

SMALL GROUPS

Adult Small Group Study: "What the Prayers of Jesus Tell Us About the Heart of God"

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

Adult Small Group Study: "Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi"

When: Tuesday's at 6:00 pm
Where: Adult Classroom
Leader: Rev. Cindy Riddick

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

NEW STUDIES STARTING

Adult Small Group Study: "The Letter to the Hebrews" It will begin on Sunday, February 17.

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

Adult Small Group Study: "Isaiah: The Story of Israel's Prophet" it will begin Tuesday, February 19th

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

Stewardship Report

St. John's UMC Operating Budget for 2019

PROJECTED INCOME	437,352.00
EXPENSE	
Finance	
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	10,875.00
APPORTIONMENTS	37,767.00
LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE	250.00
Total Finance	48,892.00
LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS	
Adult Education	1,950.00
Congregational Care	1,600.00
Evangelism	3,650.00
Grow Team	1,000.00
Mission/Outreach	4,115.00
Worship/Music	12,400.00
Children	5,250.00
Youth Ministry	5,700.00
Total LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS	35,665.00
SPRC	
Total Personnel Expense	306,043.00
Trustees	
Church Equip	3,500.00
Church Repairs	10,000.00
Church Utilities	28,000.00
Insurance	25,000.00
Janitor Supplies	2,100.00
Trailer Maint	60.00
Total Trustees	68,660.00
Total Expense	459,260.00
Net Ordinary Income	(21,908.00)

Can you believe we are already a whole month into 2019? That's right. 2019 is in full swing and you realized...uh-oh...I haven't made my pledge for 2019!!! Well the good news is that it's not too late to pledge your commitment in the areas of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. It's actually never too late to make a commitment in any of these areas. Now is the time to start fulfilling our commitments! Thank you all for your continued faithfulness to the ministries of St. Johns.

2019 YTD Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of Jan 31st	\$ 29,756.92
YTD Projected Income as of Jan 31st	\$ 36,446.00
YTD Income difference as of Jan 31	Surplus/-Deficit \$ -6,689.08

The Monitor

February 2019



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
@stjohnsumctexcacity

A Word From Our Pastor

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 4:4-6

At the Administrative Council meeting, the Chair of the Council, Paul Patrick, gave a timely devotional. He talked of a man who had a farm that had been in his family for generations and a loving family. He was satisfied for the most part, until he heard that people were finding diamonds and their lives were changing. The diamonds that were being found were large and plentiful. So, he decided to take a risk and sell his farm, move his family in with friends and go out on his grand adventure in search of diamonds. Years went by and he never found any diamonds. He spent years away from his family and the money that he received from selling the farm was gone. Meanwhile, at the farm, the new owners were down by the stream when they saw something glistening in the water. The new farmer waded out into the water to investigate. Reaching into the water he pulled out a large rock that glistened in certain places. He thought it was pretty. He promptly brought it home and set it on his mantle over his fireplace. Years went by and that rock stayed on his mantle. One day, he had a visitor. The visitor came into his living room and asked him about the rock above the fireplace. The farmer told him that he had found it in the stream on his property and that he thought it was pretty. The visitor investigated the large rock further and asked the farmer if he knew what it was. The rock was a diamond in the rough! What the original farmer was looking for all along had been on the property that he had sold. He didn't know what he had in his possession. What he wanted was what he had all along.

At the end of the story, our Council Chair encouraged us to think about what you have before you leap. I think that is good advice in the midst of this uncertainty as we wait for the special called session of the General Conference. We only have a couple of more weeks before the elected clergy and laity gather to discuss once again the United Methodist Church's response on the inclusion of the LGBTQ community in ordination of clergy and the recognition of same sex unions and marriage. Many people are passionate about this issue in one way or another and compromise eludes those that are on opposite ends of the spectrum of opinions. Schisms have been growing and debates have become more heated. And in the midst of it all, churches and people are threatening to leave before a decision is even made. And some are discerning what their response will be if a decision is made that goes against their belief. Some are considering leaving as the most viable option. I have to admit that it grieves me to my very core at the thought of division.

John Wesley had this to say about division and the importance of unity, "Schism is evil in itself. To separate ourselves from a body of living Christians, with whom we were before united, is a grievous breach of the law of love. It is the nature of love to unite us together and the greater the love, the stricter the union. And while this continues in its strength, nothing can divide those whom love has united. It is only when our love grows cold, that we can think of separating from our brethren. The pretenses for separation may be innumerable, but want of love is always the real cause; otherwise they would still hold the unity of the Spirit in the bound of peace ('On Schism,' Sermon 75)." My brothers and sisters, remember your love for one another. Consider what you have, especially before you leap.

Grace and Peace,
Stephanie Hughes
Rev. Stephanie Hughes

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

A Place to Grow—Join a Study Group on Sunday Mornings



Do you come for worship on Sunday morning and then head home? Let me encourage you to come early or stay late to join one of the two adult study groups as a partner to your worship time.

For those who attend 9:30 Worship—come to the 10:45 AM study group.

