



October 13, 2023

Josh's Jottings

*"Grief, I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give but cannot. All that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that hollow part of your chest. **Grief is just love with no place to go.**" - Jamie Anderson*

Over the last few days, we at St. John's have been grieving the loss of Jenna Hamilton, who worked on staff at the church, both as our bookkeeper and nursery manager. Jenna's loss will be felt in ways that go well-beyond her working role at our church. She was a joyful presence, a "cradle Methodist" and graduate of McCurdy School, and a trusted friend to many here at the church.

In the days ahead, if you find yourself grieving her loss, I want you to know a few things. First, part of what makes grief hard is that it can feel like lots of emotions all at once. Particularly, given that Jenna's death was so needless and caused by extraordinary carelessness, it's normal to feel anger mixed with the heavy sadness and disorientation of grief. If you are feeling these emotions, or others, don't ignore them. I know it's unpleasant to feel difficult emotions, but it's also important to do so. Walk slowly through grief; don't rush it.

Second, I want you to know that you are not alone. At St. John's, we are a family. We will walk through this time together. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to Jenna's family, as well as to our staff at the church. Your love and care are noticed and felt. If you need someone to walk with you through this time, please contact me. I am available to talk. Additionally, Susan Brumbaugh, our church's mental health counselor, is available and open to helping people with grief.

Finally, I want you to know that faith is a powerful tool in the grieving process. We often refer to "practicing our faith." I think the verb "practice" is a helpful one. Week in and week out we worship together, we pray, we study together, or serve together. We do these things because they are good things to do - but they are also practice for the hard times when our faith helps us survive. Practicing our faith plants the seeds of hope that we will need at times such as this. Lean on God in this time. Trust God to be present in this moment. God will show up; and I truly trust that God can bring goodness about in even the most dire situations.

Best wishes to all of you this week,

-Pastor Josh

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."

A Meal Train will start soon: Jenna's daughter is home from the hospital, now. We expect a Meal Train will begin very soon with signups available. As soon as we have it set-up, we will publicize it.

Send a condolence card or get-well card to the family: If you are on the church app, you can find the Hamiltons 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.



View the Eclipse at St. John's on Saturday

Hearken all astronomy buffs! This Saturday morning from 9:13 a.m. until about noon, John Warns will set up his trio of telescopes, affixed with safe solar filters, in St. John's east parking lot. Anyone is welcome to come view the annular solar eclipse, which is going to pass right over Albuquerque. The umbra stage features a "ring of fire" lasting only from 10:34 to 10:39, as the moon's disc does not fully obliterate the sun. (Caution: Do not attempt to view this without proper filtering.)

All other telescopes with adequate solar filters are welcome; more equipment = shorter lines. Free parking, free viewing -- best deal in town!

Jazz Vespers

Join us for Jazz Vespers this Saturday, October 14, at 5pm! Performers will include vocalist Julia Manganaro, pianist Robert Lah, guitarist Michael Anthony, bassist David Parlato, and drummer Cal Haines. Our preacher will be Matthew Greer. Join us live, or by

Memorial Service for Mark Macaron

A Memorial Service will be held for Mark Macaron at St. John's on Wednesday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m. and he will be subsequently laid to rest in Springer, New Mexico. His family is very grateful for your love, kindness and prayers.

Memorial Service for Bob Humble

Bob Humbles memorial service is scheduled to be on Saturday, October 21, at 3 p.m. at La Vida Llena, 10501 Lagrima De Oro Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. A reception will immediately follow. In lieu of flowers, please consider becoming a blood donor, and or donate your time or resources to the Vitalant Foundation.

Mountain Cathedrals Hike Saturday, October 21, Albuquerque Bosque

Let us celebrate the warm colors of autumn with a foliage hike in the Albuquerque Bosque (entering at Campbell Road). Logistics: Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the St. John's UMC East Parking Lot to carpool or drive alone to the hike, or at the trailhead at 8:30 a.m. (please do RSVP!). Plan to return to the church by about 1:00 p.m. This should be an easy walk (very little vertical; smooth trail walking < 3 miles). Bring sturdy walking shoes, lunch, water, sun protection and enthusiasm!

