

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 Letter to the Hebrews"*

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"*

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 NEW Study: *The God We Can Know: Exploring the I AM Sayings of Jesus*

Beginning on Tuesday, March 12 7:00-8:00 PM

When: Tuesday's at 7:00 pm

Where: Meeting at Cindy Riddick's home in Texas City

Leader: Rev. Cindy Riddick

Adult Small Group NEW Study: *Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple*

Beginning on

Wednesday, March 13 7:00 pm

When: Wednesday's 7:00 pm

Where: Adult Classroom

Leader: Robin Bartholomew

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 am—Contemporary

11:00 am—Traditional

Checkout the calendar at www.stjohnsumctc.org
Inviting People to Experience Amazing Level

Find us on Facebook @stjohnsumctcexascity



What? Fellowship meal and worship
Date? Wednesday, March 27
Time? 6:00-7:30 pm
Where? McKinney Memorial UMC Fellowship Hall
Who? The UMC congregations of Texas City, La Marque, Santa Fe, and Hitchcock

It's amazing that we can worship, serve, and fellowship in the local community and not know the Methodist brothers and sisters in our own backyard. It's time that we connect with other local UMC congregations to love and serve the communities that we represent. It is with this intention that we invite you to this gathering to share a meal, conversation, and worship. St. John's part of the meal is soup and crackers. If you can help, let Cindy Riddick know. Cindy will bring the message and Stephanie will offer the benediction as our part of leading worship. We will be better together!

Worship Attendance		
Worship 2/3/19	9:30	85
Worship 2/3/19	11:00	56
Worship 2/10/19	9:30	90
Worship 2/10/19	11:00	48
Worship 2/17/19	9:30	85
Worship 2/17/19	11:00	54
Worship 2/24/19	9:30	104
Worship 2/24/19	11:00	49



We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.



Triqnic Bloodsaw



Mike & Tammy Cook

2019 YTD Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of Feb 28th	\$ 63,328.36
YTD Projected Income as of Feb 28th	\$ 72,892.00
YTD Income difference as of Feb 28th Surplus/-Deficit	\$ -9,563.64

The Monitor

March 2019



ST. JOHN'S
A United Methodist Congregation



8200 25TH AVENUE N.
TEXAS CITY, TX 77591
409-655-5348

A Word From Our Pastor

Dear St. John's Family,

There are a couple of things I want to communicate to you since general conference closed yesterday evening. First, I want to address what was decided at general conference, second, what does that mean for our church family, and third, how will we respond.

First, let's address what happened. At the close of General Conference 2019 (GC2019), the body voted in the Traditional Plan along with the Gracious Exit for the churches wanting to leave the denomination. This plan affirms the current stance that the United Methodist Church has had in our Book of Discipline for a very long time regarding same sex marriage and ordination of the LGBTQIA+ community. It also strengthens this stance by increasing accountability to church law. Even though parts of this plan have been ruled unconstitutional by our Judicial Council, what is constitutional at this time will go into affect on January 1st. The rest may get worked out over time. This summary is as simple as I can make it. If you have more questions or want to know more information, please contact me. This is something that I would rather talk to you in person, rather than on social media.

Second, what does this mean for our church family? It means that some in our congregation are relieved by the decision and it means that there are some that have had their hearts shattered by this decision. There are going to be some that are so glad that general conference is over so that they don't have to hear about it anymore and there are some that know the fight is not over. It means that for many, emotions are running high. There will be many that will be happy to stay at St. John's and there will be a few that make the decision that the United Methodist church or that St. John's can no longer be their church home. And we will all share in that pain and heartache.

Third, what will be our response at St. John's? We will continue to focus on the work set before us and recognize that even in the midst of struggle, loss and pain, God is continuing to call us into some exciting ministry. God is calling us into new communal partnerships and ecumenical work. The commands of God have not changed. We will continue to express love to one another and to our neighbors. We will continue to be a welcoming congregation within the boundaries of church law. We will continue to introduce the grace of God, express the forgiveness of Christ and seek the inspiration and empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that we can continue to work for the good of God's kingdom and glory.

With that said, I want to remind you that there are no winners or losers in where we are right now. Be mindful of your words. Be mindful of the hearts of your brothers and sisters that are hurting. Be mindful that though you may find yourself on one side of this issue, there is a brother or sister in Christ that feels just as passionately on the other side. In answer to Christ's prayer in John 17, let's work towards unity even in the midst of differing passions on this issue. For some of you, this will be harder than for others.

