

ST. JOHN'S SPIRIT

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SEPTEMBER, 2020

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O Deer!

As I was driving out of town the other day, just around the corner and on the opposite side of the city hall, I saw a deer cross the street in front of me. I slowed down because at this time of year, when you see a doe, there's a good chance she'll have a couple of fawns following behind her. Sure enough, a few seconds later, two little spotted fawns came trotting along out of the brush. They followed their mother into an open pasture and started chasing her and having what looked like the time of their lives.

As I was witnessing all of that, I was also listening to my radio. Even though it was supposed to be a religious program, the host was talking about politics (Ugh!). About the same time, I heard a siren and soon there was an ambulance racing down the highway towards someone in need. Seeing that event unfold reminded me that if I didn't hurry up, I'd be late for an appointment I'd made, but at the same time if I went too fast, I too might need an ambulance or at the very least have to explain myself to a state trooper.

Suddenly, the worldly pressures that we all have to face began to erase the peaceful feeling I had while watching those deer play in that pasture. It was at that moment I decided to pull off to the side of the road, turn off the radio, remembering that I still had enough time to get to my appointment and there was no need to rush after all. For a good five minutes, I just sat there and watched those deer chase each other, and in doing so, the world felt like a much better place.

In Mark chapter four as well as in Matthew 8 and Luke 8:22-25, we find the familiar account of Jesus calming a storm while He and His disciples were out on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. As they began to feel the full force of the surrounding storm, Jesus simply said to the wind and the waves, "*Peace, be still*" and there was a great calm. That's how I felt seeing that doe and her fawns that afternoon; a sense of calm in the midst of a storm.

Whenever you feel overwhelmed and the pressures of life are weighing heavily on you, if you are able, take some time to witness God's creation in action. You might see a deer running across an open field, or a bird singing in a tree, or a couple of kids riding their bikes or any number of other things that can offer you peace in the midst of chaos. Remember, every good blessing comes from the Lord. All we have to do is take some time to appreciate the many ways God reminds us that He is here among us and the glory of His creation is all around us. In doing so, the world will feel like a much better place.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Darrin

HEART OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Our Heart of Texas Association Fall Meeting is still on for Saturday, October 10, 2020. We had planned to hold it at Hope United in Georgetown in celebration of its 10th anniversary, but as all of us know, the COVID situation has sent all of us in directions we could not have imagined several months ago. Many of our churches are not meeting in person yet, including Hope United. Hope is also in transition, as it is in the interim and pastoral search process. The plan now for our Fall Meeting is to meet via Zoom. Our Association Board will be planning that gathering over the next month, and we will send each of our churches and ministers information and a link to the meeting as soon as that planning happens. I think we can all look forward to the opportunity to share our churches' experiences, commitments, and journeys together as we gather -- always an uplifting and vitally important part of our meetings. Perhaps even more important than ever in this time will be your stories of how our churches are continuing to minister and how we are each dealing with the challenge that the COVID pandemic is presenting. We will look forward to the time when we can meet in person once again but are grateful, in the meantime, that we have the opportunity to gather easily from home online.

I am also grateful for the many ways I am aware of that our churches and pastors are adapting their ministries and even growing them in new ways over this time. Some of our churches are meeting outdoors (seated outside or by driving up and staying in cars); some are meeting in person but spread out to keep each other safer; and some, particularly those in areas with high COVID case numbers, are meeting online in various ways. Many have found that the process of learning to meet online has led to new and very creative worship formats. Some have also found that our online platforms have brought distant members and friends to worship with us as well as allowing very broad participation in discussion and study since people do not have to drive. Our pastors have met via Zoom several times to continue our "Jam and Bread" gatherings, the last time being to say farewell to Ron Trimmer as he prepared to move to Lake Ozark, Missouri. Ministers who otherwise would have had to drive a long distance have been able to gather easily with colleagues. The youth of United Christian and others who joined them were able to have a virtual mission trip this summer after the multi-church mission trip they have been part of was cancelled. A host of people have worked hard to make all of this happen. I thank God for all of you.

On Sunday, September 17th, Lee Zillman, pastor of Redeemer UCC in Marion (in the Zuehl community) will retire. Lee has served Redeemer for the past 11 years, and in ministry and in Christian ministry for forty-three years. I hope to give news of the celebration in a future newsletter. At this time, I ask for prayers of thanksgiving and support for Lee and Sharon, and prayers for the ongoing service in ministry of the whole Redeemer community as they embark on this interim time.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.....

