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Pastor's Corner

Where do you run for refuge when life gets overwhelming? What truths do you turn to? I have always loved Psalm 46. I've read it, quoted it, and shared it with many in their times of need.

I have a fun little myth about Psalm 46 as written in the King James Version. The King James Version was translated during the early 1600s. The effort started in 1608 and was finished in 1611. Can you guess which beloved playwright lived during this time period? Yes! Shakespeare! Such a notable literary figure would surely have helped with this translation. Shakespeare was 46 years old the year before the KJV was published. The myth? Shakespeare put his mark on Psalm 46 to mark his 46th birthday. How did he do this? If you count 46 words from the beginning of the psalm...you'll find the word Shake. If you count 46 words in from the end of the psalm, you'll find the word spear. So forever, Shakespeare would be part of the bible. And that's your biblical myth for the month.

For this month's newsletter, let's look at ways Psalm 46 helps us redirect our efforts and rest in God.

Psalm 46 tells us that Enough is Enough!

Psalm 46:10 reads in the translation the Message "Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything."

Many translations use "Be still" or, "we need to come aside from the hustle and bustle of daily life and get alone with God."

Is that all that's being said here?

When we look at verses 8-11 of the final part of this Psalm, we better understand the full context of verse 10.

“Come, see the Lord’s deeds, what devastation he has imposed on the earth—bringing wars to an end in every corner of the world, breaking the bow and shattering the spear, burning chariots with fire. “That’s enough! Now know that I am God! I am exalted among all nations; I am exalted throughout the world!” The Lord of heavenly forces is with us! The God of Jacob is our place of safety. Selah

Verses 8, 9, and 11 refer to aspects of war and fighting. In a discussion about war and fighting, simply saying “be still” is too tame. We need to say, “Enough is Enough”.

Pausing during times of strife, to be sure that we are truly fighting the Lord’s battles and not fighting against the Lord seems appropriate! We step back for a moment and say God you are God—Do as you wish with us and anyone else.

Psalm 46 begins with: “The Lord is my refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way ... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” This means that we can stop fighting in our own strength and actually rest in Him.

Psalm 46 shows us how to Take Refuge in God

It was April 1521. A ramshackle cart was wobbling its way to Worms, Germany. This ramshackle cart belonged to Martin Luther. Martin Luther was summoned to appear before the Emperor and Catholic prelates to give an account of the new “heresy” he was teaching called “justification by faith alone.” Johann Eck, a German Scholastic theologian, laid out all of Luther’s writings and made a firm request. Recant and return to a right relationship with the Catholic church. The stakes were very high. The Catholic church did not take kindly to heretics.

Luther returned to his room to think about his answer. As the story goes, his Bible fell open and guess what it fell open to? Psalm 46. This was the encouragement that Luther needed to stand before his detractors the next morning and say:

“Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”

The Reformation had begun!

Psalm 46 was Martin Luther's favorite Psalm. During the dark and dangerous periods of the Reformation, Luther would turn to his friend Philip Melanchthon and exclaim: "Let's sing the 46th Psalm, and let the devil do his worst!" It inspired one of his greatest hymns. "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

No other Psalm expresses the tremendous truth that God's presence and power are with us always. In it, God offers two kinds of help: a stronghold into which we can flee and a source of strength by which we can face an uncertain future.

Psalm 46 shows us how to Pause and Think. It's divided into three stanzas, each ending with this very mysterious Hebrew word "Selah." "Selah" was a type of musical notation indicating a pause in the music for contemplation on what was just sung. We can translate it today into, "Pause and think!"

When the mountains quake, the Lord is my refuge and strength. Selah!
When nations are in uproar and kingdoms fall, the Lord almighty is with us. Selah!
"Enough is Enough!" Know that I am God, exalted among the nations, the Lord of Armies is with us. Selah!"

Every year brings us 365 days of uncertainty. Every day brings us 24 hours of uncertainty. But in every second of every hour of every day, God's presence and power is available to us. What does the future hold? It really doesn't matter, does it, as long as Psalm 46 is true! When you need to know that God's presence and power is there, try reflecting on Psalm 46 or any other passage. When you do, may I suggest ending it with "Selah"? To do that is to tell God, "I need to pause and think about that."

