

SMALL GROUPS

Study: "Old Testament Prophets for Today"

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: "Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life"

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 10:00 am
Cost: \$15.00 Includes workbook
Where: Adult Classroom
Leader: Donna Henson - 409-621-6210

FPU Class Fall Session

Study: Financial Peace University / Dave Ramsey STARTS SUN SEPT 9TH

When: Sunday's 5:00 pm
Where: Sanctuary
Leaders: David & Christie McKnight
coach@dobetterwithmoney.com
Cost: Approximately \$120

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

Worship Attendance		
Worship 8/5/18	9:30	121
Worship 8/5/18	11:00	50
Worship 8/12/18	9:30	85
Worship 8/12/18	11:00	42
Worship 8/19/18	9:30	137
Worship 8/19/18	11:00	51
Worship 8/26/18	9:30	108
Worship 8/26/18	11:00	30

UP COMING MEETINGS

Leadership Meeting with District Superintendent
Tuesday, September 11th, 7:00 pm in the Adult Classroom

Ministry Team Meeting
Wednesday, September 12th, At 6:00 pm in the Adult Classroom

South District Hub Charge Conference
Sunday, November 4th at 3:00 pm
St. John's will be hosting the Charge Conference this year. All members are encouraged to attend. This is a good way to hear about what's going on in the church and district.



So You Think You Might Be a United Methodist: Faith Basics—Methodist Style

Dates: Sept. 18-Nov. 6
Time: 7:00-8:00 PM
Leader: Rev. Cindy Riddick
Childcare is available

Sign up in the lobby or contact Cindy Riddick
criddick@stjohnsumctc.org



ST. JOHN'S UMC CRAFT FAIR & FALL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2018
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Vendors, Craft Booths, Food, Fun, Games, Hayride, Bake sale & More!!!

Vendors - Contact Kim Bourgeois at kim.bourgeois@hotmail.com
(Space rental \$20.00 / +\$5.00 for table / + \$5.00 for Electricity)

Baked Goods needed for bake sale - sign up sheet available to help

Donated Crafts Needed for St. John's Booth - Contact church office for details

Donations of Fall Decorations needed - Collection box available in ministry area
(Donations needed by Sunday, September 23rd)

Stewardship Report	
2018 Tithe & Offerings	
(funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of August 30th	\$ 290,258.48
YTD Projected Income as of August 30th	\$ 286,035.33
YTD Income difference as of August 30th	\$ 4,223.15
Surplus/-Deficit	

The Monitor

September 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
Inviting People to
Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @
stjohnsumctcascity

A Word From Our Pastor

Life throws us curve balls. And for some, a little more often than others. It can be as little as forgetting an umbrella at home on a rainy day. Or as big as losing a job, experiencing the death of a loved one, getting the news that there is cancer. The list of bad things can be endless and I could go on and on about them, filling this entire newsletter. But then there would not be any room for the good stuff. Generally speaking, that is usually how it is, isn't it? When we focus on the negative, on the hurt, on all the bad stuff, all the good stuff seems to disappear. Even though, in reality, the good stuff is still there.

Even though there are days when it feels like the whole world could fall apart, it isn't. The sun continues to rise and shine. The moon continues to wax and wane. The seasons still come and go in their predictable order: summer, autumn, winter and spring. God is still in the midst of creation and continues to hold it all together. And the God that created the universe, that created you and me, won't let us completely fall apart either. Even the earth has bad days. We experience natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes that scar and mar the surface of the earth, yet it all still holds together. We too, experience those bad days that can leave deep hurtful scars, but God is still holding us together working for our good.

The one thing that I've noticed about tragedy, is the good that rises out of devastation. We witnessed this during Hurricane Harvey. What marvelous beautiful love that rose out of the murky muddy waters. Great love that was expressed in rescues, temporary shelters, cleaned out houses and continued recovery efforts. Even though there are bad things, even evil things, the good still exists and it will never be extinguished. For our God is good and everything that God is, will always be. The Apostle Paul wrote, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28)."

So today, focus on the good. Don't let the bad fill all that you see and hear. Look beyond the troubles and disappointments to see the goodness all around - God at work for your good. If God can create out of nothing and subdue chaos, if Christ can calm storms and pierce the darkest night with radiant light, if the Spirit can pierce the hardest of hearts and heal the deepest wounds, then surely we can look and find the love of God working all around us, even on our very worst day.

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie Hughes
Rev. Stephanie Hughes



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Mark your calendar for our 60th anniversary celebration weekend—October 6 & 7

We are so excited to celebrate our church anniversary. We hope to see old and new friends at both events. On Saturday, October 6, join us as we host a Fall Festival. The hours are 10 AM to 2 PM. We will have vendors, craft booths, food, fun, games, a hayride, and a bake sale. On Sunday, October 7, we will worship together at 10:30 AM. Rev. Deborah Proctor will bring our message and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Following the service, we will share in a pot-luck lunch. Please join us for both days of celebration.

