

ST. JOHN'S UMC

A hand with dark nail polish holds a magnifying glass. The lens is focused on the text 'LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS.' The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

LOVE
GOD.
LOVE
OTHERS.

November 2021 / Issue 11

FOCUS



“GIVE THANKS IN EVERY SITUATION BECAUSE THIS IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.”

~ I Thessalonians 5:18

Words Matter

by Rev. Darren Walker

Dear Church Family,

How often do our prayers resemble a cosmic “honey dew list?” “God, please give me this and help me with that and cure him and heal her and why do you let those people get away with that and why is this not working out for me?” We bargain, cajole, wheedle, and beg. How often do we simply say “Thank you” or sit quietly and listen?

I believe God is talking with us all of the time. We do not always tune in and hear what God is saying to us. I believe God blesses us every day. Not in just small ways occasionally but every day with overwhelming generosity. Do you think it would make a difference if you spent one day NOT asking God for anything? What if every prayer that day was a prayer of thanksgiving? If you know of someone in need of healing, thank God for the healing that is already taking place. Thank God doctors and nurses are available. Thank God for being present in such a time of need or loss. Please try this for one day and let me know how it goes.

God is always with us, always loves us, always blesses us.

Grace and Peace,

Darren Walker

November 2021 Events

- Sunday, November 7: All Saint’s Sunday
- Tuesday, November 9: UMM Meeting in Family Life Center
- Friday, November 12: MOPS Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, November 13: UMW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
- Monday, November 15: Single Board Meeting 6:00 PM in Sanctuary
- Saturday, November 20: Come Home for Christmas Celebration
- Wednesday, November 24 - Friday, November 26: Church Office Closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- Sunday, November 28: Hanging of the Greens Worship Service in Sanctuary at 5:00 PM

Weekly Events

Sundays:

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Hebrews Coffee Time 10:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

Mondays:

Prayer Team Meeting 9:30 AM
Quilters Meeting 1:00 PM
Fourther’s Emmaus Group 5:00 PM

Tuesdays:

Strong Bones 10:00 AM
Grace Co-Op Band Class 10:30 AM

Wednesdays:

Small Group - Cherry’s 6:00 PM
St. John’s Ringers Rehearsal 6:15 PM
Wednesday Evening Support Group 7:00 PM
St. John’s Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM

Thursdays:

Strong Bones 10:00 AM
Disciple Bible Study Group 5:30 PM
Everyday Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30 PM
Living Solutions 7:00 PM

Fridays:

Crafters Meeting 1:00 PM

Saturdays:

Eye of the Storm Reunion Group 7:30 AM
Saturday Morning Support Group 9:30 AM





Thankfulness

by Kathryn Price, Director of Family Ministry

At this time of year, we take the time to be thankful for the many blessings God has given us. But how do we *show* our thankfulness?

If I give someone a gift, I know they appreciate it if they take good care of it and use it often. I think it is the same with the gifts God gives us.

For instance, God has blessed me with good health. I can show how grateful I am if I take care of myself by making healthy choices and getting rest and exercise. This gives me the energy and stability to work with children, help others and participate in lots of activities.

Think about the gifts with which God has blessed you. Are you taking care of them? Are you using them to better yourself and others?

Don't "hide your light (gift) under a bushel". Let it shine!



Check out all of the St. John's Barn Children's Moment Videos on our [YouTube Channel](#) and our [St. John's Website](#).

Boomer and Ms. Kathryn will see you there!



“In everything
give thanks
for this is the
will of God.”

1 Thessalonians

5:18 KJV



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Who Are Your Talents For?

by David Pencil, Director of Music Ministry

While I am a firm believer that anyone who works hard at a skill can become great at it, I also understand that some of us begin with a bit of a head-start, or we find that certain things just come easier to us than others. These God-given talents are gifts that he grants to his children, but the question I would like us to consider is "who are your talents for?" Certainly, God intends for us to benefit from our own personal enjoyment of the use of our talents, but is that the extent of his purpose? We have guidance on this from scripture. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

God has given us our talents to share with one another for the good of the church, and we have the power to grow these talents through practice. For the music ministry of the church, that means that if you can play an instrument or sing, God is calling you to seek out ways to use that gift for the service of the body of Christ. If you have a talent for organization, hospitality, quilting, intercessory prayer, public reading, or anything else that could be of service to the church, you are also called to serve! Do not wait for someone in church leadership to ask you directly to serve, but rather be proactive. Talk to someone in church leadership to find out how best you can serve. We all have a part to play in the body of Christ!

Speaking specifically for the music ministry, I can tell you that we could really benefit from more members of the congregation stepping up to serve musically. The praise band needs a drummer, and there are many other positions in the band that are available as well. The Chancel Choir could also use more singers, particularly men. If you'd like to talk with me about participating in worship through music, please send me an email at music@stjohnsumc.cc.

