

FROM THE PASTOR

Please click on the following [link](#) to view a video message from Pastor Jeff.

NEEDS THIS WEEK

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. If you would like to help us prepare the goodie bags on Monday, October 19 or Tuesday, October 20, please sign up via the link below.

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

Hurricane Laura: If you have any items to donate, please drop off your donations at the contactless box located at the Wendt Hall doors (5th Street entrance) by Wednesday, September 30.

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 – [September 27](#).

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 or give us a call at 281-342-6631. Class meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Thank You Notes:

Dear St. John's Members and fellow worship partners, thank you for providing much needed supplies in wonderful backpacks. You have benefitted 100 students. We are a Title 1 school that serves over 94% economically disadvantaged students. Your generosity will go a long way to helping our students engage in learning. Thank you, Marion Brennan, McAuliffe Middle School

St. John's UMC, thank you all so much for the generous donation of school supplies and backpacks to our students. These times are very trying and tough and it took a lot of stress off of our families. We greatly appreciate it! Sincerely, Shelby Hathorn, Taylor Ray Elementary

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

- Mugs
- Fuzzy socks
- Playing cards
- Men's caps
- Journals
- Make-up bags
- Decorative emery boards
- Long lipsticks
- Nail polish (full size bottles)
- 16oz jars (peanut butter, jelly, picante sauce, pickle jar, etc. - just needs a lid that will not pop off)

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

Reminder-Bad Weather Policy: 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 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 out by clipping the Box Tops for Education coupons found on General Mills product packages and turning them in to the church office.

Children's Choirs: Children's Choirs for ages 4 through 5th grade will take place on Wednesdays at 4:00pm in Wendt Hall. For more info, please contact Tim Benson at timbmusicdirector@yahoo.com for info or visit the church website at <http://stjohnsumc-richmond.org/connect/music-ministries>.

YOUTH

Youth Choirs: Youth Handbells Begins! Handbells for teens grades 6 through 12 will be at 1:00pm in Wendt Hall. We will be following Lamar CISD's policies for safety during our practices. If your teen would like to participate, please contact Tim Benson at timbmusicdirector@yahoo.com for more info or visit the church website at <http://stjohnsumc-richmond.org/connect/music-ministries>.

ADULTS

October Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group Meeting: In light of current events related to COVID-19, we are unable to meet face-to-face. We are holding a Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 1, at 7:00pm. Please click on the following link to register for the upcoming meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuc-ispzMoHNezLo4P_V9Tnoa91w1q0mll. We encourage our current members and potential members to join us for this virtual meeting. Please keep in mind that the Zoom meeting can be joined via phone or video. We also encourage staying in touch by email, phone, or our Facebook page. Please remember that you can always access the Alzheimer's website (alz.org) or call the 800 number if help is needed from the Alzheimer's Association (1-800-272-3900).

Women's Book Study: The October book is *Unwritten* by Charles Martin. A kind-hearted priest brings together two celebrities who have faked their own deaths. Katie, a renowned actress, and Peter, a notable children's author, use failed suicide attempts to confront past demons. They each try to seclude themselves and escape the past by hiding out off the coast of Florida in the Ten Thousand Islands. But fate brings them together as they try to untangle their broken lives. The novel reads as much like a mystery as a romance since neither main character reveals their past until the final third of the book. They will travel to the French countryside where they will discover the unwritten story of both their pasts and their future. 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.

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 is ill please call the church at (281) 342-6631, or email the church at church.office@stjohnsumc-richmond.org.

H.O.M.E. Project: The 2020 H.O.M.E. Project has been CANCELLED. We are looking at a possible new date in the Spring. Please be in prayer for the project administrators and the clients that had been selected for 2020.

Office Hours: The church office will be open on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9:00am-noon. If you need to stop by the church for any reason, please do! Masks are required to enter the building.

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.