



Focus Newsletter

“SO, THEY WENT AND FOUND EVERYTHING AS JESUS HAD TOLD THEM; AND THEY PREPARED THE PASSOVER MEAL.” ~ Luke 22:13

Power of the Table

by Rev. Darren Walker

The other day, I heard the comment “There is a lot of power around a kitchen table.” The truth of that statement is profound. Think about some of your favorite memories. How many of them involve sitting with another person at the kitchen or dining room table? I am not talking about a board room table. The same piece of furniture in an entirely different environment just does not have the same “magic.”

I remember playing Yahtzee with my Gran at her table, and having deep heart to heart conversations with my Mama at hers. I remember my extended family gathered around the Thanksgiving table as we individually gave thanks. I remember fighting with my sister over the last slice of cake, helping my sons with homework, and feeding my own grand baby at our table. My understanding of family, forgiveness, my Faith and my own concept of who I am and Whose I am were formed and shaped around the kitchen table.

When we gather at the church on Wednesday nights for the Wesley Value Meals or have a Potluck Dinner, this is how we get to know each other. This is how we strengthen connections. Is it any wonder that Jesus chose the supper table to introduce the sacrament of Communion? Gathered with His friends, He gave us a way to be strengthened and remember. He gave us a way to connect with God and with each other.

In a time when there are so many distractions of video screens, activities and schedules, when there are so many reasons for us to be strangers and divided, remember the power of sitting down and sharing a meal with the people who are important to you. Turn off the electronics, and set aside the schedules. Just be present at the table.

February Calendar of Events

- Jan. 31-Feb. 2: Mid-Winter #1
- Feb. 2: Youth Superbowl Sunday Fundraiser
- Feb. 4: Harvest Fest Meeting
- Feb. 8: UMW Luncheon
- Feb. 9-14: Sager Brown Mission
- Feb. 14-16: Mid-Winter #2
- Feb. 16: 3rd Sunday Emmaus Gathering
- Feb. 17: Finance Committee Meeting
- Feb. 18: UMM General Meeting
- Feb. 23: Worship Committee Meeting
- Feb. 24: Single Board Meeting
- Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday Services

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St. John's United Methodist Church

311 E. University Avenue
Georgetown, TX 78626

Phone: 512-863-5886

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Putting Others First

by David Pencil, Director of Music Ministry

So much church culture in the past several decades has revolved around the concept of preference. Contemporary vs Traditional, Liturgical vs Free-form, this pastor or that pastor, etc. We all have preferences for how church feels best to us, and there's nothing wrong with being aware of those preferences. They are real and valid. The problem comes when we view our preferences as more important than anything else, so that if something happens that doesn't conform with them we are immediately offended or dissatisfied. But this is not how we show God's love to one another. Rather, if we put

others first in worship, we come to appreciate that elements of that experience, while not conforming to our personal preference, may be benefiting others in the congregation. We can express God's love to one another simply by allowing our own preferences to take a back seat from time to time, giving equal value to the preferences of others. In this way we foster a community of mutual respect and appreciation for the myriad ways in which God's people can worship together. May we grow ever closer to this mark, that God's love would be expressed in our church by putting others first in worship.

“May we grow ever closer to this mark that God’s love would be expressed in our church by putting others first in worship.”

Called to Love

by Carolyn Henry, Congregational Care Coordinator

Every week during worship service we are reminded that our purpose is to “Love God and love others”. This does not mean that we love God and others the same way we love puppies, ice cream or even our spouses and children. The type of love referenced at worship is “agape” love – some call it unconditional love. God loves us no matter what, and His love for us does not depend on anything we do. We don’t earn it and we certainly don’t deserve it.

Yesterday our sermon was about being “called” by God. We all have different “callings” but **every** Christian is called to love others. This type of love produces action on our part. Our action may not necessarily be something convenient or even comfortable for us. But because we love the other person in the way that God loves us, we want the very best for them, not for ourselves.

How do we love others? A few ways are - By praying for and with them when they are sick or grieving, by reaching out when they have a need, sending a card or note of encouragement, making a visit, accompanying them on a trip to the doctor. These seemingly small actions can make a huge difference to someone. They are all acts of love.

So, in the words of the song “We are called” - “Come, live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord. We are called to love tenderly. We are called to serve one another – to walk humbly with God”.