Psalm 96 inspires us to identify what is God's and what is of God. This applies in our everyday lives and in extraordinary times as well. How does this affect our approach to life?

Please join us for this hike of meditation, wilderness, and time apart from our normal schedules.

Organizer: Mike Furnish, 505-440-7292; mdfurnish@comcast.net.

Save the date: The next Mountain Cathedrals hike is planned for Saturday, November 18th.

Mobile Food Pantry October 21

Our next Mobile Food Pantry is Saturday, October 21. Volunteers arrive about 9:00 a.m. and distribution begins at 9:45 - 10:00 a.m., depending on the time the RoadRunner truck arrives. We are usually finished by noon. For more information, please contact Debby Smith at 505-554-4238 or dysmith0427@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

Psalm 23 by Jennifer Rothschild

Tuesdays, October 24 - December 5 (7 weeks), 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
IN-PERSON, facilitator: Barb Stanfield

Every woman longs for someone to protect and care for her - someone to guide her when she's not sure of her next steps, to provide rest when she's worn out, to walk with her when the valley is dark. God is the Good Shepherd whose companionship provides the comfort and confidence every woman needs. No matter what season a woman finds herself in, she is safe with her Shepherd.

Join Jennifer Rothschild to:

- explore the depths of God's care tucked in the psalm you've always loved,
- trade in the myth of self-reliance for the truth that God will take care of you, no matter what,
- know that your vulnerability is not a liability - God made you to need Him,
- release fear and trust the Shepherd's goodness in every season of life.

Empty Bowls Event

October 28

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.

WeCare

November 19

WeCare is not meeting in October and will resume on November 19. Our goal is to provide mutual understanding and support on our caregiving journey. For more information contact Rachel Perovich at rachel.perovich@gmail.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you from Tiffany

Dear St. John's Family,

Where can I ever begin to express my love, thankfulness, and awe of your love and grace? Thank you for the beautiful Sunday full of love, cupcakes, cards, gifts, Flamingos, and each of you! Thank you for not sending me off but going WITH me in mission to the world together. I am just one of the long line of people sent out by St. John's UMC to serve, and that is a testament to this community. I have such peace and joy knowing that you all are in such marvelous care with Pastor Josh, Brett Reese with youth and Angela Lybarger with children, the remarkable staff and each of you-God is truly doing great things through each of you! I thank you for your love, prayers, and ministry as I follow a calling and dream to McCurdy Ministries and the Espanola valley. I may no longer be your pastor, but I will forever know each of you as dear friends, partners in ministry, and my family in Christ who are with me always. I have been so blessed by our time together. I love you all dearly.

In Christ together,
Tiffany

Tiffany, D.G. And Gracie Hollums
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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.

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.

Safe Sanctuaries Certificates

Those who have completed the Safe Sanctuaries training, certificates and reminder packets are available to pick-up at the check-in tables for worship the next few Sundays. Please stop in to get your certificate.



St. John's Youth Are Going To The UMCOR Depot

- Located at Baldwin, Louisiana, the week of July 13-21, 2024.
- Preparing disaster relief supplies for the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR), which will aid people around the world.
- Serve the Louisiana community in schools, children's programs, and housing rehab.
- Meet youth and other groups from across the U.S. as we serve God together in mission.
- Eat Cajun food, tour an alligator reserve, fish on the bayou, and laissez bon temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!)

All youth who have completed grades 6-12 are invited to join us for this adventure. Sign up by November 15, and turn in a \$50 nonrefundable deposit. Total cost for the trip is \$475 per youth and includes all food and activities. Registration Document [linked here](#). (Financial aid and fundraising is available)

Trunk or Treat APS Clothing Bank Drive

APS Clothing Bank needs clothes of all sizes! Please donate your new or gently used clothes for preschoolers to high schoolers (adults) at St. John's United Methodist Church Fall Festival Sunday, October 29th from 4 to 6 p.m.

After hosting the APS Clothing Drive for three years, Illuminata has passed the torch to us. She'll help run games and paint faces while David and I host a Medieval Monarch themed clothing drive trunk.

