



St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

Loss & Hope SONDRA JONES

April 2024

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This past week a dear friend of mine died suddenly. She was older than me but still it was completely unexpected even though she was taking chemo for a tumor that had recently been removed. She was a follower of Jesus. As I have tried to come to “grips with her death” and really grasp that Sarah is gone I have been thinking and writing some things down. I don’t know if any of the things I have thought of might help with the grief you are feeling or have felt in the past over a loss but maybe....

One of the great blessings that we as followers of Jesus Christ enjoy together is our **HOPE**. Paul explains:

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words. (1 Thess 4:13-18).

Oh, the sadness I have felt since the loss of my friend but the hope I have!

How do others without the belief in Jesus Christ deal with the loss of those they love? I know they believe something about the afterlife, but really, if they have no belief in God and the Word of God, they truly have no real hope. Not me! I grieve with great hope that I my friend, based upon the Word of God, God’s covenant of faithfulness and trust in God’s love, is in a place happier than she could ever imagine. She is pain-free, sickness-free, and seeing people she has missed here on Earth.

Paul wrote, *“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8)*. So loved ones we have lost are more alive than ever when they pass away and go to heaven. They go immediately! No delay. A personal relationship with Jesus is an immediate elevator trip directly to the **PENTHOUSE SUITE** to be with Him in heaven. That is comforting to me!

I have heard others say that their loved one or friend didn’t follow Jesus consistently. What happens to them? My friend was as consistent as the rising and setting of the sun in her following of Jesus. But if your loved one was not, you can rest easy...I am confident. There is good news. We do not go to heaven based upon our faithfulness to Him; we go to heaven based upon God’s faithfulness to us (1 Pet 1:3-5). Consider the Apostle Peter’s words:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the



Devotion (cont.)

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet 1:3-5)

Believe it or not when I was looking at other writings about grief and mourning, I found out that the Bible teaches that we are better off in a funeral home than at a party. According to King Solomon, he wrote:

Better to go to the house of mourning

Than to go to the house of feasting,

For that is the end of all men;

And the living will take it to heart.

Sorrow is better than laughter,

For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,

But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. (Eccl 7:2-4)

When Sarah died, her death provided me an opportunity to focus on what truly matters in life. Most of us have. When death is sudden and unexpected, I think we all reassess some things and prioritize items. Death shakes us, sometimes to our core and sometimes to our senses! We can see what is truly important.

Sadness. Sorrow. Mourning. No one wants to go through these emotions. Through this dark time, however, we can emerge with a better view of what is important. We can lift the fog we were walking through and find joy in the little things in our lives again. We can be thankful each day.

As those who continue to live, and to go on, we are forced to continue moving forward. I saw it at the service...a celebration of Sarah. As we mourned her loss, we laughed and cried with wonderful stories about her life. The stories shared brought comfort to her family and friends. As I have thought about Sarah's death and being the one left here on earth, I found these words from the Apostle Peter powerful:

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Pet 1:10-11)

Peter challenges us to live today with tomorrow and others in mind. We need not commit the types of sin that would make others question our relationship

with Jesus. If we live a life consistent with our true relationship with Jesus, then we will have assurance of our salvation and so will those who are left after we die. What a blessing to our loved ones that is!! Knowing the person you loved is in heaven is such a comfort during a time of sorrow. When we live as a faithful follower of Christ, our loved ones have that blessing.

Finally, I need to be like Sarah when I grow up. She witnessed, invited, sung to, took in, ministered to, etc. anyone and everyone in her path. I think she invited more people to church in her short time here than I have in all my years here. Actually, I know she did.

Paul wrote to Timothy:

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. (1 Tim 4:16)

I need to watch my thoughts and behavior and strive to live more like Jesus. As people see me, they don't question my salvation and I become a witness to them, too.

