



October 27, 2023

Josh's Jottings

I wanted to share with you what I am doing this week. Wednesday through Saturday, I am attending a dialogue sponsored by Christians for Social Action on the topic of human sexuality. This is a topic that is close to my heart, and I know many of yours. All the more, as the chair of the New Mexico Conference Trustees, I have seen close-up how divisions over the topic have splintered our United Methodist Church. As a pastor, I have seen how those divisions have caused pain in people's lives.

This gathering will bring together people of different denominations and multiple viewpoints - some inclusive, some traditional, some who are LGBTQ+ themselves, some who struggle to reconcile their beliefs with relationships and friendships that they deeply cherish. We have spent the last year writing to one another and in preliminary conversations in an attempt to build trust.

I share all this with you to ask for a few things. First, this week, please be in prayer for all persons attending the dialogue. It takes courage to come together with acquaintances, be vulnerable, and listen to the beliefs of others - especially when those beliefs are challenging. It takes courage to listen and learn when our culture insists that we should want to win and *be* right.

Second, consider places where you might be able to listen and learn from people with whom you might not see eye to eye. Remember that Jesus regularly talked with people who differed from him. At times, it was even scandalous. I always think of Jesus' encounter with the Syrophenician woman. If you don't remember it, read the account in Mark 7. Jesus initially dismisses her and even calls her a dog. (Yep, I'm always surprised by that too.) Yet, when he listens to her, he is moved. His attitude changes, and walls come down! We need more of that in the world today. Lots more.

I'll tell you more next week. For now, keep praying, keep listening, and keep the faith.

-Pastor Josh



Empty Bowls Event Tomorrow

The public is invited to the Albuquerque Empty Bowls fundraising meal at St. John's United Methodist Church at 2626 Arizona St. NE in Albuquerque on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are for sale at Storehouse website: <https://storehousenm.org> or can be purchased at St. John's front office during normal office hours. \$35 includes bowl, soup, bread, dessert, drink. Children under 12 can eat for \$5, no bowl. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Handmade bowls made by Albuquerque potters and food donated by area restaurants and food establishments will be provided for the popular fundraiser to help alleviate food insecurity in our area. Storehouse New Mexico, a nonprofit community-based food pantry that provides free groceries to people in need, will benefit from all bowl sales.

Fall Festival Sunday

Fall Festival 2023, and Trunk or Treat is this Sunday, October 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. – Join us for fun games and fellowship. A free dinner will be served inside the Family Life Center. Bring your kids and grandkids. Free admission. Bring your truck or car and decorate it for the Trunk or Treat event to pass out candy in the east parking lot. People are encouraged to wear costumes (that are preschool appropriate).

Omelet Bar Mix and Match Canceled this Sunday

Unfortunately, the Omelet Bar Mix and Match is canceled for this Sunday. Chef Tim has tested positive for Covid. Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have been in contact with Tim recently, please make sure to take the necessary precautions to keep yourself and others well. Prayers for Tim for quick recovery.

United Women in Faith November 2

When you hear the words "giving thanks" or "thanksgiving" do you think of thanking someone for a gift or eating turkey with your family? Come join Nancy and Doris Bowen and discover the various ways "giving thanks" and "thanksgiving" are expressed in the scriptures and then explore how these words can also bring meaning to our lives today. We will close celebrating the Great Thanksgiving with communion. "It is good to

give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night." Psalm 92: 1-2.

All are welcome to this meeting on Thursday, November 2 at 10 a.m., in room 241.

Charge Conference November 4

The annual Charge Conference meeting will be held in the St. John's sanctuary on Saturday, November 4 at 6 p.m. We will approve nominations for 2024, handle the membership audit for the current year, and hear reports on the mission and ministry of the church. All are welcome.

Memory Café November 4

On Saturday, November 4 Memory Café will be giving thanks for our veterans and all our blessings! Entertainment will be a special program by the Corbins on the steel drums. We may even play a game or two!

Memory Café is a supportive community fellowship for all persons with memory loss and Alzheimer's' Disease along with their family/caregivers. We meet the first Saturday of the month from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in the SonShine Café. For more information contact Sharon Jensen at 505-323-7523, or ssmjens@aol.com.

Asbury Christmas Bazaar November 4

Join the fun at Asbury 40 year Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church, 10,000 Candelaria Road NE. There will be over 65 crafters, bake sale, homemade pies, breakfast burritos by Hurricane's, chicken salad croissant sandwich, autumn soup, and Frito pie. Free parking lot shuttle.

Scandinavian Festival November 4

A Scandinavian Festival will be held at St John's United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring Scandinavian food, folk art, dance performances, ballad singer and musicians. Admission and parking is free.

