



December 1, 2023

Josh's Jottings

I wanted to share with you about an upcoming event coming to St. John's. GATHER is a weekend conference sponsored by St. John's which will encourage all of us to celebrate a new beginning in St. John's story, welcome new persons who need community, dream of new frontiers in ministry, and coalesce around a positive vision for our church. It is a weekend conference which will feature:

- Teaching from Rev. Charity Goodwin, a leader at The Gathering, one of the fastest growing congregations in Methodism, located in St. Louis.
- Music led by Ken Medema, a talented artist well-known to St. John's, whose gifts and energy are unmatched.
- Disciple-building workshops and opportunities to grow your love and witness for Jesus Christ.
- A panel discussion with leaders from across our conference and beyond.

It's going to be a landmark event that you won't want to miss!

A major emphasis of the event will also be outreach to two key communities: (1) United Methodists from across New Mexico who may have lost their UMC community due to disaffiliation, and (2) anyone who attends St. John's through the web livestream. We want to pioneer new ways of being community together, whether you are near or far, online or in-person, or anyone else who wants to connect.

With the Advent/Christmas/Holiday Season fast upon us, I wanted to encourage you to sign up for the Gather event today. You can do so by clicking the "Gather Event" button on our website or contacting the church office. I'd also encourage you to extend an invitation to others to attend Gather. It's going to be a warm, welcoming, and inspired event.

-Josh



Quintessence Concert This Weekend

Join Matt Greer and the singers of Quintessence for “The Light Begins,” a concert of carols and other joyous music of the season. They’ll be joined by special guests, The Moriarty High School Messengers. Performances are Sunday at 2 p.m. and Monday at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. Tickets are available at quintessence-abq.com, and St. John’s members receive a 20% discount on advance tickets by using the code SJUMC at checkout.

Memorial Service for David Apple Saturday

A memorial service will be held for David Apple on Saturday, December 2, at 2:30 p.m. at St. John’s United Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona NE. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation (www.parkinson.org), the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research (www.michaelfox.org), or St. John’s Methodist Church.

Omelet Bar Sunday

Please join us this Sunday, December 3, at the Omelet Bar Mix and Match. Start off Advent in fellowship with a delicious 3 egg or egg white omelet that you can fill with a selection of meats and veggies. Click the link [HERE](#), to sign-up to volunteer.

See you then!

United Women in Faith Luncheon December 7

Join United Women in Faith for our annual holiday luncheon on Thursday, December 7, at 10:30 a.m. Chef Tim will be serving lunch. RSVP to Regina Hampton, at hamptonmason1@msn.com. There is a cost of \$5 per person.

Reception in Honor of Matt Greer December 10

Please join us in the Family Life Center after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, December 10, to celebrate Matt Greer's 20 year anniversary at St. John's. We have been blessed to have Matt's artistry, energy and professionalism in our Church. His music ministry is integral to what St. John's is today. Please join us in honoring Matt.

Christmas Food Boxes For the John Marshall Community Center

St. John's church members are invited to participate in our program of providing Christmas food boxes to needy families served by the John Marshall Community Center in the south Broadway area of Albuquerque.

Sunday, December 10, 2023, commit to Jack Nuzum (tel. 505-265-5241, jcnuzum@juno.com) as to the number of boxes which will be provided and by whom.

There will be a **sign-up sheet** in the Hospitality Center with a suggested **list of contents** for the boxes. List of contents can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

Saturday, December 16, 2023, bring the completed boxes to the west side of St. John's between 8 and 9 a.m.

Jolly Elders December 13

On Wednesday, December 13, Jolly Elders will meet at 11 a.m. in the choir room. Joy Singers will entertain us with a Christmas set. After the performance we will enjoy a catered meal in the Family Life Center. Please RSVP by December 10 to Carol Wiggins at carolmwiggins@aol.com or text 505-321-0603 so she will know how much food to order.



A Message From Therese Macali

Beloved Community of St. John's --

As you all know, my family has grown -- welcoming Cecilia Rose on August 4. After prayerful consideration, I have decided to focus on my job as mother in this season, and unfortunately will be stepping down as Assistant Music Director. I appreciate your faith in me over the past seven years. I hope to have served you and our church family to the best of my ability in anything that was asked of me. I am deeply grateful for all that I have learned while calling St. John's my home. I believe my time here has grown me into the

woman God intended for me to be.

Know that my heart and my prayers are yours.

Therese

Birthday Wishes

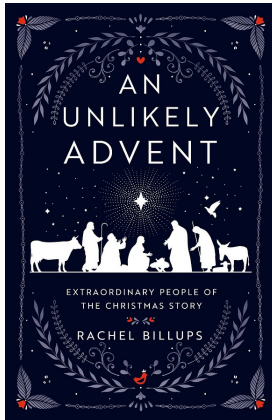
The Congregation is invited to send birthday wishes to Irene Garvin for her 103rd birthday on Saturday, December 2. You can find her address in the church directory or call Joy, at the office, (505) 883-9717 ext. 138.

Zuni Angels

Please see the Zuni Christmas Tree in the narthex and in the Family Life Center on Sunday, December 3. There are 8 families with a total of 25 children, whose names we've been given by the counselor at Zuni Elementary School, as they've come on hard times.

Once again this is a program similar to Angel Tree, where you can pick a child and provide a gift for them for Christmas. This is a \$20 to \$25 gift, and is due back, wrapped, on December 10. If you are unable to shop, Kathy and her elves will shop for you.

Thanks again St. John's for supporting another outreach ministry at Christmas!



Family Spirit Class Advent Series

In December, please join us at St. John's UMC on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in room 257 as we study a new book and DVD, *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story*, a new book by Rachael Billups.

