

# ST. JOHN'S UMC

## SCRIPTS AND SCRIPTURE - FALL 2021

### A WORD FROM PASTOR SA

As we reflected together through one of my sermons, I hope you are claiming the ownership of our hotline to God, J333 or Jeremiah 33:3 by practicing daily prayer at 3:33 pm to tap into the amazing promise from God who speaks to Jeremiah for us, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you GREAT and UNSEARCHABLE THINGS that you do not know."* What would the "great and unsearchable things" be like for us at St. John's UMC, Seaford? I keep praying to God to tell us about them. We would not know what they are like until we call to God.



Often it takes way longer time for human to see God's visions being fulfilled. However, we've got to start somewhere to capture God's visions here and now and cooperate with God in fulfilling them. One of the best ways to get there is to count blessings God has given already, as we often sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Knowing how these blessings flow in our midst will help us see where God is moving and leading us to fulfill His visions. I do not know yet the great and unsearchable things God has in store for our church, but know that St. John's UMC, Seaford is called by God to be a missional church. To grasp what it means to be a missional church, we will start to name the blessings God has bestowed us.

This Fall when we start a new sermon series on *"Enter the cycle of blessings"*, we will count the overflowing blessings given to us to get to know God's desire to make us a best missional church. There is a book entitled *Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries* by Eric Law. It helps us see how the blessings flow in our midst through the currency of RELATIONSHIP, the currency of GRACIOUS LEADERSHIP, the currency of TRUTH, the currency of WELLNESS, the currency of TIME and PLACE and the currency of MONEY. The word currency literally means "a flowing" or "to run or flow", as it comes from the medieval Latin word *currentia* and from the Latin word *currere*. We will explore each currency or each blessing with such questions like 'What is this currency? How can this currency be developed?

For what can this currency be exchanged? How do we value and measure this currency in our ministry? We will reflect on how these currencies flow to create value and how the dynamic exchanges of these currencies circulate and regenerate resources inwardly and outwardly to make our ministries missional. Through our reflections through the sermon series, we may find other essential currencies that may uniquely flow through St. John's UMC. Let us learn how to develop, access, and flow these blessings to be a missional church.



## PASTOR BARB'S PERSPECTIVE

After Michelangelo died, someone found in his studio a piece of paper on which he had written a note to his apprentice, in the handwriting of his old age: "Draw Antonio, draw and do not waste time!" (1) Perhaps because I was a teacher for about twenty-five years, whenever fall comes around I move into "summer is over, so get busy because school is beginning mode".

This year we are finalizing our ministry menus, listing all volunteers into their specific choices of ministry, and will be identifying "contact" persons in each area. The goal is to begin ministries during September. I accepted responsibility for this ministry in 2020 and am eager for it to be up and running again.

As a member of the "Connections" ministry, I will continue to work with the team, and provide to them and the Senior Pastor, monthly reports of our combined efforts in sending cards, praying, and talking with those who are ill, needing visitation, and more. The card ministry will be providing get well and thinking of you hand crafted cards, along with special holiday cards through out the year to us for the 40-50 people we regularly serve in Connections.

As a member of the ministry staff, I will continue to prepare Bible study opportunities for the congregation during the day and at times in the early evening, along with monthly preaching and serving as a Liturgist in all other worship services. I will also be participating in bi-weekly ministry staff and monthly full staff meetings.

At this time, we are waiting to see if the Sister-to Sister team will once again be able to hold this event, hopefully in April of 2022. (COVID has been a stern decision maker for us!) At this point all work has been put on hold, yet we hope to celebrate in 2022 with visitors from numerous towns and churches. Sister-



to-Sister is a major outreach of St. John's UMC to women from many walks of life.

*(1)"1001 Christian Stories", Annie Dillard, p. 428*

## CHAPEL CAMPUS NEWS

Check out the New Web Site! I really love the picture of St. John's Chapel at Cannon on the new webpage! It really reflects the labor of love our devoted Trustees have poured into the Chapel. The photo captures the complete redux of the face of the Chapel, from top to bottom. The repaved parking, new sign, siding, guttering, window and removal of the old ramp. The Methodist Men of St. John's Church & Chapel are awesome! Special thanks to Doug Simpson for his leadership as Trustee Chairperson. Once you see how great the outside looks, come out Wednesday nights or Sunday morning and check out all that has been done inside! Attendance has been good and growing at the Chapel. It's such a blessing to have folks praying, reading Scripture, and engaged in enthusiastic worship. The Chapel continues to support numerous ministries and missions including:



