

**SMALL GROUPS**

**Study: "Life Lessons with Max Lucado: The Book of Genesis"**  
 Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group  
 When: 9:30 am  
 Where: Adult Classroom

**Study: "The Story"**  
 Hosted by: The Late Sunday Morning Small Group  
 When: Sundays at 10:45 am  
 Where: Adult Classroom  
 Leader: Gary Potter

**Study: "Life Lessons with Max Lucado The Book of Psalms"**  
 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

**GriefShare Group**  
**When: Thursday's 6:00 pm**  
 Cost: \$15.00 Includes workbook  
 Where: Adult Classroom  
 Leader: Donna Henson - 409-621-6210

**FPU Class Spring Session**  
**Began Sun, Jan 14th**  
 Study: Financial Peace University / Dave Ramsey  
 When: Sunday's 5:00 pm  
 Where: Sanctuary  
 Leaders: David & Christie McKnight

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



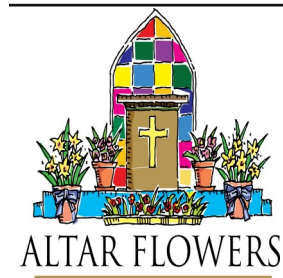
**Grow & Invite Team Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 14th,**  
**At 6:00 PM in the Adult Classroom**



**ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!**

We are in need of individuals who are interested in serving the church on Sundays by helping to run our multimedia show and or the sound board.

If you are interested in signing up, please drop by the sound booth on Sunday morning and speak with Ingrid Clark or David McKnight. (Training will be provided).



We are now taking orders for ALTAR FLOWERS for 2018. If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for a Sunday service in memory of or in honor of someone, please call Ingrid Clark at 409-655-5348 to reserve your date. Cost is \$50.00 per Sunday and for each arrangement.

Worship Attendance		
Worship 2/4/18	9:30	95
Worship 2/4/18	11:00	44
Worship 2/11/18	9:30	85
Worship 2/11/18	11:00	51
Worship 2/18/18	9:30	98
Worship 2/18/18	11:00	48
Worship 2/25/18	9:30	83
Worship 2/25/18	11:00	41

**Stewardship Report**

2018 Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of Feb 28th	\$ 71,475.93
YTD Projected Income as of Feb 28th	\$ 71,508.83
YTD Income difference as of Feb 28th Surplus/-Deficit	-\$ 32.90

**The Monitor**

March 2018



**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 @ [stjohnsumctc](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsumctc)

**A Word From Our Pastor**

Spring is in the air! The grass is getting greener, trees are budding, flowers are blooming. It is the resurrection season when new life can be seen all around us. It's beautiful! Resurrection is always beautiful. Witnessing new life is always beautiful. We thrill, coo and awe over babies because they are beautiful. Same goes for puppies, kittens and other baby animals. The clothes in our closet often reflect what nature proclaims in color as we shift to our pastel and brighter colored clothing.

This season always reminds us that death has been defeated. Winter isn't permanent. Bare trees and brown grass aren't permanent. And especially this year, we are reminded that flooded homes aren't permanent. We are reminded that struggle, heartache, loss, and tribulations aren't permanent. They are all but a season. Resurrection is coming! New life is being restored! Houses are being restored and livable again. Hearts are being mended!

This is the season we remember and meditate on the suffering and death of our savior, Jesus Christ. We remember the hatred and violence towards an innocent man. We remember the dark sin that enveloped him. The sin of generations past. Our sin. The sin of generations to come. So much darkness. So much evil. And death and darkness looked like it had won when Jesus took his final breath. Creation even mourned the loss as the sky went dark and the ground shook. It seemed so hopeless.

There have always been times in human history when things seem hopeless. Imagine the Israelites standing at the Red Sea with Pharaoh and the Egyptian army closing in. They surely knew they would either die that day or return as slaves in even harsher conditions. Yet, God made a way. Hopelessness was defeated.

