BY OUR SERVICE					
	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
GREETERS/ USHERS	The Smiths	The Cooks The Wardlaws	The Hemingways	The Borons	The Youth
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Jacob Zeller Abby Deas	Nathalie Boron Nicholas Boron	Ashlynn Reynolds Jacob Rabon	Ryan Matney Morgan Matney	Caroline Williams Lauren Boron
NURSERY WORKERS	TBA	Susan Thomas Tomie Christofaro	Wanda Cooke Colby Christofaro	Laura Barton Colby Christofaro	Jessica Alvey Claire Alvey
TRUSTEE OF THE DAY	Jim Ray	Kristie Alvey	Joe Boron	Darlene Moore	Kathy Keith
FELLOWSHIP	Life Skills (Darrel Cooke)	Coffee Only	Coffee Only	Coffee Only	Coffee Only
FLOWERS	Tom & Chris Haff Randall & Martha Watts	Mary Sullivan Monroe & Jeannine Weatherford	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias
FINANCE TELLERS	Ann Roberts Perry Hill	Jean Dixon Betty Reynolds	Pat Norris Sandra Wardlaw	Dennis Nichols Sharon Lezak	Pat Dixon Betty Hawkins
LAY READERS	Chris Haff	Bruce Bryant	Millie Bryant	Ginger Catoe	Youth

Thank you for agreeing to serve. If you are unable to attend on your assigned date, please contact the individual in charge of the area to which you are assigned or arrange to change dates with someone else on the calendar.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Earl Branham Thomas McCaskill
Lynn Brautlacht Carmen Rivera
Craig Coker D J Rivers
LaDean Brinegar Phyllis Schultz & Family

Noah Hill

Bob Kazlauski

Bob Kazlauski

Richard Treadwell

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church. Your request will be posted for 4 weeks. If you would like it to remain longer, please contact the church.

Quilts blessed last month for:

Jean Shirley - mother of Johnnie Shirley and

Charles & Louise Ives

and

Linky Tanner - friend of Mary Bess Johnson

Griffis family -friends of Randall and Martha Watts

SERVICE AREA CONTACT
Greeters/Ushers Lynn Smith

Crucifers/Acolytes Church Office Admin Asst.

Nursery Workers Lisa Wilson

Trustee of the Day Johnnie Shirley

Fellowship Family Committee Chair/Church Office

Flowers Margaret Hawkins

Finance / Tellers Susan Weatherford /Ann Roberts
Lay Readers Church Office Admin. Asst.

DECEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Church Council Meeting – December 5th – 6:30 pm In the Sanctuary

Finance Committee – December 10th – 6:30 pm In the Conference Room

Chancel Choir Cantata – December 15th During the Morning Worship Service

The Marshall's Christmas Open House –
December 15th – Drop-in at the parsonage anytime
between 4:00 – 7:00 pm

St. John's UMC Child Care Ministry Christmas Program – December 19th – 9:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship at St. John's UMC Candlelight and Communion December 24th - 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

St. John's United Methodist Church 45 Roseborough Rd. PO Box 218 Lugoff, SC 29078 PERMIT NO. 6 NON-PROFIT ORG CARRIER ROUTE U.S. POSTAGE P-A-I-D LUGOFF. SC 29078

Address Service Requested

St. John's United Methodist Church

Open hearts, open minds, open doors



45 Roseborough Road, PO Box 218, Lugoff, SC 29078

December 2019

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday: 8:00am – 4:00pm

Phone Numbers:

Church Office:803-438-1335

Fax Line: 803-438-0335

Website:

www.stiohnslugoff.co

Church Email Address:

s.j.umc@truvista.net

CHURCH STAFF Pastor:

Rev. Angela Marshall ahmarshall@umcsc.org

Youth Director Jason Rabon

Childcare Director: Lisa Wilson

Music Director: Jerome Ogburn

Pianist: Sylvia Stone

Organist: Jose Soler

Audio/Visual Coordinator: Chuck Horton

Administrative Assistant:

Kay Lott klott@truvista.net

Financial Secretary: Casie Anderson canderson@truvista.net

Sexton: Catherine Swinton

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship Service

A Little Dash of S.A.L.T. Serving And Learning Together December 2019

Patience is Bitter, but it's Fruit is Sweet

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Patience has never been something that comes easy to me. As a child, the countdown for Christmas began on December 26_{th} – only 364 more days until Christmas!! Do you have any idea how long that can seem to a small child? As I anxiously awaited the next Christmas morning, I would imagine the special present that I would be allowed to open on Christmas Eve, the stockings that would overflow with smaller gifts on Christmas morning, and the anticipation I would have as I followed the clues to find my "big gift". Yet, as exciting as each of these sounds, not one of them could match the excitement I felt as I would wake up each Christmas morning, run to the living room where our nativity adorned the china hutch, and find the tiny baby Jesus, lying in a manger, just like the Bible said.

