

SMALL GROUPS

Advent Study: "Waiting in Joyful Hope"

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

Adult Small Group 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

Adult Small Group Study: "The Trouble With The Truth"

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 STUDIES STARTING

Fusion: Merging Scripture with Life/An Old Testament Study of Job, Numbers, and Leviticus Wednesdays at 6:30 PM beginning January 9

Using the books of Job, Leviticus and Numbers as the basis for our study, we'll examine Job's struggles in the wilderness. The lessons that they learned can help us in our present-day struggles of faith. Rev. Stephanie Hughes will lead the adult study. There are classes for adults, youth, and children.

Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi Tuesdays at 7:00 PM beginning January 15

Join us for this 6-week study as we learn how the original audience understood Jesus' parables and how we should interpret Jesus' message for today. Rev. Cindy Riddick will lead. Sign up in the church lobby.

Muslims, Christians, and Jesus: Gaining Understanding and Building Relationships Thursdays at 11:00 AM beginning January 17

Join us for this 4-week study to understand the basics of the Muslim faith, the Muslim view of Jesus, and how we as Christians should interact with our Muslim neighbors, friends, and co-workers. Barbara Wallace will lead. Sign up in the church lobby.

Upcoming Meetings

Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, January 14th,
At 6:00 PM
in the Church Office.

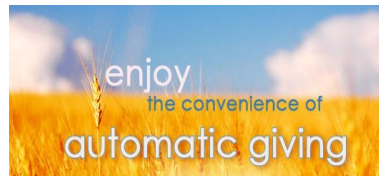
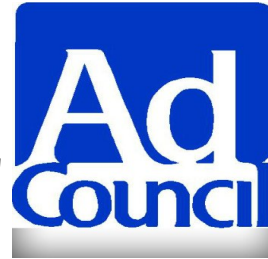


Board of Trustee Meeting
Tuesday, January 22nd,
At 6:00 PM
in the Church Office.

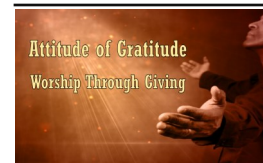


Administrative Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 29th,
At 6:30 PM, in the Cafe.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. This is a great way to get involved and stay informed about the life and business of the church.



If you pay any of your bills on-line, please consider Electronic Funds Transfer using your checking account or a credit card for your tithes and offering. It is safe and secure. Your contribution is automatically deducted from the account of your choosing. There is no cost to you. You can select having funds transferred once or twice per month. It is easy to sign up. For information or forms, please contact Alice Blanton in the church office at 409-655-5348.



Attitude of Gratitude Campaign
Pledges to date for 2019 Operating Budget:
\$324,492.00

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*.

Worship Attendance		
Worship 12/2/18	9:30	81
Worship 12/2/18	11:00	47
Worship 12/9/18	9:30	81
Worship 12/9/18	11:00	51
Worship 12/16/18	9:30	92
Worship 12/16/18	11:00	62
Worship 12/23/18	10:30	128
Worship 12/30/18	9:30	75
Worship 12/30/18	11:00	32

Stewardship Report

2018 Year End Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
Year End Income Received for 2018	\$454,702.45
Year End Projected Income for 2018	\$429,053.00
Year End Income difference for 2018	\$ 25,649.45

The Monitor

January 2019

A Word From Our Pastor



ST. JOHN'S
A United Methodist Congregation

Happy New Year! Last year went by like a flash! But it seems like I feel that way about every year that goes by. I remember in my younger years how slowly I thought the time went by. I remember being in class in elementary school and watching the big clock's long hand tick the seconds so slowly. I thought the end of the school day would never come! And then the summer seemed to last forever and I would complain about how bored I would be to anyone that would listen. And now I cannot remember when the last time I was bored!

There is so much to do! And there is so much going on at Saint John's UMC! Confirmation has started on Mondays. We have 7 youth signed up. These confirmands will be in class for four months and will join the church on Easter Sunday. Fusion also has started back up on Wednesdays. I always learn something new through teaching. God is always revealing something new in scripture. No matter how many times we've looked at the same passage, God can reveal something new and I'm always amazed. There are other small groups that will be starting up as well. So, there are lots of opportunities for learning and spiritual growth for everyone. And these opportunities are worth making time for. I hope that you will participate in at least one of these opportunities this year. I know we are all busy and it does feel like time is flying by, but make time to take care of your soul and make it a priority this year.

There are also lots of opportunities to serve! It takes a lot of volunteers to make sure that Sunday mornings are awesome at St. John's! There are opportunities to serve in the worship service in the sound booth, in the choir loft, in the praise band, in helping serve communion and on the usher and greeter team. There are also kitchen angels that set up and clean up the kitchen and bring baked goodies for breakfast. There are Sunday School teachers and assistants. There are volunteers that count the offering. That is just on Sunday morning! That is not counting the volunteers that help prepare for Sunday morning! So, if you are interested in giving some of your time in service this year to help out on Sundays then please speak to me or Rev. Cindy.

The Apostle Paul gives us words of encouragement about time. He tells us, "Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers (Romans 12:11)." Though it feels as though time is flying by at times, may we be alert to the moments that are slipping by that are heavy laden with great opportunities to serve and to grow. And most of all, may we be committed to the activities that will draw us ever more closer to our Lord and Savior, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie Hughes

Rev. Stephanie Hughes

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 @
stjohnsumctexascity



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

A Place to Grow—New January Studies


 Part of growing in our discipleship is to take the next step of faith. If your next step includes joining a Bible study (perhaps for the first time), we have three wonderful opportunities that begin this month. See the new studies listed below. For details about the studies, check out the Small Group Brochure found in the church lobby, the church website (stjohnsumctc.org/study-groups), or contact Rev. Cindy Riddick.

