

## 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  
Leader: Joyce Shanks

**Adult Small Group Study: NEW Study "The Wired Word"**

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

**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 NEW Study Naomi: When I Feel Worthless, God Says I'm Enough**

When: Wednesday's 7:00 pm  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Ron Collins

**NEW GriefShare Group Begins Thursday, May 16th**

When: Thursday's 6:30 pm  
Cost: \$15.00 Includes workbook  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Byron Hambrick

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](http://www.stjohnsumctc.org)  
Inviting People to Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @ [stjohnsumctc](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsumctc)

lesson. I hope everyone has a rewarding end to the school year. I know I am ready for summer! If you have any questions about youth group or any of our events you can contact me at [mdiazdeleon@stjohnsumtc.org](mailto:mdiazdeleon@stjohnsumtc.org) or just flag me down on Sunday

Peace and Blessings,  
Mae Diaz de Leon, Youth Director



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.



Melissa Hernandez and kids  
Nicole and Kendra

Worship Attendance		
Worship 4/7/19	9:30	64
Worship 4/7/19	11:00	47
Worship 4/14/19	9:30	100
Worship 4/14/19	11:00	49
Worship 4/21/19	9:30	218
Worship 4/21/19	11:00	67
Worship 4/28/19	9:30	85
Worship 4/28/19	11:00	47

2019 YTD Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
YTD Income Received as of April 30th	\$132,513.48
YTD Projected Income as of April 30th	\$145,784.00
YTD Income difference as of April 30th	Surplus/-Deficit \$ -13,270.52

Dear St. John's Friends and Family,

The first Sunday in May was amazing! It was the launch of Servolution Mainland. We had 330+ volunteers from 12 churches come together to serve throughout our community and beyond. It was amazing and went beyond my expectations. About eighty individuals from our church went out and joined in, scattering with other passionate Christians across our community. We served in several parks by cleaning up, painting, cutting back trees and bushes, repairing equipment and buildings and graveled pathways. These parks no longer look run down and now look so much more inviting and welcoming to children and their families. We cleaned up a cemetery by mowing, picking up trash and lots of weed-whacking! There is still more work to be done at this cemetery, but our hope is that the surrounding community will continue the work of recovery and it will again become a welcoming place for families to visit their loved one's resting places. Work was done in several homes that were still struggling to recover from Harvey. These families were given a fresh wave of hope as people made great progress in recovering their houses to be made back into homes again. There were several more hands on projects at the food bank: making lots of Kids Packs for children that need meals over the weekends and throughout the days of summer; painting hope signs that will be placed throughout the community; and making plarn mats out of plastic bags for the homeless to sleep on. And even more folks gathered at First Presbyterian/Lutheran Memorial to make heart pillows. Afterwards, we gathered at St. George's Episcopal for a community meal. And all throughout the day, there was this wonderful comradery between folks of different denominations!

For our first Servolution, we rocked it out!! I am so proud of our church for getting involved in something very different. I know it's not easy trying something so different, especially on a Sunday – a day of routine for most of us. I'm proud of all the churches that jumped in and decided to make the same sacrifice. It was a hard decision to not worship as usual for all of us. I'm especially proud of our Mission's Director, Ingrid Clark. She felt God laying it on her heart to bring something that had been happening in Galveston for several years and bring it to her own back yard. Her vision and leadership was invaluable in getting this off the ground. She poured out a lot of passion, energy, and extra time so that an impact could be made in our community. A foundation has been laid out for Servolution to become even bigger next year and for continued growth in the years to come. On Sunday, May 5th, we went out into a hurting community and brought light, hope and a message of redemption.

As followers of Christ, we are called into the reconciling work of God in the world around us. What that means is we address the hurt and pain within ourselves and of those around us, so that healing can be found. This is something that St. John's will continue to do in various ways. In that same spirit, St. John's will be offering a new kind of support group. It's not really a new kind of group, but it's new to us. In the last several months, in preparation of the special called General Conference and afterwards, we found that there are lots of families that are hurting. Some of them have even made the decision to leave St. John's because of their pain. And there are still more that are still discerning whether they should stay or leave. This pain has risen up in both the hearts of progressives and conservatives. The one thing that most of them have in common is that they have family members of the LGBTQ+ community. Many of these families wrestle with their own feelings, they wrestle with how to respond with love, and they have wrestled with the church's response to their loved ones. This new support group will address this pain by providing a safe place to tell stories and discovering new avenues of hope, forgiveness and healing through the support of one another. As the church, the body of Christ in a hurting world, God has entrusted the message of reconciliation that began with Christ to us. "So we are ambassadors of Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20)." We will continue to serve as Christ's ambassadors in big community service projects like Servolution and in smaller more subtle ways by providing much needed support in a small groups. We are Christ's ambassadors and we will continue to share God's amazing love to one another and throughout our community.

Grace and Peace,

*Stephanie Hughes*

Rev. Stephanie Hughes



## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

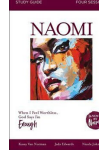
A Place to Grow—New Sunday Morning or Wednesday Night Groups

Sunday mornings @ 10:45 am beginning May 12



You are invited to join the 10:45 am group as they begin a new study called The Wired Word—a scripture-based study and discussion about current issues in the news. The lesson will be emailed to participants before Sunday's class. For more info or to get next Sunday's lesson, email [criddick@stjohnsumctc.org](mailto:criddick@stjohnsumctc.org).

