

**SMALL GROUPS**

**Study: "The Ten Commandments For Today"**

Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group  
When: 9:30 am  
Where: Adult Classroom

**New Study: "JESUS?"**

Hosted by: The Late Sunday Morning Small Group

Starts: Sunday, October 8th

When: Sundays at 10:45 am

Where: Adult Classroom

Leader: Gary Potter

We will study the scriptures in search of who Jesus is. What did He say, what did He do, who were His friends, where and how did He spend most of His time, are a few of the things we will discuss. Do we really know Him or have we been influenced by sources that have misled us? We plan to find out. Our resources will include The Bible; Philip Yancey's book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*; Mike Slaughter's book, *Renegade Gospel*; plus other sources as we find them. **Everyone is invited to join this study!!!**

**Study: "At the End of the Day: How Will You Be Remembered"**

14-week Adult Study  
Hosted by: The Tuesday Morning Small Group  
When: Tuesday's at 10:00 am  
Where: Dianne Ho-Gland's home in Texas City  
Leader: Dianne Ho-Gland

Pick up a list of available ministry opportunities off the information table.

**FUSION**  
MERGING SCRIPTURE WITH LIFE  
WEDNESDAYS 6:15-7:45  
STARTS WEDNESDAY SEP 13TH



**CHURCH WORK DAY**  
Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM

ALL church members are invited to spend a Saturday afternoon cleaning, repairing, and beautifying the church building and grounds. Arrive at 8:00 for breakfast and work begins at 8:30. See signup sheet on information table.

**Stewardship Report**

**Building Loan Update:**

ST. JOHN'S CAPITAL DEBT REPAYMENT  
CURRENT LOAN BALANCE:

**\$0.00**



2017 Tithes & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
2017 Income Received as of September 30th	\$ 319,312.51
2017 Projected Income as of September 30th	\$ 280,911.75
2017 Income as of September 30th <b>Surplus/-Deficit</b>	\$ 38,400.76

Worship Attendance		
Worship 9/3/17	9:30	93
Worship 9/3/17	11:00	50
Worship 9/10/17	9:30	80
Worship 9/10/17	11:00	53
Worship 9/17/17	9:30	102
Worship 9/17/17	11:00	45
Worship 9/24/17	9:30	77
Worship 9/24/17	11:00	66



**The Monitor**

October 2017



**ST. JOHN'S**  
A United Methodist Congregation



8200 25TH AVENUE N.  
TEXAS CITY, TX 77591  
409-655-5348

**Sunday Worship Services**

9:30 am—Contemporary

11:00 am—Traditional

Checkout the calendar at  
[www.stjohnsumctc.org](http://www.stjohnsumctc.org)  
Inviting People to  
Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @  
stjohnsumctcexascity

**A Word From Our Pastor**

The month of September leaves us with a mixture of feelings. Our surrounding communities remain in a state of recovery since Hurricane Harvey made land fall on August 25th. And we will remain in recovery for several years to come. For many of us, this is easy to forget when our homes were not flooded and we have the opportunity to settle back into the routine of normal daily life. We cannot forget that there are so many more that do not have that luxury. There are many that are not going to be able to get back into their home for possibly a year from now. There are some that are wondering how they are going to recover, because they did not have flood insurance or the insurance company does not cover their particular claim. And there are homes that still need to be mucked out. What is truly overwhelming, is that this is going on in other parts of the United States and Puerto Rico. And then there was the devastation in Mexico from earthquakes. If that wasn't enough, the shooting in Las Vegas that took 59 lives and wounding over 500 others horrified us. So, where is God in the midst of all this suffering and brokenness?

God is in the hard work of clean up after a hurricane. God is in the hard work of overturning rubble to find survivors after an earthquake. God is in the midst of the outcry when lives are lost after a brutal massacre. God is in the gift of a meal and a simple hug. God is working within humanity all around the world. God is bringing us together, despite our differences. It's hard to believe that just a couple of months ago we were watching the race riot in Charlottesville and lamenting over hatred that makes no sense. God in the ordinary of everyday making it extraordinary, making the most challenging of circumstances bearable.

Despite all the chaos that has been happening, we have reason to celebrate and rejoice. St. John's UMC is officially debt free! We've paid off our building! Thank you for your faithfulness! Thank you for allowing God to work through you! Thanks be to God for this beautiful building and a bright future! Despite that some may think that we are heading into the end times with all the natural disasters that have occurred in the last two months, I believe we continue to live in a world that is desperate for the light of hope. It is evident in your faithful giving that we are a people filled with hope! And we will continue to bring that hope into the world through St. John's ministries sharing the amazing love of Christ in a hurting world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Grace and Peace,

*Stephanie Hughes*  
Rev. Stephanie Hughes



On Sunday, October 22nd we will serve breakfast casseroles, fruit trays and cake during fellowship time and present

Pastor Stephanie with a gift from the congregation in both services. Join us for the fun! Help us say THANK YOU!!! To our awesome Pastor!!!

