

November 2019

Volume 33.11

*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,

It is hard to believe we have come around the year again to November. I always think of November as the time we plan for how we will celebrate the holidays this year. Who will go to visit who, will we travel, or will we be the ones putting on the holidays this year? It is of course also the moment here at the beginning of the month that if you are going to change any of your holiday traditions the time is now to get everyone on board with the change. So, I ask you is there something you have always wanted to do for the holidays-serve at a soup kitchen, give gifts in honor rather than stuff, do a family grab bag so there is less spent on the holiday all together. Now is the time to make those dreams come true.

November also starts with All Saints day, a time to remember and give thanks for those who have enriched our lives and gone ahead of us. Who would you like to celebrate this All Saints Day on November 3rd we will have a chance to remember liturgically those who have died but I encourage you to take a moment before that to write about someone you would like to remember. Write a memory and then share it with someone who will hold it sacred with you is a special way to celebrate your mentors in faith, those who help make you who you are.

As the month continues, we enter the time of Thanksgiving. I encourage you to truly make it a month of being centered in the gratitude we have worked on this past month with our wonderful life series. Notice and give thanks for all that you have. Focus on your purpose and how you can live more fully who you are called to be. It is easy to let the dramas that surround us take us off course of being our fullest selves but as we focus on the gifts in our lives, we can get even clearer on our purpose and how we are called to serve God.

My prayers go to each of you that you have a truly thankful November
Sincerely,

Pastor Linda

Linda Higgins

P.S. Sneak peak for December we will focus in worship on hearing the messengers (angels) found in the Christmas stories and how their messages speak to us today.



Stewardship Update

As of this writing, 28 pledges totaling over \$60,150 have been received towards the goal of \$100,000 in support of the 2020 church budget. Many thanks to all who have pledged, including five first-time pledgers and five others who have increased their pledges over last year's amounts. Your support enables St. John's to continue its ministries to those who are less fortunate, and to provide an environment for worship and spiritual development for our congregation and the greater Richmond community. Pledge cards may be dropped in the collection plate, put through the church office mail slot, or mailed to the church. If you need a pledge card, please ask a member of the welcome team on Sunday morning or call the church office at (804) 358-9291.

Mission of the Month - Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR)

St. John's will again this holiday season sponsor families for Christmas through OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration). A family/families will be assigned to the church in early November. More information will be forthcoming once the assignment is received. Look for it in an upcoming eBlast. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Weaver.

Thank you note to St. John's UCC regarding Jeanette Salley:

"Please thank the good folks of your church for their constant love, concern and compassion for Jeanette. When I sit with her if the Lord wills---I will share this story among many others.. She will know how much she is loved.

Again, thank you. Valerie"

From the Council President:

It's truly autumn. The trees are painting the landscape with the awesome colors we love so much. What's so amazing to me is these colors are always in the leaves. It is this in this season God chooses to reveal them to us, reminding us that for everything there is a season even as we scurry through our daily lives.

