



GROWING TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER | 2019

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

By MICHAEL Q. ATKINSON, SENIOR PASTOR

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It was my Junior year at WVU and my Pastor at Bruce McDonald UMC in Man asked me to preach on "Student Sunday". "Student Sunday" was a specific Sunday at Bruce McDonald each year when college students would lead worship, sing, read scripture and preach during Sunday morning worship. I agreed to preach but was quite nervous. The church knew that I was called to ministry and that I was planning to attend seminary in the coming years. If that weren't pressure enough, the previous year a law student preached an eloquent message that many still remembered. To add to my nervousness, this was my first time preaching and I knew Chuck Bailey (Communication Professor at Marshall University) planned to be present.

To be honest, I don't remember much about what I said during my sermon, but I do remember two specific things. First, I remember Chuck approaching me after the service and suggesting that I remove all change from my pockets before I preach the next time. Apparently, my nervous energy got the best of me and I rattled the change in my pockets throughout my sermon. Second, I remember the theme and Scripture verses I used for my sermon: Spiritual Maturity, Hebrews 6:1.

In case you haven't looked up that Scripture let me share it with you - "Therefore, let us move beyond the elementary teaching about Christ and be taken forward to maturity..." I chose that passage of Scripture to use as my text because I

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St. John United Methodist Church

WV ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SENIOR PASTOR

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

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DIRECTOR of YOUTH MINISTERIES

Kyle Smith

CHORAL ACCOMPANIST

Christi Miller

DIRECTOR of PRESCHOOL

Joy Spratt

VISITATION/COUNSELING MINISTER

Rev. Robert 'Bob' Hill

OFFICE MANAGER

Kaye Morton

MISSION

Introducing people to Jesus,
Growing as disciples together

OFFICE HOURS

10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Monday thru Thursday

4536 TEAYS VALLEY ROAD
SCOTT DEPOT, WV 25560

304-757-6343

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am and 11:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 am

WWW.SJUMCWV.ORG

WEEKLY REGULAR SCHEDULED EVENTS

MONDAYS

- ACTIVE for LIFE 10:00 AM
- BOY SCOUTS 6:30 PM

TUESDAYS

- WALKING 3:30 PM
- BOY SCOUTS & CUB SCOUTS 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAYS

- ACTIVE for LIFE 9:30 AM
- TREBLE MAKERS 4:30 PM
- GIRL SCOUTS 6:00 PM
- BAND REHEARSAL 6:00 PM
- CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 PM
- YOUTH 7:00 PM
- ADULT BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM



THURSDAYS

- ACTIVE for LIFE 10:00 AM
- WALKING 3:30 PM
-

FRIDAYS

- NA MEETING 7:00 PM
- AA MEETING 8:00 PM
- AL ANON MEETING 8:00 PM



Invite more  people to church!
and Sunday School!





CONNECTIONS

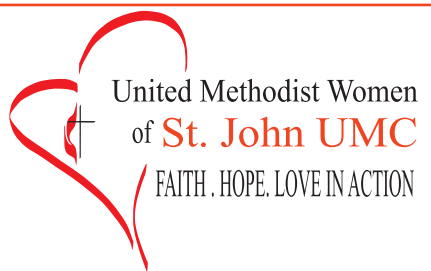
CONNECTING with GOD
CONNECTING with ONE ANOTHER

We HEAR YOU!!

Thank you for your feedback concerning this new endeavor! Because of your feedback, we are hearing you and are aware of your interests. This is why we've planned the 'Interest Meeting' for Sunday, Sept. 8th, from 12:30 - 1:30pm, in Room 250. *(Lunch will be provided.)*

WE NEED YOU TO HELP US CREATE THIS NEW MINISTRY!

Be sure to complete the 'Connections Survey'. We hope to see you!



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our Monthly United Methodist Men's meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 pm in Room 200. Please join us as we gather for Christian fellowship and Bible Study.

EVERYONE IS INVITED
TO THE CHURCH

Picnic in the Park



SEPTEMBER 15!!