I hope you can come! If you can't make it over to St. John's, just call me at 505-252-4099, and we'll pick up your clothes.

Thanks & hugs, Celeste

**Fall Festival
October 29**

Fall Festival 2023, and Trunk or Treat is 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).



PRAYER



Prayer Quilt Recipient

Dennis Scherlacher 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 Dennis. Won't be in the Center this week? No worries, either way please pray this prayer (or your own prayer) for Dennis. "Lord, we come before you today in need of your healing hand. In you all things are possible. We place Dennis under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Amen."



GIVING

October Special Offering: World Communion

In October Christians throughout the world remember the unity in Christ that Holy Communion brings to us.

We also have the opportunity to provide scholarships to needy students around the world. Students such as Clarice in the Congo, who hopes to improve health care in her community through a degree in Public Policy, Dillozon in the Philippines as he studies to be a much needed doctor, Johnny from Peru as he studies to be a pastor, and many more.

Whenever we take communion, let us especially remember that even in our very fractured world, we are One in Christ.

Please give generously this month.

Family Promise Fundraiser *"Night Without a Bed"*

Family Promise is holding a fundraiser where you raise money and awareness by spending one night sleeping away from your bed at the Family Promise location off Montgomery. **On Saturday, October 21st** people will be sleeping in their cars or outside in cardboard boxes or tents to support Family Promise. Please click on [Night Without a Bed 2023 - Family Promise](#) to register, pledge a donation or learn more about the event. If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Shields 505-450-9978 or jennshields200@yahoo.com.

Family Promise Host Week in October and November

We need your help for Family Promise host week October 29 through November 5, 2023.

Family Promise is a national program that supports homeless families in cities across the United States including Albuquerque. For six weeks during the year, St. John's is responsible for meals brought to the Montgomery site. In addition, we are asked to stay on site for two hours to give relief to the permanent staff. If you would like to pair up with someone to provide a meal and stay for two hours, please contact Jenn or Linn, see contact information below.

To volunteer, go to this link: [Sign-up Genius Link](#) or sign up at the Hospitality Center, at the Abide service, or contact Jenn Shields jennshields200@yahoo.com, 505-450-9978, or Linn Furnish swimsew@comcast.net To see more information about Family Promise [click here](#).

Collecting for New Beginnings

New Beginnings, Navajo United Methodist Center, Inc., located in Farmington, NM, provides transitional living for survivors and families of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. They offer families a safe, community-based living environment for up to a year. Their emphasis is on breaking the cycle of violence, being safe and becoming independent. Support services include helping residents locate and secure permanent housing and employment while providing life skills and independent living assistance. Their mission is to help survivors and their families learn to heal and thrive.

During the month of October, St. John's will be supporting United Women in Faith (UWF) in collecting items for New Beginnings. Many of these items are gifted to survivors when they exit the New Beginnings program and move into their own home. This is a very important achievement in their lives and they are gifted with items that will last them for years to come. New Beginnings politely request **NEW** items are donated. The items needed are: bed in a bag (twin size only), pots and pans, microwaves, measuring cups, paper towel holders, coffee pots, cooking utensils, dish drying racks, Tupperware storage containers, kitchen towels, laundry baskets, trashcans (kitchen and bathroom size),

brooms, baby wipes, diapers (sizes: 2, 3, 5) and pull-ups for children (varying sizes). Please place your donations in the bins in the Hospitality Center. Questions? donnabruce@comcast.net.

Zuni Weekend Meal Bag Project

As always, our Zuni weekend meal bag project can use any help you provide - either through monetary support or by donating any of these **SINGLE-SERVE** items: vegetables, pudding or jello cups, shelf-stable white or chocolate milk, microwavable ravioli, nut-free granola or cereal bars, nut-free cookies, microwavable mac and cheese, snack size chicken salad with crackers, snack size tuna salad with crackers, cereal boxes and oatmeal. You can place your donations in the bins in the Hospitality Center. You are a blessing, St. John's! Questions? donnabruce@comcast.net



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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