

St. John's United Methodist Church

February 2024

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Pastor's Corner

On February 2nd, we observe Groundhog Day! This is the day when we find out “conclusively” from the shadow of a groundhog what the future holds for us as we anticipate the arrival of spring. Did you that this celebration is grounded in Judaism, Christianity, Paganism, Native American lore, and even tamales? February 2nd is 40 days after we celebrate the birth of Jesus. According to Jewish tradition, this would be the day he is presented in the temple. February 2nd is also the day for the Christian tradition of Candlemas. This is the day that all candles that are to be used in worship for the year are blessed. This would lead to our beloved Christmas Eve “Candlelight service”. It also plays into the tradition of putting candles in house windows to light the darkness. This is a tradition that you will see observed in places in the Midwest, particularly in Eastern Ohio. Candlemas is called Candelaria in Hispanic cultures. For them, this celebration starts on the Day of Epiphany or Day of the Three Kings. Traditionally part of the celebration of Epiphany involves a Rosca or King Cake. A tiny baby Jesus is baked inside the cake. The person who gets the slice of cake with the baby Jesus in it is responsible for hosing a party on Candelaria (February 2nd). Tamales, a tradition of this celebration, symbolizes the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Pagan calendar recognizes February 2nd as the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. For pagans, this day is known as Imbolc. This brings us to the United States where Groundhog day is celebrated on February 2nd. Our celebration of this day is a mix of Christianity, Hispanic celebrations, Paganism, European superstitions, German traditions, and Wojak. Along the way the celebration of Candlemas mixed with the Pagan celebration of Imbolc. Several superstitious sayings spread across Europe.

In England they said:

If Candlemas be fair and bright
Winter has another flight
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain
Winter will not come again.

In Scotland:

If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,
There'll be two winters in the year

In Germany:

For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day,
So far the snow swirl until May
For as the snow blows on Candlemas Day
So far will the sunshine before May.



~ Continued on Page 3 ~

A Message from Our Lay Leader

Points to Ponder

If you abide in me, and I in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:7

I've always found it intriguing how our mind makes connections to things that are unique to the memories and knowledge that each of us has acquired. The verse from John was just referenced by Pastor Amy in her sermon last Sunday, and it has a great word in it that we don't see or use very much, "abide." That in turn led me to remember a warm and generous man my family had the pleasure to know when I was very young. His name was Ed Carey, but to us he was "Uncle Ed." I was blessed to grow up around kind and wise adults who lived on our little dead-end road in a small community in Illinois. Two couples and a widow, none of whom had ever had children, but treated my siblings and myself with patience, kindness, and encouragement. We called them all Aunt and Uncle, and though we were not related by blood, we became related by love.

Uncle Ed played the ukelele, and we loved it when he brought it out. He taught us old songs from the days of his youth, the 1910s and 20s, and we would join in. His favorite hymn was the old standard, Abide With Me.

Abide With Me was written in 1847 by Henry Lyte, vicar in the Church of England in the small fishing village of Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England. For over twenty years, Rev. Lyte served his small community church with sermons, poems, and hymns. However, he has a reoccurring lung issue, and the moist, coastal air did not help it. In 1847, he decided to take a vacation to the mountains of Italy, for rest and recuperation for his lungs. Before he left, he did two things; he packed up all of his things from the church saying, "I must put everything in order before I leave." Then, he disappeared into his study and emerged an hour later with a new poem, Abide With Me. He left for Italy, but never made it there. His condition worsened and he died in the south of France. At his memorial service, someone found a tune for his poem, and Abide With Me was sung for the first time.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless O abide with me.

I'm sure that I didn't really know what the word "abide" meant when I was a child, and even if I had, the message would have been lost on me. It isn't until you have lived, loved, lost, and are facing your darkest hours do these words take on deep meaning and understanding. To abide means not just to stay, but to endure, sustain, or withstand without yielding or submitting.

Lord, in your mercy, abide with us today! In our joys and in our sorrows, abide with us! When the sun shines bright on our lives and when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, abide with us!

The promise of Jesus in John 15:7 should hold hope for all of us. Continue to abide with God and God will continue to abide with us. That is worth clinging to in any circumstance. Blessings to each of you as you continue to abide in the Love of God, the Mercy of Jesus, and the uplifting of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Dave Kopecky
Lay Leader

In Germany, badgers were used to see if there was enough sun for the badger to see a shadow. This brings us to Punxsutawney, PA home of the Delaware Indian tribe. Wojak, the groundhog, was considered their ancestral grandfather. Their ancestors began life as animals in Mother Earth. German immigrants settled in this area, bringing their badger/Candlemas traditions with them. What could be a more perfect substitution for the badger than the beloved Wojak? And so, in 1886 the first official Groundhog's Day was observed there.