5 pm - 8 pm at Valley Park

Don't miss this special church-family gathering for an opportunity to get to know one another more while having fun at the same time!

More things to do: Games, Inflatables, Frisbee Golf, and Corn-Hole Toss!

Please bring 2 Sides and 1 Dessert

Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Buns, Water and
ALL Fixings provided - including ICE CREAM and "Scouts Cobbler!!" YUMMY!!

For more details, contact the church office.



If your child loves music and might be interested in becoming a part of the Treble Makers Choir, please join us each Wednesday at 4:30 pm in the church sanctuary. For more information, please contact Christi Miller to find out how your child can participate.

YOUTH SUNDAY EMPOWERS LEADERSHIP

By Kyle Smith, Director of Youth Ministries

And we're off! A new school year has begun and that brings a new year of youth ministry at St. John. This summer was a busy one filled with both fun and - but it's always nice to get back into the swing of things. The fall semester has already kicked off with our annual Parking Lot Party where we enjoyed eating together and playing games. Our first "normal" youth group meeting happened on Sept. 1st so we are already off and running! One thing that I would like to highlight is that the Youth will be leading the church services on Sept. 29th. This will be the third year in a row that we have done a Youth Sunday and I always walk away impressed and proud of the Youth and their willingness to put their faith on display for all to see.

September Schedule:

Sept. 8- Regular Youth Meeting
Sept. 14- Youth Going to Marshall game
Sept. 15- Church Picnic
Sept. 22- Regular Youth Meeting
Sept. 29- Youth Sunday during services/
Youth Sunday Celebration 6-8PM





J.A.M. Jesus And Me

YEAH!! This Sunday, September 8th is the Launch date for our J.A.M. We are so excited to get together again!

Parents, be sure to bring your children each Sunday (Except for Communion Sundays).

Jonathan Walton is the leader of this ministry and he will be waiting to greet and meet all the children.

SEE YOU ON SUNDAY!!

Agape Seekers

This Young Adult Sunday School Class is starting back up for the Fall season on Sunday, September 8th, with a New Leader and a New Topic for discussion.

We truly look forward to seeing each of you and believe that the Agape class has many great things in store.

Please come with your hearts and minds open to the word of God, making room to **Grow as Disciples Together!**

SPIRITUAL MATURITY (Cont'd)

By MICHAEL Q. ATKINSON, SENIOR PASTOR

believed we all have a responsibility to grow toward a mature faith. I still believe this to be the case today and I still believe that I have a responsibility to continue my growth and to encourage others to do the same. Growing in our faith is an individual responsibility. The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that basic knowledge about God's grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness should make us hungry for more. And, the best way to learn and grow is to study Scripture. To study Scripture means to explore the Scripture through Bible notes, commentary, and conversation with others about their understanding. It requires our being challenged in our understanding and to challenge others in their understanding. In other words, we grow into spiritually mature Christians **TOGETHER.**

So, I ask you to consider your spiritual maturity level. It is my hope and prayer that you are hungry to learn more and will take advantage of every opportunity to grow in your faith. Included in this newsletter is a list of opportunities that will help you do this. Join a study group or Sunday School class. Participate in Disciple Bible Study. Or, create your own small group. Whatever the case may be, we will **GROW AS DISCIPLES..... TOGETHER!**

Blessings,

Michael

Pastor Mike



BITES FOR BITTY ONES

Our First packing will be Tuesday, September 17th, at 7 pm in the kitchen.

We have 40 children at Lakeside Elementary we hope to provide backpacks of snacks and nutritious food for the weekends.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support for these children.

Community Cupboard

Please continue to provide specific food items!

Contact Kathy Moore for additional details!

ST JOHN UMC BOOK CLUB

St John Book Club September reading is "The Road Home" by Richard Paul Evans.

If you don't get a chance to read it, we can discuss it in our October meeting.

Please bring any suggestions for our monthly meetings.

Everyone is welcome.

