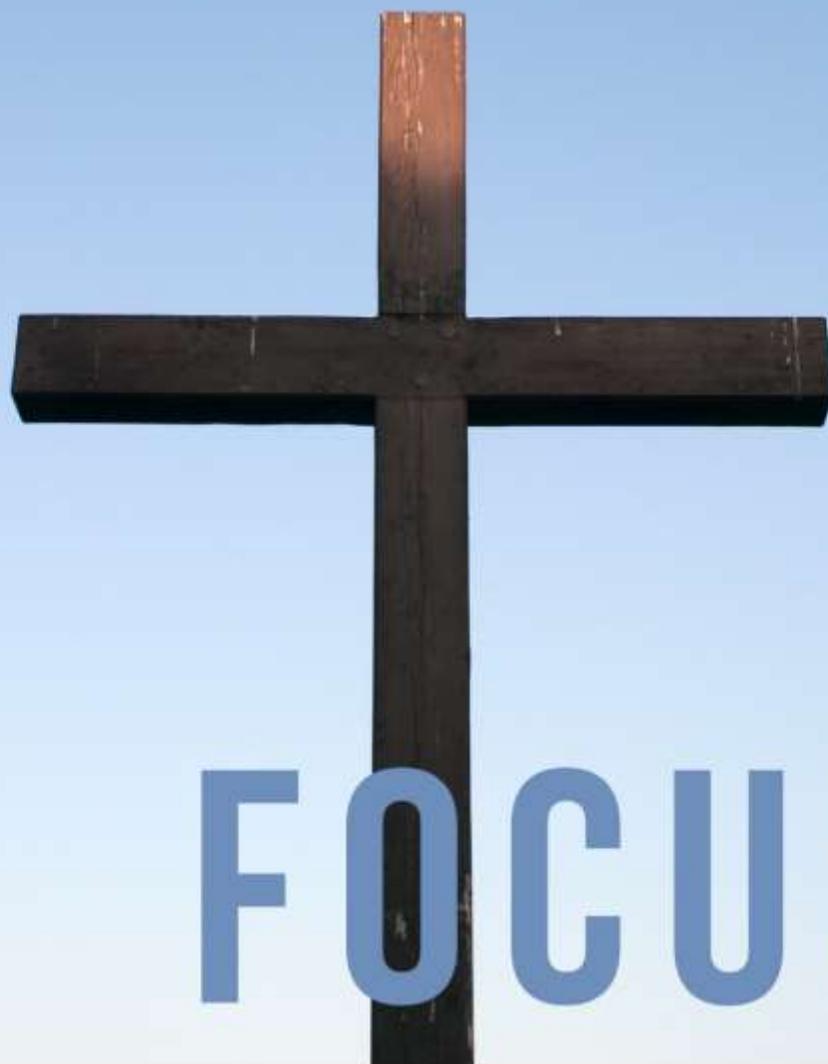


ST. JOHN'S UMC

June 2021 / Issue 6



FOCUS



“AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY GOD FINISHED THE WORK THAT HE HAD DONE, AND HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL THE WORK HE HAD DONE.”

- Genesis 2:2

Summer Fun

by Rev. Darren Walker

When I was a kid, summer was a magic time. School was out. I had a bike and freedom was the order of the day. There was time to read, to hang out at the mall with my friends, to look for adventure.

There were fewer responsibilities, but it was more a state of mind. In the summer, you just knew something different was going to happen. Maybe this was the summer you would finally do the next big thing on your list. Expectation was in the air. Fireflies came out at twilight and there was a lot more ice cream.

As an adult, I realize those summers are gone because that time of life is past, those rhythms are not in place anymore. However, summer is still a state of mind. We need to take the time to relax and refresh, to consciously do what we naturally did when we were children. Play. Not to impress someone, fulfill a quota or win a competition. Just play. Talk with a friend. Sing because you like to sing. Eat ice cream.