VBS was a huge success. The children were well entertained with story time, crafts, snacks and music. There was an unusual visitor during our VBS campout; however, Ranger Jon Hodde managed to scare away the moose (Pastor Darrin) who invaded the campsite. Even though the VBS was for one hour each evening, the children learned valuable lessons and enjoyed the fellowship.

The **Mary Martha Sewing Circle** was formed in 1894 with most of the church women quilting two days a month for a total of eight hours. Quilts were hand made by the members for the community, church fundraiser, fire department fundraiser, Lions Club fundraiser and so many more events. Today, the sewing circle still quilts for the public and donates a quilt to the Cotton Gin auction and St. John's homecoming fundraiser and auction. The money from public quilting is donated to the kitchen fund, VBS, Adam's Angels and building fund. Our numbers are dwindling and we would love to teach anyone how to hand quilt. Our meeting times are the second and last Thursday of the month from 1-5 upstairs in our own quilting room. If these times don't suit you, please let the office know. We are flexible and will change dates to accommodate you. Please think about joining us so that hand quilting does not vanish from St. John's.

Children's Sunday school classes begin a regular schedule on September 6.

Since the temperature reaches 100, **time changes have been made** to Yoga in the garden and Motivated Movers. Yoga in the garden now begins at 7:00-7:30 and Motivated Movers walk from 7:30-8:30 every Tuesday and Thursday.

Pastor Darrin will be contacting parents of **confirmation age children** soon. The following students are age appropriate for confirmation: Colton Broesche, Zoe Jaeger, Corban Krolczyk, Lawson Fritsch, Landon Nugent, Devlin Douglas, Michael Smith, Bailee Prior and Lillie Lehrmann.

Back to school blessings were given at both services and the children were given face masks with St. John's imprinted on them. If you would like a **St. John's face mask, they are \$5** and are available in the narthex on Sundays or in the office.

The **Corner Shoppe is open again!** They are having a **toiletry drive** and need our help in collecting. In a gallon size bag, place the following articles: toilet paper, razor, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and a bar of soap. These bags will be shared with the high school and at the food pantry. Bring your donations to the church narthex and they will be picked up after September 13.

THANK YOU

There are no words to express the gratitude we have for the outpouring of love we've felt through these many years of illness. Both Speedy and Clint felt so supported and cared for. Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for more cards, texts, food, and prayers than most people could imagine. The spirit of St. John's has shone brightly in your care for us.
Blessings always, Becky Crampton and family

Dear Church Family,

We feel extremely blessed to be part of a loving and compassionate church family here at St. John's. We especially want to recognize and thank Pastor Darrin for coming to spend time with us just after Douglas left us. We were very touched and comforted by his words as we encircled Douglas' bed for a special time of prayer. Even the hospice nurse was able to join us. We also want to thank you for the many prayers, calls, cards and food you brought to us during this time. You have blessed us tremendously by your thoughtfulness. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with us! **The Chenault family**

Dear Friends at St. John's UCC,

I am honored to be the recipient of the scholarship. Your generous contribution has allowed me to pursue my degree in Wildlife and Fisheries with an emphasis in Fisheries. Currently, I am enrolled at Blinn College with hopes of transferring to Tarleton State University with a focus in Fisheries next year. Your scholarship will help me with my expenses at Blinn which will allow me to focus on my academic pursuits. Without your donation, I would not be able to achieve the grades necessary to fulfill my professional ambition of becoming a Wildlife Biologist. Thank you for your continued support and investment in my future. **Sincerely, Tucker Saunders**

Dear St. John's UCC,

I am sincerely honored that I was chosen as a recipient of the Glen & Dottie Schoeneberg Scholarship. As I step forward into the next chapter of my life, I would like to thank you. By awarding me this scholarship, you have lessened the financial burdens, allowing me to focus more on learning and doing the best I can. I still feel a great deal of uncertainty and fear, Covid certainly hasn't helped, but I would just like to thank you again for providing some form of assistance in these strange times. I will be attending the University of Mary Hardin Baylor and studying biomedical engineering for the next four years. I plan to major in prosthetic engineering. I hope to give back to others, help soldiers and amputees regain what they have lost, and to give people a semblance of normalcy in their life. This has long been a dream of mine and with your help, I am one step closer to achieving it. Thank you again. **Sincerely, Collin Sequeira**

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the honor of receiving the Glen & Dottie Schoeneberg Scholarship. This scholarship is going to help me tremendously. It will help me pay for my degree in Mechanical and Electrical Drafting Design at TSTC in Waco. **Thank you very much. Eric Todd**