We will meet on Tuesday, September 17, at 1:00 pm, in Room 110.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES

- **DISCIPLE I** is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm. In Room 250. Please contact Karen Kinder, facilitator, at 304-549-1905.
- **DISCIPLE II** Bible Study began Sunday, September 1st, at 9:45 am in Room 180. For additional information, please contact Cindy Wandling, facilitator, at 304-951-8380.
- **DISCIPLE III** will be facilitated by Phyllis Duvall and is scheduled for Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Library. For more information, please contact Phyllis at 304-552-8583.
- **DISCIPLE IV** Bible Study will be led by Kathy Rittenhouse and will begin the week of September 15th (the day and time is yet to be determined). If you are interested in participating in this study, contact Kathy at 304-546-3418.

Part 1 of each study will finalize the end of November and will resume the first week of January.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE MADE THE COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE STUDIES.

LET'S KEEP EVERYONE IN OUR PRAYERS AS THEY MAKE THIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER.



September Birthdays

Alexis Ruby	09/01
Jerry Bostic	09/02
Christi Miller	09/03
Alex White	09/03
Greg Black	09/04
Beth Berner	09/07
B.J. Hill	09/07
Justin Taylor	09/08
Parker Edwards	09/08
Dot McWatters	09/09
Kathy Rittenhouse	09/09
Tom Owens	09/10
Joel McDavid	09/10
Brian (Tom's) Wagoner	09/10
Tom Morris	09/11
Greg Robinson	09/11
Theo Atkinson	09/13
Linda French	08/18
Sanjay Masilamani	09/12
Cindy Johnson	09/13
Kama Reese	09/14
Elana Clark	09/14
Richard Doyle Taylor	09/16
Barbara Mullins	09/16
Chase Steorts	09/16
Louise Goode	09/17
Ellen Dearing	09/18
Jim Fankhanel	09/19
Samantha Delph	09/19
Hallie Caponiti	09/19
Carl Beaver	09/21
Peyton Misch	09/21
Ina Shaffron	09/23
Ben Clark	09/23
Ryan Higginbotham	09/23
Matthew Delph	09/24
Carolyn Bradley	09/25
Phyllis K. Taylor	09/26
Rishel Walker	09/27
Christy Hunter	09/28
Tara Fisher	09/28
Geoffrey Samples	09/28
Rhett McGrew	09/28
Don Adkison	09/29
Terri Dodrill	09/29
Steve Stephens	09/30
Sharon Persinger	09/30

September Anniversaries

Wayne & Pam Akey	09/03
Jeff & Edie Davis	09/03
Jonathan & Alicia Walton	09/04
Will & Melanie Fisher	09/05
Pat & Vicki Murphy	09/14
Jamie & Jeannie Fuentes	09/14
Gregory & Elaina Atkinson	09/18
Jim & Susan Lanham	09/18
William 'Bill' & Lois Galyean	09/22
Michael & Candy Atkinson	09/28

**WE WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW
WHEN IT'S YOUR SPECIAL DAY!!**

IF WE'RE MISSING
A BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY DATE,
PLEASE LET US KNOW.

ALSO, BE SURE TO PROVIDE
THE CHURCH OFFICE ANY
CONTACT UPDATES,
ADDRESS OR PHONE
CHANGES, ETC.



Growing as a Disciple - Fall Opportunities!



We are blessed to have a variety of Sunday School classes for all ages, Bible Studies, and small groups here at St. John UMC! This article lists the opportunities for you to consider. How will you keep **“Growing in Grace”** this Fall?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:45-10:45)

PRESCHOOL – GRADE 5 (ROOM 110)

Our students will gather each Sunday morning at 9:45 for a fun time of learning and growing! Candy Atkinson and Barb Edens will provide children an age appropriate lesson on the Scripture lessons used in worship each week. The lessons will include an examination of the text along with application of the text through discussion and fun activities.

MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL (ROOM 160)

Our youth director, Kyle Smith, will be leading our youth in a book study by Michael Slaughter entitled “Renegade Gospel” each Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. In this book the youth will experience an in-depth exploration of Jesus’ life and teachings.

