

SMALL GROUPS

Study: "Old Testament Prophets for Today"

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

NEW Study: "The Epic of Eden"

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

NEW Study: "The Trouble With The Truth"

6-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

NEW Study: Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph

- ◆ Tuesday @ 10:00 AM at Dianne Ho-Gland's home in Texas City, beginning Tues., Nov. 27
- ◆ Wednesday @ 7:00 PM in the Adult Classroom Beginning Wed., Nov. 28



One Day Class— Thursday, December 6 Surviving the Holidays/ GriefShare

When: 6:00-8:00 PM
Where: Adult Classroom
Leader: Donna Henson
Suggested donation: \$6

Pick up a list of available ministry opportunities and small group information off the information center.

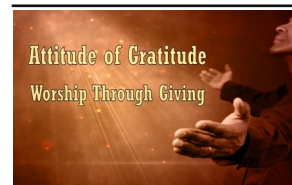
Worship Attendance		
Worship 10/7/18	10:30	144
Worship 10/14/18	9:30	80
Worship 10/14/18	11:00	50
Worship 10/21/18	9:30	86
Worship 10/21/18	11:00	47
Worship 10/28/18	9:30	77
Worship 10/28/18	11:00	51

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary beginning on Sunday, December 2nd. The plants will be \$12.00 each. Look for order forms in the bulletin and at the information table. Please complete a form and designate whether you want the plant "in honor of" or "in memory of". Please make sure and PRINT the names. Please include your check along with your form and return to the church **NO LATER than Wednesday November 28th**. You may pick up your plants after the 7:00 pm worship on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th.



St. John's Treehouse Kids will have a float in the parade this year. To participate please contact Jessica Dean in the church office. **We need lots of candy for the children to throw from the float.** Drop candy off at the church office by Thursday morning November 29th.



Stewardship Sunday update:
Attitude of Gratitude Campaign
Pledges to date for 2019 Operating Budget:
\$287,112.00

Thank you all for your faithful support towards all of the ministries here at St. John's. If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge for the 2019 budget please take a moment and fill one out. Pledge cards are available at the information center just to the left of the sanctuary. Your continued support is vital to the success of our mission of *Inviting People to Experience Amazing Love*.

Stewardship Report

2018 Tithe & Offerings	
(funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of Oct 31st	\$ 361,510.41
YTD Projected Income as of Oct 31st	\$ 357,544.17
YTD Income difference as of Oct 31st	\$ 3,966.24
Surplus/-Deficit	

The Monitor

November 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

The Psalmist proclaimed, "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds (9:1)." The Psalmist then listed the obstacles that were overcome personally and all around because of God's help. God is faithful and just. And we too have so much to be grateful for. So who have you shared that with? God's tender mercy and faithfulness is worthy of our vocal praise. When was the last time you bragged about God, sharing your gratitude with the people around you?

God is good! Like the Psalmist, I have much to be grateful for, because God has walked with me through some dark times. I can look back and see when God has saved my life, my marriage and somehow made up for my failures. God shows up in disguise all around us. I've received random words of encouragement or affirmations from strangers and I knew that the words spoken were from a God who cares. I remember right after my daughter's birth, I was having the worst nightmares. I had never had such powerfully seemingly real nightmares. I was prescribed medication to help with my anxiety, but the side effect was that it not only alleviated my anxiety, it also alleviated me of all my creativity. It rendered me incapable of choosing my clothes in the morning, so sermon writing was out of the question. So, I knew that I couldn't take them. I remember sobbing at night with my husband holding me. He gently whispered in my ear that it was going to be ok and we would get through it together with God's help. At that moment, it was God speaking those words to me, "We will get through this together." My husband often holds a message of God to me without knowing. God never leaves us or forsakes us! Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you (14:18)."

At St. John's we have witnessed God moving in powerful ways as this community continues to come together to share God's amazing love. I get so excited to see individuals excited about what God is calling you to do. I find myself so grateful, every time I get to walk alongside each one that struggles and be one of the first to witness the smile of relief when the present challenge is overcome. I rejoice at everyone's generosity of their presence, time, gifts, service and witness. The Spirit of God is moving within us, all around us! These are exciting times! Be grateful, rejoice and proclaim God's goodness every chance you get!

Stephanie Hughes

Rev. Stephanie Hughes



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

A Future Place to Grow—Advent Studies coming soon!



Christmas decorations are up in the stores already and it's not even December! In the rush to prepare for the gifts and the parties and the family celebrations, it's easy to forget that we should also prepare for the coming of Jesus. To help you focus on the Advent season, we will be offering Advent devotionals and Advent bible studies beginning November 25. The days and times for the studies will be available soon. Please consider joining a study for the season of Advent. It's a great opportunity to try out a bible study for the first time AND spend some time preparing your heart and mind for the coming of Jesus.

A Place to Serve—Community Garden



Do you love to garden? St. John's hosts a garden where we grow vegetables for the clients of United Faith Alliance. Currently, we have tomatoes, okra, peppers, collards, and lettuce planted. You are welcome to join us on Friday mornings at 8:00 AM for our regularly scheduled work time. If that time is not convenient, let me know and we can offer some garden work that can be done any time during the week.

