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#### St. John UMC Satellite Invite \* Relate \* Nurture \* Send forth

#### Speaking in Love Instead of Speaking Your Mind by Grace Valentine

- "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)
- One time, I had a coworker I just didn't get along with. I think both of us wanted to get along, but because of communication differences and even mutual competitiveness, we often didn't. It got to the point where I started avoiding elevator rides with her.
- Finally, one day she said something hurtful to me, and I just snapped. I rolled my eyes and said something unkind and snippy back. Although my response reflected how I felt, it was not a great thing to say and only made our conflict worse.
- After two more weeks ... I finally brought the situation to Jesus. Praying

about it, I asked for Him to make me slow to speak and quick to listen and for my responses to be loving.

- As I continued to pray about the conflict, my conversations with my co-worker improved.
  When I stood up for myself, I was kind and loving in doing so. My words began to reflect Jesus' love more than just reflecting my own thoughts.
- Was there still tension between me and my coworker? Occasionally. But my responses brought peace instead of fueling the fire. Speaking in love instead of just speaking my mind added goodness to my life and to this tense relationship.
- The truth is it's unhealthy to run away and hide from conflict or tension.

#### **Devotion (cont.)**

It's also unhealthy to voice our every thought and speak harshly, even if it's how we feel. Instead, let's strive to speak in love by the power of the Holy Spirit. This means our words reflect Jesus and His love.

### When we speak this way, our words are:

- 1. True (John 8:32).
- 2. Gentle (Philippians 4:5).
- 3. Kind (Proverbs 16:24).

### 4. Wise, discerning and self-controlled (Proverbs 25:28).

It is better to be kind than right. It is better to seek holiness than to seek being heard. Sometimes speaking in love means having righteous anger, being bold and standing up against injustice. But even in those moments, we can strive for prayerful discernment.

So when we have to respond to the not -so-nice co-worker, the ex-friend who now gossips about us, or our own children or family members who are being unkind, may we seek to speak in love instead of speaking our minds. Dear Jesus, help me to be slow to speak and quick to show Your love in all my conversations. Will You remind me to speak in love by the power of Your Spirit? Let Your love be evident in all I do, including in my words. Remind me that my words have the power to hurt others ... or to point people to You. Allow my words to show kindness, love, gentleness and Your goodness. In Jesus'Name, Amen.

This devotion seemed appropriate for right now. Things in the news, on social media, and with school starting back, seems like a great time to be reminded to speak with **LOVE**. In VBS, we reminded the children to be kind to others and treat others the way they want to be treated. It is a true shame they don't see that modeled in our society by many of our leaders. May God continue to move in the hearts of those who will lead our country and who do the news to model the behavior taught in the Bible. We need a true REVIV-AL:.

God bless you this month,

Sondra

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

# Food & Fellowship

Supper Club meets once a month for dinner at a local restaurant. Food endar and be ready to have some and fellowship is had by those who attend!

Make sure to get these on your cal-FUN! All times are 5:00 pm.

Here is the schedule for 2024. You will also find the restaurant

See you soon!!



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

August 27 Briar Patch Sept 24 Old Hickory Oct 22 Cracker Barrel Nov 26 Moonlite Dec 24 no dinner

## **ST Benedict's and Help Office News**

We had a small but mighty group in Ju- The dates we serve are: ly but served over 60 meals in about 20 minutes. The men are so appreciative of the ham sandwich, beans and potato salad. AND they love the ice cream! Thank you for supporting St. Benedict's. We are funded until the end of the year. We will serve again August 5th.

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.



Vicki



# RECPES

#### Ravioli with Tomatoes, Asparagus, Garlic & Herbs

**Ingredients:** 

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1 lb. asparagus, ends trimmed, cut into 2-in. pieces

2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved

3 cloves garlic, minced

Salt & pepper to taste

1/4 cup chicken broth

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

1/4 cup fresh, chopped basil

1/4 cup fresh, chopped parsley

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for serving

1 20 oz. package refrigerated cheese ravioli

Instructions:

Cook ravioli according to the package, drain and set aside.

In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the asparagus and cook 4-5 minutes until tender crisp. Add the cherry tomatoes and garlic to the skillet. Season with salt and pepper. Cook for another 2-3 minutes until the tomatoes begin to soften. Pour in the chicken broth and lemon juice. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2 minutes.

Add the cooked ravioli to the skillet and gently toss to combine with the vegetables and sauce. Stir in basil, parsley cheese. Cook for another 2 minutes until everything is heated through. Serve with extra cheese on top.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

# **St. John Singles Group**

The St. John Singles Ministry met July 17 at the church for supper and fellowship. Nancy Wetzel opened with a short devotional and Dorothy Koepplinger spoke about volunteer- it out and share your ideas. For more inforing at VBS. We went over the results of the survey that was sent out and discuss upcom- contact Nancy Whitmer (270-314-6595). ing community events members may want to attend. Our next meeting will be at the

Windy Hollow Biscuit House on Wednesday August 21st at 11:00 am. If you haven't sent your survey in, please take a moment to fill mation regarding St. John's Singles Ministry,

#### United Women in Faith **By Kathy Sherman**

School is start and so are we!! Our first meeting will be August 6th at 4 pm. Hope to see you there as we start the Fall season of UWF.