- SMA (Shadrach-Meschach-Abednego) a monthly men's prayer breakfast ministry
- City of Seaford Police Chief Advisory Board – (Jeff is serving a 1 year term on the board)
- Love INC
- Unified Seaford
- Saturday Night ALIVE
- Community Movie Night – Mark your calendar for October 2nd!
- Wednesday Night Sunday School Classes

For more information about any of these ministry efforts or events at the Chapel reach out to Jeff James at [jkjames19973@outlook.com](mailto:jkjames19973@outlook.com)

## ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL NEWS

The spring of 2020 proved to be the most challenging time in the history of the preschool. The fall of 2020 came and we reopened our doors with many Covid restrictions in place, but we were able to have a successful 2020-2021 school year with our staff and students in-person. The start of the 2021-2022 school year has been shaky with many Covid uncertainties, but our enrollment is the greatest it has been in several years. Our staff proved last year that we are able to handle the demands of navigating Covid restrictions and families are ready to take that leap in faith and have their children back in preschool. We are so thankful to moving in what seems to be a positive direction.



This year the preschool is staffed by another amazing group of teachers. Leading the pack, again this year is Rae Murphy, preschool director. The two year old program will be led by April Stanley. Assisting her will be Sara Brown. In the three year old classrooms are Andrea Skelton paired with Elizabeth Walker and Stephanie Holland with preschool veteran, Andrea Snider. There are two pre-kindergarten classes this year. One is being led by Nicole Lane with Mollie Thomas and Christine Plack assisting her. In the other pre-kindergarten we have Jennifer Donati leading the team. She will be assisted by Teresa Stewart and Erin Dukes. Kindergarten is back with Connie Ayers as the teacher with Pat Whaley assisting her. We are excited to start a new year with a great group of teachers and assistants!

We still have a few openings in our three year old age group for new students. If you know someone that is interested in sending a child to our preschool, please have them call the preschool at 302-629-2289. They can also email Rae Murphy at [stjohnspreschool123@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnspreschool123@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.stjohnspreschoolseaford.com](http://www.stjohnspreschoolseaford.com). You can also find us on Facebook!

Like everyone else, Covid caused some major upheaval for the preschool. We managed our working budget to the best of our ability, but we were not able to host our annual dinner and auction. The dinner and auction (at the time this update was created) for the current school year is still on hold (pending Covid restriction mandates being changed). Sadly, this fundraiser was our main source of income to support the many needs that fall outside of our working budget. We hope to be able to hold this event after the first of the year.

Our classes will be participating in Christian Education within the walls of their classrooms and expanding on it throughout the school year by participating in a number of missions and ministries and community service projects. Our preschoolers will be collecting coats and shoes for the St. John's Thrift Shop, hats, mittens and gloves for the Students in Transition program, canned goods for the Food Pantry as well as participating in 40 Acts of Kindness for Lent and much more! We aim to foster a love of service to others and encourage your participation as well! If you find yourself in the halls of St. John's this year, we hope you are able to witness the love the joy that fill our rooms and hallways. Check out what our classes are doing from their hallway displays, say "hello" to a passing class or stop and listen for singing and laughter. Our students will brighten your day, just as they do ours.

In closing, we would like to take the opportunity to thank St. John's United Methodist Church for believing in and supporting our ministry as we strive to do God's work. Please pray for a safe and happy school year for our students, families and staff.

**IF YOU STILL HAVE A MINISTRY MENU – SEND IT IN! IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BECOME PART OF A MINISTRY HERE AT ST. JOHN'S!**





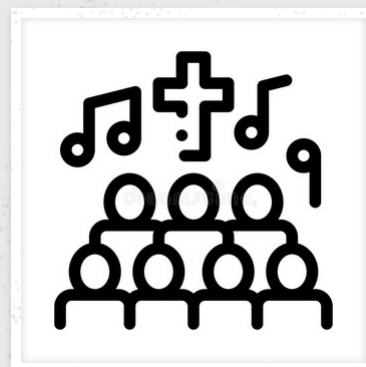
## HAVE AN IDEA?

Now is the time to plan for new St John's education options for this fall and winter. Give your potential topics and ideas to Scott Davidson (629-4619). If you would like to lead a new discussion group, call him for assistance in the startup and getting the needed resources.



