

St. John's United Methodist Church
5312 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151
Return Service Requested

The Chimes a monthly publication of

April

St. John's United Methodist Church
Office 703-256-6655





A Note from Our Pastor

Sharing, Supporting, and Serving

I don't know how to open this article here and now. Why? As this year's Easter comes late (April 20), Easter greeting looks too early. When you receive this newsletter, you are still in the Lenten season. I hope your Lenten season has been going well and pray for your glorious Easter soon.

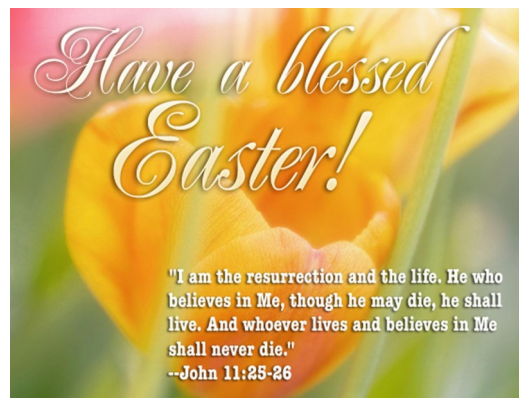
Although the Lent requires our silence, prayers, and meditation on what the Lord did to us, I would say that this Lent has been so productive and meaningful. The first and second Sundays of March were so wonderful. On March 9 Sunday, we did a joint service with the SDA Church. Originally, Paul Kigenza planned to invite their choir (or praise team) to our service, their pastor and his wife, and even their leadership joined us and had a joint service de facto. I believe that it was the first time to do a joint service in St. John's Sanctuary. Among many positive meanings/feedbacks about this service, I believe this was a great sign to transform our relationship with the SDA Church from a landlord-tenant relationship to a mutual mission partnership. Here is the reason why I am so excited to see more opportunities with the SDA Church.

On March 16 Service, we invited St. John's children and our neighborhood children to have a music recital. It is our great joy to see their growth, maturity, and the wonderful gifts from each of them. In that sense, I deeply appreciate all the fruitful efforts from Paul Kigenza and Laurie Scheible. It was a wonderful moment to recheck St. John's potential outreach.

What St. John's United Women in Faith (UWF) showed this March was incredibly wonderful. Do you know that many of St. John's women are serving the NOVA District United Women in Faith? I am so proud of St. John's UWF and grateful to them for their wonderful mission. The NOVA District Women's Ash Wednesday Service and St. John's Prayer Breakfast were phenomenal! I pray that they will be used to enliven and invigorate the NOVA District United Women in Faith. Here is one more thing. For the upcoming St. John's UWF Sunday (May 18), Pastor Paula Werner will visit us and preach. Please plan to make it this Sunday!

One last thing is this. I would like to remind you of the first Sunday of April (April 6). After service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt and Debbie Ashby's 20TH anniversary celebration in Donaldson Hall. For the last two decades, Debbie has served St. John's with her passion, professionalism, and prayers. Also, she has been cared for by St. John's congregations too. So, this event is not only to celebrate one individual's anniversary but also to value St. John's love, generosity, and support for one another. Don't miss it! Thank you again for your support and prayers for St. John's ministry and mission. Happy Easter!

Grace and Peace,
J.W.





A "Note" about Music Ministry



Greetings to you all St. John's family members, hope you are doing well by the Grace of God. On behalf of the music department, I'm grateful to the SDA (Seventh Day Adventist Choir), for honoring our invitation to sing with us in the service. Though both we and the Spanish group hardly communicated due to the language barrier, we were able to communicate in the universal language called music, which I'm sure you all enjoyed. Hopefully, the SDA can join us again.

In the same breath, I'm grateful for the children choir's performance/piano recital in the sanctuary this month. As I was watching our Facebook page, I could tell they were having fun while singing. We did also have a mini piano recital for both kids from our church and some out of St. John's. The parents of this kids were grateful to St. John's for the wonderful opportunity for their kids to perform at our church.



I and some members of St. John's were treated to wonderful Bach organ works in DC by our very own retired music Director Dr. Yang and other organists in DMV area. Dr. Yang hopes to do a recital at our church at some time next year.

Looking forward for the month of April, we can't wait to minister to you all in exciting music during Debbie's 20 year's celebration, Palm Sunday, Holy week and Easter!

Other upcoming events includes the summer camp which starts on June 16th -20th, from 9:30am - 12:30 noon, and a performance in the Sunday service @ 10: 30am. The registration form is also included in the April Chimes.

Paul Kigenza
Minister of Music



♪ St. John's Summer 2025 Music and Arts Camp (FREE) ♪

♪ ♪ for Children of 5-12 Years Old ♪ ♪

**Classes include: Handbells/Hand chimes for Children, Rhythm and Creative arts,
Modern Dances, Singing, Percussion Instruments, games**

**Music Camp Dates: Monday, June 16 – June 20, from
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day ♪♪ Concert is on Sunday @10:30 a.m.**

Please send this registration form to to Paul Kigenza
email: kigafrica@yahoo.com text: 240-575-0388

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Children will Participate:

Name: _____ **Name:** _____

Birthday: _____ **Birthday:** _____

School: _____ **School:** _____

Contact Info:

Parents: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address:

1. _____

2. _____

Phone Number:

1. _____

2. _____



United Methodist Women

UMW Circle Duties for APRIL

Greeters/Cards - Women In Action



Save the Date UWF Sunday and Spring Luncheon 2025

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Mark your calendar for

United Women in Faith Sunday and our Spring Luncheon. This year's theme for the program and luncheon will be *"WWJE: What Would Jesus Eat Plus Other Biblical Stories about Food."* It will be different because it won't be potluck but a catered meal. Info on tickets and other details will be coming soon.