Showing God Thanks

*by Michelle Cousineau, Executive Secretary/
Communications Coordinator*

¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

~1 Thessalonians 5:18

That is a hard command at times, isn't it. I have been thinking about all God has done for me and am thankful, but this can still be a hard command, especially during the bad times as opposed to the good. It is easy to give thanks when everything is going well. I thank God all the time for my family, coffee, the sun, chocolate, Jesus' death, and resurrection that covered my sins, coffee. You get the point. But what about when things are not going well. When the car breaks down and you realize you are \$100 short in the bank account. When you must move away from all your friends and family because you need to in order to survive. These are the most important times to be thankful for what God has done for you. Providing the money at the last minute for you to fix your car. Bringing you home to a church family that supports and loves you as you adjust to life without your normal support system.

What would our outlook be on this life if we did God's will and gave thanks in all circumstances? Rather than panic when things go wrong, give thanks to God for providing what you need to get through the trial. Thank Him for His faithfulness to you and for the unconditional love He has always shown you through every circumstance of your life. Thank Him for His peace as you slow down and remind yourself that God has your back, no matter the circumstance.

So, the next time you feel that all too familiar panic when something goes wrong, remind yourself that you are God's child and He will provide for you and take care of you, in all circumstances. And then – show Him how thankful you are..

Create Your Pledge Online

by Shannon Stone, Bookkeeper

How to create your 2022 pledge online. You can also complete the paper form, but here are the instructions for creating the pledge online:

- Download the F1Go app on your iPhone or Android phone, OR create or login to your St John's F1Go account at <https://stjohnsumc.fellowshiponego.com>.
- At the bottom of the opening page, you will see your name (with or without a photo). Click your name.
- When your profile opens, there are two tabs under your photo – DETAILS and GIVING. Choose GIVING.
- Scroll down past your recent giving transactions, to the Pledges section.
- Click on Create New Pledge.
- The first field is CAMPAIGN. Please select 2022 General Pledge.
- Under Start Date you will tap the date on the screen, which will open up the calendar.
- Please choose January 1, 2022.
- Under End Date you will tap the date on the screen, which will open up the calendar.
- Please choose December 31, 2022.
- Under Frequency, choose how often you will give.
- Under Periodic Amount, type in the amount you will give each time you give (for instance, if you chose Monthly in the Frequency field, the Periodic Amount will be the amount you will give each month.)
- The Total Amount should populate based on the answers you provided above.

If the pledger wants to give via automatic bank draft (ACH), they will still need to provide a signed pledge card.

Let me know if you have questions. And remember that everyone can still complete a paper pledge card. The online version is for convenience only.

Please fill out all information on pledge cards clearly

When filling out paper pledge cards please **clearly print** with Name and information. Those with signatures only, can not be deciphered Please help Shannon by clearly printing all information on the pledge card.



The Time for a New Beginning

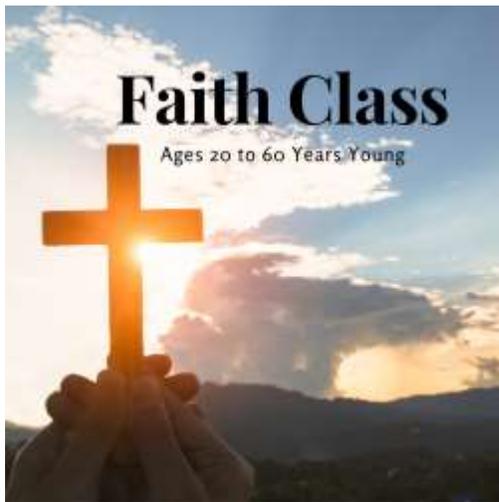
by Terry Blackburn

All of us are probably ready for a “*new beginning*” after our lives have been impacted in such a profound way by the coronavirus and the chaos in our world. In 2nd Corinthians 5:17 it states, “A new beginning awaits anyone who is willing and wanting to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life”. In conjunction with the change to the structure and time of our church services and Sunday school classes starting October 31st, the **New Beginnings Sunday School class** would like to welcome anyone looking for a way to continue their journey to “make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life” through the study of God’s word. Our class encourages participation in a way that makes everyone comfortable to express their opinion. We believe that is how we grow as Christians. Although our current class members are over 50, adults of all ages are welcome.

We are very excited about the new Bible study series we will begin that day entitled “Angels”. Misconceptions about angels abound in books, movies, and other media. It is a difficult but important concept for us to understand as Christians. This 8 part series explores what the Bible really says about angels, including their service to God and their ministry to people. This and further studies in our class are all decided on by the class participants based on their spiritual needs.