Gary Potter will be leading a new study on *The Letter to the Hebrews* beginning on Sunday, February 17. Join this group as they explore Hebrews. This book is not really a letter but a sermon for early Christians in the middle of a faith crisis. Learn what it means to persevere in the faith.

For those who attend 11:00 worship—come to the 9:30 AM study group.

Joyce Shanks is leading a study called *What the Prayers of Jesus Tell Us About the Heart of God*. By reading and studying the prayers of Jesus, we can learn something about the big plan God has for our lives. Discover Jesus' own hopes and desires for us through the words of his prayers to his father God.

A Place to Serve—Food and Fellowship Ministry



Our fellowship time between the worship services is an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with old friends. We offer light snacks, juice, and coffee. If you have the gift of hospitality, join the group that helps to make this fellowship time special each Sunday. **We particularly need two people to supply the food on the third Sundays of each month.** Contact Cindy Riddick for more information or to volunteer.

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Wait what? Ingrid, it's February! LOL...I know I was just making sure you all were paying attention!!! Many of us make New Year's resolutions, but have you ever made a resolution that included your church commitments? You know, when you joined St. John's you committed to support the ministries here with your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. So this year I am encouraging you all to try including your commitments of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness in your New Year's Resolutions and see what an amazing difference it makes in the way your year goes. Everything starts with prayer. Jesus was all about praying. Communicating with God on a daily basis is a vital part of living the Christian life. And service is another. When we reach out and help others, even when we are going through trying times ourselves, it has been my experience that we are more blessed when we are blessing others! This year and especially this month as we as a culture focus on LOVE, take some time to spread seeds of HOPE, FAITH & LOVE as you go along on the path of life. These three will help lead you to walk closer with Jesus. Prayerfully consider how you can be a blessing with your time by serving with one of our many ministries here at St. John's. Not sure how to share your talents? No problem just contact me or Rev. Cindy Riddick or anyone on the staff for that matter and we will be glad to help you get plugged in and serving! Share your witness as Christ followers by telling others about the amazing difference Jesus has made in your life. A simple conversation sometimes is all it takes to lead others on the same path. Invite others in our community to come and experience AMAZING LOVE! That's what we are all about here at St. John's.

This month we are focusing on blessing our community by partnering with UFA to stock the shelves at Susan's Market. See a list of needed items in the Missions and Outreach center. We are also collecting blankets for our Mexico mission trip. We have many Missions and Outreach opportunities available for everyone to get involved. Let us show you what working together accomplishes. Get plugged in today!!!

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



February is the month of Love. There are so many things to love. I love my husband, I love my baby boy, I love my family, I mostly love my muddy dogs. I love my job. I love working for St. John's! I love the people here, I love the staff here, I love the kids here!! I am so fortunate to have a job that I love. I know many people just work to make a paycheck but it means so much more to me! I love teaching kids about Jesus. I love hearing parents tell me that their kids want to read their bibles on their own, that they want to give all of their allowance to the offering plate and that their kid is praying all on their own!! Things like that make my heart so happy!! I love kids. I've always loved working with kids. I think our kids at St. John's are exceptional! Thank you for letting me get to know your kids! They say that children are our future. If all kids were like St. John's kids, we would be in good hands! These kids are so thoughtful, polite and caring! I've added some new events to our kids calendar this year! Check it out!! I've e-mailed it to most of you or there are copies at the Information Center outside of the sanctuary. Thank you for sharing your kids with us!

Jessica Dean
Director of Children's & MDO

**FAT TUESDAY
PANCAKE
SUPPER**

MARCH 5TH 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
HERE AT ST. JOHN'S UMC
8200 25TH AVE N, TEXAS CITY
PLATES WILL BE BY DONATION



In youth there is always something going on, but this February may be one of the least busy months of the year for our youth. However, it is a great time to start planning for our summer activities. Our fundraisers for summer camps and mission trips begin next month so this is the perfect time to get registered for those events.

Summer Camp at Lakeview is open to children who are entering grades 3 through 12 and current 12th graders as well. You can register online at Lakeview.com. We are attending the 2nd week of camp: June 16th – 21st with South District. Cost of camp is \$400.00 per student. Adult volunteers are free and we will need as many volunteers as we can get.

We are also attending 2 mission trips this summer. The Jr. High are returning to SUMMIT, which will also be held at Lakeview. We are attending July 17th – 20th. This is for students who have completed grades 6 – 8. The cost is \$100.00. Our Senior High will be attending UMARY June 9th – 15th. This year we will be staying at First United Methodist in Bryan, Texas. The cost is \$275.00 per student.

Flyers with the registration link are up at church and will be sent home with students this week. There are also links posted on the church's Facebook group. We are currently in need of adult volunteers to join us for these trips. We must have a certain percentage of adults join us for our kids to be able to go. Without enough adult volunteers all of our youth will not be able to participate. Please consider joining us for one of these trips. This is a very meaningful and rewarding experience; not just for the youth but for everyone who goes. You will not regret it.

Peace and Blessings,
Mae Diaz de Leon
Youth Director