Each week we will watch a short 10 minute video in class with comments from the author and then discuss questions from the book. In December 2023, we will study Advent. And folks are welcome to drop by any week to sample the class and try it out. Free admission and open to all adults. Questions about the class?

Email: eagan.brian@gmail.com

Watch this quick [introduction video](#) to meet Rev. Rachel Billups, (less than 2 minutes)

And watch [Session 1 - An Unlikely Advent](#), Session 1 (ten minutes) by Rachel Billups

Click the link [HERE](#) for more information about the book study and author.

Coalition in Response to the Lives Lost From Street Racing

On October 8, 2023, Jenna Hamilton, was killed as the result of a horrific street-racing crash on Louisiana NE. The driver of one of the speeding cars died as well. In response to this tragic accident, members of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church are seeking to form a coalition to address the increasingly dangerous practice of speeding and drag racing on

our city streets in Albuquerque.

Initially, they plan to contact Tammy Feibelkorn, the city councilor in whose district the accident occurred. With her input, they hope to first create a committee broadening into a coalition with the intent of requesting renewed interest in and funding to combat this public health issue.

If you would like to serve on this important committee or have ideas for combatting this dangerous practice, please contact: Paula Mills, mother of Jenna Hamilton, at (505)-974-1784, or email, epmills@live.com.

The greater the chorus, the greater the impact we will have. Please prayerfully consider joining in this effort.

Nursery Care Available During Lessons & Carols Rehearsals & Performances

Nursery care for children of Chancel Choir members and musicians will be available each scheduled rehearsal/performance date for November and December. Please contact Angela Lybarger if you will need nursery care so we can be sure to have enough staff available to take care of your little ones. Call/text to (505) 250-3875.

Part-time Nursery Manager Needed

St. John's UMC is looking for a part-time nursery manager for our church. This position requires someone with a heart to care for little ones ages 6 weeks through 4 years old. Candidates need to be available 6-8 hours per week, including Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and/or other days and times as needed. Responsibilities include coordinating nursery staff scheduling, communicating with staff and families, and tracking both Safe Sanctuaries training/ CPR certification for all nursery staff. Please contact Jamie Davidson at (505) 883-9717 if interested in this position.

Part-time Nursery Staff Needed

Great news! The number of children in our congregation is growing! As a result, St. John's UMC is looking for 4-6 people who would be able to help with our nursery needs on a regular, rotating basis. If you are interested in caring for our children ages 6 weeks through 4 years old, please contact Jamie Davidson at (505) 883-9717. Applicants need to be available on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and possibly other days/times as needed. All candidates must complete Safe Sanctuaries training.

Security Awareness

We would like to remind you to be aware of potential scams that become more prevalent during the holidays. If you receive a text or email from a sender claiming to be Josh or staff from St. John's asking for a favor, delete and block the message.

Know that neither Pastor Josh, nor anyone else at St. John's, would ever solicit for gift cards or money through individual text or email.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Survey Says!

Thank you to everybody who participated in the survey for the youth group's Family Feud night at the start of this month! We all had a blast with it and may try something like this again in the future. In case you also wanted to see a breakdown of the most popular responses, the results have been displayed in the northeast stairwell bulletin board at the church. You can view the results by clicking [HERE](#). We had nearly 70 responses, but all of the results have been normalized out of 100. Thank you again for your participation!

Lions, Tigers & White Elephants?

The Christmas season has arrived. As our usual youth group activities proceed throughout the next few weeks, I want to build our students' anticipation for the white elephant gift exchange at youth group on December 17. It is always a fun event with some great recurring gifts. If you have any youth (grades 6 – 12) that would like to participate, we would love to have them join us that day at 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Every student must bring a gift with a \$15 limit, that has already been wrapped, is age appropriate and gender neutral. We will also have some holiday treats for this fun event. If you have a gift you would like to donate for our gift exchange, we will be playing some games to hand out the excess we may have. Just follow the same rules for the gifts that were stated earlier. If you have any questions or need more information feel free to contact Brett, youthdirector@stjohns-abq.org.



PRAYER

Prayer Quilt Recipient

Matt Greer 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 appreciation for Matt. Won't be in the Center this week? No worries, either way please pray this prayer (or your own prayer) for Matt. "Father, we are thankful that you have shared Matt with St. John's for these past 20 years. We are grateful for the gifts with which you have blessed Matt and we pray that you will give him a fresh supply of strength, anointing his projects, ideas, and energy so that even his smallest accomplishment may bring you glory. In Jesus's name. Amen."

GIVING

Snack Items

During the month of December, we will be collecting "snack items" for Tierra Adentro New Mexico (TANM) Arts Charter School, located in NW Albuquerque, and serving mid- and high-school students. The function of TANM is to ensure quality education in the arts and academics for children, while facilitating a deep understanding and practical application of New Mexico's cultural roots and traditions.

We currently provide weekend meal bags each week for five of their students who are homeless/food insecure and will continue to do so. However, they have identified an additional 50 students who are food insecure and we would like to help out any way we can. This month we are collecting snack items which will be distributed by the counselor as needed at TANM. Suggested **SINGLE-SERVE** items are: cheese and crackers, beef jerky, applesauce, pudding, fruit cups, granola bars, power bars, cereal bars, ravioli, spaghetti-
os, macaroni and cheese, soups (pull tab openings), ramen noodles, trail mix, fruit snacks, boxed drinks and juices, chips, pretzels, Goldfish, Vienna sausages, pop tarts, or oatmeal. Please place your donated items in the bins in the Hospitality Center.

THANK YOU, St. John's, for all you do for those who are food insecure!

LIVESTREAM

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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