When our family would decorate our home for Christmas, the baby Jesus was never in the box in which the nativity was stored, and it always amazed me! We would position Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angel, the Wisemen, and the animals ever so carefully while also making sure that there was an empty space right in front of Mary and Joseph for the manger that would hold the baby Jesus on Christmas morning. As I look back now, I find it interesting that as excited as I was to find the box with the nativity on decorating day, I don't ever remember being worried that he wasn't in the box because I just knew he would be there on Christmas morning. And so, once the nativity was in place, the Christmas-Morning-Countdown continued throughout Advent.

The season of Advent - the Christmas Countdown - comes from the Latin word *adventus* which means "coming" or "visit." This season of preparation and anticipation begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve (which is when the Christmas Season begins). The United Methodist Church recognizes blue (the color of hope) and purple (the color of royalty and penitence) as the liturgical colors for Advent because during the Advent season we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. At St. John's United Methodist Church, we use the blue paraments during Advent and purple during Lent.

As we remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah, as well as our own longing for and our need of forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning, we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem and we look forward to the second coming of Christ and the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. Advent began on December 1st this year and with it the weekly countdown to Christmas morning began. My prayer is that our excitement will be for the coming of Christ as we remember the real meaning of Christmas and anticipate our Savior's return. With every gift we receive and every present that is wrapped so precisely and decorated with colorful bows, may we remember that the very best present ever given was wrapped not in paper, but in swaddling clothes.

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." - Luke 2:15-18

God's peace, Angela



GOLDEN HEARTS



Golden Hearts is a wonderful weekly fellowship opportunity created for all adults age 50 and up as well as anyone younger than 50 who enjoys spending time with others!

Thursday, December 3rd

10:00 AM - Bible Study with Rev. Barbee Parsons followed by a covered dish lunch

Tuesday, December 10th

Meet at the church at 10:00am. We will travel together to the home of Judy Robertson to enjoy the movie. "I Can Only Imagine". Bring your favorite food dish to share and we will enjoy lunch together. Plates, cups, coffee, and hot apple cider will be provided.

Saturday, December 14: Golden Hearts and Lee Fellowship Sunday School Class Christmas Party

11:00 AM - We will meet in the Metal Building. The meat for our meal will be provided so bring your favorite side dish and a \$10 gift for the Christmas Gift Exchange

Tuesday, December 17th

10:00 AM – Christmas Ornament Workshop and out to lunch

Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

Join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion worship beginning at 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 31st

No meeting - Happy New Year's Eve - Happy New Year!

Ministries for Youth

10

17

24

31

MON

16

23

30

TUE

WED

11

18

25

THUR

12

19

26

FRI

6:45am Bible

6:45am Bible

6:45am Bible

Breakfast

NO Bible

Breakfast

Breakfast

Breakfast

20

SAT

7 9:00-12:00

Harvest Hope

Foodbank Ser

Project

Lights of

Lugoff

Parade

14

21

28

DECEMBER 2019 YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

December 1st: No MYF December 6th: Bible Breakfast - 6:45 AM

December 7th:9:00am-12:00pm Harvest Hope Foodbank

Service project December 8th: Fundraiser for the metal building renovations

following Morning Worship December 8th: UMYF - 5-7PM Special guest is Melissa Blankenship brining us a devotion about hope and

December 13th: Bible Breakfast

- 6:45 AM

perseverance

December 14th: Youth Participating in Lights of Lugoff parade (meet at the church at

3:00 p.m.)

December 15th: Christmas Caroling and Christmas drop-in at the parsonage

SUN

NO MYF

8 1200pm

Fundraiser

5:00-7:00pm

Christmas

Caroling &

Parsonage

Grounds

NO MYF

Drop-in at the

Carolina Lights

at the State Fair

Youth Sunday

Meal

UMYF

15

22

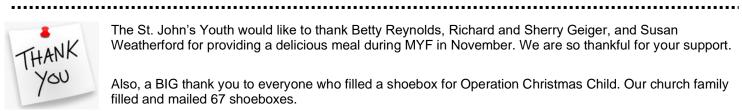
29

December 20th: Bible Breakfast - 6:45 AM

December 22nd: Going to see Carolina Lights at the state fair grounds and will have dinner while we are out

December 29th: NO UMYF (Christmas)

The youth will be sorting and delivering Christmas cards again this year from Dec. 8th through the 22nd. There is no charge for this. Cards can be dropped off and picked up before/after worship service at the table in the narthex.