Pastor Amy

A Message from Our Lay Leader

Points to Ponder

He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind, and now I see. John 9:25

Kate Hankey was a British girl who lived in London in the mid-1800s. Her family was active in their church, and Kate started teaching Sunday school while still in her teens. When she was 18, she organized a Bible study for girls who worked in a nearby factory. When her brother fell ill while working in Africa, it was Kate who travelled there to tend to him. This adventure prompted a desire for mission work. When she was about 30, Kate fell ill, and her doctors gave her a long time of bed rest. With nothing to do and a restless spirit, Kate began to write poems. In one, she wrote of her passion for telling people about the love of Jesus. She titled it, "The Old, Old, Story." It made its way into publication and was quoted at the conclusion of an international convention of the YMCA. Many people were struck by the beauty and message of the poem. Songwriter William Doane, who was in the crowd that day, took a portion of Kate's poem and wrote the hymn, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story." Another budding songwriter, William Fischer, took another portion of Kate's poem and created a tune that became, "I Love to Tell the Story." "I love to tell the story. T'will be my theme in Glory. To tell the old, old story, of Jesus and his love."

How about us? Do we love to tell the story? For some of us, telling others about what God has done for us is very easy, but I am guessing that for most of us, it is not. For some, our faith is very personal and not easy to put into words. Others of us may not want to appear to be judgmental towards others, or fear that we are inadequate in our knowledge of God, or the Bible, to do a good job in sharing our faith. Some of us belong to the order of "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Now it is true that living our lives in a way that shows our faith is very important, but we should be ready to back that up with our own words of faith. After all, there are a lot of people out there that do nice things for others or are kind, but don't know Jesus. When I have the chance to share my faith, and I start to get cold feet, I remember the blind man from the Bible who was grilled by the authorities to explain how a man who was obviously a sinner (since Jesus had healed the man, and therefore did work, on the Sabbath, a sin.) The man's answer is one that all of us should hold up as the ultimate example of a faith well spoken, "I don't know everything. I just know that I was blind, and now I can see." You don't have to be a Bible scholar or have all the answers. You just share, "This is what God has done for me. If you allow it, God will do it for you." It's that simple. Remember Paul's words from Romans 10:14, "But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" You or I might be the only doorway a friend, family member, co-worker ever gets to God. Do we keep the door shut or open it up and invite them inside? Courage, friends!

Dave Kopecky
Lay Leader

A Message from Our Finance Director

A Message from Our Finance Director

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just wanted to give you a quick update on our year to date and monthly income to expenses. Giving for the month of March ended up being \$11,399.50 which includes \$209 in other income. Our expenses for the month were \$21,593.34, giving us a negative net income of -\$10,193.74. As a reminder, our weekly budgetary needs are \$6956.25. Our weekly spending was below our budget for the month by \$6,231.66 which is a positive, but our giving still needs to increase to meet our budgetary needs.

Giving for the year to date through April 20 is \$59,929.25 including other income of \$900.55. Our expenses through April 20th are \$92,787.41 giving us a negative net income of -\$32,858.16 for the year so far.

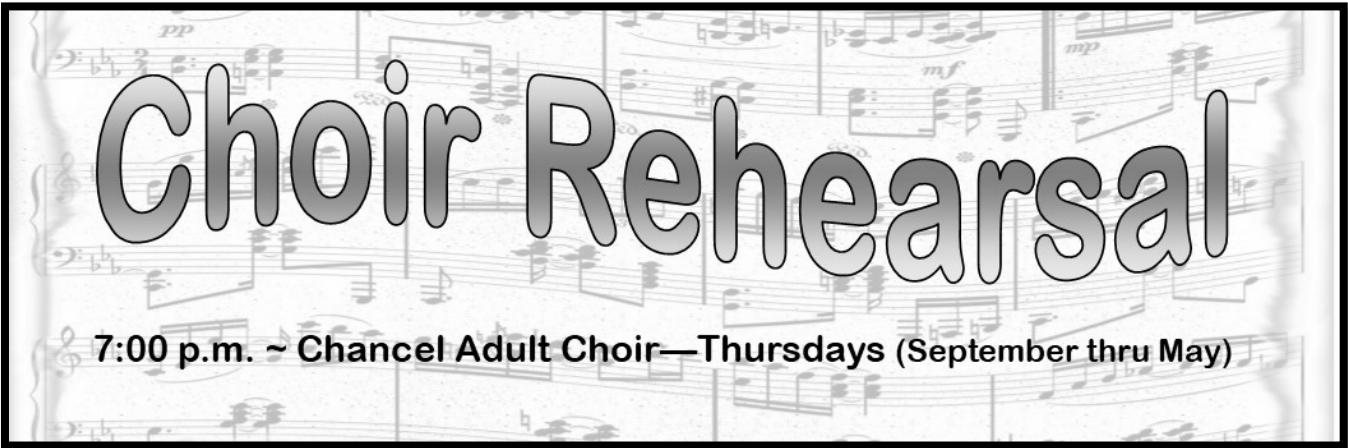
Giving for April through the 20th is \$14,714.26. Our expenses for the month are \$22,548.15, or a negative net income of -\$7,833.89.

