



# St. John UMC *news*

*November 2019*

## A Thankful Heart

Dear Friends,

**E**ach year during the month of November we typically reflect on the many blessings we have experienced over the last year. We acknowledge God's abundance in our lives and offer our thanks to God through loving expressions of prayer, gratitude, and humility. We all have something for which to be thankful! I believe that even in the most difficult times we can always find a blessing in life for which to sing praise to God.

So, I challenge you this month to end each day in reflection. Discover the ways God has been present throughout your day to offer His love and blessings. Then, with a grateful heart, thank God for His abundance in your life. You may wish to write your blessings down in your private journal or maybe create a list for the entire family and place it on the wall or refrigerator for everyone to see. Whatever the case may be, identify your blessings and thank God daily for His abundance and grace.

As I journey through this month, I begin my list with "The St. John Family". You are all a blessing to me! I thank God daily for you and the gift you are to me and to Candy. And, even more than that, I thank God for the blessing you are to our community. Your love for each other is evident and you warmly embrace others in extravagant ways. I am honored and blessed to serve as your pastor! You are my blessing! Thank you for being who you are!

May God continue to bless and keep each one of you!

Love,

Michael





## WEEKLY REGULARY-SCHEDULED EVENTS

### SUNDAYS

- WORSHIP - 8:30 & 11:00 AM
- DISCIPLE III - 9:30 AM ROOM 180
- SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:45 AM
- JESUS AND ME - 11:00 AM (Except 1st Sunday)
- MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH - 5:30 PM
- SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - 7:15 PM

### MONDAYS

- PRESCHOOL - 9:00 AM (4 YR OLD)
- PRESCHOOL - 9:30 AM (3 YR OLD)
- ACTIVE for LIFE - 10:00 AM
- BOY/CUB SCOUTS 6:30 PM
- DISCIPLE IV - 6:00 PM (ROOM 250)
- DISCIPLE II - 7:00 PM LIBRARY

### TUESDAYS

- PRESCHOOL - 9:00 AM (4 YR OLD)
- PRESCHOOL - 9:30 AM (3 YR OLD)
- WALKING - 3:30 PM
- KINDERMUSIK - 4:30 PM ROOM 100
- DISCIPLE I - 6.:30 PM (ROOM 250)

### WEDNESDAYS

- PRESCHOOL 9:00 AM (4 YR OLD)
- PRESCHOOL 9:30 AM (3 YR OLD)
- ACTIVE for LIFE 10:00 AM
- WALKING - 3:30 PM
- TREBLE MAKERS REHEARSAL - 4:30 pm
- GIRL SCOUTS 6:00 PM
- BAND REHEARAL 6:15 PM
- CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 PM
- ADULT BIBLE STUDY - 7:00 PM LIBRARY
- SJUMC YOUTH HANGOUT 7:00-9:00 PM

### THURSDAYS

- PRESCHOOL 9:00 AM (4 YR OLD)
- KINDERMUSIK - 9:00 & 11:00 AM, ROOM 100
- PRESCHOOL 9:30 AM (3 YR OLD)
- ACTIVE for LIFE 10:00 AM
- WALKING - 3:30 PM