Save the dates!

All are invited to join these upcoming events hosted by the NOVA District United Women in Faith:

June 7 - Spiritual Life Retreat (location to be announced) - guest speaker: Maria Delpizzo

July 12 - Mini-Mission at Sydenstricker UMC - guest speaker: Dr. Jason Stanley.

GERRY DAGGETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR WOMEN

St. John's United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) is offering tuition assistance to any woman who is applying to - or currently attending - an accredited institution of higher learning (community, two-year and four-year colleges/seminary/business and technical schools). Applicants must be 17 years of age and an active member of St. John's UMC for one year. If you're interested in a scholarship, please contact Anne Moore at atrd@verizon.net or Marty Bickford at martybickford121@outlook.com for an application.

YOUR 2025 PLEDGE SUPPORTS UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Your pledge to the St. John's United Methodist Women d/b/a United Women in Faith is voluntary and confidential. If you haven't already done so and you are a member, please consider making a pledge (there are no dues) to St. John's UMW for 2025 (see form below). At the Harvest Banquet (our annual meeting) last October, a budget in the total amount of \$4,462 was adopted, which includes certain charitable state and local mission projects. Thank you for supporting United Women in Faith.

ST. JOHN'S UMW 2025 PLEDGE

As a member of the United Methodist Women d/b/a United Women in Faith, I wish to assume a part in supporting the local, national, and global ministries of the UMW. Pledges are voluntary, confidential, and may be changed at any time.

**I pledge \$_____ to the 2025
budget of the St. John's UMW.**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form with your check made payable to **"St. John's UMW"** to the UMW mailbox at church, or mail it to the UMW Treasurer, Marty Bickford at 3561 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

NOTE: Pledge amount does not include extra gifts, such as World Thank Offering, the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial donations, Candle Burning, and other gifts made throughout the year.





Children's Easter Egg Hunt
On Sunday, April 6 there will be an Children's Easter egg hunt after worship service

Holy Week Events

April 6 Sunday - Easter Egg Hunt
April 17 Maundy Thursday - Living Last Supper 7 pm
April 18 Good Friday Service - Noon
Easter Sunrise Service 6:15 am @ Amphitheatre
Easter Service 10:30 am



Easter Flowers for the Cross

Remember to bring flowers to adorn the outside cross on Easter Sunday morning. It is wonderful to see the cross come alive and be renewed with the bright colors of spring.



"Living Last Supper" on Maundy Thursday

St. John's UMMen will present the "Living Last Supper" in the worship service on Maundy Thursday, **April 17 at 7:00 p.m.** St. John's Music Ministry will provide the special music.

Mark Your Calendar

VBS will be the week of **June 23, from 9am until noon.** Please pick up information on the table in the narthex.



The Pastor-Staff-Parish Relations Committee
cordially invites you to an
Anniversary Celebration
to honor

Debbie Ashby

for her 20 years of service to
St. John's United Methodist Church

Please join us

April 6, 2025 - Sunday
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Donaldson Hall - 11:30 a.m.

RSVP - Marty Bickford, PSPRC Chair
martybickford121@outlook.com
In-person or send tribute

Thank You

A big thank you to our volunteers who came out on a cool and windy day to clean up around the church. We had 11 volunteers and had a wonderful time with our church family.



Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayers

April Birthdays...



- 1 Ming Cribbs, Aimee Jennings
- 2 Randall Bugby
- 4 Bryan Strong
- 5 Holden Kraft
- 7 Doddie Cave, Rob Leese
- 9 Tina Ashby, Dimmitt Houff
- 10 Sherry Minear
- 12 Mardrey Amery
- 13 Dick Getman
- 16 Sandra Acosta
- 17 Judy Brasse, Antonia Shull
- 18 Ruby Hough, Callie Stearns
- 19 Terri Lee
- 20 Robert Hetzer, Ken Walsh
- 22 Edward Gibson
- 23 Jason Lee
- 24 Reid Moore
- 26 Kathy Gibbs
- 29 Eunice Park

April Anniversaries...



- 4 Michael & Jessica Stearns
- 18 Michael & Linda Meaney
- 27 Mike & Pam Jennings



In Our Prayers

Zimmie Goings, Virginia Halterman, Dollie Hankinson, Judy Paseur, Emily Pederson, Susan Ray, Patsy Simpson and
Bebby Train



April 2025

April 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		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			

May 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 30	31	Apr 1 7:00pm Trustees Mtg	2 7:00pm Bell Practice 7:30pm SDA Prayer	3 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	4 4:15pm Children's Music	5 9:00am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth 7:00pm SDA Elder's Vigil
6 10:30am Worship 11:30am Celebration 11:45am Easter Egg Hunt 3:00pm Pathfinders	7 7:00pm Bible Class 7:00pm Scouts	8	9 7:00pm Bell Practice 7:30pm SDA Prayer	10 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	11 4:15pm Children's Music	12 9:00am SDA Worship 12:30pm SDA Lunch 5:00pm SDA Youth
13 Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship Service	14	15 6:30pm Staff Mtg 7:00pm Council Mtg.	16 7:00pm Bell Practice 7:30pm SDA Prayer	17 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Living Last Supper	18 12:00pm Prayer Service	19 9:00am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
20 6:15am Sunrise Service 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Pathfinders	21 7:00pm Bible Class 7:00pm SDA Vigil week	22 7:00pm SDA Vigil week	23 7:00pm SDA Vigil week	24 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm SDA Vigil week	25 7:00pm SDA Vigil week	26 9:00am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
27 10:30am Worship Service	28 7:00pm Scouts	29	30 7:00pm Bell Practice 7:30pm SDA Prayer	May 1	2	3