

February 2020  
Volume 33.2

**St. John's  
United Church of  
Christ**

*St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!*

**An Open and  
Affirming  
Congregation**

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Dear All,

This month of February we will conclude the season of Epiphany when we focus our worship on how we are called to serve God, as well as the light of God that opens our hearts, eyes, and minds to hear God's call. We will prepare to enter the season of Lent which starts with Ash Wednesday on February 26th. This month we are beginning the renovations of the building with the elevator which has been moved to the end of the month due to Jeannette's service and after this year of preparing will start the next part of our renovation journey. And this month we will meet with Marvin to explore how the conference can assist us as we prepare for the future and moving forward as we conclude our renovations.

It is a big month for us here at St John's. First, we will have the opportunity to look at our faith through the eyes of remembering the Rev. Jeannette Salley and how she acted upon her call. Sunday the Rev. Dr. Julia Brown Karimu, President who is the Co-Executive of Global Ministries who oversees overseas ministries will be our guest preacher and challenge us with a global view of ministry. On the 9th we will continue to look at how and where we are called both through the sermon and through the book discussion of Jim Wallis's newest book *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*. On the 10th the council will be examining some ways to move us forward in media and staffing. On the 13th we are all invited to speak with The Rev Marvin Silver as to ideas the conference might have and tools they could share with us.

The last week of February takes us into the beginning of lent, making it a year since we moved downstairs due to not having heat in the sanctuary. And it is the week renovations will begin on the elevator. We are waiting for dates as to when air handlers and the HVAC in the sanctuary, as well as the fellowship hall, will begin as well as the ceiling on the second floor. But I assure you it is coming.

With Love and Prayers,

*The Rev. Linda Higgins*

# Announcements

## **Adult Faith Formation February 9th**

Following service on February 9th, there will be a lunch and book discussion. Pastor Linda will bring soup and we will discuss Jim Wallis' new book *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*. This book builds on the "Reclaiming Jesus" declaration he and other church leaders wrote in May 2018. The book considers eight radical questions central to Jesus' teaching: the Neighbor Question, the Image Question, the Truth Question, the Power Question, the Fear Question, the Caesar Question, the Peacemaker Question, and the Discipleship Question. This book invites us to ask ourselves whether we are thinking and acting as we are called to by Jesus' teachings.

For more information, including access to a study guide and free podcasts, see <https://book.sojo.net/>

## **Fellowship Lunch February 13th**

The monthly Fellowship Lunch will be on Thursday, February 13th at 1 pm, at Beijing on Grove, 5710 Grove Avenue. Please contact Beth Stiegler at (804) 475-7340 to reserve your place.

## **The Rev. Marvin Silver February 13th**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Rev Marvin Silver, the Associate Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference, will be joining us to discuss ideas on moving forward at St. John's. He will share story of how other churches have grown their ministries and tools the UCC may have to help us as we move forward. The council has invited him to join us February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the church school room. Members of the church are invited to join us. Parking will be available at First English Lutheran. Please park on the first level in the spots labeled "First English."

## **Ash Wednesday February 26th**

Since we are in the midst of renovations, the worship committee decided we should again join First Congregational for both Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

The Ash Wednesday service is being held on February 26th at 6:30 at First Congregational Christian United Church 4310 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832.

Here is their write up about the Ash Wednesday service:

*You are invited to join us as we take the first steps in "Preparing Our Canvas" for Entering the Passion of Jesus.*

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." — Psalm 51:10-12*

*So much of life happens around us, even to us, that we take little time to notice. The amount of stimulation and news and ideas and expectations coming at us can outweigh our ability to process all of it and so we stop looking too closely, we filter in order to survive. While this is necessary, it can also dull our senses for seeing the things that truly matter. In this season of Lent, we will intentionally put a "frame" around the scenes of Jesus' last week and also frame our own lives in a way that we can see what really matters. In this Ash Wednesday service, we will ready ourselves for this journey by preparing the canvas of our lives, reapplying a base coat on which to create new works of art.*

# Announcements

## **Year-end Donation Statements**

All annual donation statements have been mailed or distributed in church. If you have any questions, did not receive yours, or need to resolve any discrepancies between your statement and your records, please contact the church office at (804) 358-9291.

## **Renovations Update**

Improvements to the elevator are scheduled for the end of February. Since work will take approximately ten days, the elevator will be out of service for a Sunday, probably March 1st, and more details will be provided towards the end of the month. Equipment for replacement of the church HVAC system is being ordered, with work expected to begin shortly. Work will be proceeding this month on reinforcement of the second floor ceiling, so that the second floor can again be opened for use. Once that work is finished, we will be organizing a work party to remove un-needed materials from the upstairs classrooms. Finally, within the next 6-8 weeks, we are expecting that the developer of the apartment building next door will be repaving the alley, at which time our back parking area will also be repaved and the concrete sidewalks in front of and beside the church building will be repaired. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any members of the Trustee/Renovations working group -- Rob Osborn, Jeff Hetzer, Jeff Jacobs, Betsy Bighinatti, Dreama Terrill and Richard Bighinatti.





# Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	February 2 Team 1	February 9 Team 2	February 16 Team 2	February 23 Team 3
Welcome Team Leader	Richard Bighinatti	Lynn Snyder	Lynn Snyder	Pam Miller
Sound System	David Miller	Daniel Martin	Daniel Martin	Bruce Miller
Tellers	Mark Souza & Betsy Bighinatti	Mark Souza & Betsy Bighinatti	Terri Weaver & Beverly Lindsey	Terri Weaver & Beverly Lindsey
Liturgist	Scott Siefert	Lindsey Franklin	Robin Walsh	Marcie Agee
Facilities	Richard Bighinatti	Jeff Hetzer	Jeff Hetzer	Bill Watson
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette & Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch
Fellowship Hosts	Erin Burnette	Helen Bunch & Lynda Merry	Andrea Miller & Rich Sumner	Don & Beth Stiegler

**Teller Coordinator:**  
Bud Higgins  
804-301-5059

**Fellowship Host Coordinator:**  
Rev. Beverly Lindsey  
804-275-7165

Celebrating a special occasion?  
Honoring a loved one?



*Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!*

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Book Group after Service <i>Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus</i>	10 Church Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13 Church Council Meeting with the Rev. Marvin Silver 6:00 p.m.	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Mission Committee Meeting after Service	24	25	26	27 Music and Worship Committee Meeting 1:30 p.m.	28	



- |    |                  |    |                  |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 7  | Griffin Allen    | 23 | Logan Monro      |
| 10 | Kristina Gilbert | 23 | Virginia Clark   |
| 11 | Danny Trent      | 24 | Bud Higgins      |
| 12 | Brent Trefsgar   | 24 | Theresa Pollock  |
| 17 | Helena DeLigt    | 25 | Shirley Townsend |
| 18 | Linda Stiegler   | 26 | Cheryl Goode     |
| 21 | Bryan Totty      | 27 | Bettie Staton    |