The Bible tells us that after six days of Creation, the Lord rested on the seventh. I think it is significant that another word for Play is “ReCreation.” Do not wait for this to just happen. Expect it. Look forward to it. Plan for it. Make it happen. Most of us can no longer take three months a year off. All of us can still experience a time of “summer.” A time of expectation, breaking the mold, trying something new, looking for adventure. If nothing else, savor a snowcone or sit outside some evening with a glass of tea and look for fireflies. It is one of those things that I think brings a smile to God’s Face.

Grace and Peace,

Darren Walker

Inside this issue

Children - Summer Fun.....	3
Summer Camp Memories.....	3
Filling In the Gaps.....	4
5 Free Things to Do	5
Prayer Team Devotional.....	6
New Life	6
Church News	7

June 2021 Events

- **Sundays: All Sunday School classes meeting in person**
- **Wednesdays: Fellowship Groups meeting via Google Meet or Zoom**
- **Thursdays: Every Day People Praise Band Practice in Family Life Center**
- **Thursdays: Disciple Bible Study in Family Life Center Room #114**
- **Sunday, June 6, 2021: Promotion Sunday**
- **Monday, June 14, 2021: Life Line Screening Event**
- **June 21 - June 25, 2021: Vacation Bible Camp**
- **June 20 - June 22, 2021: Central Texas Annual Conference (Virtual)**
- **Monday, June 28: Single Board Meeting 6:00 PM in Sanctuary**

Children's News - Summer Fun

by Kathryn Price, Director of Family Ministry

Sunday School (Children's Education Wing):

The Children (Pre-K to grade 5) are having in-person Sunday School. If their parents' or grandparents' classes are meeting, they are welcome to come and join us. We are doing "One Room Sunday School" which puts all ages together in one class. The older kids help the younger kids to sing, play games, do crafts and read a Bible story. This will continue through the summer.

Vacation Bible Camp:

Wilderness Escape is taking shape! Camp will be **June 21st** through the **25th** from **9:00 am to 12:00 noon** Monday through Friday. We still need sheets, blankets and rugs to create tents. We can also use fake plants, baskets and clay pots for decoration – anything that looks like it might have been in the desert. Registration is open, both online and by paper form. Please get your kids signed up as soon as possible as space is limited. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors! Whatever COVID guidelines that are in place will be observed. This is going to be GREAT!

Stay tuned for more to come



Join us at Wilderness Escape Bible Camp, where we'll explore what life was like for the ancient Israelites. They've escaped captivity in Egypt . . . but now what? You'll craft cool projects in the Israelite Camp, race through the wilderness as you play games, visit with Moses, and eat some interesting new food. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

St. John's United Methodist Church
311 E. University Ave • Georgetown

June 21st - 26th 9am - Noon

512-863-5886

stjohnsumc.cc

Summer Camp Memories

by JoAnne Gaytan, Children's Coordinator/Nursery Manager

Ever hear of a Methodist camp meeting? Do you get visions of hundreds of fervent Methodists camping in the wilderness having noisy revivals into the night? They were real.

I was a camp meeting kid. However, the camp meeting I attended every summer was much more subdued, peaceful, and comfortable. My great aunt and uncle owned a cottage on South Seaville Campground in South Seaville, New Jersey. For two weeks every summer Camp Meeting was held in July. Most cottage owners would move into their Camp Meeting cottage (many of them built or moved there over a century before my childhood) around Memorial Day and stay until just before Labor Day. There would be church every Sunday morning during the summer, with Sunday dinner served directly afterwards at Wright Hall. During the two weeks of camp meeting, evening services were held every night except for Sundays, and there was Bible school, Bible studies, special events, prayer time, choir practice and somehow even hours to rest or play baseball during the day.

To this day it is my favorite place in the entire world. It is the one place I can remember feeling completely at peace. It is my happy place. Unfortunately, I have not been back for many years, as I have not lived in New Jersey since I was a teenager. However, I did go back to visit a few times. I am hoping to visit for a day this summer when I accompany my mom to visit family in New Jersey.