Wednesday nights @ 7:00 pm beginning May 15



Join this group for a four-session DVD Bible study as you follow Naomi's journey of trauma, loss, and hardship to discover just how closely God remains. When we find ourselves in similar circumstances, learn how God remains close to us as well. This group meets in the adult classroom. Ron Collins will lead.

A Place to Serve—Sunday Morning Worship

There are a couple of opportunities to serve on Sunday morning. If you are looking for an easy place to get plugged in, ask me about one of these opportunities:

- \* Greeter at the Welcome Center on the first Sunday of the month
- \* Communion server at the 9:30 am worship server (serves four times a year)

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



Sunday, May 5th was an awesome day! We are so grateful to have been a part of the first annual Servolution Mainland. It was a great day of unity in Christ and worshipful work with over 340 people from 12 churches in Texas City and La Marque leaving their church buildings and worshipping by serving our neighbors. 9 work sites across Texas City, La Marque, and Hitchcock. Plus we worked on Hurricane Harvey damaged homes

through the 4B Disaster Response Network. I am super proud to say St. John's UMC had 82 volunteers that took part in this historical, revolutionary ecumenical day of service in our community. Thank you!!!



**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](mailto:IClark@stjohnsumctc.org) for additional information. Fresh Fire!!! Ingrid Clark

## CHILDREN'S & YOUTH



This August will be my 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary with St. John's. I love my job. I love the kids I have worked with and think of them fondly! When I started, almost seven years ago, the group of 6<sup>th</sup> graders we had are seniors this year!! It really makes me feel old. They were little kids who were sweet and kind yet a handful and exhausting! These five kids will always have a special place in my heart. We went on countless trips, youth events, and so much more! Aubrey Dyson has the most beautiful smile. She is so smart and ambitious. Her laugh is infectious. When she gets to giggling, it's the cutest thing in the world. She brightens a room! Aubrey is the person who introduced me to JJ Watt. I didn't know who he was until she told me about him! Peter Jackson came to our church with Cameron Parson. He was trouble. He would try to get away with things and most of the time he would flash that smile of his and I would give in. Peter became a special part of the Dean family. We think of Peter as family. Peter and I talk basketball. One time Peter told Mike "I'm glad you married Miss Jessica so that you could teach her basketball and she could talk about it with us". Mike laughed and said "I married Jessica because she knows basketball." I've seen Peter through the highs and lows of his life. I know this young man is resilient. He's a fighter and can push through the worst of times. He has a big heart and cares for others!! I can say so much about Cameron Parson. Who knew that six and half years ago he would go through such tough times losing his father. But that happened. He's a strong young man. I know Jerry is so proud of the young man that Cameron has become! Cameron is so special to Mike and I. We were asked to be his god parents and we didn't even hesitate to say yes. We have been to so many of his basketball games. He's a team player, always making sure those around him succeed. He comes across a quiet, shy kid but he's so funny! He has a love for animals and is incredibly sweet. When I think about my start at St. John's, Morgan Perry and the scavenger hunt ALWAYS comes to mind. We had a big youth group scavenger hunt. My first event at the church. We were waiting for some kids to show up but one of the things on the list was to act like you were in an earthquake. Morgan took off running but tripped over the concrete parking block. She cut her knees, arms, and even her chin. She immediately started crying and said she wanted her mom. We called and her mom said she thought Morgan would be ok. So we bandaged her up and went on our way. She bled the whole scavenger hunt but she had fun. Years later, at UM Army she got bit by an ant. This ant bite was far more dramatic event than the fall on the parking lot. Morgan is always entertaining! She is a great dancer and has a beautiful singing voice! For many, many years, she's been my unofficial summer intern! Maya Senegal comes across as a quiet, shy girl. But once she gets out of her shell, she's sooooo silly and so loud! Whether she's hanging the insides of a pumpkin out of her nose or smashing herself in between two crane machines at Itz, she always makes you laugh. She has helped at VBS and in Sunday School for so many years! You don't have to tell her what to do. She does it! She's a hard worker and takes extra effort to make sure things are done to perfection. I have been so blessed to watch these kids grow up. Each of them have endured big obstacles in their lives to become who they are today. I pray that they each continue to seek after God with their whole hearts, that they continue for follow after him and be a shining light in our dark world.

Jessica Dean, Director of Children's & MDO



The youth have gotten off to a great start in May. Many of our youth joined their families Sunday morning to participate in Servolution. That evening we got together with our youth kiddos and some of the extended families as well to watch the movie Breakthrough. It was an inspiring movie and a fun time as a youth group. The rest of this month will be winding down the school year and gearing up for an amazing summer. We have a ton of exciting events planned. We kick everything off on June 2nd with a game of live Clue where the church will be our game board. If you are in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, come join us and "get a clue" about youth group and all our summer events. If you are going to Lakeview, registration closes on May 24th for our session; Session 2. Youth group meets on Sunday nights in the Foundry from 4-6 for food, fellowship, and short