



November 17, 2023

Josh's Jottings

I'm very pleased to announce two additions to the St. John's team.

Brett Reece has been selected to serve as the Director of Youth Ministries. He has already been serving as the interim Director and has shined in the position, leading the youth through the transition from Tiffany Hollums' leadership. Most of you likely already know Brett. He has been a member at St. John's all his life and is, himself, an alum of the youth program and has also served as a youth sponsor for several years now. We are excited about the energy, care, and spiritual depth he is already bringing to the youth program during this important time.

Rev. Molly Shannon will also be coming to St. John's to serve as Minister of Congregational Care. Molly has served churches in New Mexico and West Texas and was an associate pastor at Central UMC most recently. She brings great gifts, joy, and energy to the congregational care ministry. She will be available to offer visitation, coordinate volunteers, help with funerals, and more. Molly will officially begin on January 1, but you may see her around church in the weeks to come.

There are still several open positions at the church including bookkeeper and nursery manager. If you know persons who are qualified and passionate about either of those roles, encourage them to contact the church ASAP. In the meantime, I hope you will welcome both Brett and Molly to the St. John's staff. We are so excited about the team that is forming that will lead our church forward for years to come.

-Pastor Josh



Mountain Cathedrals Saturday

The November Mountain Cathedrals Hike will be held Saturday, November 18. Going a bit further afield this time, we journey to the Rio Puerco area south of Cabezon peak. The Hoodoo Trail in the Ojito Wilderness awaits. This walk is of moderate difficulty (4 miles, a few hundred feet of elevation change), and is a good introduction to the fabulous desert scenery in this part of NM. The area is interesting for its geology (numerous volcanic necks, sandstone formations and convoluted structures), botany (Ponderosas below 6000 feet elevation), human history (the Navajos and Apaches did not always get along), and what we may find in ourselves on this journey. Plan to be at St. John's (east lot) by 7:30 a.m. Prepare for cold weather and sun and bring lunch; return by 2:00 p.m.

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, December 16.

Mobile Food Pantry Saturday

Our next Mobile Food Pantry is Saturday, November 18. Volunteers arrive about 9:00 a.m. and distribution begins at 9:45 - 10:00 a.m., depending on the time the Roadrunner food bank truck arrives. We are usually finished by noon. For more information, please contact Debby Smith at 505-554-4238 or dysmith0427@gmail.com.

Memorial Service for Dan Geist Saturday

A memorial service to celebrate Dan Geist's life will be held at St. John's United Methodist Church this Saturday, November 18, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. Displays of Dan's artwork will be up in the Hospitality Center. All are welcome to celebrate the life of Dan Geist.

WeCare November 19

WeCare is meeting this Sunday, November 19, at 1 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Enter through the east doors. This group is designed for people who are caring for a loved one

to connect with each other. Our goal is to provide mutual understanding and support on our caregiving journey. We will be going on hiatus after November as we conceive of the next phase of this group. For more information contact Rachel Perovich at rachel.perovich@gmail.com.

Music at St. John's Presents Alexis and Hovey Corbin and Friends

"Music at St. John's" presents a magical afternoon of exciting contemporary music curated by two of Albuquerque's favorite percussionists. Join us on Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m. for a concert by Hovey and Alexis Corbin and friends (including violinist David Felberg, and percussionists Douglas Cardwell, Jeff Cornelius, and Alan Zimmerman). This will be a unique and unforgettable concert!

Hanging of the Greens Celebration November 26

Please join us November 26 to prepare our facility for the season of Advent!

Come and go as your schedule provides, work, eat and have some fun with the St. John's community and start the season of Advent in church, creating a beautiful space for people to feel welcome and to worship. A light lunch will be served.

The following is the schedule of events and locations throughout the church building.

- Following the Abide service at 10:30 a.m., we will begin set up/staging for Family Life Center-side of the building; banners, greens in FLC, wreath fluffing/ fixing/ hanging.
- Following the sanctuary service, at noon we will quickly put away banners, altar cloths, etc.
- Around 12:30 p.m. a light lunch of soup and salad will be served in the FLC.
- Following lunch at 1:30 p.m. we will continue decorating around the FLC, sanctuary, narthex, and music wing.

Sign-up sheets can be found in the Hospitality Center as well as in the FLC. Or, you can sign-up using this link [HERE](#). An approximate number will be needed for Tim to know how much food to make.

See you at St. John's!

Memory Café December 2

Celebrate the Christmas Season with your Memory Café friends at our Christmas cookie decorating party! Special music by Roger Eaton Quartet. Memory Café is a supportive fellowship for anyone affected by memory loss/ Alzheimer's and their caring partners. Relax with your loved one and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of music and activities. Meet and share with others on a similar journey. This is not a drop-off event.

December 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Sonshine Café.

Enter through the door marked Sonshine Café from the parking lot off Phoenix.