Terry Clements and Friends November 4

We are excited to announce that Terry Clements and Friends, Richard Bray and Roger Eaton will return to Solid Grounds Coffee House on Saturday, November 4.

We will be playing our popular original songs both new and familiar. Richard (guitar and dobro), Roger (U-bass), and harmonica will also be featured on folk, bluegrass and gospel selections.

November 4, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Solid Grounds Coffee House
St. Stephen's United Methodist Church
4601 Juan Tabo NE, Albuquerque, NM

Jolly Elders November 8

Jolly Elders will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 11 a.m. in Room 245. Elaine Montague will share "vintage writing" about joy, today's culture, reflection, and military life. Hear newly published poetry and prose. Ask questions about the writing process and her trip to Mad Coffee and Bagels. Contact Carol Wiggins at 505-321-0603 or carolmwiggins@aol.com

Braving the Holidays Workshop November 11

For those experiencing the loss of a family member or friend, the holidays can be an especially trying time. It may be your initial holiday season without your loved one, or you may have traversed this path before and are contemplating how to manage the approaching weeks. In either case, join us for this upcoming workshop and take away some tips for navigating the holiday season. Click [here](#) to view the flyer.

Who: Adults grieving the loss of a loved one

When: Saturday, November 11, 2023, 8am - 12pm

Where: Asbury United Methodist Church

RSVP: EmbracingtheJourney505@gmail.com or call 505.299.0643



All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas by Amy Valdez Barker (Advent Study)

**Tuesdays, November 21 - December 19 (5 weeks), 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., IN-PERSON,
facilitator: Dara Bell**

In "*All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*," a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. In these sessions of study, prayer, and conversation, readers will look at preparing the way for God, the discipline of prayer, the substance of good works, and the recognition of God's presence with us in communities that are called to serve the world.

To register for the class, contact Susan Perry at teachersusan@comcast.net, or sign up in the Hospitality Center on Sunday morning.

Memorial Service for Betty Davis

A funeral service to celebrate Betty's life will be held at St. John's United Methodist Church, on Saturday, October 28th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. with internment and reception to follow. Memorial contributions may be made to the USO at USO.org. Betty's legacy will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her. Click [HERE](#) to view her obituary.

Passing of St. John's Member

St. John's member Dan Geist passed away on Sunday, October 22. Dan has been a member of St. John's since 2020. A service is planned for Saturday, November 18, at 2 p.m. in St. John's sanctuary.

Preschool News

Our Learning Topic for October will be All About FALL! This is a great topic for learning about changes in weather, leaves, plants, and here in New Mexico the Balloon Fiesta. We live in such a beautiful State. Come see our New Mexico Bulletin Board in the Preschool Hallway!

We had our third annual Saint John's Preschool "mini" Balloon Fiesta on our playground this week. Each child released helium balloons in the air along with wishes and prayers for our families. We will have our Costume Parade on Monday and Tuesday, October 30 and 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Blessings and Peace,
Cathy Lubold, Preschool Director

St. John's 75 Anniversary!

Can you believe it? St. John's will celebrate its 75 anniversary in 2025! And we do want to *CELEBRATE*, so we are currently putting together a team to make the celebration happen! This team will start brainstorming ideas before the end of 2023 and then start putting some of those ideas into action in 2024. You do not have to know the history of St. John's; we have our historian to keep us on track for that information. We just need people with ideas and who are willing to work to make these ideas happen. If you would like to be part of this 75 Anniversary team, please contact Donna at donnabruce@comcast.net.

Scripture: It's more complicated than we think.

Entire denominational doctrines have been created around *nature* of scripture, with surprisingly little *basis* in scripture. Scripture places great value on what is written, but for the biblical writers, what "is written" is the Old Testament, and we also take the New Testament as scripture. Scripture places value on scriptural study, but sometimes what scripture *says* isn't what it *means*. Be cautious about taking errors, approximations, and personifications literally. Scripture guides behavior, but as God's self-revelation unfolds,

some scriptures explain or supersede other scriptures. What gives scripture power is the word it contains, but it doesn't contain Jesus, who *is* the Word of God. Join more than 100 fellow-readers as we examine some of the complexities of what is written. A scripture passage and a brief study tip are distributed to most participants by email five days a week. The study tips are made available outside our walls through an archive at www.daily-bible-study-tips.com, where they are accessed daily by readers throughout the world. Answers to reader questions and other supplements occasionally come out on Saturdays. Paper study guides will be available in the Welcome Center beginning October 8. To receive daily study tips by email, write or call Regina Hunter at drhunter@nmia.com or 294-2877.