The St. John's Youth would like to thank Betty Reynolds, Richard and Sherry Geiger, and Susan Weatherford for providing a delicious meal during MYF in November. We are so thankful for your support.

Also, a BIG thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Our church family filled and mailed 67 shoeboxes.

Committees, Leadership Chairs, and Ministry Teams...Oh My!

Mark your calendars for December 29th and January 12th!

During worship on December 29th, the last Sunday of 2019, we will give God thanks for all servant leaders within the church who have served God and the people of St. John's United Methodist Church through their work as members and chairpersons of various ministries and committees throughout 2019. Many of you have worked tirelessly behind the scenes taking care of things that most of the church will never know about - while others of you have been the ones who have had opportunities to stand before our faith family to share updates and news, some worthy of joyful celebration and other that has been difficult to deliver. Regardless, we are extremely grateful for the gifts that you have brought to St. John's through your leadership and we hope that you will join us on the 29th of December for a special time of prayer.

On January 12, 2020, St. John's United Methodist Church will celebrate "Baptism of the Lord" Sunday which always falls on the Sunday after Epiphany. On this special day we will celebrate by remembering the baptism of Jesus and by reaffirming our baptismal covenant as we are reminded of (or anticipate) our own personal baptism. By virtue of our baptism we are all called into ministry; therefore, during such a special time in the life of the church it is important that we also celebrate and consecrate our newly elected committee members and committee chairs who have agreed to serve as part of St. John's servant leadership ministry teams throughout 2020.

Although the Nominations and Leadership Development Ministry Team still has some more work to do before we have completed the nominations for the 2020 servant ministry leadership teams, it is clear that the new year on the horizon is already filled with infinite possibilities for our faith family to continue in our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Charge Conference of 2019

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the 2019 Charge Conference of St. John's United Methodist Church with our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Robin Dease on November 14th. Thank you - for not just attending - but for participating in this celebration of life and ministry of our faith family in which God is moving in and through! We have so many wonderful ministries to celebrate at St. John's - those that have been offered for years, those being offered right now, and those that we have yet to dream about!

During this year's Charge Conference, we celebrated the ministries and missions of St. John's United Methodist Church, elected new church leaders, set the clergy salary (which will remain the same as it was in 2019), we remembered and celebrated the life of a member of our congregation who finished her race on earth since our last Charge Conference, and had the pleasure of approving two members of the congregation to continue in their journey of Certified Lay and Ordained Ministry.

Congratulations to Tom McCoy who was approved by the Charge Conference of St. John's United Methodist Church to pursue his calling as a Certified Lay Minister of the United Methodist Church! Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership development program in The United Methodist Church focused on equipping and empowering laypersons who have responded to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry. These laypersons are called to live out their own discipleship as servants in leadership through the ministries of leading, caring, and communicating. Being called to ministry is a serious endeavor. It takes a disciple to make a disciple. Thus, we must do all we can to prepare ourselves and others to serve.

Throughout the years, St. John's has approved several of our laity who wish to become a certified Lay Speaker (those who are often equipped to serve as pulpit supply), but Tom has discerned that his calling is to that of a Certified Lay Minister. A certified lay minister serves as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergyperson and can participate in a number of different ministry opportunities which can include (but are not limited to): conducting public worship; caring for a congregation; preaching the Word; leading small groups; establishing outreach ministries; engage in specialized ministries after appropriate training such as in parish nursing, men's ministry, Stephen Ministry, and more.

There are many requirements that Tom will be responsible for completing in order to be a Certified Lay Minister but he is well on his way! Congratulations Tom!

Congratulations to William Smith who was approved by the Charge Conference of St. John's United Methodist Church to pursue his calling as an Ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church! William is currently a seminary student at Duke Divinity School where he is working towards earning his Master of Divinity. This is just one step of many that William will take on his journey to become an Ordained Elder.

Ordained Elders in the United Methodist Church are clergy who are ordained to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. This means elders preach and teach the Word of God, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry.