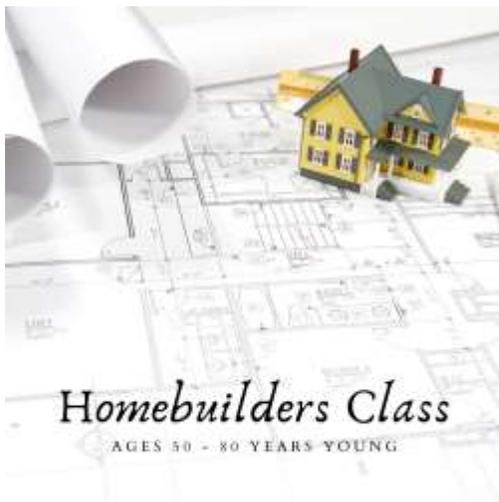
We are taking a **unique approach** that will welcome everyone to participate, regardless of your concerns about COVID. **You will be able to participate by either Zoom or in-class attendance, starting October 31st.** Masks will be optional to further accommodate personal safety desires.

As part of the new schedule beginning **October 31st, New Beginnings, will meet in Classroom 114 for one hour beginning at 9:00 a.m.** If you are looking for a way you can grow in Christ, we welcome you with open arms to join us in this “*New Beginning.*” If you are interested in joining via Zoom, send an email to beginnings36@gmail.com and you will be provided the information you need prior to each class. For additional information about the class call Terry Blackburn at 512-591-7722.

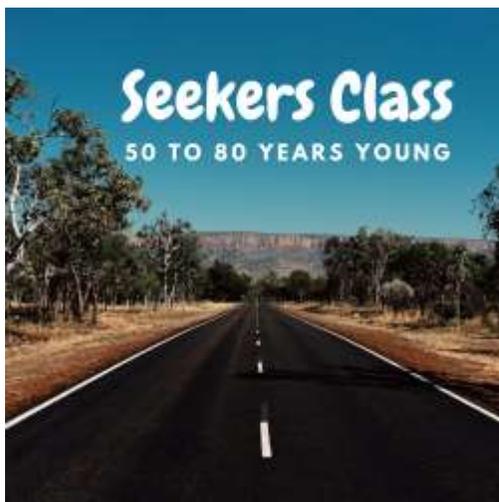


Faith Class meets in Adult Ed Wing Room #109

The first 3 Sundays in November (7, 14, 21), the Faith class will be handing out free coffee & breakfast burritos at the Turquoise Table on St. John's front lawn



Homebuilder's Class meets in Adult Ed Wing Room #110



Seekers Class meets in Adult Ed Wing Room #112



Ignite Class meets in Family Life Center Room #113



New Beginnings Class meets in Family Life Center Room #114

Thanksgiving is approaching, and Hubby and I are so excited! Our 21-year-old grandson, Stuart, who lives in California, called to ask if he could spend the holiday with us, and we could not say “YES” fast enough. His girlfriend, Jada, is coming with him, and since we have only spoken to her over the phone, getting to know her is an exciting gift. When they arrive, in addition to being spoiled with Mimi’s cooking and lots of relatives, they will get to meet our new puppy, Savannah. She is a little mixed breed rescue, small and very energetic, and we just adore her. Our older dog, Diego, an almost seven-year-old cocker spaniel, is growing fond of her, too. He is easy going by nature, Savannah thinks he is just FANTASTIC, and they are now napping together. God has blessed us in so many ways – grandchildren and pets are two of those blessings, and we strive to remember to respond in prayerful gratitude. Our hearts are full.



Blessings,
Martha Arizpe



Freely

by Carolyn Henry, Congregational Care Coordinator

Two Sundays ago, we sang the hymn “Freely, freely” and I have been thinking about this a lot since then. God does freely give many great gifts to us. We are blessed by our families, our friends, our church – just to name a few, but there are many others. Every day we receive blessings from God. God does not give sparingly, but freely, generously, and even extravagantly. (Remember the 12 baskets of leftovers after the miracle of the loaves and fishes) The most amazing thing is that God gave His Son, to die in our place, and to save us from eternal punishment. What a wonderful gift.

When someone gives to us, naturally we want to give back to them. That’s how it is with God. I want to give back to Him by serving others, whether it’s in the church or the community. But mostly, I want to serve Him by living a Christian life and witnessing to others. As the song says “Freely, freely, you have received. Freely, freely give. Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live.”.



ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST MEN

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Family Life Center

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

General Meeting

Saturday, November 13, 2021 @ 11:30 AM

Fellowship Hall



Administrative News

Monthly Attendance

Oct-21	Total	<i>Monthly</i>
2020 Tot	436	87
2021 Tot	584	117

Year-to-Date Financials

Sep -21	Church Activity YTD	<i>Annual Budget</i>
Income	\$359,779	\$513,406
Expenses	\$391,295	\$560,677
NET	(\$31,516)	(\$47,271)

	Sunday, Nov 7 Communion Sunday	Sunday, Nov 14	Sunday, Nov 21	Sunday, Nov 28
10:30 Worship Service in St. John's Sanctuary				
Worship Leader	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker	Rev. Darren Walker
Liturgist	Jim Baughman	Carolyn Henry	Gene Lawhon	Mary Lou Wells
Ushers	Clark & Nancy Bottlinger	Linda Nix & Judy Conner	Dayne & Pam Carlson	Jim & Barbara Baughman
Communion				

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

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

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

Follow us on