## CHRYSALIS

Do you know a young adult (15-24) who is seeking to know more about God and wants to experience his love and grace in a personal way? Chrysalis is a weekend retreat designed to help young people begin, build and strengthen a relationship with Jesus Christ. Fall events are coming up! Girls weekend is September 17-19 and the Boys weekend is October 8-10. Reach reach out to Leigh Ann Parks for more information. [leigh@c21hometeam.com](mailto:leigh@c21hometeam.com)



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, Sept. 11th with the Handbells@ 9:30 a.m. and the choir at 10:30 a.m. Our first Sunday singing in worship will be Sept. 19th @ 10:00 a.m. for our special combined worship service. Anyone interested in joining this ministry, please contact Douglas Rhodes @ 302-877-0600. Look forward to seeing all of you soon! Soli deo Gloria.



## PRAYING WITH PRAYER STOLES

In John 13:4-5, Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. This towel Jesus wrapped around his waist to wash disciples' feet is a symbol of the yoke of Jesus, the yoke of service to the level of His death on the cross. The stole that pastors or Catholic priests wear nowadays represents the symbol of service as the towel served the purpose. Some say the stole's meaning originates from 'tallit or Jewish prayer mantle.

The Prayer Ministry Team at St. John's has initiated a new way of strengthening our prayer life by presenting prayer stoles at the worship services along with a list of specific prayers, with which you can pray. These prayer stoles will serve as a powerful symbol of our service since one of the most powerful acts of service is praying on a regular basis for others. We pray that we can cultivate the culture of "praying together for the

world and others in need” on a daily basis and that this practice becomes a natural part of our life of service to the Lord. These prayer stoles will symbolically remind all of us to PRAY to tap into the amazing promises of God (Remember our hotline to God, J333 or Jeremiah 33:3, *“Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”* As Rev. Dr. Kyung Hee Sa preached and recommended, we trust you set your smart phone at 3:33 pm every day to tap into this great promise from the Lord.

You will have the opportunity to receive the prayer stole which you will keep for a week. During that time you will be given specific prayer requests which you will incorporate into your prayer life. At the end of the week, you will return the stole to be given to someone else. The giving and returning of the stoles will be done during the worship service. You will take the stole to pray at home. Rev. Sa and prayer ministry team will invite any one of you to take the stole if you are led by the Holy Spirit to keep the stole and pray for a week at home. We trust the great power of prayer will weave our church together into the best dreams and living hopes of our God as we pray together. Please pray about taking this stole when you are invited at the worship service and we will guide you through the details.

## INTRODUCING "THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"

Do you attend the 9:00 Contemporary Worship Service? Here is a song that we will be introducing in the coming weeks. Click on the box and check out the video and start singing it at home first!



## ANGEL TREE PROJECT

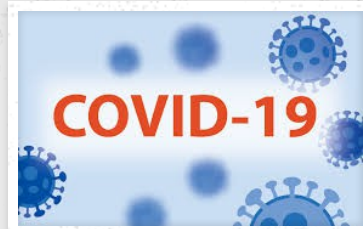
Helpers are needed! If you are able to help with this project contact Pat Davidson at 629-4619 or via email at [pakdavidson@yahoo.com](mailto:pakdavidson@yahoo.com).

Help is needed to man the table in the narthex for both services Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th. Please sign up to help!



## GRIEF SHARE EVENTS

Griefshare will provide "Surviving the Holidays" on Nov. 21, 2021 and the 13 week Griefshare Group will be starting Sept. 12, 2021. All meetings will be in the Wesley Lounge and begin at 3pm. Grief Share offers support to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one through a series of videos, a workbook, and discussion with others in the group. Please register by contacting the church office.

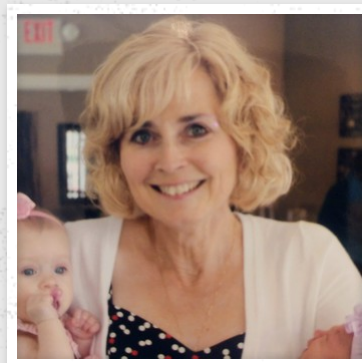


## DR. WOLFGANG SHARES

As a service to St. John's parishioners, Dr. Marie Wolfgang will be briefly addressing the congregation regarding the latest COVID updates at our September 12th services. She will also be available after each service to answer any specific questions you may have regarding COVID related issues, vaccinations, boosters, etc.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

The children of St. John's have had a busy summer. VBS was held from June 24th through June 26th with an average of 35 students attending each session. The theme was "Rocky Railway", and it taught the children that through all things God is with us and will help us. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make VBS a success. Without your help we couldn't have VBS each year.