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,

Thank you very much for selecting me as the recipient of the Glen and Dottie Schoeneberg Scholarship. I appreciate your support towards my education and will keep you updated on my progress. Thanks again for your generosity and support. **Sincerely, Jason Kalkhake**

SENIOR MEAL MENU:

August 28-Fried chicken, baked beans, salad

September 4-Lasagna, salad, garlic bread

September 11-Chicken and sausage gumbo, rice, salad, bread

September 18-Cowboy spaghetti, salad, bread

September 25-Fried Fish, mac-n-cheese, coleslaw, hush puppies

Mission Accomplished

Thanks so much for stepping up during a time of need by donating. When COVID-19 disrupted our world, you answered the call. We could not serve our local hospitals without your commitment for giving. You have all made a tremendous impact to save lives. Through your donations, we were able to save up to 140 lives. Our faithful donors were:

Jennifer Coil
Chris Harmel
Christy Moran
Blake Henry
Kurt Jasinski
Jackie McCoy
Kevin Kruse
Judith Finke
Harold Riddle
Roy Schmidt
Kim Sequeira
Patricia Clyde
Rachel Harmel

Charles Harmel
James Gross
Kacey Weiss
Vicki Tiedt
Amy Jasinski
Diana Anderson
Lyssa Wilke
Brenda Felder
Darrin Holub
Debbie Norris
Clarence Giles
Jeffrey Harmel
Glenda Oakes

Shana Muske
Kenney Hinze
Lois Engelbrecht
Karen L Harmel
Billy Jasinski
Madeline Johnson
Heath Winkelmann
Maureen Riddle
Karen A Harmel
Carl Faigle
Mike Clyde
Caleb Harmel

Our next blood drive is December 13, 2020. Looking forward to another successful drive.



On Sunday, August 23 at 9a.m., the Children of St. John's gathered for the annual Bike-A-Thon that benefits Adam's Angels, a childhood cancer organization. Every year the children have raised thousands of dollars to help families with traveling expenses to Houston for treatments of their children. Pastor Darrin blessed the children and opened the Bike-A-Thon with prayer.

ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN IN ACTION



Children receive masks and back to school blessing at 10.



Snow cones were a blessing at bike-a-thon.



On the road riding for Adam's Angels.



Waiting for the start signal.



Helping the little ones.



All ages participating in the Bike-A-Thon benefitting Adam's Angels.

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
July 21, 2020
6 pm at the church

The meeting was called to order by President Dean Fuchs at 6:00 p.m. and prayer was given by Pastor Darrin Holub.

Individuals Present:

Council Members –Dean Fuchs, Clyde Engelbrecht, Jeff Krolczyk, Christy Moran, James Press, Sue Schwartz, Tracy Matthies, Nikke Harmel, Barbara Saunders, Jodell Hodde and Carol Montgomery
Individuals – Pastor Darrin Holub

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The June, 2020 minutes were shared with all via email report prior to the meeting; Dean Fuchs asked for any concerns with the minutes presented. Nikke Harmel made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jodell Hodde; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports—

Treasurer's Report (Operational):

Ann Pape had provided the report previously via. email. All present expressed relief that the operational report was better than expected, considering the restricted attendance. All financial reports will be approved together at the bottom of the Investment Report.

Treasurer's Report (Non-Operational):

Larry Winkelmann provided a copy of the June investment report to all council members. As of June 11, 2020, the Investments report shows the current CD balance is \$167,385.40, the Savings balance is \$118,354.41 and the additional church funds show a balance of \$12,477.91. Following last month's approval to purchase a keyboard (see last month's minutes), Jeff Krolczyk did the research and made the purchase, with accessories, for \$2296.75. A motion was made by James Press to approve the purchase amount; the motion was seconded by Jodell Hodde. The motion passed unanimously. Further, a motion was made by Christy Moran to approve all the above financials as submitted; the motion was seconded by Barbara Saunders. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports Previously Submitted:

Pastor – Darrin Holub

Charity Reserve – Clyde Engelbrecht: Due to the stock market rebound, our funds' market values have increased by \$25,566.58. One of our CD's will mature in August; therefore, we will NOT roll this to a new CD, making this cash available for distributing to our awardee's this year.

Christian Education – Christy Moran: A new confirmation class will begin in September, per Pastor Darrin. We will have a Back to School Blessing during the church services of August 16th. A motion was made by Sue Schwartz to begin Sunday School on August 16th, subject to the approval of the Christian Education Team. The motion was seconded by James Press. The motion passed unanimously.