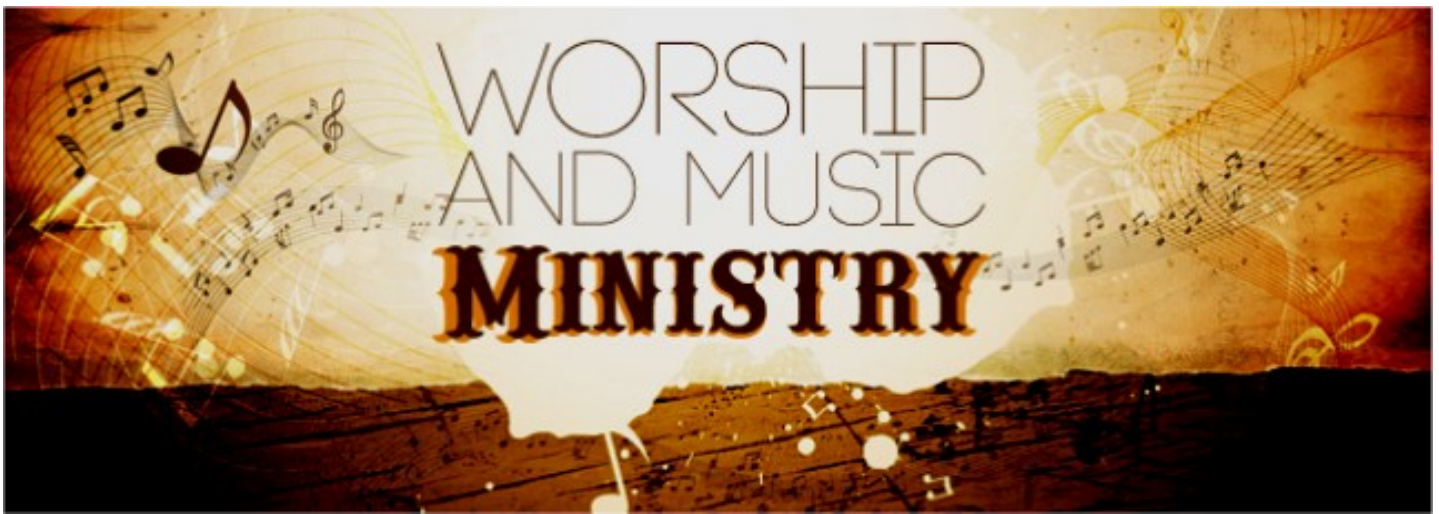
Hearing the engines of hustle and bustle revving up all around us, our lives will soon take on a hectic pace as we try to cram as much 'holiday cheer' into each passing day as possible. In autumn, God reminds us we must slow down, wait for the beauty to appear. We must breathe deeply, be calm, and be alert for whatever miracle God will reveal in God's time.

This upcoming season means there is something on the horizon and we must slow down so we won't miss it, we won't have to turn aside as it brushes past. There will be enough time for rushing, for worrying, for pushing in January.

For now, be kind to yourself and others, be calm, be at peace, and wait for the wonder God will reveal.

Peace to us all.

Dreama



This has certainly been a year for changes in St. John's communal life. Because of the construction going on behind us, internal problems with our HVAC system and crumbling plaster, we have needed to change our venues for worship and meetings and opt out of enjoyable events like the St. John's Players shows and our annual German Dinner. While these changes can be disconcerting, they are not necessarily harmful to the life of our faith community. They may even be agents for good or an impetus for us to more closely examine our purpose, priorities, pledges and passions. If we hear reports that people think our church is closed, it may be a clarion call for us to reach out to all our contacts to assure them of our wide openness and our fervent desire for them to join us for worship in Fellowship Hall. It might be a reason for us to volunteer to be on a Welcome Team and stand at the front door to greet people and guide them to our temporary place of worship. It might be the time for us to invite people to experience the "new thing" that God is doing in our midst as we undergo renovations and new things happening in and to our building.

During this year of necessary change in our worship venue – moving from the stately gothic beauty of our sanctuary to the humble, yet party-friendly atmosphere, of the Fellowship Hall- we decided to try out some new worship materials purposely designed to change our traditional format of worship. We began using the Worship Design Studio thematic materials in Lent and have continued them at other times during the year. The casual atmosphere of the Fellowship Hall seemed to be more suited to trying these new approaches to worship.

Reality Check: It is unlikely that we will have heat in our sanctuary during Advent. We recommend that we remain in Fellowship Hall for our worship throughout the fall and the Advent/Christmas season and until we do have heat in the sanctuary.

Hence: For our Advent and Christmas worship services, we have chosen another Worship Design Studio series. The theme is "Angels Among Us: #DoNotBeAfraid." Here's a bit of an infomercial: "The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point – their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will fly in the face of a culture of fear and bring more hope, more peace, more joy and more love to the world."

We will not be having our traditional "Greening of the church" on the Sunday before Advent but we will probably have a need for everyone to help decorate the Fellowship Hall with lights and feathers and who knows what else. So, save the date of Sunday, November 24th for some fun and creative after-worship team work in preparation of our beautiful season of Advent.

And here's a repeat of last month's pitch: Your Worship and Music Committee is in want of more people on our committee. Some of our responsibilities include: evaluating the worship programs to ascertain if they are meeting the needs of the worshippers, working with the Pastor in developing worship services, evaluating the music programs, establishing a standard of quality for the church music, assisting in helping to plan special music programs/events. We are also responsible for enlisting people to participate in worship in many varied ways. If you have ever experienced worship that truly touched your soul or awakened your mind or opened your heart, then God may be calling you to join us and share how the Spirit has moved you. Worship is a quintessential part of our life together in Christ. It is way too important to leave to the oversight of just three people. You are needed.

