

February 2023

THE MESSENGER



Prepared for the members & friends of:

St. John's United Church of Christ (Huntersville)

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FROM OUR
PASTOR

I thought about making this my newsletter article for the month. (I don't know exactly how Shannon would have made that look good on the full page my article goes on, but I am certain she would have found a way.)

"It's winter. My brain is cold. It cannot think of good words. God loves you. Amen."

I of course did NOT choose to write a four sentence newsletter article. Even though it IS cold right now. But to a certain respect I could have. Because the proposed article gets to the point of our faith, one that we simply cannot be reminded of enough. God loves us. God loves your neighbor down the street and around the world. God loves you. That's it. That's the message. But its implications are so much more.

Part of why this message is so important is that we live in a world, in a society, that wants us to believe otherwise. You are NOT loved, our culture tells us. Not unless you buy this brand new car. Or get these designer clothes. You are not enough unless you have the perfect job or the best behaved family. You are not worthy unless you fit into society's prescribed requirements. And no one can fit into them. (Thus people always need to buy more stuff in order to be loved.)

But our faith says something different. It tells us that because we were made by God, because we are made in God's image, we are enough. Right now. We may need to work on things to be the best version of ourselves. (Read: We all have things to do in order to become the best version of ourselves.) But God's love for us does not depend upon that work. We are loved. Right now. Just as we are. Indeed, it is the power of that love that empowers us to do that work of improvement. That allows us to strive for a better world. It is the power of that love that allows us to love others.

And here's where the good news comes with a small dose of challenge. Because if God loves us, God loves others, too. God loves our brilliant friend, our loving grandparent, and the lady who makes the best pies. But God also loves that person who cut us off in traffic. That person down the street who is super annoying. That coworker who drives us crazy. God loves the immigrant, the person who is LGBTQ, the person facing mental illness, the person whose pain is hidden from us, but real. God loves all of us- all of them. For God loves all people. And as followers of Jesus, of followers of the One who loves, we are called to strive to love also.

That won't be easy. We won't always agree on what that love should look like. We will make mistakes. Our human frailness we result in us doing unkind and unloving things EVEN WHEN we are doing our best to love.



That's just life. But that doesn't excuse us from the call- we are to love others as we have first been loved. We are to love others because they are children of God. And when we fail? Then we can lean back on the same words of grace that started this article. You are loved.

Friends, God loves us. Now and always. At our best and at our worst. When we do a good job in loving others and when we don't. God loves us. Thanks be to God!

Shalom, *Pastor Joe*



A page from the hymnal...

“AMAZING GRACE”

#422



The year 2023 marks 250 years since the text of this immensely popular hymn was first heard. Known as the most recognizable song for religious and secular purposes, the author, John Newton, used it as a response to his sermon on New Year’s Day in 1773. Newton was born on July 24, 1725 in London, England, where he died on December 7, 1807, at age 82. In 1748, while serving as a sea captain in Atlantic slave trade on the ship, “Greyhound,” a violent storm occurred and Newton called to God for mercy. He called this “the hour I first believed”. Newton was ordained in the Anglican Church in 1764. He served as minister at the church at Olney, England, and in 1779 was appointed to St. Mary Woolnoth, London, which he served until his death. An author of many hymns, he also wrote the words to of the hymn, “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken” (#598).

Associated with many melodies, this text is best known sung to the tune, NEW BRITAIN. This tune was composed in 1835 by William Walker, who was born on May 6, 1809 in Martin’s Mills, SC. He was collaborator and publisher of “Southern Harmony” in 1835, and “The Christian Harmony” in 1867. Both are still in print. Walker joined Cedar Springs Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC in 1832, and died in Spartanburg on September 24, 1875. The tune was adapted and harmonized by Edwin O. Excell (1851-1921).

“Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!”