For those of you that are hurting, my shepherd's heart hurts with you. You are in my prayers as you discern where God is working in the midst of your deep disappointment in the decision that was made. My door is open to you to come, talk and pray. In that spirit, I close with Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie Hughes
Rev. Stephanie Hughes



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

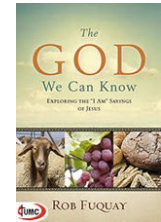
A Place to Grow—Join a Bible Study Group for Lent



Lent is the perfect time to begin the discipline of bible study. I encourage you to join one of these studies.

The God We Can Know: Exploring the 1 AM Sayings of Jesus

Beginning Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm at Cindy Riddick's home.



Join this 6-week DVD study as we explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John.



Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple
Beginning Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 pm in the adult classroom.

Join this 6-week DVD study about Simon Peter—an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call.

A Place to Serve—Online Prayer Ministry



Each week, people asks their church family to pray for their families, for broken relationships, for God's guidance, for healing, and many more critical needs. We would like to form a prayer team that would receive these prayer requests in a weekly email and commit to pray daily for these people and their situations. If you would like to be part of this team, please email me and I'll add you to the team.

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

Here are current opportunities to do mission and outreach projects in our community and to provide HOPE...We need your help!

Good Samaritan Ministry Work Day

Our next work day will be on **Saturday, March 23rd 8:00 am - 12:30 pm**. Anyone interested in working with this ministry is invited to attend. You can signup to help at the information table. Forms are available in the Mission/Outreach Center to anyone that needs help from this ministry.



Manna Bags – St. John's UMC's Mission to the Homeless & those in need of food in our community. During the month of March, please bring socks, canned meats (with pull tab tops only), such as Vienna sausages or single serve tuna, beef jerky / single serve fruits such as applesauce or raisins, individually wrapped snacks (i.e. peanut butter crackers) wet wipes and bottled water. We will use these items to make Manna Bags at our **5th Sunday gathering on Sunday, March 31st**. We hope to make **50 bags**. Please drop off items in the bin in the Mission/Outreach Center.

Monthly Mission Opportunity - This month we are focusing on blessing our community by partnering with UFA to stock the shelves at Susan's Market with **Laundry supplies (Detergent in liquid, powder or pods.)**

Blankets for Mexico - Don't forget to bring your blankets for the "Blanket Project!" Also please be in prayer about joining the team going to Mexico in December. The cost of the trip is \$250.00. You must have a valid passport to go on this trip. Youth age 14th and up & adults are encouraged to come on this trip, it will be a life changing experience!

Mentors Wanted - We are officially launching Kids Hope USA mentor program and we need mentors, prayer partners and sponsors. We be partnering with La Marque Primary. We kick off in the fall of the new school year, however we have lots to do between here and there. Training is provided! 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



I know its March but you are probably planning your summer schedule and I want to make sure you have Lakeview included on your kid's summer plans!! The cost of Lakeview is \$400 but DO NOT LET THAT STOP YOU!! We have fundraisers that help with that cost. Scholarships are available through Lakeview AND through the district. You just need to apply. To apply for Lakeview's scholarship, first register your child here: <https://lakeviewsummercampregistration.campbrainregistration.com/> and then fill out the form found here: <https://staging-lakeviewmethod.kinsta.cloud/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Scholarship.pdf>. The scholarship money is on a first come, first serve basis so hurry and get that filled out! But if you need more reasons, here is my top 10 reasons why you should send your child to Lakeview:

10. You get a week off!! No kids!
9. What kid doesn't want to swim every day.
8. They will make great relationships with adults who love kids and love Jesus.
7. There is a special event each day like carnival night, dive in movie, etc.
6. They spend each day in bible study with kids their own age from different churches.
5. They get to do things that they don't get to do every day. Archery, fishing, etc.
4. Worship EVERDAY!!
3. Lifelong friends are made at church camp!
2. They get a little independence and you get to see them mature!
1. They will grow closer to God.

Your kids will LOVE Lakeview! And if you are worried about sending your kid to Lakeview, come with us! We ALWAYS need adults!! And Adults are free!

Jessica Dean, Director of Children's & MDO



The Foundry Youth got a great start on March this year. We had a very successful Pancake Supper on March 5th we raised \$1,118.00! Thank you all so very much for your continued support of our youth and children. Spring Break is coming up and we have lots of fun events planned. The junior high youth will be going to

Galveston Go Karts and Fun Center on Tuesday. The senior high youth are going to an escape room and dinner on Thursday. We will also have some youth volunteers helping out with the kids' art event on Wednesday at the church. Our next fundraiser is the Take-a-Tater Baked Potato sale on Sunday, April 7th.

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 information is available throughout the church and links are posted on the church's Facebook group. We are currently in need of adult volunteers to join us for these trips. We are required to have a certain adult to kid/youth ratio so adult volunteers are crucial to youth/kid participation. 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