

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

When: Tuesday's at 7:00 pm
Where: Meeting at Cindy Riddick's home in Texas City
Leader: Rev. Cindy Riddick

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

When: Wednesday's 7:00 pm
Where: Adult Classroom
Leader: Robin Bartholomew

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

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 @stjohnsumctcexascity

Take - A - Tater

Help Send Our Kids to Camp!

When	Where	Cost
Sunday, April 7th After both services	Church Cafe	Donation

Carry - Out or Dine - In

Includes: Potato, All the fixings, and Dessert
*Lemonade and Tea available for dine in.

The Foundry Youth and Tree House Kids thank you for your support!



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.



Gilbert & Rebecca Epperson and kids Gabriel, Alesia, Alexis

Worship Attendance		
Worship 3/3/19	9:30	85
Worship 3/3/19	11:00	46
Worship 3/10/19	9:30	61
Worship 3/10/19	11:00	70
Worship 3/17/19	9:30	93
Worship 3/17/19	11:00	41
Worship 3/24/19	9:30	80
Worship 3/24/19	11:00	64
Worship 3/31/19	9:30	84
Worship 3/31/19	11:00	60

2019 YTD Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of Mar 31st	\$ 99,732.48
YTD Projected Income as of Mar 31st	\$ 109,338.00
YTD Income difference as of Feb 28th Surplus/-Deficit	\$ -9,605.52

The Monitor

April 2019



ST. JOHN'S
A United Methodist Congregation



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

A Word From Our Pastor

In the last two weeks, I have been on two retreats taking care of my soul and furthering my education. The first retreat focused on spiritual needs and the second was more practical as we focused on our preaching skills. At both retreats, the grey cloud of Annual Conference 2019 loomed over us like the pink elephant in the room. And by the end of each retreat it had to be addressed by the speaker. In the midst of the retreat, I would be asked in casual conversation how my church is handling all of this. And my response went something like this every single time:

This has been a frustrating and very exciting experience! Frustrating because, I feel like we've been a little stuck. Before General Conference 2019 was upon us, we were having dynamic discussions about a potential building campaign and beginning to dream about the kind of building that would best suit our needs. All of that has been at a standstill. No one wants to commit in the midst of uncertainty. And we might be stuck in this holding pattern until after General Conference 2020.

Yet, in the midst of the frustration, is a building excitement in a couple of areas. The Sunday after General Conference 2019, God showed up in a powerful way at the end of the 9:30 service moving us to experience an unexpected baptism. Since, that baptism we experienced four more! And more are being scheduled! Baptisms are one of the signs of a very healthy church! It is an outward sign of God's work within us! And God is at work in powerful ways! Even as our denomination dukes it out, God proves God's faithfulness and amazing love within the local church. God is still wooing hearts and changing lives at St. John's!

And even though, it seems that our church is at a crossroads and the schism is deepening, God is calling us to greater unity. We are being called to breakdown silos that we have built under the false pretense that we can do ministry on our own. As United Methodists, we are connected to every other United Methodist congregation, but we haven't been true to our connection in ministering to one another and together as one body. In response, we got together with surrounding United Methodist Churches to fellowship and worship together last week. Our own Rev. Cindy Riddick gave the message. We will be gathering again in May for a field day that will be hosted at St. John's. I know we are going to find that we are Better Together! And then God is not only calling us to break down silos within our United Methodist congregations, we are being called to do the same with our sister denominations. On Good Friday, we will gather with Memorial Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First Christian, and St. George Episcopal for corporate worship and private prayer time. And then in May, we will serve alongside so many other churches for Servolution.

God is leading us to a greater unity than we have ever experienced! With every retreat that I have been on and every meeting that I am attending, this message of unity is ringing loud and clear. And within our own fractured denomination, it is a word of grace that falls upon us like a healing balm. We serve a God that draws people to Godself and draws people together out of amazing love. In the Gospel of John, Jesus prays for the unity of all believers, "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me....I in them and you in me that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me (John 17:20 and 23)." Jesus prays for our unity, not so that we can all think alike, but so that we can be an extraordinary witness to the world of his love and grace.

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie Hughes
Rev. Stephanie Hughes



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

A Place to Grow—Facebook Devotion Time



As we begin the month of April, we are still in the season of Lent. I hope you are continuing to read and respond to the daily devotional from the book, Lasting Hope. Pastor Stephanie uses the "psalm of the week" as her text for the Sunday sermon. If you are on Facebook, look for the daily reminder on our St. John's Facebook group page—St John's UMC Texas City. You are welcome to share your thoughts on each day's post. If you need an invitation to be part of this Facebook group, let me know.

A Place to Serve—Online Prayer Ministry



Each week, people ask 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



What does it mean to be the church? What does it mean to be followers of Jesus? How can churches come together across lines of difference to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community? These were the questions asked by the founders of a movement in Galveston seven years ago called Servolution. Three churches decided to step out in faith and call churches to

leave their buildings for a Sunday so that they could work together to make a difference in their city. Seven years later the one-day event has expanded to include an entire weekend of service including 22 churches and an ecumenical prayer service for the National Day of Prayer.