Worship Committee – no report this month

Old Business:

Funeral Food Service: Christy Moran will formulate general guidelines. The family will be asked for their wishes, in accordance with these guidelines. A suggestion was made to post a sign to this affect: "The food for this funeral has been lovingly prepared by our parishioners in their homes with care. Please partake as you feel comfortable, considering your own COVID-19 risk." See **Funeral Setup Coordinator** below.

New Business:

Cemetery: Because of recurring thefts of our watering hoses and other equipment, Dean Fuchs and Pastor Darrin will meet with our Cemetery Sextant, Ronny Stanley. One possible remedy to the thefts would be to purchase a lockable storage unit. Other maintenance and operational problems will also be discussed. Recommendations will be presented to the Council.

Church Property Insurance: Dean Fuchs has asked for quotes from two local insurance carriers, to be based on the existing coverages to both the church and the parsonage in the existing insurance policy.

Amended Communion Process: We will now have communion on the first Sunday of the month—both services. The new sealed wafer/grape juice cups (combo cup) will be placed in our communion trays on tables as you enter the sanctuary. The attendees will be given an opportunity to receive a combo cup if anyone inadvertently missed picking one up on the way to the pews.

Funeral Setup Coordinator: Sally Dunford has asked the Council to retire from this duty. This setup function could possibly be handled by rotating Council Members. A council person may be assigned as chairperson to head funeral setup.

Church A/C Maintenance: The air conditioner serving the north side of the narthex and sanctuary is not cooling. Christy Moran made a motion to hire Brenham Heating and Air Conditioning to determine the scope of work to repair the faulty A/C unit; Nikke Harmel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Pastor Darrin will call Brenham Heating and Air Conditioning.

Worship Services Location: For the first three (3) Sundays in August, both the 8 AM and the 10 AM services will be held in the sanctuary. The blocked off pews will be switched from odd numbered pews from the back to even numbered pews from the back after the 8 AM service. This will be done with color coordinated signs on the pews designating “8 AM pews” and “10 AM pews”. The Church Council will re-evaluate this arrangement for the 4th and 5th Sunday services in August. This change was so moved by Christy Moran and seconded by Jodell Hodde. The motion was approved unanimously.

Usher Duties Change: Council members agreed to change from four (4) ushers to two (2) ushers for each service. Clyde Engelbrecht will assign council member assignments.

Spiritual Time:

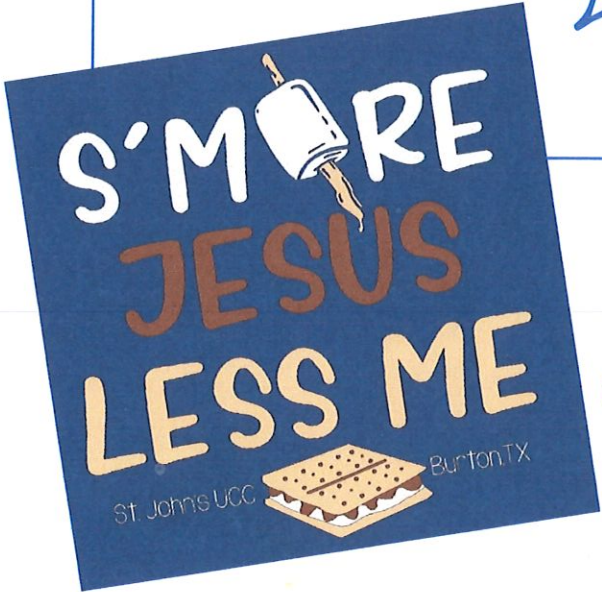
During the UT-A&M game just after the A&M bonfire tragedy the UT band held up individual aggie flags to support the A&M student body. Although rivals, they were all brothers and sisters on the same Christian team. From John 13:34-35 we learn that Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another as He loves us.

A motion to adjourn was made by James Press and seconded by Jodell Hodde. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed by reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Council Secretary
James Press

Olivia
 Stephen
 Bryce
 Kyndall
 Rylee
 Jubilee
 Josiah
 Everleigh
 Dovie
 Vivian
 Natalie
 Kylee
 Aaton
 hylie
 Lene
 Reese
 Linley
 Tatum
 Brock
 Preston
 Harper
 Blaine
 Mason
 Silas
 Isaac
 Brinley
 Payton
 Wyatt
 Reid
 Dun
 Duncan
 Halbe
 Ella
 Paisley
 Maya
 Madelyn
 Ellie
 Aaron
 Ryan
 Devlin
 Luke
 Foster

Thank you for
 supporting
 Vacation Bible School
 2020!