As I, and many of us, grieve the loss of Sarah, I pray for God's comfort and love. Praise our Heavenly Father that He offers us eternal life. What more could we ask for? What an incredible blessing! I know that to be absent from the body is to be present with our Lord. Incredible news! Incredible comfort! I also know that I will be reunited with Sarah and other loved ones one day. So as sad as I am for my loss here on Earth, I know it is not forever! I thank my Heavenly Father for that hope and gift!

Sondra

Food & Fellowship

Supper Club meets once a month for dinner at a local restaurant. Food and fellowship is had by those who attend!

Here is the

NEW

schedule for 2024.

You will also find the

restaurant choices in our bulletins and on the calendar on our website stjohnum.org.

See you soon!!

Make sure to get these on your calendar and be ready to have some FUN! All times are 5:00 pm.



April 23-Cracker Barrel

May 28 Olive Garden

June 25 O'Charley's

July 23 New China

August 27 Briar Patch

Sept 24 Old Hickory

Oct 22 Cracker Barrel

Nov 26 Moonlite

Dec 24 no dinner

ST Benedict's News

A group continues to serve an evening meal at Saint Benedict's on the first Monday night of the month at 8 PM. The meal consists of a ham and cheese sandwich, lettuce and tomato, beans, potato salad, and ice cream. This meal costs about \$125 to feed 50 or more men. Thank you for all of your recent donations, and support to this organization. St John is so appreciated for all it does to help the community and those



in need. Thanks to the Car Show and generous donation of the participants the meals at St.

Benedict's are funded for the year of 2024, I believe. I am sure if there becomes a need Miss Vicki will let us know. The dates we serve are:

April 1	May 6	June 3
July 1	Aug.5	Sept.2
Oct. 7	Nov. 4	Dec.2

Not sure about the dates, check out the calendar feature on our website,

stjohnum.org .

_Submitted by, Vicki Hast

RECIPES

Lucky's Quickie Chickie

Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 6 ounces chicken tenderloin strips
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 1 ½ teaspoons honey
- 1 ½ teaspoons balsamic vinegar, or more to taste.

Instructions:

Heat olive oil in a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Season chicken with salt and pepper and a little garlic salt. Cook and stir chicken in the hot oil until chicken is no longer pink in the center, about 10-15 minutes. Stir basil, honey, and balsamic vinegar into chicken and cook for 3 more minutes.

I add in some asparagus and cook with it using a little more balsamic vinegar and honey. Or cook the asparagus a different way but serve with the chick-



HANDYMEN & WOMEN!!

Attention: Handymen (and women)

We need a few things done in the choir room. (Rod to hang choir robes, etc.)

See Sharon for details.

March Choir Notes by Sharon Sauer

It is a sad time for us at St. John as we lost our wonderful leader. Sarah had become a big part of our fellowship for a short time and we love her leadership and camaraderie. She brought in many new voices and that added so much to our worship. We will miss her so much!

On that note, Sharon (Sauer) has offered to step in to the role as Music Leader in the interim until someone is found to take that position.

So come on up to the front to join us for a great experience and to raise a joyful noise.

Sharon Sauer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Oh what a wonderful time we are having in Children's Church, learning about and loving Jesus!! We are crafting items from pretzels and marshmallows, singing songs, painting, molding items from clay and memorizing Bible verses. We have also had paper wad fights, timed races, shot marbles and said many prayers for our church and the members. Needless to say the time in

class flies by! Feel free to come join us some Sunday. Below are some pictures!



A THANK YOU NOTES

Dear St. John Church Family
Thank you for prayers, food, visits and for Pastor Chris.
Pat and Don Sprague

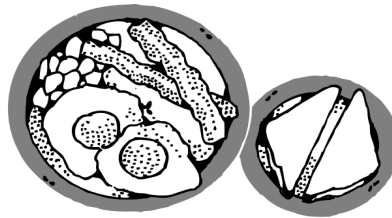
Dear Church Family,
Thank you to all who helped with the meal for Sarah Elliott's family; servers, cooks, dishwashers, cleaners, and anyone else who helped in any way! Many hands make light work!!
Margaret