As always, we urge you sign up to host a Coffee Hour or be a liturgist. The sign-up sheets are on the easel in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or concerns about either of those commitments, joining the Worship and Music committee or participating in any of the other aspects of worship, please call Rev. Beverly Lindsey at (804) 275-7165.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Congregational Meeting After Church Sunday

The Church Council calls you to a congregational meeting after church this Sunday, November 3rd, for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed Ministry Plan/Budget for 2020. There will also be a report on the status of replacing the church's HVAC system and other ongoing infrastructure improvements. In addition, the Church Council will nominate Jeff Jacobs to fill one of the two currently-vacant seats on Church Council. If anyone else is interested in serving on Church Council, please contact Council President Dreama Terrill.

Mission and Outreach November 10th

The Mission and Outreach Committee will meet after church on Sunday, November 10th.

Council Meeting November 11th

Church Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 11th.

Fellowship Lunch November 14th

The next monthly Fellowship Lunch will be held on Thursday, November 14th at 1:00 pm. We have reserved a private room at the Red Lobster located at 8009 West Broad Street. Please contact Beth Stiegler at (804) 272-3792 to reserve your place.

Congregational Life and Care November 17th

Congregational Life and Care has a meeting on Sunday, November 17th, after church service.

Palestinian Voices - RVA November 17th

Join a special panel discussion on Sunday, November 17th, at 2:00 pm at First Unitarian Universalist Church. We will hear the personal stories of members of our own Palestinian community as they share their family histories - stories of life in historic Palestine, the challenges they faced on their journey, and their vision for the future. After the panel discussion, you are invited to a reception featuring Palestinian food. This event is sponsored by the Arab American Association of Central Virginia and Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine. It is free of charge, but we would like you to register using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/palestinian-voices-rva-tickets-74277051661>.

Holiday Shoppe Helpers December 5

On Thursday, December 5, there is an enjoyable and important opportunity to help at Circle Center Adult Day Services, 4900 West Marshall Street. Richmond, VA 23230. St. John's is one of the founding churches of the Circle Center. It continues to provide essential services to the community's aging and their families. From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, we will be helping participants at the center to select and wrap gifts from a store of small donated items. We need your help! Please contact Chris Wing: chriswing54022@yahoo.com or 612-790-0521 or talk to her at church if you are able to volunteer. She can provide you with a ride if needed.



Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	November 3 Team 3	November 10 Team 3	November 17 Team 4	November 24 Team 4
Welcome Team Leader	Pam Miller	Pam Miller	Helen Bunch	Helen Bunch
Sound System	Bruce Miller	Bruce Miller	Jeff Michel	Jeff Michel
Tellers	Mark Souza Betsy Bighinatti			
Liturgist	Chris Wing	Beverly Lindsay	Dreama Terrill	
Facilities	Bill Watson	Bill Watson	Bud Higgins	Bud Higgins
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch
Fellowship Hosts	Betsy and Richard Bighinatti	Andrea Miller and Rick Butler	Terri Pendleton	
Altar Flowers		Elizabeth Burnette		

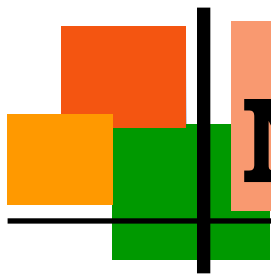
Teller Coordinator:
Bud Higgins
804-301-5059

Fellowship Host Coordinator:
Rev. Beverly Lindsey
804-239-2871

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!



November 2019

Mission of the Month: ACTS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2 Set Clocks back for Sunday
3 10 a.m. Worship Congregational Meeting after Church	4	5 3 p.m. Renovation Committee Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 10 a.m. Worship Lindsay Franklin Preaching Mission & Outreach after Church	11 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	12	13	14 1 p.m. Fellowship Lunch 7 p.m. Pastoral Relations Meeting	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship Congregational Life Meeting after Church	18	19	20 12 p.m. Faith Forum Lunch at St. John's	21	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

**Please see Weekly Bulletins and E-Blasts
for Calendar Changes and Updates**



1	David Craig
5	Jerilyn Mots
6	Matthew Gilbert
14	Laura Totty
16	Bob Corby
17	Gary Beasley
17	Terry Weaver
17	Kate Schaefer
30	Mark Atkinson