

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

The Chimes a monthly publication of
St. John's United Methodist Church
703-256-6655



"Important-The Chimes"
Articles for the **September** issue
of The Chimes are due into the
church
office by
Friday, August 15
This is an important issue as many
church
activities begin in early September.
Send to stjohns1@aol.com

2025 Pastor's Fall BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) Everywhere Is Jerusalem : Experiencing the Holy Then and Now by James C. Howell

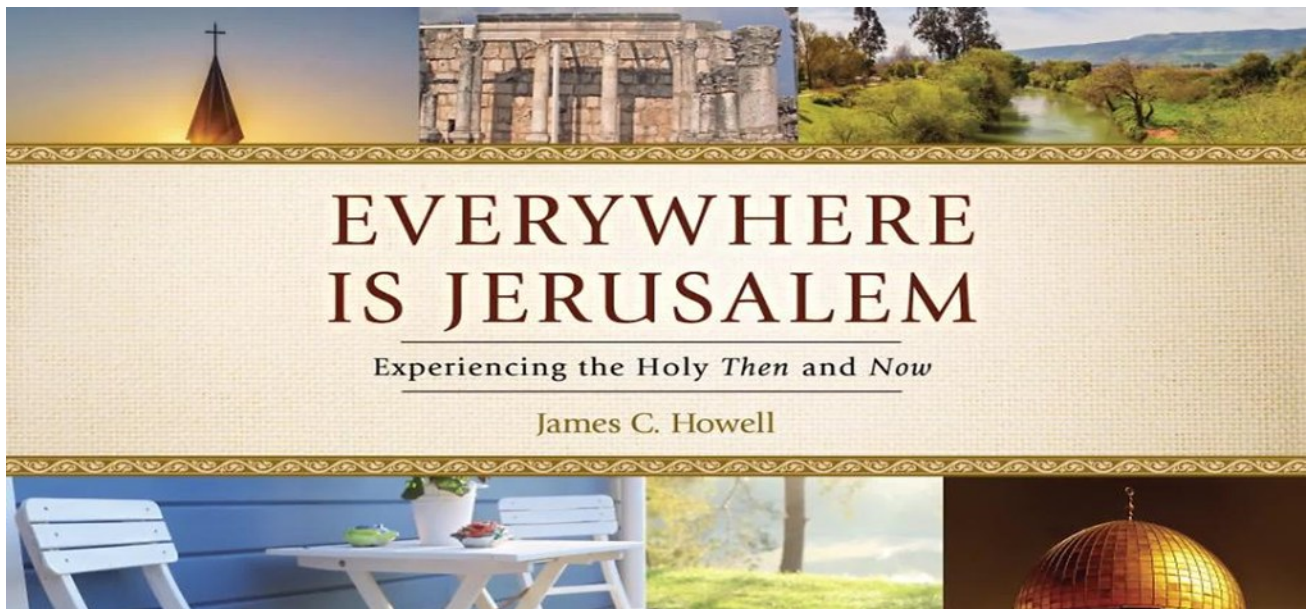
Pastor J.W. leads a 6-week Fall Bible Study this September. Using James Howell's Video Bible Study "EVERYWHERE IS JERUSALEM: Experiencing the Holy Then and Now" participants have a chance to deepen knowledge about the Holy Land in Jesus's days and require our reflection questioning what the Holy Land is in our life today.

All lessons are independent, so don't worry about missing a piece!

Class begins on **Monday evening (7 pm), September 8, 2025**. Study materials (PPT and Bible Reading Note) will be provided.

It will be conducted via Zoom for 60 mins.

Contact Pastor J.W at pastor@saintjohnsumc.org



September 8 (Mon) Everywhere Is Galilee
September 15 (Mon) Everywhere Is Jordan
September 22 (Mon) Everywhere Is the Mount of Olives
September 29 (Mon) Everywhere Is Bethlehem
October 6 (Mon) Everywhere Is Nazareth
October 13 (Mon) Everywhere Is Jerusalem

Meeting ID 993 3569 0822
Passcode 746973



A Note from our Pastor

Their Pantry Needs Our Love! -St. John's 69TH Anniversary Project-

You may be familiar with the movie *Terminator* (1984). I was a big fan of this movie when I was a youth. Also, I purchased a black leather jacket with my pocket money! The most famous line from the Terminator is "I will be back!" But do you know that this line is also popular for all the UM Clergies? After the Virginia Annual Conference, Bishop Sue allowed me to serve at St. John's for one more year and now I am writing this note with peace and comfort. Yes, I am back!

