT on Monday, October 19 (Tuesday, October 20 is full - thanks!). Please sign up via the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B45A9AE28AAF85-smith4>

## FOCUS THIS WEEK

**Bulletin:** Please visit the link below for a printable copy of this week’s bulletin or view the PDF attached to this email – [October 4](#).

**At-Home Bible Study:** If you wish to join Pastor Jeff’s Zoom Bible study, please email the church office with your name and email address at [church.office@stjohnsumc-richmond.org](mailto:church.office@stjohnsumc-richmond.org) or give us a call at 281-342-6631. Class meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am.

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

**Jelly Jars:** It is almost time for jalapeño jelly time! In preparation, we are looking for 4oz and 8oz jars. If you have some to donate, please drop them off at the church.

**Smith Elementary Christmas Store:** We are collecting the following items for the Christmas Store:

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mugs                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Long lipsticks   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuzzy socks                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail polish (full size bottles)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing cards                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 16oz jars (peanut butter, jelly, picante sauce, pickle jar, etc. - just needs a lid that will not pop off) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men’s caps                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men’s socks (dress or athletic) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorative emery boards         |   |

Please drop them off at the contactless drop-off box located at the Wendt Hall doors. We are also in need of monetary donations. If you would like to make a contribution, please mail a check to the church (and mark it “Christmas Store” in the memo line).

**Amazon:** Please don't forget to support the church when you do your pandemic online shopping, or if you are starting the holiday shopping a little early!! AmazonSmile customers can now support St. John's United Methodist Church in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings.'
3. Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, you will need to update your app. Click [here](#) for instructions.

## CHILDREN

**Bad Weather Policy Reminder:** Please note that St. John's UMC will follow the LCISD Emergency Weather Guidelines. If the schools close early or cancel events, we will do the same. You can get updates at [www.lcisd.org](http://www.lcisd.org) or local radio and news stations.

**Box Tops:** Smith Elementary participates in the Box Tops for Education program offered by General Mills. You can help Smith by clipping the Box Tops for Education coupons found on General Mills product packages and turning them in to the church office. Many Box Tops items only have digital labels now. For these, you will need to scan your receipt using the Box Tops app. Please visit the Box Tops website for more information on how to earn credit for digital Box Tops: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>.

## ADULTS

**Women's Book Study:** The October book is *Unwritten* by Charles Martin. If you are interested in joining in for a Zoom discussion on Saturday, October 10 at 9:30am, please email Kay Harlan at [kay-harlan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kay-harlan@sbcglobal.net).

**Lay Servant Academy:** The Southwest District is offering a Lay Servant Academy on October 16-17, and it will be a hybrid format, meaning participants can choose to attend in person at Brookshire FUMC or via Zoom! More information can be found here: <http://southwestdistrict.org/layservantacademy/>.

**Reminder:** Please help to keep us informed. If you know of someone in the hospital or who is ill, please call the church at 281-342-6631, or email the church at [church.office@stjohnsumc-richmond.org](mailto:church.office@stjohnsumc-richmond.org).

**Virtual Worship Volunteers:** If you are interested in helping with worship, please sign up via the link below. We are following safety precautions when you come into the building to help so you don't need to be concerned!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B45A9AE28AAF85-athome1>

**Online Worship:** You can view worship services online on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsumcrichmond>) or <http://stjohnsumc-richmond.org>. Live worship is Sunday at 11am on our Facebook page. After the live service, the video can be viewed on our Facebook page or the website anytime.