Spotlight on the Tanners

by Dorothy Newcomb

Orville and Betty Tanner are not big on pampering themselves or resting on their laurels although they certainly have earned the right. Long-time St John's members familiar with the inner workings of the church will tell you, these two are similar to our church's foundation - not necessarily in front of your face, but without whom the entire structure would crumble.

Name a church committee and chances are the Tanners are involved. Betty is Chair of Heritage, Treasurer of UMW, Usher Coordinator (along with Dean May), and serves on the Worship Committee. The entire Food Pantry Committee is pretty much just Orville. Dozens of seemingly small details, many of which are actually of substantial importance, are attended quietly, without fanfare, no big deal. Case in point - consider our Altar Candles. What if they melted down to an unusable stub leaving nothing to hold a flame come Sunday morning? This ghastly imaginary scenario could materialize, yet it never does. Why not? Well, because of Orville.

Betty lived much of her youth on their family farm in Iowa. Farm folks worldwide work dawn to dark, 365, attending everything that grows on stem, stalk, or trunk, all that walks on feet, trots on hooves or runs on paws, as well as fueling each living component and cleaning up behind them - if you know what I mean. This was excellent training for the work she continues today; varied and constant, in service to her family, propelled by love.



Orville & Betty Tanner

How to Love Your Children

by Kathryn Price, Director of Family Ministry

In the 1980's a movement began called "Family First" which became "put the children first" in the minds of many parents. The attitude was that children should come before work or anything the parents wanted or needed to do. Parents thought that was how you showed your kids your love, by always putting the kids wants and needs before their own.

While there are times when children's needs should take precedence, many parents don't realize that one of the best ways to show children you love them is

to love each other. If Dad treats his wife with respect and affection and Mom responds in kind, kids are reassured that their family is stable and Mom and Dad will stay together.

Balance is the key. Put the children first *most* of the time until they get to the age when independence is more important to them, but always set aside time to spend together as a couple. Children will understand the importance of putting the marriage first and will see that there are all kinds of love.

"Balance is the key."

Our Youth, Our Hope, Our Future

by Andrew Taylor, Director of Youth Ministry

This month, I have the pleasure of getting to take our youth on the annual conference Mid-Winter retreat at Glen Lake camp in Glen Rose, Texas. Mid-Winter is a retreat for youth, created by youth. It's almost entirely planned and run by the youth on the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, including our very own Ashley, Renee, Devin, and Mari Lee.

As a youth director, the youth leadership at Mid-Winter warms my heart, as the youth learn what it means and looks like to lead in the church. When I was a youth, however, I loved getting to meet and build relationships with youth from other churches across Texas. It instilled in me a sense that the Church is much larger than any single congregation, and that incredibly powerful things can happen when we work and learn together with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It can be easy to live in fear of the future, to look at the world around us and tremble, because everything seems uncertain and upside down in our modern world. The next time you feel scared for the future of our world, though, I invite you to give me a call and come hang out with me and some teenagers. Their energy, leadership, and love for each other fills me with hope for our future.

Light Those Sparks!

by JoAnne Gaytan, Nursery Manager & Children's Coordinator

It only takes a spark to get a fire going.

Words of caution? We are cautioned throughout our lives to be careful with fire, "One little ember on parched land can lead to disaster." Words of instruction? Boy Scouts are taught they only need a small spark from the flint to get a campfire lit. Words of encouragement? "If you can get a small committee to plan the project and create excitement, many others will want to participate."

Words of love? We sang one of my favorite hymns in church last Sunday, (although until last Sunday, I never considered it a hymn -- I've thought of it as a campfire/summer camp/youth group song.). **Pass It On.** The first verse:

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going
and soon all those around, can

warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it.
You spread his love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

In 1 John, the Bible tells us, if we love God, we must also show His love to others. We can perform this responsibility many ways – consciously or not. Providing breakfast goods on Sunday is the spark that brings a chance at fellowship on Sunday mornings. Encouraging a child when they show a talent (in singing, speaking, drawing, math, or whatever) can give them that one spark they needed to pursue their passion. Telling someone they are appreciated might be the one thing they needed to hear at that time to turn their day or even whole week around.