## A Word From Our Lay Leader

As many of you remember, earlier this year Ad Council approved moving forward with a full time preschool at St. John's. In the months since, several things have transpired that are causing us to put these plans on hold. First, we have learned that due to state regulations, we will have to build an additional playground. This is at least a \$25,000 expenditure; a cost that is not budgeted and one that would require planning and fund raising. Second, Hurricane Harvey has put a huge demand on Mainland Children's Partnership, our proposed partner in the preschool. They currently don't have the ability to give a preschool the focus it will need.

We are putting the idea of a preschool on hold. We are not abandoning it. We plan to continue working in that direction and hopefully, in another year or so, we can proceed. In the meantime, we will be continuing our very successful Mother's Day Out program.

Thanks for your support and prayers in this important part of our mission to bring families to Christ.

Gary Scoggin  
Lay Leader

## INVITE



We need volunteers with a passion for the following ministries to lead and coordinate them. We've identified several ministries in the community that could use our help in some way. We decided to focus on 3 and offer them to those wishing to participate. These opportunities are available for anyone interested.

- ⇒ **UFA/Susan's Market**—Needs help with various duties. Can leave your name with them as someone to call when needs arise 409643-8240.
- ⇒ **Elmcroft**—Requests volunteers in a variety of capacities. We are working on providing a calendar showing upcoming events with a sign-up sheet that will be located in St. John's lobby. In the mean time volunteers can contact Elmcroft directly at 409-935-6620 and ask for Theresa.
- ⇒ **Roosevelt-Wilson and La Marque schools** are requesting volunteers to serve as mentors for 1-hour each week. To sign up, visit [www.mentorsgc.org](http://www.mentorsgc.org) or call 409-763-4638.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

**The Annual District HUB Charge Conference**  
Sunday, November 12th at 3:00 pm location TBD

You will have an opportunity to meet our new District Superintendent Rev. Vincent Harris. We will be conducting Annual Charge Conference business and some local church. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

## EXPERIENCE



We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.



Anne Darring



Lisa Welch & Kennedy

## GROW



Fall is here. Although I'm a born and raised Texan, I love fall. Fall doesn't really exist in Texas. Not like Missouri. When I lived in Missouri, fall was beautiful. I remember one day I was driving home from work. The sun was setting and there was this HUGE tree with its fall leaves. Everything had this beautiful, orange glow about it. It was amazing! I literally stopped my car and just stared at the most glorious sunset I had ever seen. All those vibrant colors were just gorgeous. There was always something great about living in an area with four seasons. It's amazing to see God's creation in four different ways whether it was so cold and everything was white or so sunny and hot or even when spring had come and daffodils were popping up everywhere. But my favorite was fall. Driving home the other night, there was one of the most beautiful sunsets I had seen in a while. It was a little bit cloudy and the sun turned those clouds into beautiful colors. I realized I don't need to live in a place that has actual seasons to experience God's creation. I can see it anywhere and know that is EXACTLY where God wants me to be.

Jessica Dean

### Fall Dates for Children Activities

- Sunday, Oct. 8th— Children's Sunday & Third Graders Bibles are given out
- Tuesday, Oct. 31st—Trunk or Treat  
(We will need lots of candy to hand out!!!)  
There will be sign-up sheets out this Sunday so everyone can sign up to participate.



Fall is my absolute favorite time of the year! The colors of the leaves, the pumpkin spiced everything, and the hope of cooler weather put me in such a great mood. The youth group had a great kick off to the fall season this year with a trip to Dewberry Farm last Sunday. The youth had a blast playing together and exploring at the farm. The youth have also been enjoying lively

discussions as we fellowship and learn about the book of Revelation together as part of Fusion on Wednesday nights. Also, please be aware that there have been some changes to the Sunday night youth group schedule. Grades 6- 12 meet together from 4-6 for fellowship, worship, dinner, a lessons, and recreation each week. If you are in grades 6-12 we would love to have you join us on Sunday and Wednesday nights in The Foundry.

Peace and Blessings,  
Mae Diaz de Leon

### Fall Dates for Youth Activities

- Tuesday, October 31st—Trunk or Treat
- Wednesday, Nov. 22nd - Foundry Youth Volunteer prepping for Community Thanksgiving Meal
- Sunday, Nov. 26th: No Youth Group