### FRIDAYS

- NA MEETING 7:00 PM, LIBRARY
- AA MEETING 8:00 PM, ROOM 250-A
- AL ANON MEETING 8:00 PM, ROOM 200

## St. John United Methodist Church WV ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### SENIOR PASTOR

*Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson*

### WORSHIP MINISTER

*Joe McCullough*

### MUSIC MNISTER

*Jamie Miller*

### DIRECTOR of YOUTH MINISTRIES

*Kyle Smith*

### CHORAL ACCOMPANIST

*Christi Miller*

### DIRECTOR of PRESCHOOL

*Joy Spratt*

### VISITATION/COUNSELING MINISTER

*Rev. Robert 'Bob' Hill*

### DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH

*Jennifer Beam*

### DIRECTOR OF STEPHEN MINISTRIES

*Karen Kinder*

### 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

WW.SJUMCWV.ORG






ALWAYS A **CHURCH**  
 **KING** **CHRISTMAS**  
**CANTATA**

**If you enjoy singing, please come to Choir  
 Rehearsal each Wednesday at 7 pm.**

**Presentation: Dec 22nd at 11:00 am**

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**ADDITIONAL DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **RECOGNITION OF OUR VETERANS - SPECIAL SERVICES - NOV 10th**
- **BOOK CLUB - NOVEMBER 19th, 1:00 pm, Room 210**
- **POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE - NOV 17th**
- **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DEADLINE - NOV 17th**
- **CHARGE CONFERENCE - NOV 24th 7:00 pm**
- **COLLEGE STUDENT GIFT-BOX-PACKING - NOV 24th 6:00pm**
- **MILES of PENNIES (BURLINGTON CHRISTMAS OFFERING) - STARTING DEC. 1st**
- **HANGING of the GREENS - DECEMBER 1st- 4:00 pm**
- **RINGING SALVATION ARMY BELLS - DECEMBER 2nd**
- **CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING - DEC 8th at 3:00pm**
- **CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER - DECEMBER 15th - 5:00 pm**
- **TREBLE MAKERS CHOIR - PERFORMING AFTER CHRISTMAS DINNER IN SANCTUARY**
- **NATIVITY - YOUTH - DEC 18th 7:00 pm**
- **CHRISTMAS CANTATA - DECEMBER 22nd - 11:00am Service**
- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - DEC 24th 5:00 and 7:30 pm**
- **TAKING CHRIST TO THE COMMUNITY - Following 7:30pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

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***Retirement Celebration***

You are cordially invited to a retirement reception in honor of James M. "Jim" Berner, after 25 years of service as Treasurer to the WV Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Reception will be on Saturday, November 16th, 4 - 7pm, at the Edgewood Country Club, 1600 Edgewood Dr., Charleston.

Please RSVP by November 8th to Jennifer at 304-342-8843, [jgoldizen@wvumc.org](mailto:jgoldizen@wvumc.org). *No Gifts, Please!*



# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

## November 18 - 22

St. John wants to celebrate and honor those who are making a difference in the lives of our children. We will be *delivering cookies* to area school staff and teachers to show our appreciation of their call to serve. We also want them to know that we are here to support them. You can donate to the cookie trays by writing *cookies* on the memo line of your check.



## Community Cupboard Needs **YOU!**

St. John UMC, along with other local churches, provides assistance to many families through the **Community Cupboard** located in Hurricane by Forrest Burdette UMC. Kathy Moore is St. John's representative (304-993-3027)

For **November, December and January**, St. John's collection assignment is : Children's Goodies (individually wrapped snacks, such as crackers, cookies, fruit rope, pudding cups, etc.)

Other non-perishable foods of your choice are always appreciated.

Toiletries needed include: Shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste.

*The Cupboard provides Thanksgiving Turkeys to 300 needy families of Putnam County. Financial contributions made specifically towards the cost is a need we are facing for all churches.*

*Thank you, St. John for loving, caring and giving to others.*



### **MILES of PENNIES to SUPPORT BURLINGTON MINISTRIES**

Each year St. John UMC provides financial support to Burlington Family Services during the Christmas season. In order for them to provide the needs for nearly 200 children, they are looking forward to receiving our gifts by Mid-December.

If you would like to give a gift (in addition to the Miles of Pennies) for children who are a part of this ministry, please put your gift in the offering plate and mark your envelopes accordingly.

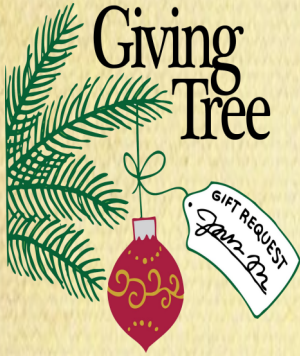
Remember, it takes \$484.00 to make a mile.

Thank you for your gift!





# Christmas for Putnam County Youth



The Giving Tree in the Welcome Area is beginning to fill up! We need you to fill it with ornaments! You can help by joining our Outreach Ministry in sponsoring a child's Christmas with a monetary donation or by choosing a gift to buy. When you do this, an ornament is placed on the tree.

You do NOT have to purchase the requested item, nor purchase anything for that particular price.

Also, you have the option to wrap the gifts, or bring them to the church unwrapped.

Please see one of our Outreach volunteers outside the Sanctuary by the tree after worship for the next 3 Sundays - or contact Louise Goode at 304-545-0485.