In this season we are reminded that hopelessness is defeated. For on the third day, Jesus defeats death, sin and darkness. And with Christ we are brought to new life. We are experiencing resurrection everyday through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are empowered to turn our backs on sin and we are reminded that our heartbreaks are only a season. We can walk through the darkest season, even through the valley of death, trusting that God will always make a way. So, I will remember....

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul (Psalm 23:1-3a), even when I am walking through the darkest valley.

Grace and Peace,

*Stephanie Hughes*  
 Rev. Stephanie Hughes



## MISSION/OUTREACH

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." -John Wesley

What are you doing for Spring Break??? If you are not a teacher, student, college professor or college student, your answer is probably WORKING!!! So why am I asking? Well, as most of you may or may not know there are still quite a lot of Hurricane Harvey survivors in need of assistance with rebuilding their homes. You may be asking yourself...What does that have to do with me? Well we are hoping to partner with the 4B Disaster Response Network & the folks from Eight Days Of Hope. They are planning to rebuild about 750+ homes from March 10-24th. Why are we partnering with Eight Days of Hope & 4B? They will be bringing in skilled carpenters, electricians, and over 3000 volunteers from all over the country to conduct rebuilding efforts over the next 1-2 years. The 2 weeks in March will be the initial blitz. The Texas 4B Disaster Response Network is a non-profit organization of churches that serves the area between the Beltway and Galveston Beach and Galveston Bay to Brazoria County. Partnering with them affords us a huge opportunity to help in the recovery efforts. Please consider volunteering to help. They ask for a minimum of 3 days commitment and you can work as many days as you want. You don't have to pay for anything just have reliable transportation to get yourself to the assigned work sites. I am hoping to get a group from St. John's together to work on a local site possibly in Dickinson. Please contact me in the church office if you are interested in working on this project.

I'm also excited to announce that we are also kicking off "The Blanket Project." The Blanket Project will help provide blankets to our Mexico mission project that we are also gearing up for at the end of the year. The goal this year is to provide 100 blankets from St. John's. Here's how you can help...We are looking for individuals, families, Small groups, or Sunday School classes to commit to providing blankets each week. (There are exactly 42 Sunday's left in 2018...If we collect just 3 blankets each Sunday we will have 126 blankets to take to Mexico!!!) Isn't that AWESOME??? So if you are looking for a mission...all interested in volunteering their time and resources are encouraged to help gather blankets and we would love for as many as are able to come with us to Mexico to hand them out! I will be returning to Mexico and want to bring a team and supplies from St. John's. This past December we were able to sponsor sending 60 blankets to bless the mission trip to the Albergue, El Elohe children's shelter in Galeana, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. The team handed out over 300! Please join us in helping the "least of these." Blankets can be dropped off in the Mission Donation area near the front office. Please contact me at 409-655-5348 or via email at IClark@stjohnsumctc.org for more information.

Fresh Fire!!!  
Ingrid Clark

### UFA/Susan's Market:

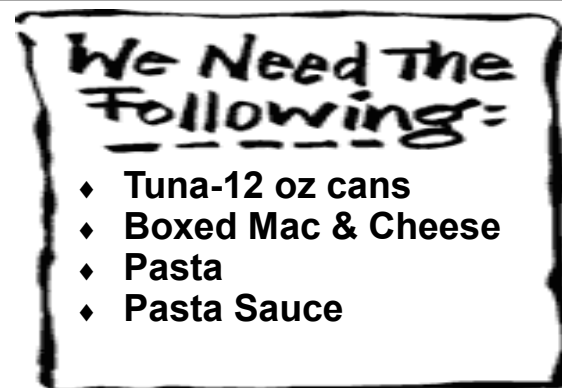
Items are needed for the food bank ran by UFA.

Remember that the need is even greater now for food because UFA took over the food bank from the Galveston County Food Bank and their client count has also gone up considerably because of those effected by Hurricane Harvey.

Please place your items in the box in the Missions Area.