November and December Omelet Bar

Combined on December 3

With all the wonderful events preparing for and part of Advent, the November and December Omelet Bar Mix and Match will be combined on December 3 . On that day, 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. See you then!

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.



Office and Other Closures November 23-24

The church office will be closed next week for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24. Tai Chi class will not meet on Thursday but resume the following Thursday, November 30. Practice of Presence class will not meet on zoom Friday, November 24, but return the following Friday, December 1.

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 at St. John's would ever solicit for gift cards or money through individual text or email.



Family Spirit Class New Series

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, *Adult Bible Studies*. Each week we will watch a short 5 minute video in class with comments from the author and then discuss questions. In November 2023, we will study Unit 1 - Food. And folks are welcome to drop by any week to sample the class and try it out. Free admission and open to all adults.

Preview for Unit 1:

Scripture recognizes that hunger, famine, and food insecurity make people vulnerable to a variety of threats. It also testifies to God's generous provision of food for humans and wild creatures and to human responsibility to help those who are hungry and in need. From God's provision of manna in the wilderness to divine provision during famine, from Jesus' feeding of crowds to his teaching of a new way of being with the poor and marginalized through table fellowship. Scripture bears witness to God's graciousness and our responsibility as its recipients. Bible lessons in this unit are based on Exodus 16, 1 Kings 19, Mark 6, and Luke 14. Spiritual Practice: Feasting

Chef Tim Will Cook Your Thanksgiving Turkey or Ham

Are you too busy to cook the turkey or ham this year for Thanksgiving? Are you feeding scores of people and your oven won't fit a 24 lb. turkey? Have Chef Tim slow roast your turkey or ham for you. \$40 if you buy the turkey or ham and bring to the kitchen Sunday, November 19; \$60 if Chef Tim buys the turkey or ham.

Pick up in the kitchen: Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information and to sign up, contact Chef Tim at 505-883-9717 x 141 or tnuzum@stjohns-abq.org.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree ministry has been supported by St. John's for many years. If you're not familiar, Angel Tree provides gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated, in the name of the parent. Of course, it could not be done without the generosity of the people of St. John's. You will have two opportunities to pick your "Angel" from the Trees that will be in the Narthex and the Family Life Center on November 12 and 19. Then you're off to shop for a gift of clothing and a "fun" gift for "your" Angel, spending \$20 on each gift. You can return the wrapped gifts, with the Angels attached, to the church on November 26 and December 3. Volunteers will sort the gifts into family groups, and then make certain they are delivered to the Angels before Christmas!

If you are unable to shop, but would like to support the program, please pick your Angel, and give the volunteer at the tree your \$40 contribution. Volunteers will do the shopping and wrapping for you!

Should you be interested in volunteering in some way, please contact Kathy Scherlacher at 505-918-5990.

Each year this Christmas Season ministry brings great joy to the children and the love of Christ to their parents. Thank you, St. John's for your time, your gifts, and your support of Angel Tree.



No Families of Faith November 22

There will be no Families of Faith on Wednesday, November 22. This includes New Sound Choir rehearsal and Kids' Bible Club. Enjoy your Thanksgiving week, and we'll see everyone again on November 29.

"The Mysterious Animal" Christmas Pageant

Are you between the ages of 2 and 102? Do you enjoy acting or set design? Do you get a kick out of the unexpected moments in a children's play? Are you bursting with excitement to share the great news of Jesus' birth? If you answered "Yes!" to any of these questions, then the St. John's 2023 Christmas pageant is a perfect opportunity for you! Our play this year will look at the Nativity through the eyes of the animals who were in the barn to witness the birth of Jesus Christ. There could possibly be "rogue" sheep again this year - just sayin'.

Please contact Angela Lybarger at (505) 250-3875 by November 25 if you can assist with "animal" wrangling at practices, help make backdrops/sets, or if your child would like to participate. We have 11 speaking parts available, but there is always a place for even our youngest, non-verbal children. All are welcome!



Prayer Quilt Recipient

Kathy Elrick 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 Kathy. Won't be in the Center this week? No worries, either way please pray this prayer (or your own prayer) for Kathy. "Eternal God, we ask that you help Kathy in times of weakness and pain. Please sustain her by your grace so that her strength and courage do not fail. In Jesus's name. Amen."

GIVING

November Special Offering: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

Wildfires in Hawaii; Tornadoes in the Midwest; huge Hurricane in Mexico, and Wars are creating refugees around the world.

UMCOR is there providing aide to the victims. In the summer of 2024, our youth will be there, too. They will be volunteering at the UMCOR warehouse in Louisiana assembling care packages for distribution around the world. And we, too, can be there by giving generously this month. Our financial gifts will lay the foundation for all UMCOR does by underwriting its administrative costs so that 100% of the donations to a specific UMCOR project go directly to that project. Crises seem never ending, and we may often feel helpless, but our financial gifts to UMCOR in November can make a difference.

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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