Our Sunday School enrollment has continued to increase and we're so excited to have these children join our classes. Because we currently have only two classes (3-year-old - 2nd grade) and (3rd grade to grade 8) we would love to be able to split the classes into more appropriate age groups. To do this we need people willing to teach Sunday School. If you feel so led, we would love to have you join our dedicated group of teachers.

As we head into fall, the teachers will meet to plan events and talk about the curriculum. We are still using Bible Story Basics but would like to incorporate some other curriculums as well. We would also like to have the older children become involved in-service projects within the Church so it will become a natural part of their Christian walk.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful group of children in our Church. They are our





## FINANCE REPORT

The offering for the first three Sundays in August 2021 was \$23,230.00, which leaves \$19,770.00 needed for the remainder of the month to meet the budget. All apportionments and bills are paid and up-to-date.

The figures for the first month of our fiscal year are as follows:

Income was \$27,949.25 (vs. a budget of \$35,423.00).

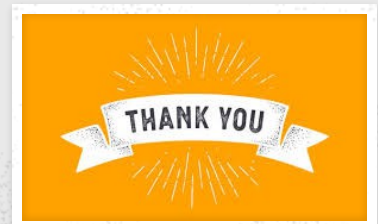
Expenses were \$35,367.07 (vs. a budget of \$38,336.50).

The next finance meeting is Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Baker, Treasurer

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to St. John's Chapel and St. John's congregation for your generous support of the "Change for Life" fundraiser for the Sussex Pregnancy Care Center. As of July 28th we have raised \$407.34 to help individuals choose life for their babies and transform their own lives by HIS love and grace. Thank you for your continued compassion and faithfulness to this ministry.



Please turn in any empty bottles that may be sitting around to the church office.

In Christ's Name, *Janet Hackett*

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Thank you for the altar flowers I recently received. They were beautiful and special to me because they were in honor of my daughter and son-in law's wedding anniversary. Many thanks to Jim Thompson for delivering the flowers to me apartment.

Blessings to St. John's, *Grace Kutzler*

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Thank you for your congregation's generous gift of \$100 to Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries toward Camperships. Your contribution enables us to continue effective ministry in the midst of challenging times. I am happy to report that retreat activity is increasing. We trust that one day, we will be able to serve the 10,000+ campers and guests per year that we have



served in the past. Until then, we will provide as many God-inspired, life-changing experiences as possible. Once again thank you for your generous donation.

Grace and peace, *Rev. Jack Shitama*, Executive Director

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Thank you to St. John's Chapel and St. John's congregation members who contributed to the school supply program. The supplies were packed and taken to the Love Inc. distribution center. Then the supplies were packed in individual bookbags and delivered to each of the schools in the Seaford School District. The monies raised from local businesses or donated by individuals will be used to take teachers shopping in January 2022. This is a success because it always occurs at the right time when teachers are in need of more supplies.

Thank you in Christ's Name, *Janet Hackett*

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Thank you for the cards and your thoughts and prayers. They mean alot to me. I'm not quite up to par yet but I am doing better. Hope it won't be much longer! God bless all of you!

Sincerely, *Dot Whaley*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS!

### UMM MEETING

#### WHEN

**MONDAY, SEP. 13TH, 6PM**

#### WHERE

**FELLOWSHIP HALL - ST. JOHN'S  
UMC**

#### MORE INFORMATION

At this 1st meeting of the year for United Methodist Men we will organize our Fall Spaghetti Dinner and discuss other events that we are involved in here at St. John's. We continue to support the Thrift Shop, Food Closet, Pre-school, and Boy Scouts when needed. Join us at our meeting for food, fun, and fellowship. All are welcome as we look forward to a busy, productive year supporting our missions locally and abroad.

# COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE AND WELCOME LUNCHEON

## WHEN

**SUNDAY, SEP. 19TH, 10AM**

## WHERE

**ST JOHN'S UMC SANCTUARY AND  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## MORE INFORMATION

Join us as we combine services for one Sunday service at 10:00 am followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall to officially welcome Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa to St. John's! Spearheaded by our SPPRC and chair, Marcia Windley.

# UMM SPAGHETTI DINNER

## WHEN

**SATURDAY, OCT. 9TH, 5-7PM**

## WHERE

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## MORE INFORMATION

Onsite and carryout will be available.

We will be keeping an eye on state regulations and make modifications as needed.

**THE SPPRC WANTS TO THANK OUR NEW  
MEMBERS, HEATHER MOORE, MARIE WOLFGANG  
AND JOHN HITCH FOR JOINING THE COMMITTEE!**




## WE ARE ST. JOHN'S UMC & CHAPEL!

 Facebook

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