To hear Paul write to the Colossians, one might think he knew a thing or two about Groundhog Day. He certainly had a concept of the importance of shadows. Colossians 2:17 is the culmination of a series of benefits that believers can count on as they pursue a Christ centered life. It says, "These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ." Colossians 2:6-19 talks about the liberation that Christ gave us through his sacrifice on the cross. As you read through these benefits, you will be surprised to find that there's really nothing left for us to do to gain these benefits. Jesus paid the price. In the shadow of the cross, we don't just have hope for an early spring, we have the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

I hope you have a Happy Candlemas, Candelaria, Imbolc, Groundhog's Day!

Pastor Amy

A Message from Our Finance Director

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The end of January is upon us and when you read this it will be February. I wanted to give you the final financial figures for the end of the year.

The total income for the month of December was \$14,138.79. Our budgetary needs for the month were \$28,936.00. Our actual expense for the month was \$24,821.37. This is a negative income of \$10,682.58.

Total giving for the year was \$183,529.13 and total income including the sale of some land and miscellaneous income was \$290,962.14. Our total expenses were \$316,641.90 leaving us with a yearly net income of -\$25,679.9. Unfortunately, we won't have any income coming from the sale of land this year, so if giving remains the same and our spending remains the same, our net income will be an even larger deficit.

Our weekly budgetary needs this year have come down a little from last year from \$7234 to \$6956, but that isn't a significant amount, for this reason, I ask that everyone who calls Jesus Lord and St John's home, would spend some time with the Lord seeking His guidance on how much He wants you to be giving to His kingdom in the way of St Johns. The other alternative is to cut back on all the expenses that are over and above the necessities needed to run the church (salaries, utilities, needed repairs, etc) but that would mean stopping all the wonderful missions that St John's has become known for in the community.

Blessings,

Tracy Sheehy
Finance Director



Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Modern Praise

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

February 4th	COMMUNION Sermon: Do Good Scripture: Romans 12:9-21 NRSVUE
February 11th	Sermon: Stay in Love with God Scripture: John 17:14-21 NRSVUE
February 14th	ASH WEDNESDAY Imposition of Ashes 7 a.m.—12 p.m. (St. John's UMC Chapel) Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:00 p.m. (Worship Center)
February 18th	LENT ~ 1 Sermon: Walking the Walk: Worship & Prayer Scripture: Revelation 4 NRSVUE
February 25th	LENT ~ 2 Sermon: Walking the Walk: Study God's Word Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 NRSVUE



Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. ~ Chancel Adult Choir—Thursdays (September thru May)



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 Thursday of Each Quarter at 5:30 p.m.

(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Thursday, April 11, 2024 in the Resource Center

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

Next Meeting is: Thursday, February 15, 2024

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

(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Thursday, April 25, 2024 in the Resource Center

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

(January, April, July, October)

Next meeting is: Thursday, April 25, 2024 in the Resource Center



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!**

Women's Fellowship

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 1 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Super Bowl Tailgate Potluck & Watch Party at St. John's UMC
Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Please bring your favorite Tailgate Dish to share, lawn chairs, blankets and coolers with your favorite libations (non-alcoholic) for your group as we join together in watching Super Bowl LVIII together!

Child care will be provided.

Please call the Church Office at: (928) 692-8828 with the number of Children.

Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024



7 a.m. - 12 p.m.	<i>Imposition of Ashes</i> St. John's UMC Chapel
6:00 p.m.	<i>Ash Wednesday Worship Service</i>

Lenten Lunches are a time once a week for the 6-weeks of Lent for us to come together for a Short Worship followed by Lunch and Fellowship.



Lenten Lunches will begin on Friday, February 16th at 12:30 p.m. and continue every Friday at 12:30 p.m. through Friday, March 22nd.

February 16	Facing Spiritual Droughts
February 23	Taking Inventory of Our Parched Lives
March 1	Sacrifice and Spiritual Practice
March 8	Walking through the Wilderness to Get to the Living Water
March 16	Living Water for Our Parched Lives
March 22	Holy Week

Wednesday Night Potluck & Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a Potluck followed by Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Holy Week

March 24	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 9 a.m. Modern Praise 10:30 a.m. Traditional
March 28	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 5:30 p.m. Worship Service
March 29	<i>Good Friday</i> 6:00 p.m. Worship Service



Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship
8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Modern Praise Worship
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Tiny Talk

News from
Grace Neal Preschool



During the month of January the children, parents, and teachers of Grace Neal Preschool took a much needed break after the Holidays.



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 February please pray for these churches, ministries, pastors, congregations, and communities.