YOUTH GROUP (SUNDAY EVENINGS)

Our youth director, Kyle Smith, will lead our youth in study, fellowship, fun, and/or mission on Sunday evenings. The Middle School Youth meet at 5:30PM and our Senior High Youth meet at 7:15PM in the Youth Room. If you have a teen interested in the youth ministry of the church, see Kyle for a detailed schedule of studies and events planned for the Fall.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

DISCIPLE I, II, III & IV provide a deeper look at the Old and New Testaments over the course of a year. With group sharing and insights, all may discover how to grow in discipleship. Disciple I covers the entire Bible, Disciple II covers Genesis/Exodus and Luke/Acts. Disciple III explores the Old Testament Prophets and the letters of Paul. Disciple IV covers the writings of the Old Testament and the apocalyptic book of Revelation. All studies are designed to help participants deepen their understanding of Scripture, spiritual disciplines, and their ministry in the world.

- Disciple I, led by Karen Kinder, will begin on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30PM.
- Disciple II, led by Cindy Wandling, started this past Sunday, September 1st, at 9:45AM, in Room 180.
- Disciple III, led by Phyllis Duvall, will meet Monday evenings at 7:00PM in the church library.
- Disciple IV will be led by Kathy Rittenhouse and will begin the week of September 15th - the actual day and time will be announced.
- All are welcome to participate in Disciple 1. Only those who have completed Disciple 1 are welcome to participate in Disciple I, II, III and IV.

ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:45- 10:45)

These study groups are ongoing, but all are welcome to join any time! This fall we have some unique opportunities and spiritual topics to grow in faith together.

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

We have two topical Bible Studies, using this popular curriculum that enables Christians around the world to study the same scriptures and topics on the same Sundays throughout the year. This Fall the two classes will explore three distinct units: “God, the Creator”, “In God’s Image”, and “Objects of Worship”.

One study is led by Jim Perry in the Library. The second study is led by Bea Fields in Room 210. You are invited to attend any time!

AGAPE SEEKERS (ROOM 170)

The Agape Seekers will begin a new book study by Adam Hamilton, *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*. In this study, Hamilton identifies fear as a complex emotion that, more often than not, robs us of the life we want or God desires for His children. This book was written to help disciples of Christ overcome these fears and live into the person God has created them to be. Pastor Mike will be leading this class.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS (ROOM 200)

The Family Connections group will begin a new study, *Fearless Conversation: How can we be fully faithful when we're fully flawed?* this fall. Mike Spratt will lead this study, an exploration into how God guides and leads us based on Biblical accounts from 1-2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, and Psalms. Fearless Conversation Adult Sunday school curriculum is a unique curriculum designed to build relationships through authentic conversation. These fearless conversations offer a healthy open dialogue that addresses “wondering” questions about faith and God in a compassionate environment, using the Bible as our source to find the truth. It’s all about sharing experiences openly and embracing doubts and questions. As you seek to understand others through active listening, you trust the Holy Spirit to guide you all the way.

KOINONIA (ROOM 250)

Under the leadership of Laura McCullough, the Koinonia group is exploring a book study by Bill Hybels entitled “Just Walk Across the Room”. This study explores “relational evangelism” and challenges participants to develop deep relationships with others with the hope that they too may become disciples of Jesus Christ.





More Fall Opportunities!

SMALL GROUP STUDIES

YOUNG ADULT STUDY GROUP is led by Kyle Smith. They meet at different locations and spend time in fellowship and deep conversations about faith matters. This group will begin on Monday, September 9. Contact Kyle if you are interested in joining this small group.

BOOK CLUB begins on Tuesday, September 17th at 1:00 in Room 210. New titles are chosen for reading and reflection each month. Contact Peggy Kuhl (304-638-3659) if you are interested!

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY, led by Kevin Samples, will continue at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings in the library. This Fall, Kevin will provide a deep and thorough examination of the book of Ephesians each week. This study will begin October 9th.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a part of the St. John faith community? Pastor Michael will be offering a New Member class this fall. The class will offer participants an overview of our distinctive Wesleyan Theology, as well as, an exploration of the various ministries and mission opportunities offered at St. John. See Pastor Mike if you'd like to participate or just wish to know more about St. John and how you can participate in the life of the church.