David W. Hanson, Organist/Choir Director
St. John’s (Huntersville) UCC



**LITURGIST & BENEVOLENCE
SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY**

5
12
19
26

Requesting Prayers for:



- Nikki Sarringhaus.
- John & Connie Moody.
- Marian Koester.
- Kent Meyers (son to Taaron & Roger).
- Chyntia Buczak (Cancer, friend to Dan Hall).
- Danny McDonough (Health Issues, father to Sarah Feldmann).
- Gayle Sarringhaus.
- Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus).
- Loretta Jones (Health Issues, cousin to Dale Koester).
- Robert Weiler Jr. (Colon Cancer).
- Kelsey Weber (Health Issues).
- Lori Mauer (Thyroid Cancer).
- The Family of Ruth Thie.
- Dave & Bonnie Johnston.
- The Family of Douglas Maple.
- Jerry Rose (Cardiac & Neurological Issues).
- Vicky Wintz (Breast Cancer).
- Stephen Feldmann (Health Issues).
- The Family of Chyntia Buczak.
- The Family of Florence Meyers.

Coming Soon



Our very own Emeritus Pastor Dave Johnston will be putting together a short message in the upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned for his words of wisdom, wonderful memories & stories as well as his love and support he provides to all.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Our Ash Wednesday service this year will be on Wednesday, February 22 at 7pm. There will be ashes and Communion. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together. Regular Lenten services will begin the

following week also at 7pm.



Thank you for the college scholarship that was given to me this past fall. It helped immensely with the expenses that are required by higher education. With your guys' support, it helped ease the burden put on myself and our family. I appreciate what our church does for the college aged members in the congregation. I look forward to the continued support as I pursue my master's degree going into 2023. ~ Thank you! Garrett Wagner

Thank you to the Growing Servants Youth Group for the nice bucket of goodies. We really enjoyed receiving it. God Bless You All. ~ Don & Georgia Haarman



My role as caregiver for Virginia is requiring more and more time, so I am asking for some members to take over some of my "jobs". *Job* is not the right word because I really have enjoyed these "jobs" but feel the need to step aside. These "jobs" individually do not take much time so if there are several members that would accept the positions, it shouldn't be a burden. They are *(there may be others that I haven't thought about, but for now)*:

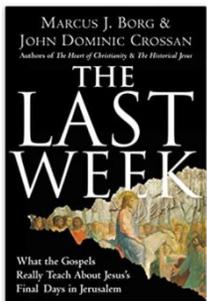
- ♥ Arranging and caring for/watering the Poinsettias and Easter flowers
- ♥ Preparing and resetting the altar/chancel for the Tenebrae Service on Maundy Thursday

Many, many thanks to Sheryl Voss for helping with these for many years.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at:
Cindyfeller1@gmail.com 812-212-8308

~ Love you all, Cindy Feller

BOOK STUDY



Our next book study sessions will be on the book *The Last Week* by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. This will begin on Tuesday, February 21 at 4:30pm. Though no evening class is yet scheduled, one **COULD** be scheduled if there were interest. To express that interest, or to have us order a book for you, please call the office.

A big Thank you for the cards and phone calls for my 90th birthday! ~ Paul H. Borchelt

Thank you to the Growing Servants Youth Group for the wonderful basket of treats, but mostly for thinking of us. We enjoyed and appreciated your kindness. ~ Dale & Marian Koester

A big Thank you to everyone who helped take down and repack the Christmas decorations. Also thanks to Margie Harmeyer for the altar décor. We welcome and encourage anyone with "creative juices" flowing to participate in this ministry.



'Copycat' Frisch's Big Boy Strawberry Pie



- 1 frozen deep dish pie crust
- 1 ¼ cups of sugar
- 3 T. cornstarch
- 1 ¼ cups of water
- 3 T. strawberry gelatin
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced

Bake frozen pie crust according to package directions. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 30 minutes. In a small saucepan over medium heat, whisk together sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil then reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes until thickened. Whisk in strawberry gelatin. Remove mixture from heat and set aside to cool. Add strawberries to the cooled pie crust the pour gelatin mixture over the strawberries. Refrigerate for a few hours until set. Enjoy!

'Copycat' McDonald's Big Mac Sauce



- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ⅓ t. salt
- 2 T. French dressing
(orange in color, not red)
- 4 t. sweet pickle relish
- 1 T. finely minced white onion

1 t. white vinegar

1 t. sugar

Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl. Stir well. Place sauce in a covered container and refrigerate for several hours or overnight so flavors meld. Stir the sauce a couple of times as it chills. Recipe makes about ¾ cup of sauce.