SARAH CIRCLE GATHERING

Wednesday September 16th 7:00PM Family Life Center

GATHER ~ SHARE ~ PRAY

Share how you and your family are coping during the pandemic

How are you spending your time? Tips to share:

Books, recipes, movies, Utube videos, projects (include humor)

We may inspire each other!

Share a scripture that has given you guidance/strength as we survive the pandemic.

We will be social distancing and please wear a mask. No meal served.

7:00-7:15 gather and find a comfortable space

7:15 Share giving your update

7:45 Share scriptures

8:00 Prayer

Any comments/feedback? Connie Gwyn 979-203-0524

COUNCIL DUTY SEPTEMBER 2020

9/6/20	8 AM	#	Dean Fuchs	#	Nicole Harmel
	10 AM	1	James Press	2	Christy Moran
		3		4	
			*Congregational Volunteer for Communion if needed		
9/13/20	8 AM	#	Jeff Krolczyk	#	Barbara Saunders
	10 AM	1	Bill Comiskey	2	Tracy Matthies
		3		4	
9/20/20	8 AM	#	Dean Fuchs	#	Nicole Harmel
	10 AM	1	Clyde Engelbrecht	2	James Press
		3		4	
9/27/20	8 AM	#	Jeff Krolczyk	#	Barbara Saunders
	10 AM	1	Bill Comiskey	2	Jodell Hodde

SEPTEMBER FLOWER CALENDAR

6th-- Altar: In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Maass by the family
Piano: In memory of the birthday of Dora Kieke by the family

13th--Altar: In honor of Circle 1's anniversary month

20th--Altar: OPEN

27th--Altar: In honor of Bob & Judith Finke's anniversary and Pastor Darrin's birthday
Piano: In memory of the birthday of Ruby Ivey by the family

Please contact Linda Knipstein (979) 277-4468 about additions or corrections to the flower calendar. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Betty Chenault
- 6 Quirt Knittel
Ryan Pape
Dotty Wickel
Heath Koehl
- 7 Riley Hawkins
- 8 Gretchen Peterson
Russell Dallmeyer
Carrie Cash
Lorenz Tiedt
- 9 Dale Guelker
- 11 Sarah Jaster
Nelson Felder
- 13 Brook Conley
- 14 T Saunders
- 15 Madison Moran
Michael Smith
- 16 Bobby Garza
- 17 Fawn Knittel
Barbara Saunders
- 18 Brenda Felder
Peggy Crotchett
- 19 Kylie Mulanax
Aubrey Grace Wilke
Colby Wagner
Weston Wagner
- 20 Randy Howard
- 21 Amanda Prior
Michael Thorpe
Sofia Nickerson
- 22 Donald Kessler
- 25 Pastor Darrin Holub
Darrell Kieke
Billie Koehl
- 26 Lillie Lehrmann
- 27 Connie Gwyn
Jane Press
- 28 Chase Muehlbrad
- 29 Scott Herzog
Sam Hodde
- 30 John Kinser
Sue Schwartz



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Dorothy & James Giese
- 10 Rebecca & Merlin Dupre
- 16 Jodell & Charles Hodde
- 21 Lucila & Gary Weishuhn
- 24 Judith & Bob Finke
- 26 Liz & Pat Broesche

Happy
Anniversary

September 2020

Back to school blessings and face masks were given to the children in August at both services. This is a glimpse at 8a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		¹ Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	² Yoga, 7:30 a.m.	³ Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	⁴ Senior Drive thru meal, 12:00-12:30	⁵
⁶ LOFT Choir Children's Sunday School begins, 9 Services 8 & 10 in sanctuary Communion	⁷	⁸ Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	⁹ Yoga, 7:30 a.m.	¹⁰ Mary Martha Sewing, 1-5 Herb Society in FLC 8-12 Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	¹¹ Senior Drive thru meal, 12:00-12:30	¹²
¹³ Praise 8 Traditional 10	¹⁴	¹⁵ Council, 6 Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	¹⁶ Yoga, 7:30 a.m. Sarah Circle Gathering in FLC, 7:00	¹⁷ Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	¹⁸ Senior Drive thru meal, 12:00-12:30 Food Pantry, 10-12	¹⁹
²⁰ Services 8 & 10	²¹	²² Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	²³ Yoga, 7:30 a.m.	²⁴ Mary Martha Sewing, 1-5 Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	²⁵ Senior Drive thru meal, 12:00-12:30	²⁶
²⁷ Praise 8 Traditional 10 Newsletter deadline	²⁸	²⁹ Yoga in the garden, 7:00 Motivated Movers, 7:30	³⁰ Yoga, 7:30 a.m.			