CHOIR Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 7 PM

**New Choir Members
are invited and
welcome to join us!!**

COLLEGE MINISTRY

PARENTS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS
BE SURE TO GET YOUR CONTACT
INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE!!

WE DON'T WANT TO MISS GETTING YOUR
PACKAGES TO YOU THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR!

WE LOVE YOU! WE MISS YOU! WE PRAY
FOR YOU! AND WE ARE ALWAYS HERE
FOR YOU!

HAVE A GREAT 1ST SEMESTER!!



Thank you, Hospitality Servers

We so appreciate your consideration concerning the new 'Texting System' used to remind you of your commitment to serve through the Hospitality Ministry.

Your response to these texts is remarkable and has made such a positive difference in eliminating many hours of phone-time. Please continue to assist us in this endeavor.

Again, we thank you - *each of you* - for honoring your commitment. You truly make a difference each week as you meet and greet others and make new-comers feel so welcomed! You are loved and appreciated!



19 August 2019

St. John's United Methodist Church
4013 Taeys Valley Road
Scott Depot, WV 25560

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dear Pastor Michael Atkinson:

Thank you! Your generous contribution of a \$200 sponsorship for World Refugee Day helped make the event a success and will help us confront the challenges of poverty in West Virginia. We look forward to partnering with you again in the future.

No matter where refugees come from, or where they end up resettling in our state, MRS gives them the tools they need to succeed in the US and to gain self-sufficiency quickly. We resettled a Burmese family in 2017 who reunited with their father/ husband. The family had been separated for almost a decade after the father was detained, and later fled the country due to religious persecution. We were so glad to be part of their reunification story and help the family reestablish themselves in their new home. The family is incredibly hard working, with both parents working full time job and attending ESL class (after working a full night shift!). The children are excelling in school, with the eldest already accepted into, and attending a local college.

Join us online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org, on Facebook [Catholic Charities West Virginia](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesWestVirginia), or Twitter [@CCharitiesWVa](https://twitter.com/CCharitiesWVa) to learn more about how we can work together to help all people in need access the services they need to be happy, healthy, and reach their full potential.

Yours in Charity,

Elizabeth Ramsey
Director- Migration and Refugee Services

As no goods, services or benefits were received in exchange for this contribution (Gift Amount: \$200 sponsorship); it is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



PRAYER CHAIN

IF YOU HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR PRAYER, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT PHYLIS DUVALL AT 304-552-8583

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER REQUEST LIST CAN BE FOUND AT THE WELCOME DESK.
INFORMATION ON THIS LIST IS DERIVED FROM REQUESTS WRITTEN ON THE YELLOW CARDS.

Prayer for our children & youth Starting a New School Year

Lord, we pray that our children will experience the peace of God this year that exceeds all understanding. That they will not worry about things they cannot control, but that You will guard their hearts and minds and keep them trusting in You. We pray they will not only enjoy the peace of God, but peace *with* God. We pray they will develop a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving as they look to You daily for their needs and that You will give them the capacity for joy that bubbles up from Your peace.

In your precious Name, we pray, Amen.





Children's Ministries Launch

We will recognize and pray for our staff and all those leading our children through Preschool, J.A.M., and Sunday School programs on Sunday, September 8th at both 8:30 and 11:00 services.



A Class for Everyone!!
Please contact the Church Office
to volunteer.

St. John Preschool

Preschool has started for both the 3 year old and the 4 year old classes.

To obtain an Application or more information call the Church office 304-757-6343
or

Ms. Joy 304-757-7872.

We now have 38 students enrolled.
Thank you for your continued prayers
and support.

We are so thankful for our Preschool staff.
We welcome, Ms. Mechelle, to St. John!



Contact Amy Black
for more details
304-757-7985

NEW ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

The New Acolyte Schedule will be available this week. Parents, please review the schedule when you receive it and contact Amy Black if there are any scheduling conflicts.

Training will begin later in August.

We look forward to working with your children to begin preparing them for this great ministry.