***The Deadline to return gifts is Sunday, December 1st.***



## Operation Christmas Child

**The Power of a simple gift**

- Get a Shoebox
- Fill it with gifts: toy, doll, etc. Add other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies for a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 and bring back to the church.
- Include a **\$9 CHECK** for Shipping.
- ***Deadline to return boxes is November 17h***



## CHRISTMAS EVE DONUT DELIVERY

This is the third year that St. John will reach out to the community on Christmas Eve to how our neighbors how much we love and appreciate them and the sacrifices they make being away from their families.

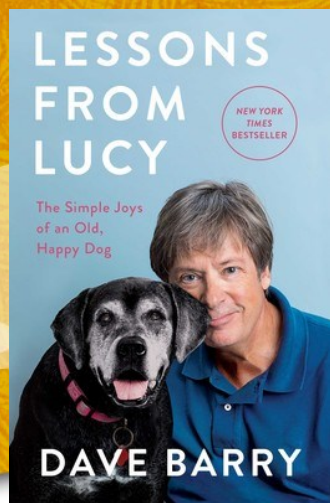
Please sign up to help take donuts to area nursing homes, hospitals, fire and police stations on Christmas Eve.

What a wonderful way to extend the Love of Christ!

Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Desk.







## Community Book Club

Tuesday, October 19th, in Room 210 at 1:00 pm.

The book for discussion is **“Letters From Lucy”**, by Dave Barry, which tells how Dave learns how to age happily from his old but joyful dog, Lucy. Dave riffs hilariously on dogs, people, and life in general.

*Lessons from Lucy* shows readers a new side to Dave Barry that’s “touching and sentimental, but there’s still a laugh on every page”. The master humorist has written a witty and affable guide to joyous living at any age.

*We would love for you to join us for a blessed time of fellowship!*

Contact Peggy Kuhl at  
304-638-3659 for more information.

## A.C.T.S. COMMITMENT

Thank you for taking time to complete your ACT Survey and get it back to us. St. John is blessed to have so many spiritually gifted people who serve here.

God needs each of us to fulfill His Great Commission of reaching out to our neighbors and our world.

Sunday, November 17th will be A.C.T.S. Commitment Sunday. Please bring your completed survey with you on the 17th so we can present it before the Lord and pray for blessings over our commitments.

What an opportunity for you to use your God-given gifts.

## Hanging of the Greens

December 1, 4:00pm

Sign up at Welcome Desk

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday,  
December 8th

3:00 pm



**Celebrate the season with songs, cookies & fellowship!**

**Bring some cookies and join us as we take Christ's love, cookies and song to those who are unable to leave their homes. Blessings await!**

**Contact Cindy Johnson for**





## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's the magical time of the year to decorate our Sanctuary and homes with beautiful Poinsettias. Please consider ordering a gorgeous Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a family member or loved one.

Each Plant is \$9.00 - Order deadline: Nov 24th

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, Nov 21st, 7pm

GRACE LIFE CHURCH

93 Joy Lane, Culloden, WV

304-397-6511



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Samples	11/02
Wyatt Kinder	11/02
Grant Fisher	11/04
Phyllis Sawyer	11/05
Chris Casazza	11/05
Julie Arey	11/06
Debbie Houser	11/06
Kathy Moore	11/06
Margaret Stovall	11/08
Bob Jarvis	11/09
Pat Jarvis	11/09
Hannah Conley	11/10
Christine Shaffer	11/11

Erika Fletcher-Hager	11/13
Ansley Walton	11/13
Rusty Raines	11/14
Sam McCullough	11/15
Gwen Fisher	11/17
Judith Hill	11/20
Rick Pendleberry	11/24
Jarrold Bostic	11/26
Cole Bumgarner	11/26
Dante Sims	11/29
Claire Morris	11/30
Jeanette Perry	11/30

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Kevin & Lisa Samples	11/04
Greg & Paula Napier	11/22
Steve & Phyllis Stephens	11/28



# God's Grace Abounds

By Kyle Smith



Hello Everyone!

It's amazing that it's already November. Halloween is behind us and in just a few weeks, we'll be carving turkeys as we sit around the table with our families and give thank for all the blessings that God has poured out on us over the past year. As the holiday season turns

into the busy season for all of us, life for the St. John continues to move in a fury. The youth started the month of October by leading worship for the whole church. They all did an incredible job! We have continued with our normal youth group meetings and hangouts every week. Something new we did this year was set up and run games for the kids during Trunk or Treat on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>. I don't know who had more fun, the youth or the kids!