Fusion: Merging Scripture with Life/An Old Testament Study of Job, Numbers, and Leviticus
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM beginning January 9 / Rev. Stephanie Hughes will lead the adult study.
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Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi
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A Place to Serve—Birthday Card Ministry

 Every month, we send birthday cards to members of St. John's to celebrate their special day and remind them of our love and care. Last October, it was a special treat to receive a card from my church family for my birthday. I know many of you feel the same. We would like to have 3-4 people to serve in this ministry of love. The church office will supply a list of names, birthdates, and the necessary stamps. Contact Cindy Riddick for more information or to volunteer.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Cindy Riddick

MISSION/OUTREACH

 **"We Love All God's Children"** is an initiative of the Texas Annual Conference that we have been called to participate in by Bishop Scott Jones. This initiative for under resourced children is a means through which Methodist Churches can partner with other organizations to provide resources for children related to **literacy, health and discipleship** (faith-based learning.) The goal of "We Love All God's Children" is to have 67 percent the churches in the Texas Annual Conference engaged in ministry to under resourced children by 2026.

In response to this initiative, St. John's has chosen to focus on literacy and discipleship. It is a sad fact that students who are unable to read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school when compared to proficient readers. That number increases significantly when those children come from poverty. This is the reason "We Love All God's Children" was born. St. John's has chosen to partner with **Kids Hope USA** whose mission is to build life-changing relationships one at a time: One Child. One Hour. One School. One Church. Kids Hope believes that the most abundant resource in every church is the capacity for its members to share love and we could not agree more! Their model is set up for person to person mentorship with no agenda and no expectations. Mentors are asked to "Just show up!"

For teachers, giving individual attention to students at school grows harder every year because of larger class sizes and smaller budgets which means fewer adults to connect with more kids. Through the Kids Hope USA program, St. John's will be able to train members to become mentors who will meet with their students for about an hour each week during the school year during school hours. Relationship building activities serve as the top priority, with time spent on academics, fun activities, life skills and life-building conversations. *"Together we are better!"*

Be on the lookout for additional information about the official launch of our Kids Hope mentor program. We are planning on launching in the fall of the new school year. 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



We are now taking orders for ALTAR FLOWERS for 2019. If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for a Sunday service in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact Ingrid Clark at 409-655-5348 to reserve your date. There is also a signup sheet on the information table. Cost is \$50.00 per Sunday and for each arrangement.

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH



Happy 2019! A new year is here with many new possibilities to serve! Our children's ministry is growing and we have a blast on Sundays during Sunday School. We have added new things to our yearly calendar! We have a couple of trips planned, a couple of Parents Night Outs, a movie night and so much more. We also have our usual summer camp at Lakeview which is June 16-22, VBS is July 22-26, and Trunk or Treat will be on October 31st. So please mark your calendars!! We always need A LOT of adult volunteers and it's a new year, so please consider using some of your vacation time this year to help with some of the many opportunities to serve our children's ministry. One of the more urgent ones is serving our Confirmation kids. Confirmation started on January 7th. There are a couple ways to help out. First, pray for them! We have 7 kids in our class this year. Pray for them as they journey along, learning about the bible, the Methodist church and most importantly, about their own faith and how they can grow in Christ. Second, we serve these kids dinner but we need you to help us out. If you love to cook, please sign up! We have a sign-up sheet at the information table. We have confirmation on Monday nights so we would need a meal for 7 kids and 2 adults by 6:00pm. And 3rd, to help these kids grow, we need mentors. If you love kids and love to spend time with them, this is the job for you! There's a guided work book that you go through with the kids. Its 10 weeks and can be done in 30-45 minutes each week. You and the youth's parent can set up a time to meet with them. If you are interested in ANY of these opportunities but have questions, please ask! We can't have a successful children's ministry without YOU!

Jessica Dean
Director of Children's & MDO



Each new year is a new beginning and we have some new things beginning in January. Fusion for the church begins January 9th. The youth will be doing something a little different this time around. We will be reading and completing a book study on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. We will meet in the Foundry from 6:30 to 7:45 every Wednesday for the next 8 weeks. We are also starting our new round of Confirmation. Our 7th graders began Confirmation this past Monday. MYF (youth group) is also meeting again regularly after a break for the holidays. We will meet each Sunday night from 4-6 in the Foundry. Everyone in grades 6-12 is invited to join us.

Another thing we are beginning is a spring sign up sheet for youth dinners. We rely on volunteers to provide meals for the youth on Sunday nights for MYF. There will be a sign-up sheet this coming Sunday, on the table next to the office, for volunteers to sign up. You may also make a donation which will be used to purchase dinner on weeks when there are no volunteers.

Also, now is the time to begin preparations for our youth summer trips. We will be attending UMARMY June 9-15, Summer Camp at Lakeview June 16-21, and SUMMIT (Jr. High Missions) July 17-20. It may seem early, but these trips require a lot of preparation and planning. They also require volunteers. We must have 1 adult for every 5 kids for Summer Camp and 2 adults for every 5 kids for SUMMIT and UMARMY. Without the proper number of adults our youth will not be able to attend the SUMMIT or UMARMY. Adult volunteers do not have to pay to attend these camps. These are impactful, life changing events for our youth and it is truly a blessing to be a part of any one of them. If you are willing and able to attend any of these camps please contact me and I will be glad to answer any questions or address any concerns, you may have. I can be reached the quickest by email at mdiazdeleon@stjohnsumctc.org. You can also flag me down on Wednesday night or Sunday morning at church.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Peace and Blessings,
Mae Diaz de Leon
Youth Director