There are many big and smaller sparks in all of our

lives. One of my favorite sparks is hanging out with the kids in the nursery and in Sunday School. I hope our lessons spark a love of God and a thirst for His word. I hope our love and silliness and time together will spark in them a fun-filled servant's heart as they grow. At times saying we will have a snack after the lesson can spark a five whole minutes of devoted attention to our Bible story! Sometimes the spark is from the kid who catches sight of you and runs down the hall and gives you a hug. That spark can ignite so much joy when you are having a challenging day, or have a headache, or are stressing about having enough helpers on Sunday morning.

The "spark" is something you want to pass on because God loves you and you love Him. Where can you light a spark today?

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL AND ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

All Wesley Value Meals are held weekly on Wednesdays 5:15 - 7:00 in the Family Life Center

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Wesley Value Meal Host: **EVHS Percussion**
Menu: Meatballs, Gravy, Rice, Mixed Vegetable

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Wesley Value Meal Host: **EV Project Graduation**
Menu: Sausage, Iowa Corn Casserole, Baked Beans

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Wesley Value Meal Host: **Seeker's Class**
Menu: Taco Salad

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Wesley Value Meal Host: **NO MEAL**
Menu: **NO MEAL**

Weekly Activities:

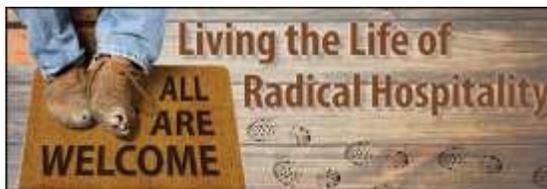
- Wednesday Fellowship Group meets in Room #112 at 6:00 PM
- Horizon Fellowship Group meets in Room #114 at 6:00 PM
- Youth Bible Study in Youth Loft at 6:00 PM
- St. John's Ringers Rehearsal in Room #110 at 6:30 PM
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room #101 at 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 2019 FINANCIALS

2019 Income \$648,240
2019 Expense \$582,739
Net \$ 65,501

JANUARY 2020 ATTENDANCE

2020 Total 639 with 160 average per Sunday
2018 Total 683 with 171 average per Sunday



HEBREWS CAFÉ

Where Your Cup Runneth Over

Open Sunday morning from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 2, 2020	United Methodist Men
Sunday, February 9, 2020	Mission Committee/Trustees
Sunday, February 16, 2020	SPRC/Finance Committee
Sunday, February 23, 2020	Chancel Choir

United Methodist Women News

by Shirley Channell, co-President



St. John's UMW -General Meeting

**Saturday, February 8, 2020
11:30 AM Fellowship Hall**

“Spiritual Growth through Praise”