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



The Community Thanksgiving Meal

Thursday, November 22nd 11:00am and 1:00pm

at Our Lady of Fatima in the Kukral Center, 1600 9th Ave N, Texas City



VOLUNTEERS & SUPPLIES NEEDED

St. John's is responsible for providing:

- ◆ 20 pans of Sweet Potatoes
- ◆ 30 pies/cakes/desserts.
- ◆ Canned goods (green beans, corn, cranberry sauce)
- ◆ Non-perishable food (Stuffing, mac & cheese, instant potatoes)
- ◆ Brown paper bags

We need volunteers to help:

- ◆ Carve turkeys Wednesday, November 21st at 6:00pm
- ◆ Heat and deliver carved turkeys Thanksgiving morning at 7:00am and deliver heated turkeys to Fatima by 9:00am
- ◆ Clean up crew for after the meal.

WE WANT YOUR COATS!!!

Please bring clean, gently worn or new coats, jackets and windbreakers to the Church Office. There will also be a collection box set up in the café for donations. Coats, jackets and windbreakers will be given away free of charge to those in need at the Community Thanksgiving Meal.

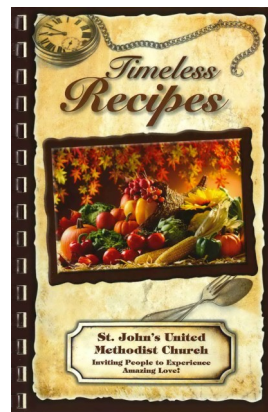


The Blanket Project and Mexico Mission Trip

You guys are so AWESOME!!! "The Blanket Project" is in full swing and we have collected 72 out of the 100 we are shooting for!!! There are 7 Sundays left before we leave for Mexico...If we collect just 4 blankets each Sunday we will meet our goal of 100 blankets! If you are interested in coming on the trip to Mexico, now is the time to get your passport if you have not already done so. Please join us in bringing hope to the "least of these." Blankets can be dropped off in the Mission Donation area just outside the sanctuary. The Mexico trip dates are Dec 27th-Jan 3rd, the cost of the trip is \$250.00. Youth age 14th and up & adults are encouraged to come on this trip. We currently have 3 people signed up to go. It will be a life changing experience! Please contact me at 409-655-5348 or via email at IClark@stjohnsumctc.org for additional information.

Fresh Fire!!!

Ingrid Clark, Director of Missions & Administration



Who's hungry???

The wait is over...we have gotten in a limited number of the new St. John's cookbooks!!! Come and get your copy today before they are sold out. They make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries or any time during the holiday season. These beautiful spiral bound cookbooks are full of timeless recipes from St. John's members, past & present and friends. The book also contains many pages of helpful cooking hints. Each recipe has been hand selected and promises to bring delicious memories to your table. Books are \$10.00 and we will have a table set up Sunday morning... come by and get one for you and a friend!!!

Hanging Of The Greens

We invite everyone to join us

Sunday, November 25th at 12:00 pm

For a decorating party to help decorate the church in preparation for Advent.

We will have a light lunch and then decorate the church for Advent.

Please join us to decorate the church for the season of Advent and Christmas.



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH

**STUFFED WITH LOVE
& STUFFED ANIMAL DRIVE**

*ST. JOHN'S UMC IS PARTNERING WITH
THE BAYSIDE LIONS CLUB.*

*We will be collecting used
"loved/experienced" stuffed animals.*

They will be handed out by Santa to kids

at the Bacliff/San Leon Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1st.

Please no: rips, loose parts or stains

We will be collecting until Sunday, November 25th.



Bacliff/San Leon is an unincorporated area of Galveston County and is the home of many young and struggling families. The annual Christmas festival is a totally free event that is enthusiastically anticipated and highly attended by these families in the community. The Bayside Lions welcome your contribution and participation. The parade is spectacular for watching and even better for participating. The parade includes Fire trucks, high school band, and decorated floats and golf carts. The festival includes free hotdogs, hot chocolate, activities for the children and of course visits with Santa. Those outside of our community are invited to join the fun.



November is my favorite month of the year. This is when the Holiday season starts. Of course, I like Christmas but what I really enjoy is the time leading up to Christmas day; all through November and December. And I love getting to spend this time with the youth at St. John's. In Sunday school, in the Foundry, we have been talking

about serving others. This month we get to do just that as a group. Saturday, November 10th, we are going to the Seaman's Center in Galveston to decorate a Christmas Tree to help spread some holiday cheer. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving our youth will meet with other young people from Texas City at Fatima to serve those less fortunate. We will be preparing grocery bags to be handed out on Thanksgiving Day. This is a fun and rewarding way to give back to the community and I am looking forward to it. Throughout November, as usual, we have Sunday School in the Foundry Sunday mornings during 1st service and Foundry Youth Group on Sunday nights from 4-6. If you have any questions or are just interested in more information about the Foundry Youth please contact me at mdiazdeleon@stjohnsumctc.org.

Peace and Blessings,
Mae Diaz de Leon
Youth Director