My aunt sold the cottage about 15 years ago, a few years after my uncle passed away. When I was younger, I always thought that I would spend my summers there with my kids. But normal budgets do not support an extra house for summer use only and all the travel, shipping, and miscellaneous expenses associated with that!

South Seaville Camp Meeting is one of the oldest camp meetings in New Jersey and in the country. It has changed in many ways, but the bell tower still calls you to the chapel and services are still in the original open-air chapel. There are ceiling fans, now, but going to the Ice Cream Parlor to cool off after evening services is still the main thing on your mind during the closing hymn. There are still Camp Meeting kids, and I am so thankful that experience is still there for them.

Filling in the Gaps

by Rev. Sam Meadors

Rev. Sam Meadors is community coordinator for [The Delta Project - 200K More Reasons](#), a ministry of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Originally published by the [Arkansas Annual Conference](#) May 18, 2021. Republished with permission by [ResourceUMC.org](#).

Summer. It always seems full of possibilities, especially for kids. With the school year done, students can spend time growing and learning in new ways, whether that's in sports or camps, exploring the outdoors, or traveling. However, summer also comes with challenges for families who are income constrained.

Since 200K More Reasons began, congregations have filled in the gaps for children when school is out of session. The USDA estimates that only 15% of the children who receive free and reduced lunch during the school year receive those same high-quality meals during the summer.

Some of the struggles with feeding children during the summer have been mitigated by the changes brought about by the pandemic. Transportation to and from feeding programs has always been a hindrance for working families. Yet, waivers allow programs to serve meals where children congregate. In certain circumstances, waivers allow parents to pick up meals on their children's behalf without children needing to be present. Children can also receive multiple meals at one time instead of coming two or three times throughout the day. These opportunities can help eliminate some of the boundaries around keeping children fed over the summer.

Still, it is not just access to food that some students are missing over the summer. Access to summer enrichment opportunities is dependent upon parents' financial situations. For families who are income constrained, summer opportunities for their children are limited. During the summer, these children and youth have lesser gains—and in some cases losses—than their wealthier classmates. This may mean a decrease in reading aptitude, greater exposure to violence and crime, and further weight gain for those with obesity according to a study for the National

Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

Finding ways to address these inequities for children from low-income homes can seem overwhelming. However, it does not have to be. Recognizing that families with children at home during the summer have increased needs, and accommodating those needs with increased child-friendly food at your pantry or blessing box, is a helpful way to start. Providing sack lunches to places where children gather can also address the meal gap.

Schools continue to be the best way to connect to children in need. Check with your local school about their plans to provide meals this summer. See if they can use additional volunteers to help with the program. If they are not a summer meal provider, they may still be able to help connect your feeding ministry to families in need. Make sure to share the dates your pantry is open or the location of your blessing box with counselors and school administrators.

This summer brings the opportunity to do more for children and families, especially considering the challenges of serving the community last summer. Consider providing family fun packs that include books and games for families involved in your feeding ministry. Bring books and fun activities to your local park with a cookout for families and a story hour for kids. Advocate for and partner with summer programs for children in your community like the Boys and Girls Club or the local library.

Access to books is the first step in doing more to support literacy in our community. Bring your church together to construct and install a little lending library to place beside your blessing box. Offer a pop-up book giveaway at a summer festival or farmer's market to connect to kids and families. Once you get started in literacy ministry, you will want to do more, like plan for a reading camp next summer or a tutoring program in the fall.

Summer should be a time for everyone to have fun. By engaging families with feeding and literacy opportunities, churches can make sure everyone gets to enjoy the summer months.

5 Free Things to Do in Georgetown

by Free Fun in Austin

Georgetown is a beautiful city and has so much going on! Here are our favorite 5 Free Things To Do In Georgetown!