Since beginning his ministry journey to become an Ordained Elder, William met with Pastor Michael as he began to discern his call to ministry, attended a Ministry Candidacy retreat, was approved by the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee of St. John's, met with a ministry mentor, was approved by the Charge Conference of St. John's and later this month he will have his first meeting with the Hartsville District Committee on Ordained Ministry as his journey continues. This is just the beginning of a long, but fruitful process and we couldn't be more proud!

Please be in prayer for both Tom and William as they navigate their individual journey in ministry which they have been called to by virtue of their baptism.

Bible Studies

CALLED: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice

by Susan Robb

God calls us to a life that we could never imagine on our own. Samuel, Esther, Jonah...they all lived pretty ordinary lives...until they didn't.

In *Called*, author Susan Robb shows us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women calling and empowering them to lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. And she shows us that the same God who called six of the Bible's most iconic characters calls us, too, to bring hope and transformation to the world.

Join us for this study as we discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on our lives.

If you would like to participate in this study, please contact the church office. You may purchase your own book by using the ISBN-13 number which is: 978-1501879746. If you would like for the church to order a book for you, please specify your request when you call to reserve your spot with the group. The cost of the book is \$14. You must request a book no later than January 6th.

This study will be led by Pastor Angela and will be held on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00pm on January 16, 2020

January 16: Father Abraham (Abraham)

January 23: Here I Am! (Samuel)

January 30: A Time Such as This (Esther)

February 6: A Most Reluctant Prophet (Jonah)

February 13: I Have Seen the Lord (Mary Magdalene)

February 20: Leaning In (The Beloved Disciple)

Leaning In (The Beloved Disciple)

You're Invited!

Make plans to join us for a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on December 15th Drop-In anytime between 4:00 – 7:00pm to enjoy food and fellowship.





ANGEL TREE



Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the holidays brighter for children in our community by purchasing gifts from our Angel Tree. This year we sponsored nine families with a total of 27 children from our four local elementary schools. Each family will also receive a "Love Basket" sponsored by various groups and individuals within the church. In addition, twenty gift cards will be provided to Epworth Childrens Home. Once again, the love and compassion of St. John's shines brightly as we help make Christmas special for these children.

REMINDER: GIFTS ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th. Contact Susan Pyritz (803) 446-

Ministries for Children

Children's Church: Every Sunday in December

December 1st - Advent Calendar Workshop at 9:30 a.m.

We will be making a homemade Advent calendar to help us prepare for and count down the days until Jesus' birthday

December 15th - Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration at 9:30 a.m.

We will have a birthday celebration for Jesus and will eat a cupcake and make gingerbread houses.

December 15th – Christmas Caroling and Parsonage Christmas Drop-in (More details to follow)

......

Advent and Christmastide Worship





St. John's UMC Child Care Ministry

Christmas Program

December 19th at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary

.....



Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to:

Phyllis Schultz, Margaret Hawkins and family in the passing of Phyllis' husband, Ray Schultz. He passed away on November 17, 2019



The Church Office
will be closed
December 24th & 25th
and January 1st



NEW MEMBER

Teri Schell she joined our church family on November 24, 2019.

Now You Know...

Its not your ordinary Christmas Tree... in fact, it isn't a Christmas Tree at all...it is a Chrismon Tree.

The Chrismon Tree was first created by Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. In 1957, Mrs. Spencer began thinking about a way to decorate the Christmas tree in her church that would provide a more sacred representation of the season for the Sanctuary. She thought that the traditional ornaments with bright colors and secular sayings were not appropriate for a worship setting and began looking for something that would reflect the Christian faith.

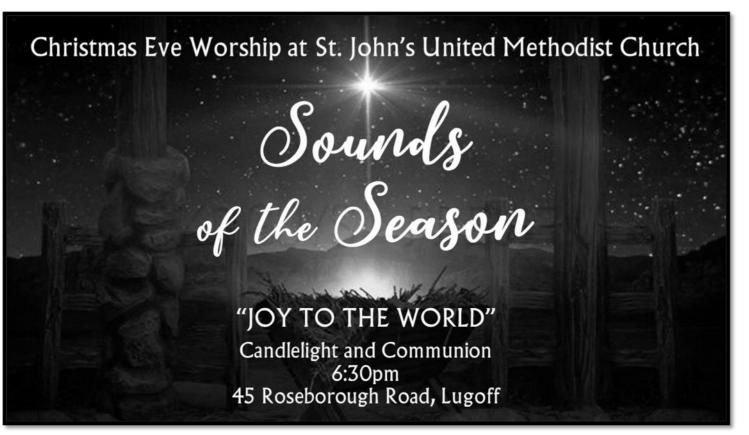
Thinking of the tradition of decorating a birthday cake with the honoree's name, Mrs. Spencer decided to place the name of Jesus and his title, "Christ", on the tree. But rather than using English, she used Greek monograms. The word "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "Monogram" (meaning symbol). "Chi Rho", became one of the earliest Chrismons because they are monograms for Christos, the Greek word for "Christ". These "Chi Rho" monograms as well as some crosses decorated the very first Chrismon Tree. Over the years, Frances Spencer added other designs using signs and symbols utilized by the early Christians. As these designs increased in number, they included references to Jesus' life, ministry, and teachings.