November will be another exciting month as we have our annual lock-in on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The leaders ask for your prayers because we're getting older and can't pull off all-nighters like we used to. It will soon be December and we'll all be ramping up for the Christmas season. This year has flown by but one thing I know for sure, God has poured out His grace and blessings on the youth ministry at St. John.



St. John Youth leading Worship a few Sundays ago.



## YOUTH SELLING T-SHIRTS



The Youth are selling St. John T-shirts and Sunday, Nov 10th is the deadline for you to get your order placed. The price is \$17.50 per shirt and the money goes to support our Youth Mission Week. You can order shirts in the Welcome Area or by contacting Kyle Smith at the church office 304-757-6343.



## NAME BADGES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A  
PERMANENT NAME  
BADGE, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE  
CHURCH OFFICE.

# CANDY MAKING

December 9th & 10th, the UMW will be making Christmas Candy as a fundraiser for Putnam Aging, Camp Appalachia and updates to the church Kitchen Island. We would really appreciate donated items, or monetary donations, to help make this possible. Pick up a list of 'Candy Ingredients' at the Welcome Desk, select those you wish to donate, and let Judy Justice or Peggy Kuhl know what you are donating. Thank you so much.

## SALVATION ARMY BELLS



VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

to  
Ring Bells

Monday, Dec 2

Sign up at Welcome Desk

## Preschool Children all Dressed Up



Ms. Joy, Ms. Melissa and Ms. Julie enjoyed dressing up and getting goodies as much as the Preschool children did last week at the church. (Actually, we couldn't tell the children from the adults).



Preschool is going very well - the kids are having a great time here at St. John - thanks to Ms. Joy and her amazing staff!!



# Why Sunday School?

St. John is working to address how your Sunday experience can be exciting and life-changing. Consider some of the reasons why numerous people love Sunday School:

- Because I only have to make one trip to church for **worship** and Bible study
- Because I learn more when I **study God's Word** together with others
- Because the age group understands what I am going through and **encourages me**.
- Because I have learned so much about the **Bible** and how to live for God in our world
- Because the group **ministers to my needs** and those of my family during times of crisis
- Because it **allows me to minister** to members and prospects in their times of need
- Because we **have fun** in class, at fellowship times, and in projects
- Because I have learned much about teaching and leadership from watching leaders in classes and from **serving** as a leader and teacher
- Because I have **met** so many **new people**
- Because **some of my best friends** in the world **are in Sunday School** with me



## Who Will You Invite to Sunday School?

**If** you knew Jesus was going to be in your Sunday School class this Sunday, **who would you invite to meet Him?** Remember, **He will be there!** Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" Matthew 18: 20 (NIV).

*INVITE THOSE WHO: . . . . . Do not know Christ. . . . . DO know Christ - and are church attendees . . . . . Are new in their relationship with Christ . . . . . Are not growing in their relationship with Christ . . . . . Haven't make spiritual-life-decisions . . . . . EVERONE - FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.*



- **Pray**
- ♦ Jesus will be there
- ♦ **Trust Him to work**
- **Invite** people to **Sunday School** - 9:45 am each Sunday
- ♦ **Watch** as **lives** are **changed**
- ♦ Be revolutionary!

**There is a class for ALL ages!!**

A List of Classes and room numbers is available at the Welcome Desk!  
Be sure to check it out!



# College Student Gift-Box Time

Yes, it's that time to support our College Students by letting them know we love them, miss them and that they are in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you can donate funds to help purchase snacks, personal hygiene items, note pads, band aids, etc. for our students.

You may also purchase any of these items of your choice and take to the lower level Welcome area of the church.

**Assembling of boxes is November 24th,  
in the church Library at 6:00 pm.**

*Contact Amy Black or church office for more details*



## RECOGNIZING our VETERANS

On Sunday, November 10th, we will honor and recognize our VETERANS during our 8:30 and 11:00 services to honor and recognize all Veterans. We have so much to be thankful for - all they have done and given so that we may have freedom.

There will be a Reception immediately following the 11:00 service.

We hope to see you there! May God Bless America!!!