1. Spend A Day At Berry Springs Park & Preserve

There's so much to do at Berry Springs Park & Preserve (1801 Co Rd 152, Georgetown), and yet it's so tranquil and serene. Donkeys (yes, live donkeys), fishing, camping, a playground, hiking/walking/biking trails, a pecan grove, and more can be found among the park's 300 acres. It's just so beautiful! We even saw a couple there on a date—they had strung up hammocks in the trees and were reading books. How amazing is that?! If you pack enough water, food, and sunscreen, you can easily spend the whole day enjoying this park. Visiting the park is FREE.

2. Cool Off At Blue Hole

Blue Hole (W. 2nd St & Rock St, Georgetown) is located on the San Gabriel River. This beloved FREE swimming hole is one of the locals' favorite places to cool off on a hot summer day. There are restrooms and picnic areas, walking trails, and more. You can eat at nearby restaurants El Monumento or Hat Creek Burger Company, or bring a picnic and spend all your time down by the water. A few things to keep in mind: there are no lifeguards, so swim at your own risk. The water depth can vary, so keep a close eye on your little swimmers. Signs are posted that warn "No Cliff Jumping." Bring plenty of sunscreen, water, snacks, towels, and a floating raft or tubes. Water shoes or waterproof hiking shoes are also a good idea, as the banks along the river are rocky.

3. Explore The Creative Playscape At San Gabriel Park

The Creative Playscape (1003 N Austin Ave, Georgetown) is one of our favorite playgrounds in all of Austin and its surrounding areas. It's huge and very unique and my kids can play there happily for hours. There's equipment for kids of all ages and sizes. The nice thing about this playground is that, while it is big, the entire thing is fenced in. Just beyond the playground, you can find restrooms and a hike/bike trail for more FREE adventuring around San Gabriel Park.

4. Visit The Most Beautiful Town Square In Texas

The people of Georgetown aren't kidding around when it comes to their town square, which they call The Most Beautiful Town Square In Texas. While we haven't been to every town square in Texas to vouch for this claim, we still challenge you to go and decide for yourselves. There are usually plenty of FREE events to attend here year round.

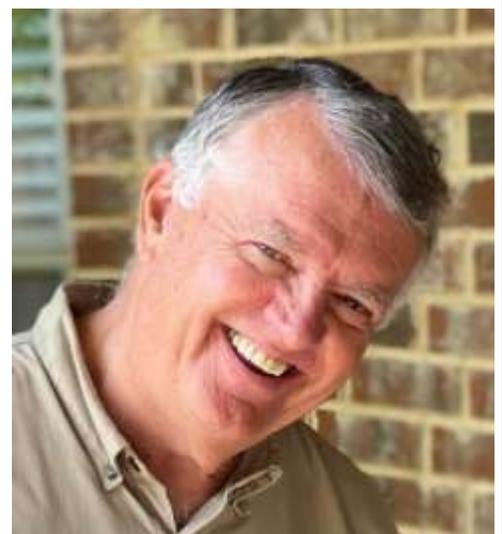
5. Learn All About The History of Williamson County

The Williamson Museum (716 South Austin Avenue, Georgetown) provides fun for learners of all ages. From the intriguing topics of The Salon at Wildfire to the engaging activities of Hands on History, there is something for everyone. While there, be sure to inquire about a free tour of the courthouse.

As some of you know, our former pastor and friend, Travis Franklin, has been diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. Their friends and family have come together to support them in this time of need. I know we are a bit too far to bring meals or take Travis to appointments, etc. However, if you want to help, they are accepting monetary donations to help offset the costs of the medical bills. If you would like to contribute, please make your checks payable to the "Travis and Lara Franklin Benevolent Fund" and send your donations to **The Travis and Lara Benevolent Fund at P.O. Box 2723, Keller, TX 76244.**

Michelle Cousineau has been set up as liaison for St. John's, so if you have any questions or just want information, please contact Michelle in the church office.

As always, Travis and Lara want to thank everyone for all the support and love being showered upon them by all of you. They love you and feel all of the love and prayers given to them.