A Chrismon tree is decorated entirely of ornaments made from Christian symbols or Christ monograms. Traditionally, Chrismon ornaments are not sold; they are homemade. They are always white, silver, and gold. The white or silver symbolize that Jesus is pure and perfect, and gold symbolizes his majesty and glory. Chrismons can be made from paper, styrofoam, wood, embroidery, needlepoint, beading, or any other material and process.

The ultimate purpose of the Chrismon tree is to remind us that the real meaning of Christmas should be centered on celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and our preparation for his return.

Now you know!

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion 6:30pm





December Birthdays



- 3. Barry Julian
- 4. Jackie Dewitt
- 6. Jane Julian
- 7. Susan Thomas
- 8. Regina Henson
- 10. Kimberly Sims
- 11. Frances Stewart
- 11. Matthew Spitzer
- 12. Kim Sullivan

- 14. Melisa Blankenship
- 16. Terry Reed
- 19. Caroline Williams
- 19. Tom Dancho
- 20. Casey Driggers
- 20. Eldred Clardy
- 21. Joan Davidson
- 25. Wyatt Breedlove

- 26. Jose Soler
- 27. Kriston Crain
- 27. BJ Livingston
- 29. Chris Matney
- 29. John Engelbosch
- 30. Roy Sullivan
- 30. Tory Branham
- 31. Audrey Livingston

Restricted Funds – Brought to you by St. John's Finance Committee:

Beginning in the August 2019 newsletter we shared with you that St. John's United Methodist Church provides an opportunity for you to provide monetary support for ministries that go above and beyond your weekly giving and yearly tithe. These opportunities are designated for special missions and ministries done by, with, and for the members and friends of St. John's throughout our world and community as well as missions and projects done within our church and are not part of the general budget. We refer to these accounts as "Restricted Funds".

Each month we will highlight one or more of the Restricted Fund accounts as we offer you information and understanding about these special accounts that already exist at St. John's UMC.

Restricted Funeral Dinners: a restricted account that can be used to help provide meals for families that have lost a loved one.

Restricted Habitat for Humanity: a restricted account that will be given to Habitat for Humanity.

If you would like to give to any of these restricted funds, please designate on your offering envelope the restricted fund for which you would like to make a contribution.



Join the St John's Puppet Team and Pastor Angela & Lee at the Lights of Lugoff Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec 14 @ 6:30 PM!!!! Our Mini Bus will be decked out with lights and filled with our Angel Puppets!!! Pastor Angela and Lee will be greeting our community along the parade route and passing out candy. Won't you join them? We need lots of walkers to walk the parade route with them. If you can join us, call or text Millie Bryant @ 803-360-1825 for more information. Lets show our friends and neighbors in Lugoff how St. John's UMC and Child Care Ministry celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior.

We also need help in lighting up our bus the day of the parade. We will meet at the church at 3 PM to decorate the bus and golf cart.

Thank You!

St. John's UMC,

Thank you for once again supporting the Warm Project with a wonderful meal. Please check out the pictures of the work on the LSUMC web site. Ten houses and their owners received help this year.

Peace & Grace Joel Peacock

Thank You!

Dear Church Family

Our family is so grateful for the love and support that the St. John's congregation has lovingly given to our family in the past few weeks. That love was first shown to us with the dedication of the beautiful prayer quilt for Mama and Daddy with so many individual prayers and then again just a few short weeks later with the passing of my Mother. During challenging times such as these, God is faithful through his people with messages of love through prayers, visits, calls, cards, food, etc. We praise God for you, thank you!

Thank You!

St. John's UMC,

Thank you all so very much (for the gifts and prayers upon my sister's death). Your love was highly appreciated. Many thanks for being there for me.

Catherine Swinton