# Entering the Great Season of Joy

Well, we'd rather think that it's still a little farther down the road. But the decorations are out in the stores; the commercials are playing on TV; and Neiman-Mark"up" and Amazon have already put out their gift catalogs. And as we enter into this great season of joy and celebration, we just want you to know of all the special occasions and opportunities "comin' atcha!" in the not too distant future.

We will celebrate the honor and service of those in our congregation who served in the Armed Forces. **Nov. 10** is our "**Veteran's Day**" service. Rev. Robert Hill has been instrumental in putting this great celebration together, including gathering memorabilia to display in the Narthex. Please take the time to tell these brave and faithful servants how much you appreciate them as we gather for a reception following the **11:00** worship time.

It started **Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>** and continues thru **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>**: the **Outreach Ministry** is once again sponsoring a '**Giving Tree**' in the Welcome Center as a way to give high school students from Putnam County a special Christmas. You can choose a requested gift; purchase a gift of your choosing; OR, make a monetary donation. You don't even have to wrap it. Just bring 'em back no later than **Dec. 1st**.

St. John will host the **Putnam County Charge Conference** of the Midland-South District on Sunday, **Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>** at **7pm**. This is an opportunity for pastors and leaders of churches from around Putnam County to recognize their accomplishments and struggles over the past year and submit visions for the future.

The **College Ministry** will also take time on the **24<sup>th</sup>** to pack "care" packages for our college students as they prepare to take finals. It's a great way to remind them their church family loves them and is thinking of them. If you can contribute snacks or hygiene products for this gift, or if you can help pack that night, it would be greatly appreciated!

Thanksgiving, *my* favorite holiday! (It's all about the food, man) is on Nov. 28 which means **Ad-vent** is just around the corner.

And as we come to the Advent season, St. John will continue a long standing tradition of the "**Mile of Pennies**" to help provide Christmas for the nearly 200 children cared for by **Burlington Ministries**. Starting Sunday, **Dec 1st**, we'll ask the children to take buckets around the congregation to collect your pennies and nickels and dollars and checks and \$100 bills! Well, please give what you can. Remember, it takes \$484.00 to make a mile. Please help us go as many miles as possible. And Sunday School classes and small groups can certainly take on the task of sponsoring one or more individuals!

We'll "**Hang the Greens**" on **Dec. 1st**, starting at 4pm. The Youth will be decorating their spaces. And all help in putting up trees and decorations is needed and appreciated.

Hear the bells ring! And help us fill the red bucket for Salvation Army. St. John will provide "ringers" on **Monday, Dec. 2nd at Kroger**. A sign-up sheet will soon magically appear at the Welcome Desk for those who have the desire and want to prove their stamina. Don't worry: you won't have to stand there all day. It'll be broken up into shifts.

We're calling out all cookie-makers and carol singers to join the Outreach Ministry **Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** to "carol" our shut-ins and the local nursing homes. It doesn't matter if you can't carry a tune in a bucket. You can certainly share the warmth and joy of the season!

**Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**, St. John will host our annual **church dinner**. We'll open the doors to the gym at 5pm and the feasting will begin soon after. We encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to join us for this great time of food, fun and fellowship. The church will provide turkey, ham, bread and drinks. We ask you to bring two side-dishes and a dessert. Bon appetit!

And talk about "sing for your supper!": The West Virginia **Treblemakers** Children's choir will present a free concert, in the Sanctuary, right after dinner on the **15<sup>th</sup>**. This is a non-profit group and we will take up a "love" offering to help support these talented young people.

On **Wednesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** at **6pm**, a live Nativity will be presented on the front lawn of the church made up of members of the St. John Youth. You're invited to come hear the music, enjoy refreshments and witness a live telling of our Savior's birth.

This year, there will be **two Christmas Eve** candlelight services, the first at **5pm**; the second at **7:30pm**. We'll continue a "new" tradition, started a couple years ago, as members of the St. John congregation deliver donuts as a treat for those who find themselves having to work on Christmas Eve, such as the police, firemen, hospital and care-facility workers. **Sign-Up will be at the Welcome Desk!**

So, there's the lowdown on a *lot*, certainly not all, of the things happening as we enter the "holiday" season. What a blessing it is to be able to go out into the world to deliver the Good News: Christ is born! We pray that you will be blessed by the Spirit and the joy, the love and the expectation that is this most wonderful time of the year.

God bless us, everyone!

*Joe McCullough*