We have a new online giving platform, check it out on the church website. This is an easy way to set up your ongoing weekly or monthly giving.

Tracy Sheehy
Finance Director



May 5th	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lettuce Pray ~ A Spiritual Salad</i> Sermon: Green Onions of Guidance & Direction: The Soldier's Prayer Scripture: Matthew 7:7-11 NRSVUE</p>
May 12th	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>MOTHER'S DAY</i> Laity Sunday</p>
May 19th	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>PENTECOST</i> Sermon: What's Behind Door # 3? Scripture: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 NRSVUE</p>
May 26th	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Guest Speaker: Dave Kopecky</i></p>





ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays at 8 a.m.

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study

Potluck at 5:30 p.m. followed by Study at 6 p.m.



Board of Trustees ~ Meets 1st Tuesday of Each Quarter at 5:30 p.m.

(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 in the Resource Center

Nurture Team ~ 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is: Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Finance Team ~ Meets the 4th Tuesday of Each Quarter at 5:00 p.m.

(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 in the Resource Center

Church Council ~ Meets the 4th Tuesday of Each Quarter at 5:30 p.m.

(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 in the Resource Center

Sunday Worship on Thursday



Can't make it to Church on Sunday?

Well we have the answer...

Sunday Worship on Thursday

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

we have a 'Sunday'

Worship Service here at St. John's UMC

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!



Men's Bible Study

Men of ALL ages are invited to come and discover the truths of God's word.
Join us on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. for Fellowship followed by Bible Study at 8:30 a.m.
All Men are Welcome!



Women's Bible Study

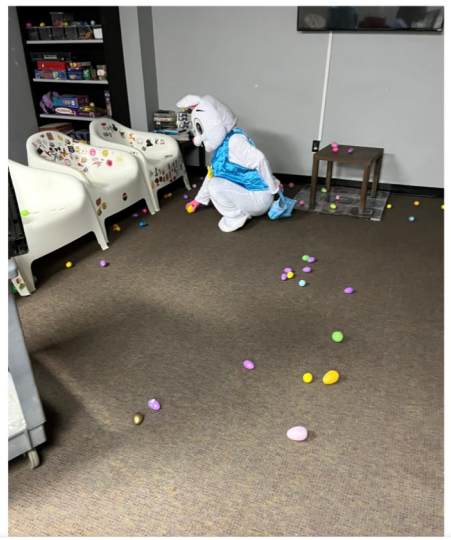
Wednesdays at 11 a.m.



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Potluck at 5:30 p.m. followed by study at 6 p.m.
Everyone is invited to join us!

Easter 2024



Women's Fellowship

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.

*Everyone is invited to join us as we
Celebrate the Mother's in our lives
with an English Tea Potluck*

*Please bring English Tea Sandwiches
or Bite-Sized Desserts to Share.*

*A variety of Teas, Coffee, Cold Teas
and Water will be provided.*



**Vacation Bible School is
Coming to St. John's UMC
June 24 thru June 27
9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
All Children Ages 3 thru finishing 5th Grade
are invited to join us!
Please use the QR Code below to Register.**



For more information, please visit our Camp Firelight VBS website at:
<https://st-john-s-united-methodist-church--kingman-az.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

To Volunteer, please visit our Camp Firelight VBS volunteer registration at:
<https://st-john-s-united-methodist-church--kingman-az.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-volunteer>

Tiny Talk

News from
Grace Neal Preschool



During the month of April the Children and Teachers at Grace Neal Preschool got to have Super Fun Weekly Chapel time with Pastor Amy



Nana's Pantry located here at St. John's UMC is:

***OPEN FRIDAYS FROM
9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.***

St. John's UMC also has a small clothing closet that is open on Fridays during our Food Box distributions

If you know someone that is in need,
please let them know about us.

If you are interested in being part of this
ministry here at St. John's,
please contact Heidi in the Church Office at: (928) 692-8828 or st.johns@citlink.net

***Please see the Giving Tree in the Lobby of the Worship Center
for Tags with the needs of the Pantry if you would like to donate.
Thank you!***

Prayers for our North District Churches

As part of the United Methodist connection we pray to support one another in ministry. During the month of May please pray for these churches, ministries, pastors, congregations, and communities.