FAMILY LIFE BOWLING



Methodist Men's News

Even though it was a cool day, 23 regulars and guests turned out for our monthly breakfast meeting. Our cooking team did their usual great job. Tks. guys!! Several were mentioned who need our prayers in the coming days and



weeks. We all know someone who has a need, so let's include them in our prayer time as well. Our next meeting will be April 20, at 8:30 am. Hopefully, it will be a nice spring day!
Thanks, Jim

SINGLES LUNCHEON





CRAFT FAIR—SEPT. 21st

Craft Fair!! The Biggest and Best Craft Fair Ever—with your help! Our 2nd Annual Car Show is coming again too. Have you started on your basket? No need to bake yet but you can gather some recipes ideas for the sweet shop. Here are some ways you can help....

1. Be thinking about a donation to the silent auction. If you shop at a business often, ask them for a donation to our auction. Business names will be made public in many ways.
2. Think about making a basket for the auction. Or if you see things on sale that would be cute in a basket, you could gather items to put together a basket with a theme
3. We will have craft vendors with home-made items. If you know anyone that is crafty or want to have a booth see Beverly Plain.
4. Think about the Sweet Shop. This is al-

ways a big hit! What can you make to sale here. Yummy!

5. We will have bean soup, cornbread, burgers, chips and drinks. Later we will ask for donations for drinks and chips.

Most of all we need workers!! Mark your calendars now so you will be available to help.

The Car Show and Craft Fair bring lots of people to the church.

It's early but we need donations and ideas! Sept. 21st will be here soon!

.
See Beverly Plain with questions.
270-302-4999

Spring Word Search

I W Y J A H L E A F V O G V C D M A V F P V E P
 I L W O N Z R V V R A P L B F X E L D C Q T H W
 F T I Z C U K K Y V R L O Q N T R E W V I H E M
 E R V T F T K C I D E A O O J E W N S J I A R R
 I W E X J E B U O T Y N I G Q I N I O K V A P P
 G Z V J J G M P W B E T A W D F U I E O L Y R U
 W D A S B S H C U N J R P R W U D C H L S E F F
 X X S S F Y O B Z Z D C N G C N B K I S S I Z P
 M S R W P I B P L E U H I G B N L P F T N W N W
 B U D A J L L H N B C M O N T E R C L J M U U U
 D X G S E U K W W S U V B I C E K Q O A U R S M
 I Z N S D U C K S P S R G E T I J N W S E G U R
 G U I S Z L V S R U M A W A B Z P I E S K L X E
 D T P P P B M A T O R I C G S A Z A R A A U G K
 V T M U P R O O Z T O N O O R G S R S R B R A V
 T T A S U N I M W E T B X S K M C E Q G W D V J
 M O C X U H G N S K S O T O J Y F S B O H S Q D
 A H R L N E B M G S Z W W I A S Q O L A D K H W
 W O J D L E R N X A X L O K B K Y L H U L G M A
 W K Y S B O E I F B O O Z P P E E Y O K P L O L
 V V B D W N X R F D Q H P J E Y H L I H V K D K
 Y C L R O L Y D G Q E K U N F B C H E G S D K S
 C P J I J P A R K O J O P Y L F R E T T U B A U
 M S K B P Q V R E T S A E Z X U S X P U R A C G

caterpillar	butterfly	baseball	sunshine	rainbow	camping	flowers
bubbles	yellow	basket	garden	storms	clouds	spring
picnic	easter	worms	green	ducks	birds	plant
walks	grass	seed	leaf	kite	park	hike
rain	Bake	fun	zoo	car		



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

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We're on the Web!
www.stjohnum.org

Check us out on Facebook!

Twitter: stjohnumc1

*April 10, Single's Lunch @
11:30 am*

*April 20, MM's Breakfast @
8:30 am*

*April 21, Game Night @ 3-5
pm*

*April 22, Fam. Life Mtg. @ 4
pm*

*April 23, Supper Club @
Cracker Barrel @ 5 pm*