A Place to Grow—Join a new fall study this month

Financial Peace University begins Sunday, September 9 at 5:00 pm

This 9-week class focusing on God's ways of handling money teaches you how to pay off debt, save for the future, and get on a personalized plan that will change the way you view money.

Fusion: A Study of the Gospel of John begins Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm

This fall we will dive deep into the Gospel of John. Did you know that this gospel account was almost not included in the Bible because it was very different than the other three? Bring your whole family to study this Gospel. We have classes for adults, youth, and children.

So You Might Be a United Methodist: Faith Basics begins Tuesdays, September 18 at 7:00 pm

Whether you are new to the Methodism or just need a refresher class, join us as we explore the basics of the faith—our biblical story, shared Christian beliefs, the United Methodist story, distinctive Methodist beliefs, and living as United Methodists.

A Place to Serve—Be part of the sound and media team on Sunday mornings

Today's worship services would not be possible without the services of the sound and media team who operate the sound board and the worship slides each Sunday. If you are interested in helping in this area, we'll make sure you know exactly what to do. Join us for training on Saturday, September 22 from 9:00-11:30 AM.

There are so many more ways to grow and serve at St. John's. Check out the website, the rest of this newsletter, the back of the worship bulletin, or give me a call. We'll chat about what might be a good fit for you.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Cindy Riddick

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

Good Samaritan Ministry Work Day

Our next work day will be on

Saturday, September 29th 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Anyone interested in working with this ministry is invited to attend.

You can sign up to help at the information table.

If you would like to volunteer or if you know someone in need of help from this ministry please contact

Ingrid Clark at 409-655-5348 x100 or via email at IClark@stjohnsumctc.org for more information.



Please see our "Getting Plugged In" brochure for a detailed list of Missions & Outreach opportunities.

Fresh Fire!!!

Ingrid Clark, Director of Missions & Administration

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH



As I continue with my Articles of Gratitude, I want to highlight Terry Fry this month! Terry has been very vital to our Children's Ministry in many ways. She is committed to our Nursery and works in there every Sunday and anytime we have special events such as Fusion, Bible Studies or special guests come to our church. The kids love to come in and play in the nursery and she gives them such love and care! Terry volunteers in so many areas of our church and I don't think it always gets noticed. She's an usher and greeter in the 2nd service, she prepares meals for the families of those who are in the hospital or have lost loved ones. She helps in the kitchen to serve food for special events. There are probably a ton more she does that I don't even know about. Terry was also vital to our Mother's Day Out program for many years. She joined our MDO in the beginning when we first started and helped us for four years. She helped teach and take care of our sweet babies. She showed up every morning extra early to help me prepare the snack cups and get our day going so very smoothly. She's worked hard and although she has retired from MDO, she has graciously offered to be a substitute when our teachers are sick. I am so thankful for Terry and her commitment to our Children's ministry!!

Jessica Dean
Director of Children's Ministries



Summer is over and everyone is getting back into a normal routine again. But the fun is never over in the youth group. Most Sunday nights the youth meet up for MYF in the Foundry, at the church, from 4-6. Sunday, September 23rd the Elfstrom's have graciously invited the youth over for a pool party and cook out. This will replace our regular Sunday night meeting for that week. Fusion starts on Wednesday, September 12th. The youth will meet for Fusion in the adult Sunday school room. Each week we will have a bible study lesson, share some snacks, and fellowship with each other. This fall in Fusion we are studying the book of John. Come join us as we learn about the life and teachings of Jesus. If you are in grades 6th -12th, you are welcome to join us for Sunday School, MYF (youth group), and Fusion. On another note, the youth are in need of volunteers to make dinner for MYF on Sunday nights. There are usually between 15-20 youth and volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet right outside of the sanctuary to sign up for dinners. If you have any questions, please contact Mae Diaz de Leon at mdiazdeleon@stjohnsumctc.org.

Peace and Blessings,
Mae Diaz de Leon
Youth Director

FUSION

MERGING SCRIPTURE WITH LIFE

WEDNESDAYS 6:30-7:45

STARTS WEDNESDAY SEPT 12TH

This fall we will be studying the Gospel of John during Fusion. Out of the four Gospels, the Gospel of John stands out. This gospel is definitely not like the others. So much so that it almost wasn't included in the Bible! It was too scandalous! And now, it is one of the most beloved of the four Gospels. Yet, have you ever wondered why it is so different? Why does Jesus seem so different in the Gospel of John compared to the other gospels? And if the Gospel of John is so different, is there any historical accuracy to the book? We will address these questions, the cultural context of the book, and how the Gospel of John impacts our understanding of Jesus in our lives during Fusion: where scripture and life merge for a deeper understanding.