However, not every clergy can do this. When I was joining the Conference, I had to hear many worrisome news from my colleagues. Due to financial challenges in his serving church, my friend had to move only after one year. Or decided to retire earlier than he'd planned. It seems that some of the churches are struggling with disaffiliation until now. So, staying one more year is a teamwork between congregations and clergy, staff and clergy, and church leadership and clergy. Once again, I am very grateful to you all for my continued ministry here at St. John's UMC.



After July and August, St. John's is going to begin its Fall plans. Please mark your calendar on Sep. 14 (Sunday). We will celebrate St. John's 69TH anniversary. Especially, on this Sunday, Rev. Kameron Wilds from Rising Hope Mission Church will visit us and preach. These days, many organizations supporting people with food insecurity are being challenged as they see a lack of food donations. We learn that food items can be affected by the tariffs seriously, not only by increasing food prices but also by increasing steel prices. It is a big irony to see that this symbolic item (canned food) to support those who are in poverty is getting more and more expensive. This is the reason why I specially invited Rev. Wilds to our anniversary Sunday (9/14). Here is my suggestion.

Is there any way you can plan to bring church anniversary gifts? Why don't you bring some canned food items? In the Gospels, there is a story of feeding 5,000 people by Jesus. It could be done by one little boy's bag lunch- five loaves and two fish. So, would it be possible for you to donate five 'soup' cans and two 'tuna' cans? Isn't it Biblical? Pastor J.W. and family plan to bring twenty soup cans and eight tuna cans for each person on that Sunday. Please plan your grocery shopping during this summer thinking of our neighbors. It will be your good 'summer' mission. Let's fill their pantry with our love!

⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Mark 6:41-43 NRSV

Once again, thank you so very much for your wonderful support and prayer for St. John's. Wishing you a very blessed and healthy summer!

Keep the Faith!
Pastor J.W.



A "Note" about Music Ministry



As I write this note, I'm happy to say that we just concluded a successful St. John's annual Children's Music and Arts Summer Camp. This year we had 14 children of various ages who participated in the camp, and they got to sing, play instruments, play games, eat and socialize with each other. The summer campers got an opportunity to perform in Sunday service and St. John's enjoyed having them. I also got raving reviews from parents of the summer campers about how they appreciated St. John's providing this opportunity for their children to participate in the free Music and Arts Camp.

I'm grateful to God for the gift of music that unites all human race. As we go forward as a church I do hope here at St. John's we will continue to use music as a mean to reach out to our community.

As we get immersed in summer, I'm sure what is on every one's mind, is taking a deserved time off. Most of the music groups here at St. John's are off until September. The Adult choir is still serving until August, and they will also be off. I do thank each music group for their commitment to the serving of our Lord through music here at St. Johns.

Upcoming music activities include

Musical Celebration of 4th July Independence Day

August 17th Children Backpackers

September 10th Bells of Praise Potluck Dinner

September 11th Adult Choir Potluck Dinner

September 12th Children Kickoff party

October 19th Children Sabbath Scripture reading context

November 16TH Dr. Kitty Yang's Organ Concert for Benefit of UMCOR

Paul Kigenza
Music Minister





United Methodist Women



Young Women's Retreat in September

The Virginia Conference United Women in Faith is hosting the Young Women's Retreat September 20-21(Fri evening and Sat) at Camp Overlook in Keezletown (Harrisonburg), VA. This is an event for women between the ages of 18 and 40. St. John's United Women in Faith is offering a scholarship to a young woman (she doesn't have to be a member of the church) who is interested in attending. For more information, please contact Marty at martybickford121@outlook.com.

UWF Evening of Fun!

Despite the heat, we had a great time sharing stories, laughing and just being together!



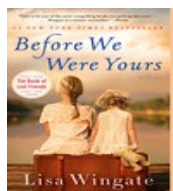
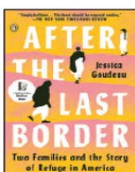
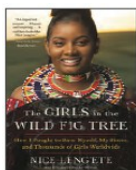
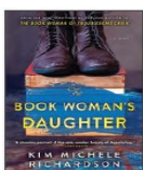
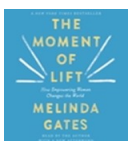
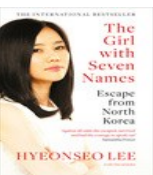
Circle Duty Calendar 2025
July Cards: UWF Board
August Cards: Women In Action

UWF READING PROGRAM

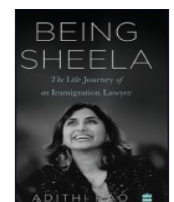
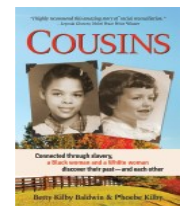
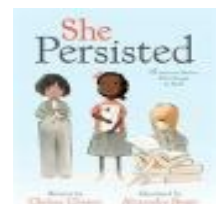
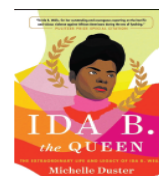
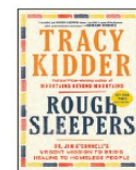
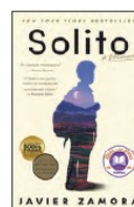
This is to remind everyone that UWF Reading Lists for this year are due by August 31!
That is less than two months away!