Prayer Team Note

by Martha Arizpe, Prayer Team Chairperson



Hello fellow members of St. Johns UMC! We have now entered the summer of 2021 – which certainly has more possibilities for fun than the summer of 2020. I made a list of the more obvious improvements. Pools closed last summer, up and running now. Could not meet your friend for coffee or lunch last summer? Georgetown is opening its wide varieties of eateries and coffee shops. Need new socks and undies? It is now safe to shop in an actual brick and mortar store. And the best change of all is that our beloved church is opening! Do not know about you, but I love finding my “spot”, in the pew in front of Butch and Nelda, every Sunday morning. Our new tradition of staying seated while David Cappolino plays the postlude is wonderful – not every church has such talent available to them. Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School are up and running. Our wonderful children are now able to fully experience the truths found in Scripture, taught to them by very dedicated, involved teachers. Our adult Sunday School classes can once again study, learn, and discuss our lesson in person. God put us in community for a reason – we were not created to live singularly. Hard to spread the Gospel that way.

Blessings,
Martha Arizpe

New Life

by Carolyn Henry, Congregational Care Coordinator

The branches of my favorite Sago palm tree froze this winter. It was sad to see them hanging from the tree, brown and lifeless. The tree had been so beautiful before this happened.

But then ... these lifeless branches were lovingly removed by a friend who is a landscaper. He told me to have faith – new branches would grow from the trunk. Weeks passed ... nothing. Suddenly one day I looked – sure enough, new growth was starting. Green shoots were coming up from the heart of the trunk!

This reminded me of the beloved parable of the vine and branches, told in John 15:1 – 11. “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” Sometimes I wonder – am I like the branches that were frozen. Am I just “hanging” around bearing no fruit? Am I frozen at this time in my spiritual journey? Pruning is painful – is that what I really want? No, I would rather avoid “pruning”. But just as on my palm tree, the dead “wood” must be cut away to stimulate new growth. God promises that if we “abide” in Him, we will bear much fruit. “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As my Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy be full”.



Quilter's Are Back!

by Patty Lee

The St. John's quilters are eager to welcome the old gang back to quilting, as well as anyone interested in this historical art form. Several of our members have moved on, and we are looking for beginners as well as "seasoned" quilters. Our beautiful projects are sold to benefit the missions and ministries of St. John's. This congenial group (men are welcome, too), meet each Monday afternoon at 1 pm at the Horizon house, beginning on June 14th. This is Flag Day, and we will be making preparations for the new season. Remember, as usual, all are welcome. Interested? Call Patty Lee at 512-863-6758. You do not have to be a St. John's member to participate.



Sunday School Is Back!

All Sunday school classes for children, youth, and adults are back in session on Sunday, June 6, 2021.. We are so excited to be back in person learning and having fellowship.

The nursery is open as well for church services and for Sunday school hour. We can't wait to see your littles!

If you are new to the church and need help finding a Sunday School class, please contact the front office at (512) 863-5886.

Financial News

APRIL 2021 FINANCIALS

2021 Income \$158,306

2021 Expense \$176,525

Net (\$18,219)

The financials are always 2 months behind

Catch all the Ms. Kathryn & Boomer episodes on

- **St. John's Barn Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsbarn>
- **St. John's United Methodist Church YouTube Page**
- **St. John's website:** www.stjohnsumc.cc



He-Brews Café will be open on Sunday, June 6, 2021!

We are looking for people to help out making coffee and cleaning up on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to help with this ministry, please contact Christine in the office at (512) 863-5886 or by e-mail at officemanager@stjohnsumc.cc. We can't wait to have coffee with you again!

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

Georgetown, TX 78626

Phone: 512-863-5886

Website: www.stjohnsumc.cc

Service Times: 9:00 AM (Traditional) & 11:00 AM (Blended)

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Food Pantry Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 PM—4:00 PM

Follow us on