- 1) Community UMC, Caliente, Nevada
- 2) Community UMC, Williams, Arizona
- 3) Desert Spring UMC, Las Vegas, Nevada



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, Tyrell Manakaja, 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, Dillon Zorn

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

For Your Information

Publication Deadlines

Bulletin Announcements for church events are due to the church office by **Tuesdays at 2:00 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 **March 2024 Newsletter** deadline is:
Wednesday, February 14, 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



February Daily Bible Readings

February 1	Matthew 21:23-46; Psalm 26:1-12
February 2	Matthew 22:1-33; Psalm 27:1-6
February 3	Matthew 22:34-23:12; Psalm 27:7-14
February 4	Matthew 23:13-39; Psalm 28:1-9
February 5	Matthew 24:1-28; Psalm 29:1-11
February 6	Matthew 24:29-51; Psalm 30:1-12
February 7	Matthew 25:1-30; Psalm 31:1-8
February 8	Matthew 25:31-26:13; Psalm 31:9-18
February 9	Matthew 26:14-46; Psalm 31:19-24
February 10	Matthew 26:47-68; Psalm 32:1-11
February 11	Matthew 26:69-27:14; Psalm 33:1-11
February 12	Matthew 27:15-31; Psalm 33:12-22
February 13	Matthew 27:32-66; Psalm 34:1-10
February 14	Matthew 28:1-20; Psalm 34:11-22
February 15	Mark 1:1-28; Psalm 35:1-16
February 16	Mark 1:29-2:12; Psalm 35:17-28
February 17	Mark 2:13-3:6; Psalm 36:1-12
February 18	Mark 3:7-30; Psalm 37:1-11
February 19	Mark 3:31-4:25; Psalm 37:12-29
February 20	Mark 4:26-5:20; Psalm 37:30-40
February 21	Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 38:1-22
February 22	Mark 6:1-29; Psalm 39:1-13
February 23	Mark 6:30-56; Psalm 40:1-10
February 24	Mark 7:1-23; Psalm 40:11-17
February 25	Mark 7:24-8:10; Psalm 41:1-13
February 26	Mark 8:11-38; Psalm 42:1-11
February 27	Mark 9:1-29; Psalm 43:1-5
February 28	Mark 9:30-10:12; Psalm 44:1-8
February 29	Proverbs 10:18-19

February Birthdays

February 1—Greg Cropper

February 5—Chris Moody

February 7—Terry Anderson

February 12—Scott Larson

February 15—Lupe Flores

February 17—Gianna Graszer; Meg Kalm

February 23—Chance Heer-Elliott;
Dave Kopecky

February 25—Marilyn Sherman

February 28—Dee Hudson



February 2024 Calendar

Thursday, February 1	7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 2	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes'
Saturday, February 3	10:00 AM NA Meeting; 5:00 PM NA 1st Saturday
Sunday, February 4	COMMUNION 8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, February 5	
Tuesday, February 6	12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline 4:00 PM Community Book Club
Wednesday, February 7	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, February 8	7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 9	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes' 1:00 PM Morning Glories Set-Up
Saturday, February 10	10:00 AM NA Meeting; 1:00 PM Women's Fellowship Morning Glories Fundraising Dinner & Basket Auction
Sunday, February 11	8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 4:00 PM Super Bowl Tailgate Potluck & Watch Party
Monday, February 12	6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2074
Tuesday, February 13	12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline
Wednesday, February 14	ASH WEDNESDAY 7 AM ~ 12 PM Imposition of Ashes 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 10:00 AM Cerbat Garden Club 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study; 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thursday, February 15	Cornerstone Pick-Up 9:00 AM Morning Glories; 5:30 PM Nurture Team Meeting 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

February 2024 Calendar

Friday, February 16	8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes' <i>12:30 PM Lenten Lunch</i>
Saturday, February 17	8 AM ~ 2 PM BLOOD DRIVE 10:00 AM NA Meeting
Sunday, February 18	LENT ~ 1 8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, February 19	
Tuesday, February 20	10:00 AM Coffee with Friends <i>12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline</i>
Wednesday, February 21	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, February 22	7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 23	Cornerstone Pick-Up 8:00 AM TOPS; 9:00 AM Mission 'Food Boxes' <i>12:30 PM Lenten Lunch</i>
Saturday, February 24	10:00 AM NA Meeting
Sunday, February 25	LENT ~ 2 8:30 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 9:00 AM Modern Praise 10:00 AM Pastries & Fellowship; 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
Monday, February 26	6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2074
Tuesday, February 27	<i>12:00 PM Bulletin/Connection Deadline</i>
Wednesday, February 28	8:00 AM Men's Bible Study; 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Potluck; 6:00 PM Bible Study
Thursday, February 29	7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

Sundays at St. John's UMC

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

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