There are a lot of good books to read this year, as well as from the past lists.
Please submit your reading list even if you have read only one or two books, or completed the reading of 5, 10, 15, or 20 books to fulfill Plans I, II, III, or IV.

Send Mildred your Reading List at bootsnlamar@gmail.com



READ!



READ!

READ SOME MORE!

Thank You!

Because of the generosity of the members of our United Women in Faith, \$426 in monetary donations was received and sent to the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for the UMCOR Kits for Conference campaign this year. Thank you so much for supporting this worthy cause. God is good.

Upcoming Events - Save the Dates:

July 12 Mini-Mission u hosted by the NoVA District UWFaith
9 am Sydenstricker UMC - \$20 Registration/Lunch
Dr. Jason Stanley - Speaker
Living the Kin-Dom - Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice

July 25-27 Mission u 2025 hosted by the VA Conference UWFaith
Hybrid & Good Shepherd UMC, Henrico/Virginia UM Center, Glen Allen
In-person Various Study Leaders
Practicing Hope Together

Oct 4 NoVA District UWFaith Annual Meeting
9 am Friendship UMC

Oct 28 Harvest Banquet - St. John's UWFaith

Dec 2 Christmas Program - St. John's UWFaith

Please contact Marty at martybickford121@outlook.com for additional information about these events.

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 FORM

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.



News Around the Church

Summer Mission Project School Supplies Donations

This year, we are again partnering with St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Springfield to collect school supplies for ECHO and local elementary schools (Garfield, Lynbrook, Crestwood)

If you would like to purchase school supplies, we will collect them at St. John's and deliver them to St. Christopher's, whose members coordinate this collection. There will also be opportunities for us to help them organize the supplies. Watch upcoming bulletins and email for details on how to participate.

Please put your donations in the basket in the narthex by Sunday, August 3. The supply list is included below.

High school backpacks (17 to 19 inches)
#2 yellow pencils (Ticonderoga Brand preferred)

Name brand glue sticks regular size
Wide rule ONLY composition books
College rule ONLY spiral notebooks
Loose leaf paper
Paper folders with pockets
Vinyl folders with prongs
Crayola brand colored pencils 12 pack
Crayola brand broad tip markers
Crayola brand fine tip markers
Crayola brand crayons 24 pack
Blunt scissors
DRY ERASE thin tip markers
2-inch binders
Plastic pencil boxes
Primary writing paper pads
Red ink pens
3 x 5 lined index cards

The Little Red Wagon

Thank you for responding each week by bringing food for the little red wagon. Your generosity means that hungry people will eat. Your gifts of food are taken to Rising Hope for distribution to people in need.



New Business Open

Nauman Sarfraz opened his new business recently.

Liberty Fuel

Gas Station, MD inspection and Car Repairs

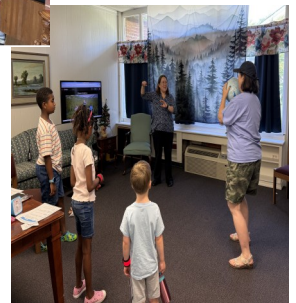
8201 Liberty Rd

Baltimore, MD 21244

443-554-5900 8201libertyfuel@gmail.com

VBS

A fun time was had by all who attended the 2025 True North in Alaska!





News Around the Church



Thank you!

A big shout out Rich D in renting a U-Haul truck so we could do a clean out of some of the classrooms that desperately needed it. Thank you to all who help with this clean out, without your help this couldn't have been accomplished.



Summer Giving

Summertime is busy for many with family vacations, travel schedules, etc. Please remember the importance of your continuing support to the church by maintaining your pledge giving during the summer months. May all have a safe and enjoyable summer!

New Members

Welcome our new members to St. John's Catherine (Catee) Kellogg and Todd Gary



Congratulations!

Congratulations Wesley on winning the 2nd prize in the Junior Division of the 2025 U.S. National Harp Competition hosted by American Harp Society at Colburn School of Music, Los Angeles, CA (May 28-June 1)!





Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

The people
of The United
Methodist
Church®

REGIONALIZATION: EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN EVERY CULTURE

Regionalization allows United Methodists throughout our connection to best serve their unique communities as they share the love of God, make disciples and transform the world.



WHAT IS REGIONALIZATION?