- 1) Green Valley UMC, Henderson, Nevada
- 2) Holbrook UMC, Holbrook, Arizona
- 3) Hope UMC, Bullhead, Arizona



Pray Every Day for our Military Members—

Devin Arrants, Brian Barnacle, Justin Bayles, John Belcher, Chris Bradley, Greg Brewer, Dan Brocklehurst, Stacie Brown, Brady Burr, Ryan Burr, Erik Burris, Lucas James Butler, Clint Caldwell, Bobby Carlson, Charles Carroll, Nathaniel Castor, Amber Caswell, Richard Cole, Anthony Costa, Jenny Dalton, Colin Dyer, Daniel Eagan, Karen Eagan, Anthony Elliot, Adam Ernesti, Austin Ernesti, Ben Ferrell, Christie Francis, Adam Georges, Ethan Granger, Holly Gibbons, Joey Gormany, Brenton Green, George Hatchell Jr., Colin Arno Henry, Camerron Higbee, Jessica Huffer, Isaiah Huynh, Brian Illes, Jeremiah Johnson, Travis Johnson, David Kent, Jeffery Lederhouse, Ryan Miller, Danny Morales, Jennifer Parker, Jonathan Parker, Katrina Powell, Tyler Radcliffe, Will Ray, William Ritchie, Juan Roman, Jamuel Ruiz, Bryson Salazar, Ben Schwartzfigure, Sean Schwartzfigure, Jared Shulpa, Matthew Simone, Troy Smith, Daniel Travis, Jeff Vicario, Ashley Caswell Walker, Andrew Weatherford, Jason Williams, Chad Wright

Long Term Prayer List

To make changes to this list, please call the church office at (928) 692-8828 Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. —4 p.m. or email us at stjohnsprayerchain@citlink.net. We make every effort to keep the names on this list current, and we have a quarterly meeting to do so. Your help is appreciated so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Lois Baker; Jennifer Casey; Kristen Coates; Family & Friends of Lula Deering; Sally Diehl; Debra Eberly; Gary Forde; Steven Frazine; Arno & Vera Gates; Patty George; Carol Halen; Paula Hupp; Julie Jensen; Ed Krause; Amy Lunsford; Renita McElhaney; Betty Mixon; Krista Nielson; Family & Friends of Donni Rincon; Betty Rowe; Nandhini Sankar; Gert Schacht; Marc Schacht; Debbie Scott; Rodney Shutts; Karran Smith; Pam Smith; Rod Smith; Karen Spira; Jeremy Thomas; Don Waller; Lois Waller; John Walls; Pam Wally; Scott White; Zoe Wober; Bob Womack

For Your Information

Publication Deadlines

Bulletin Announcements for church events are due to the church office by **Tuesdays at 12:00 PM.** Bulletins are printed on Tuesday afternoons.

St. John's Connection for church events and happenings are due to the church office no later than **Tuesdays at 12 p.m.**

The Connection Email is sent out on Wednesday mornings.



The **June 2024 Newsletter** deadline is:
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 by 4:00 PM.

You can e-mail your submissions, with Bulletin, Newsletter, or Connection in the subject line to Heidi at:
st.johns@citlink.net.



Group meetings Saturday mornings at
10:30 a.m. in the
St. John's UMC Multi-Purpose Room

Other Groups that meet here at St. John's UMC

Morning Glories

Third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (September-June)

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Friday mornings:

Weigh-In begins at 8 a.m.

Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.

Cerbat Garden Club

Second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. (August-June)