Earlier this year several pastors in Texas City gathered and prayed about whether Servolution might be brought to the Mainland- and as we all know, God answers prayers! To date we have 11 churches in Texas City and La Marque who are on board for our first Servolution Mainland. Save the date Sunday, May 5th for a day of worship, service, fellowship and proclaiming hope in Texas City, La Marque and beyond. Together as the body of Christ, we will take church outside of the walls of our buildings. There will be opportunities for service projects for every skill level, from trash pick up to plarn mat making and everything in between. I am so very excited about God moving in our community as our church participates in the first annual Servolution Mainland!

I know this may feel like something that is completely out of some of our comfort zones, but I pray that we will find strength together serving side by side, and that our community will be blessed by our efforts. Are you ready to be part of a Servolution? Additional information can be found on the Servolution Mainland Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/servolutionmainland/>

Thank you to every one that helped make the Manna Bags we were able to make 75 of them. Please pickup a shopping list and drop off items in the bin in the Mission/Outreach Center. We will be able to make more Manna Bags during Servolution. We hope to make 100 more bags.

We are still collecting 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 have officially launched our 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

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH



As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers. I love May flowers but April showers are the pits. It's no fun getting in and out of the car with the rain. My dogs are always tracking mud in the house. It's just not fun. But that's how life is. Sometimes we have to go through those icky rainy days to get to something more beautiful! Working with kids on a daily basis, their sweet "not a care in the world" innocence reminds me often that God is in control. The kids don't seem to have those yucky, raining days. The control freak that I am makes it hard for me to hand over things to God but I'm making it a new habit. We have a great group of children here at St. John's. Working with them is such a privilege to me. There are many ways to help out with our kids here at St. John's, if you are interested in helping out weekly, we have Sunday School during the 9:30 service. We need teachers and subs! Come and talk to me about this. If you want to help out here and there, we have A LOT of activities going on. We just had a very successful Craft Day and will be having another one soon. We will have VBS the last week of July. From July 22nd-26th, our church will be filled with over 100 kids!! It's such a fun week! All hands on deck is what I like to say. We need A LOT of adults to work with these kids and teach them and just love on them. And if you are super daring, we have a week at Lakeview. Our kids going into 3rd-5th attend as well as our Junior High and High School kids. It's a lot of fun. It's hard work, but to see these kids worshipping and learning about Jesus is by far the best thing to witness. Children worshipping at church camp is where I was called into the ministry. If you are interested in helping out in any of these areas or even just want more information, please let me know! I would love to get you plugged in!

Jessica Dean, Director of Children's & MDO



April is jam-packed for the youth group. we will start the month off with the Take -A-Tater fundraiser Sunday, April 7th. The youth will be serving loaded baked potatoes after both services. The potatoes will be available by donation and all proceeds go toward helping with scholarships for our youth and kids summer camp and missions this summer. The next Sunday is Palm Sunday which means 2 things for the youth. 1) The youth will be hiding eggs for the younger kids during first service. 2) That night at youth we will have our Easter Party. Of course the following Sunday is Easter which also means Confirmation. We have 6 youth that will be confirmed this year. And the last weekend of April, a group of our youth will be attending a leadership retreat Saturday and Sunday.

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.

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. Our Senior High will be attending UMARY June 9th – 15th. Registration for students is closed however please let me know if you would like to attend as an adult volunteer. We are very much in need of 1 more adult to attend UMARMY with us to meet our youth/adult ratio. This is truly an experience you will not regret if you choose to go.

If you are in grades 6-12 you are welcome to join us on Sunday nights in the Foundry from 4-6 for food, fellowship, and a short lesson. This is a great time to come and get to know everyone and get informed about our great summer programs that are coming up.

Peace and Blessings,
Mae Diaz de Leon, Youth Director

Holy Week Schedule



PALM SUNDAY

Join us for Palm Sunday Worship
April 14

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship

10:35 AM Easter Egg Hunt for the children
(just bring a basket)



11:00 AM Traditional Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL

Thursday, April 18th

11:00 am

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 18th for a re-creation of the traditional Passover Seder meal. Thursday, April 11th is the STRICT RSVP Deadline. Thank you! Call 409-655-5348 to RSVP



Join us for
Maundy Thursday
Worship
Thursday, April 18
6:00 PM

Nursery is available for
children birth to age 5



The Chancel Choir
will present
"Who Is Jesus?"
and
we will share in the
Lord's Supper.

MAUNDY THURSDAY



Ecumenical Good Friday Service
APRIL 19 FROM 6:30- 8:30 PM

WORSHIP
Memorial Lutheran & First Presbyterian
2021 29th Street N

LABYRINTH
St. John's United Methodist Church
8200 25th Avenue N

PRAYER STATIONS
First Christian Church
2400 21st Street N

We will gather together for worship at 6:30 PM, then everyone is invited to rotate through the stations at the other churches in small groups.

Bring fresh flowers on Easter Sunday to decorate the Cross.

Christ is Risen!



Join us for
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 21

9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM
Traditional Worship

*Nursery available
for both worship services*

**FIND
HOPE THIS
EASTER**