United Methodist Men News

by Dean May, President UMM



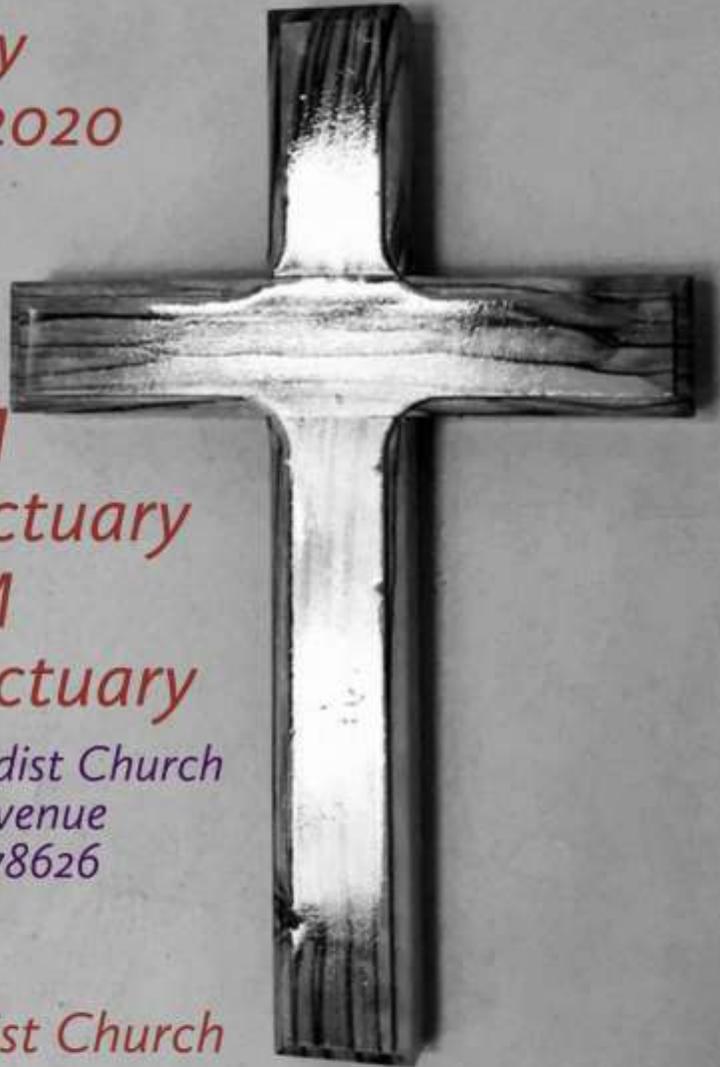
St. John's UMM -General Meeting

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020
6:00 PM Family Life Center**

“Projects for the Future”
Presented by Darren May

Ash Wednesday Services

*Wednesday
February 26, 2020*



*7:00 AM
St. John's Sanctuary*

*12:15 PM
St. John's Sanctuary*

*St. John's United Methodist Church
311 E. University Avenue
Georgetown, TX 78626*

*6:30 PM
First United Methodist Church*

*First United Methodist Church
410 E. University Avenue
Georgetown, TX 78626*

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

St. John's has been a part of the Georgetown Community for over 140 years.

We started as a group of Swedish immigrants who joined together in their homes to study, worship and pray and built our first church building in 1882. At that time, we were known as the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Brushy Church (Svenska Metodistkyrkan at Brushy).

The original church stood at the intersection of Westinghouse Road and FM 1460. Our church cemetery is still at this location.

In 1906 we moved to town, to our present home at 311 E. University Avenue, and in 1938 we changed our name to St. John's Methodist Church.

In 1968, when the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, St. John's became St. John's United Methodist Church.

Come join us and share in our rich history and heritage of celebrating God's love.

St. John's United Methodist Church
311 E. University Avenue
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Website: www.stjohnsumc.cc

Follow us on



If you have a prayer or blessing you would like to share, please e-mail prayerteam@stjohnsumc.cc.

A NOTE FROM THE PRAYER TEAM

by Martha Arizpe, Prayer Team Chairperson

When my sons were growing up, on occasion they would ignore my instructions. (I am guessing that other parents had similar experiences.) I developed a little phrase that I liked and they did not: "If you thought I was just asking, you misunderstood me." I wanted them to understand that parents do not negotiate with their children. Life had made me the grownup, so until they were able to fend for themselves, my word was law. My thoughts then turned to Gabriel's announcement to Mary, when he told her that she had been chosen to be the Mother of God. He did not ask her if she was OK with the news; rather, he faithfully related what was to be. In the past, I had focused on Mary's complete obedience: not on her lack of a choice. I recalled that the Bible is full of commandments. Interestingly enough, simple "suggestions" are nowhere to be found. And God never asked for Man's opinion. God's word is law; if we think He is just asking, we have misunderstood Him. Dear Lord, help us to be faithfully obedient to your words.

Blessings,
Martha Arizpe

MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Sunday, Feb. 2 Communion Sunday	Sunday, Feb. 9	Sunday, Feb. 16	Sunday, Feb. 23
8:30 Traditional in St. John's Sanctuary				
Worship Leader	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker	John Aleman	Rev. Darren Walker
Liturgist	Dayne Carlson	LouAnne Case	Pam Gardner	Carolyn Henry
Ushers	Chris & Ellen Jorgensen	Bob & Peggy Radford	Dayne & Pam Carlson	Clark & Nancy Bottlinger
Communion	Clark & Nancy Bottlinger			
11:00 Traditional in St. John's Sanctuary				
Worship Leader	Rev. Darren Walker	Ken Sommerville	John Aleman	Carolyn Henry
Liturgist	Dean May	Carolyn May	Nancy Bacchus	John Aleman
Ushers	Orville & Betty Tanner	George & JoAnne Gaytan	Terry & Patsy Blackburn	Patty & Bart Lee
Communion	Bennie & Virginia Davis			
11:00 Awakening in St. John's Family Life Center				
Worship Leader	Dave Pencil	David Pencil	Dave Pencil	Dave Pencil
Preaching	Katie Lamoureux	Rev. Darren Walker	Valerie Duncan	Rev. Darren Walker
Greeter (s)	Bill & Annette Holland	Denise Williams	Jeff Cousineau	Michelle Champion
Communion				