~ Recipes submitted by Marian Koester and
boy don't they sound yummy!



- 1 Megan Volk
- 2 Zach Placke, Garrett Wagner
- 3 Kindred Lehfeldt, Carol McPherson
- 5 Floyd Wirth
- 8 Barb Foster, Abigail Vonderheide, Emily Vonderheide
- 9 Larry Eaton, Alice Steiner
- 10 Charlotte Huffmeyer, Mark Meyer, Jeremy Raver
- 11 Tim Pohlman, Steve Vonderheide
- 12 Jane Link, Bob Weber
- 13 Jessica Hunt, Gail Miller, Debbie Rollins
- 15 Marlene Riehle, Quinten Sarringhaus, Travis Westerfeld
- 18 Tyler Placke
- 19 Jeff Schwier, Lisa Slagle
- 21 Jessica Lehfeldt
- 22 Georgia Haarman, Linda Meyer
- 23 Gary Cornett
- 24 Amber Wirth
- 25 Landon Boor, Mark Johnson
- 26 Jerry McKinney, Nathan Pohlman
- 28 Anita Oliver, Gretchen Oppelt



- 5 Roger & Becky Schutte
- 14 Gerald & Jenny Huffmeyer, Joe & Cindy Volk
- 15 Don & Georgia Haarman

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

February 26: Perfect North:

We will hit the slopes of Perfect North after Sunday School. More details when we get closer, but put this date on your calendar now. Families are welcome!



March 26: Youth Meeting at Church:

After a few months of traveling for youth group, let's gather at St. John's. Lunch will be provided. We will have a devotional... and the chance to simply be together as the Body of Christ.

Youth Sunday is also coming up soon. Watch for that date and plan to join us!

JOE WITH PASTOR JOEY



Pastor Joey will be at Amack's Well each Monday from a little after 9am until noon. (Usually upstairs due to a large group that gathers at 10am these days.) Come join him

for casual conversation, to get something off your chest, or just to support our local business.

"FINAL CALL"
MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY UPDATE



This is the FINAL CALL for updated info and photos for the Church Directory.

- 1. Email the church with the updated info
- 2. Call the church during office hours

Deadline for updates has been set for February 7th. Please help us ensure that we have the most accurate information.

If you wish to order a copy, there is a sign-up sheet in the common area or you can email or call the church.

ST. JOHN'S COUNTRY STORE



As part of the 100th Anniversary of the Sunday School Picnic next July, we are seeing if there is interest in having a "Country Store" like in the past. Our thoughts are to have different "parts"

of the store – produce, baked goods (specialty baked goods like homemade breads, coffee cakes, canned goods, fun crafts, nice handmade gift items, etc.

We have a "sign-up" sheet by the card signing table to find out who is interested in donating to the store and what your specialty is to give us an idea if the Country Store idea is something to pursue for the Picnic.



Any questions: Give us a call!

- Cindy Feller 812-212-8308
- Sheryl Voss 812-212-8996 or 812-934-3803
- Bev McKinney 812-212-2307 or 812-623-2709



February 2023



March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Worship Service: 9am / **Sunday School:** 10:15am

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday, 8am-4pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 @ 6pm Year 2 @ 7pm	2	3	4
5 Communion SUNDAY	6 SS Board Meeting @ 6pm	7	8 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 @ 6pm Year 2 @ 7pm Chancel Choir Practice @ 7pm in the Choir Room	9	10	11
12 Chancel Choir Singing	13	14 Council Meeting @ 6:30pm Happy Valentine's Day	15 Confirmation Classes: Year 1 @ 6pm Year 2 @ 7pm	16 Griefshare 6-7:30pm	17 Messenger Deadline	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21 Book Study "The Last Week" @4:30pm	22 Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm Confirmation Classes: Year 1 & 2 @ 5:30pm Chancel Choir Practice following service QuiltMakers @ 9:30am	23 Griefshare 6-7:30pm	24	25
26 Chancel Choir Singing	27	28				

JOHN 3:16

Word Search Puzzle

C L A D I H A F
S T H A T S F K
L Q E N E P P A
M O A E C L E D
N F V L N T M R
R B H L M R D B D E O A P G I B F O R J S W R H R E I L E B Z
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JOHN 3:16
FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.