- Regionalization allows each region of the church to make decisions that will best support outreach and ministry efforts in their specific setting. This ability is already in place in the central conferences; regionalization will bring that ability to the U.S. as well.
- Regionalization was developed collaboratively by United Methodists across the globe.
- It was adopted by an overwhelming majority of General Conference delegates.
- Nine regional conferences will comprise The UMC: one in the U.S. and eight in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.



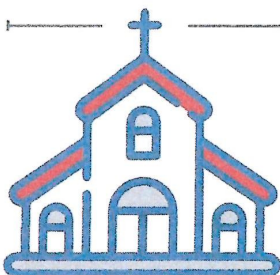
WHAT CAN'T REGIONAL CONFERENCES DO?

- Create their own constitution or adopt any policy in violation of the constitution contained in the General Book of Discipline
- Alter The Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians or The Social Principles



WHAT CAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES DO?

- Draft and publish their own regional Book of Discipline, hymnals, books of worship and other liturgical resources
- Set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry with respect to their needs and resources
- Set standards for lay membership
- Develop practices around marriage ceremonies, funerals and other rites that align with cultural contexts and laws in each country
- Reorganize their annual conferences, districts or charge conferences to best serve their missional needs and convene their own judicial courts
- Work with annual conferences to ensure policies and practices align with the laws in each country



WHAT NOW?

- The regionalization plan will require amending the United Methodist Constitution. Constitutional amendments must be passed by at least 2/3 of General Conference, which already happened.
- Now, the amendments must be ratified by annual conferences. Amendments must be supported by 2/3 of the total voting members of all the annual conferences combined – this process could last until 2026.
- The Council of Bishops will announce when the amendments have met the threshold to become church law.

“Regionalization is a pathway to make manifest the world-wide nature of The United Methodist Church. It will expand the Church's witness, embrace the cultural diversity, strengthen the connection and empower each missional context.”

BISHOP TRACY SMITH-MALONE, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays



- 2 Tom Barry, Heather Chicarella
- 4 Robert Hill
- 6 Ryan Walsh
- 7 Alicia Parker
- 11 Connie Lamb
- 12 Dale King
- 13 Catherine Gray
- 14 Terry Donald
- 15 Adriana Parker
- 16 Janis Sidener, Patsy Simpson
- 20 Scott Anderson, Abigail Reynolds
- 22 Chris Brasse, Jennifer Griesse
- 23 Corinne Griffing
- 25 Jim Leamon, Susan Ray
- 26 Heather Serino
- 27 Thomas Anderson
- 29 Amanda Kelsheimer
- 31 Wesley Park

July Anniversaries

- 4 Bryan & Kimberly Strong
- 7 Rick & Angie Garrison
- 23 Rusty & Debbie Grimsley



August Birthdays



- 1 Martha Andrews
- 4 Tyler Pacak
- 5 Ken Davis, Theophilus Brown-Dawson
- 7 Donna Gibson
- 13 Rusty Grimsley
- 15 Margaret Crowley
- 16 Sara Burgess, Amy Saunders
- 17 Ellen Gray, Deborah Kauffman
- 19 Angie Garrison
- 21 Katie Burney
- 23 Carol Pratt
- 28 Debra Kelsheimer

August Anniversaries

- 11 Raymond & Ming Cribbs
- 13 Pertrell & Sara Burgess
- 18 Tom & Anne Moore
- 24 Alan & Pat Berry
- 31 Jim & Eileen Leamon



Interment

Ann Langley's interment will be on Friday, July 18 at 1:00pm at Arlington National Cemetery.



July 2025

July 2025							August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 29	30	Jul 1	2 8:00am SDA Prayer	3	4 Happy 4th of July	5 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
6 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Pathfinders	7 7:00pm Scouts	8	9 8:00am SDA Prayer	10	11	12 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
13 10:30am Worship Service	14 7:00pm Scouts	15 6:30pm Staff Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg.	16 8:00am SDA Prayer	17	18	19 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
20 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Pathfinders	21 7:00pm Scouts	22	23 8:00am SDA Prayer	24	25	26 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
27 10:30am Worship Service	28 7:00pm Scouts	29	30 8:00am SDA Prayer	31	Aug 1	2

August 2025

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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						

September 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
3 10:30am Worship Service	4 7:00pm Scouts	5	6 8:00am SDA Prayer	7	8	9 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
10 10:30am Worship Service	11 7:00pm Scouts	12	13 8:00am SDA Prayer	14	15	16 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
17 Backpack Blessing 10:30am Worship Service	18 7:00pm Scouts	19 6:30pm Staff Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg.	20 8:00am SDA Prayer	21	22	23 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
24 10:30am Worship Service	25 7:00pm Scouts	26	27 8:00am SDA Prayer	28	29	30 8:30am SDA Worship 5:00pm SDA Youth
31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6