Bible Readings; Birthdays; Anniversaries



May Daily Bible Readings	
May 1	John 1:29-51; Psalm 102:1-28
May 2	John 2:1-25; Psalm 103:1-22
May 3	John 3:1-21; Psalm 104:1-24
May 4	John 3:22-4:3; Psalm 104:24-35
May 5	John 4:4-42; Psalm 105:1-15
May 6	John 4:43-54; Psalm 105:16-36
May 7	John 5:1-23; Psalm 105:37-45
May 8	John 5:24-47; Psalm 106:1-12
May 9	John 6:1-21; Psalm 106:13-31
May 10	John 6:22-42; Psalm 106: 32-48
May 11	John 6:43-71; Psalm 107:1-43
May 12	John 7:1-30; Psalm 108:1-13
May 13	John 7:31-53; Psalm 109:1-31
May 14	John 8:1-20; Psalm 110:1-7
May 15	John 8:21-30; Psalm 111:1-10
May 16	John 8:31-59; Psalm 112:1-10
May 17	John 9:1-41; Psalm 113:1-114:8
May 18	John 10:1-21; Psalm 115:1-18
May 19	John 10:22-42; Psalm 116:1-19
May 20	John 11:1-54; Psalm 117:1-2
May 21	John 11:55-12:19; Psalm 118:1-18
May 22	John 12:20-50; Psalm 118:19-29
May 23	John 13:1-30; Psalm 119:1-16
May 24	John 13:31-14:14; Psalm 119:17-32
May 25	John 14:15-31; Psalm 119:33-48
May 26	John 15:1-27; Psalm 119:49-64
May 27	John 16:1-33; Psalm 119:65-80
May 28	John 17:1-26; Psalm 119:81-96
May 29	John 18:1-24; Psalm 119:97-112
May 30	John 18:25-19:22; Psalm 119:113-128
May 31	John 19:23-42; Psalm 119:129-152

May Birthdays

- May 1—Avery Hicks; Karin Kopecky
- May 12—Lauren Kopecky; Linda Rokjer
- May 14—Nancy Fox
- May 17—Chapo Chavez; Angela Riesen
- May 21—Kim Deering
- May 25—Les Marshall
- May 28—Cheri Forsyth



**Heidi & Bryan Heer
5/25/1991 (33 years)**

May 2024 Calendar

Wednesday, May 1	Cornerstone Pick-Up 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, May 2	5:30 PM 'Sunday Worship' on Thursday 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 3	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, May 4	10:00 AM NA Meeting; 10:30 AM Mother's Day Tea 5:00 PM NA 1st Saturday
Sunday, May 5	8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, May 6	5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, May 7	12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline 4:00 PM Community Book Club
Wednesday, May 8	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 10:00 AM Cerbat Garden Club 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study; 5:30 PM Potluck 6:00 PM Bible Study; 6:30 PM Dad Matters
Thursday, May 9	5:30 PM 'Sunday Worship' on Thursday 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 10	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, May 11	10:00 AM NA Meeting
Sunday, May 12	Mother's Day 8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, May 13	5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study; 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2074
Tuesday, May 14	12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline 9:00 AM Cerbat Garden Club Event
Wednesday, May 15	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 10:00 AM Preschool Graduation 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study; 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School is Coming
June 24 thru June 27!
Volunteers Needed!
If interested, please see Pastor Amy

May 2024 Calendar

Thursday, May 16	<p align="center">Cornerstone Pick-Up</p> 9:00 AM Morning Glories 5:30 PM 'Sunday Worship' on Thursday 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 17	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, May 18	10:00 AM NA Meeting
Sunday, May 19	<p align="center">Pentecost </p> 8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, May 20	5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, May 21	<p align="center"><i>12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline</i></p> 10:00 AM Coffee with Friends
Wednesday, May 22	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 9:00 AM VBS Decorating Work Day 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study; 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, May 23	<p align="center">5:30 PM 'Sunday Worship' on Thursday</p> 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 24	<p align="center">Cornerstone Pick-Up</p> 8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, May 25	10:00 AM NA Meeting
Sunday, May 26	8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, May 27	<p align="center">Memorial Day Church Office Closed</p> 5:30 PM Monday Big Book Study
Tuesday, May 28	<p align="center"><i>12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline</i></p>
Wednesday, May 29	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 9:00 AM VBS Decorating Work Day 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study; 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, May 30	<p align="center">5:30 PM 'Sunday Worship' on Thursday</p>
Friday, May 31	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'

St. John's United Methodist Church
1730 Kino Avenue
Kingman, Arizona 86409

Church Staff

Senior Pastor	Pastor Amy Kalm
Office Administrator	Heidi Heer
Treasurer	Tracy Sheehy
Contemporary Music Director	Chris Commisso
Traditional Music Director	Karin Kopecky
Preschool Director	Mande Padilla

Connection Staff

District Superintendent	Rev. Timote Piukala
Resident Bishop	Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Friday 8 am-2:00 pm
(928) 692-8828/Fax (928) 692-8799

Worship at St. John's UMC

Sundays:

*9:00 AM ~ Modern Praise
10:30 AM Traditional Worship*

*'Sunday' Worship on Thursday
Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.*

Email: st.johns@citlink.net
Website: stjohnsumc.com