### NON FOOD ITEM NEEDED:

Laundry detergent (powder, liquid or pods)



## GROW



I don't brag on our kids at St. John's enough. My Sunday mornings are so blessed by spending time with your children! They have such kind and generous hearts! Every Sunday we take up an offering. The kids get to decide where they want their offering to go. We have sent money to Ronald McDonald House, to Susan's Market and last year they gave over \$90 to Galveston County Animal Resource Center. We take the offering each Sunday and at the end of the year, we take the money to where they have decided. This year they chose to help MD Anderson Cancer Center. We also get an opportunity to pray as a group. The kids lift up their prayer requests and praises. I have the task of trying to remember all of the prayer requests. It's such a joy to listen to them and watch them express their joy and even sadness as they lift up their friends, family, teachers and their pets. I teach our preschooler/kindergarten class, it's mainly a class full of wild boys but I love every second of it! They ask questions about God and how can God be three people. They blurt out the memory verse even before I have finished telling them for the first time. Cindy and Betty have taught the older kids the Lord's Prayer. They practice that every Sunday. It was so amazing to see the kids excited to be able say the Lord's prayer in the Ash Wednesday service. They were so happy to know it and its definitely in their hearts! We thoroughly enjoy having your kids here at St. John's. Each and every one of them has a special place in my heart. I pray for them often and I am so encouraged watching them grow into young Christian men and women. Thank you for sharing your kids with us here!!

Jessica Dean



### Pancake Supper Fundraiser Update:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting our kids at the pancake fundraiser!!! We raised \$989!!! We had 24 kids/youth work at the fundraiser so each kid was able to add about \$41 to their account for SUMMIT, UM Army, and/or camp at Lakeview! You guys are so awesome! Thank you all so very much!!! This helps cover the cost of Camp (\$400), SUMMIT (\$100) and UM Army (\$275) per kid.



The Foundry is an exciting place to be this spring. Youth Sunday School had a successful start last week. Spring Break is right around the corner and we have a large group of youth signed up to do a volunteer project as well as some fun events that Monday and Wednesday! Additionally, the youth will be hosting the Good Friday service at the church March 30th. Our confirmation class is also wrapping up this month and our Confirmands will be joining the church April 1st!

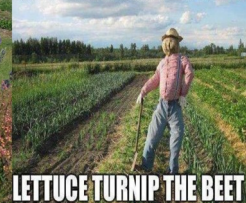
We also have 3 new volunteers for Sunday night youth group. WOOHOO! Without their help we couldn't sustain a productive youth program. I want to say thank you to all of our volunteers and to those who have offered to drive and/or chaperone upcoming events. However, there is still one major need in the youth ministry: volunteers for summer camps.

We still need volunteers to attend Church camp at Lakeview with our students. Church Camp is June 17-22 at Lakeview in Palestine, TX. Counselor spots are available in age ranges from 3rd grade to high school. If you are interested in joining us at Lakeview this summer you can contact myself or our Children's Director, Jessica Dean, for further details.

The greatest need we have right now is for volunteers for our Jr. High and sr. High mission camps. Our Sr. High mission camp, UMARMY will be July 8th - 14th this summer. The Jr. High students will be attending SUMMIT mission camp July 18th -21st. We are required to have a certain number of adults attend with our youth. We are in need of 2 additional adults, other than myself, to attend both UMARMY and SUMMIT this summer. You do not have to be an expert with tools and building to be an adult volunteer. You just need to be a good example and cheerleader for the youth. These camp opportunities can be life changing experiences for the youth and it is an amazing thing to be a part of. Sign up for these events is underway. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in any way interested in attending one of our camps this summer.

Peace and Blessings,  
Mae Diaz de Leon

LET'S HAVE A GARDEN PARTY



St. John's Community Garden Team will be having a planting day soon and will need help weeding and tilling up the garden beds in preparation. The garden team meets every Friday at 8:00 am and work for about an hour. Please stop by the garden and give them a hand. ALL are welcome!!! We could use 5-10 people to help weed all the beds and around the fruit trees.