Fall Festival Food Fun October 29

In between Trunk or Treating and Games, come in the Family Life Center to fill your bellies with Halloween Hot Dogs, Tater Tot Treats, Fiendish Fresh Fruit and From Scratch Cooky Cookies.

Families of Faith Meal

Families of Faith meal for Bible Club and New Sound is every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for ages Kindergarten through the fifth grade. Children are welcome to join the NewSound Choir at 5 p.m. and then enjoy a warm meal at 6 p.m. All families are welcome to start eating at 5 p.m. for the Families of Faith meal and stay for games until Bible club. For menus, click here: [Families of Faith Oct-Nov Menu](#)

Survey Says

It's time to play... Family Feud! The youth will be enjoying a game of Family Feud in the afternoon on Sunday, November 5. If you've seen the show, you know that it involves the most popular answers to a survey of the public. In order to get our church community involved, along with learning more about this community here at St. John's, we are inviting you to participate in the survey that we've created for our game! It only takes a minute or two, and the more answers we get, the better the youth will get to know our congregation. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey now!

The results of the survey will be revealed at Solid Ground Youth Group on November 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Feel free to join us if you'd like to be a member of the audience. The results will also be made available in the E-Disciple following November 5.

PRAYER



Prayer Quilt Recipient

The Hamilton family is the recipient for the prayer quilt currently on display in the Hospitality Center.

If you pass through the Hospitality Center this week, please tie a knot in the quilt while praying for the Hamilton family. Won't be in the Center this week? No worries, either way please pray this prayer (or your own prayer) for the Hamiltons. "Father, please provide a time of comfort and rest for this family whose hearts are hurting. Hold them in your embrace. Wrap them in your love and remind them that they are not alone for you are with them. Soothe their heartache as they lean on you for comfort and guidance. In Jesus's name. Amen."

GIVING

BIG BOX OF LOVE, Senior Food Drive

American General Media's BIG 98.5 FM is answering Silver Horizons' call for help with a "Big Box of Love" radio promotion soliciting food and monetary donations to help low-income senior citizens. Through November 17, pick up empty boxes from American General Media's office (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at 8009 Marble Ave. NE, or at Thrift Smart, Silver Horizon's Thrift Store, (Tuesday - Friday, 12 - 4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) at 3100-A San Mateo Blvd. NE. Once filled with nonperishable food items, the boxes can be dropped off where you picked up the boxes (during normal business hours listed above).

HOWEVER, we can make it easier than that for you to contribute to this drive if you don't

want to do the above suggestion. Bring your food items to St. John's and we'll get them to Silver Horizons.

For more information, or to make a monetary donation, please call Silver Horizons at 505-800-1400 or click here to donate online: <https://www.silverhorizons.org/donate>. Show you care about struggling, low-income senior citizens by filling a "Big Box of Love"!

How can you help the Hamilton family at this difficult time?

With the shocking news of the death of our bookkeeper and nursery manager, Jenna Hamilton, several members of St. John's have reached out to ask how they can help. Here are a few ways you can surround Jenna's family with love and care.

Contribute to a memorial fund established for the family: St. John's is establishing a support fund to assist Jenna's family. They will need extra help especially with medical bills, funeral expenses, and more. If you wish to make a donation, please designate it for the "Family Survivors Fund."

Provide a meal: Jenna's daughter, Alanah, is home from the hospital but still on a recovery journey. If you would like to provide a meal to the family, please use this [link](#) to sign-up.

Send a condolence card or get-well card to the family: If you are on the church app, you can find the Hamilton's address. Otherwise call the church office.

Pray, Pray, Pray: Keep on praying for Jenna's family, particularly her daughter, that healing will continue and God's love will be felt.

The Hamiltons are grateful for the love and support over these last few days. They have a hard road ahead, and St. John's will be ready to support them through this tragic loss.



Our worship services are livestreamed so you can watch them from home. To watch a worship service live, click on the service that you would like to watch on Sunday morning at its scheduled time.

8:15AM Mosaic
Worship

9:30AM Abide
Worship

11AM Traditional
Worship

Submission Deadline for Disciple Connections is noon on Wednesday for the Friday weekly edition. [Click here](#) to send your articles to the editor.

Visit Our
Website

Give Online

St. John's United Methodist Church

2626 Arizona Street NE | Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
Office Hours (call only): Monday - Thursday, 9a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Pastor 24-Hour Hotline | (505) 808-1624

Pastoral care is available for after-hours emergencies. Please send any congregational care needs to Pastor Josh at jkouri@stjohns-abq.org as we all work together to love one another well.



St. John's UMC | 2626 Arizona Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

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