Lovely St. John ladies: Kathy Brey, Patsy Robertson, Dorothy Koepplinger, and Kathy Sherman headed out on a day trip.

#### **Methodist Men's News**

A beautiful day brought out 32 guys, ladies

and candidates for a wonderful breakfast and fellowship at our meeting on July 20. It was a great time together as usual. After breakfast and sharing of the devotional, the group vot-



ed to make a donation for shrub work at the

church, and "Shop with a cop" program. There was discussion of other needs as well. Our next meeting will be August 17, at 8:30 AM. Will see you there.

Tks. Jim

#### **Family Life**

Bible School just gets better and better! The And August is the perfect time for ice kids (18 of them) had a great time "diving" into a deeper relationship with God. The fabulous decorations set the stage for the immersive stories about Jonah, Lydia, and Jesus calming the troubled waters (there was even a boat). From the music, themed lessons, yummy snacks, science experiments with water, to games, scripture, and crafts, it was a full day. The kids had a blast! A huge **thank you** to all the wonderful volunteers who made it such a success!

cream—our ice cream social is planned for August 18th at 2 pm. Everyone is anxiously awaiting some homemade ice cream. What flavor do you like best? Think about signing up to bring a freezer full of your favorite. Or cookies, snacks or your favorite toppings will work too. It should be a great time of food and fellowship,

Dorothv 270-401-8702



#### **CRAFT FAIR—SEPT. 21st**

Mark your calendar for Sept. 21st!! St. John Annual Craft Fair and Car Show is already in the planning stages. There are auction baskets in the fellowship hall!!

Have you seen our Flyers around town or at a Car Show? We are recruiting people!

Do you have your craft ready for the St. John booth? Booth space is filling up! Many booth renters from the past are returning and have rented a space and some new ones are coming. Are you gathering items for the basket you will donate to the Silent Auction? Have you asked a business you frequent to donate (or last year) the Car Show, come see something as a door prize or item for the what the excitement is all about. So Silent Auction?

It is never too early to get started. All items and donations are appreciated and welcome. Please as you are outand-about this summer think about ways You won't want to miss this year's fun! to get items for the Craft Fair.

church is ready for worship on Sunday!! Watch for the insert in the bulletin so you can sign-up for your particular Craft Fair/Car Show donation of time or service. We can definitely use you!!

Prayer is also a powerful helper! Be in prayer for those in attendance. We want to be beacons of light to those setting up booths, those in attendance, and those who receive our donations. We want them to feel the love of Jesus Christ through this outreach that means so much to so many!

If you have not worked at the Craft Fair many talented people making homemade items in our area. Also the cars that came last year were beautiful and fun to see.

If you have questions, please see Miss Beverly, (Memaw). 270-302-4999



Donate your time!! We need all the help we can get cleaning up so the

## BACK TO SCHOOL WORD SEARCH

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SOCIAL STUDIES	THINKING CAP	FRIENDSHIP	FIELD TRIP	ACTIVITIES
PRINCIPLE	CLASSROOM	CAFETERIA	SPELLING	SCISSORS
NOTEBOOK	COMPUTER	CALENDAR	BACKPACK	WRITING
WELCOME	TEACHER	STUDENT	SCIENCE	READING
CRAYONS	SCHOOL	PENCIL	LESSON	FOLDER
ERASER	RULER	MUSIC	LUNCH	LEARN
GRADE	GLOBE	MATH	GLUE	DESK
MAP	GYM	BUS	ART	

# **August Choir Notes**



Ok...Where, oh where did my summer go?! June was a blur due to helping James and Emily during baseball but I really thought

everything would slow down in July. It did not happen.

I am taking a class for the certification process for my Christian School. AND just let me say UGH!! I thought I was very much done with classes after 39 years of teaching and my multiple degrees and "retirements" at various levels. Well, as it turns out, I am not! If I want to help Grace get the ASCI certification I have to take some Bible classes and a Christian Worldview course. I don't really mind "learning" again but finding the time to sit down and do it ONLINE is a hardship for me. I miss the days, for you youngin's, the old days, when we just met in class! Working at my own pace and finding my own time to sit down and do the class doesn't really work for me. One might say I am a procrastinator

Now that I have whined about that, let me tell you about the fun stuff that

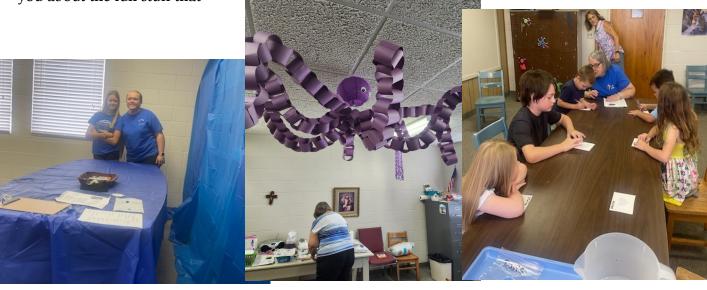
brings me JOY! I promise it will bring you joy too. Our choir time on Sunday mornings is so fun and such a great way to worship and fellowship with the great choir members but mostly with the Lord. I LOVE starting my morning worship in song. It is also a wonderful way to begin my week. It uplifts my heart and soul. I truly feel the music in me and God speaking to me through the music Aaron has chosen.

I have said it before; if you find yourself tapping your toes or wanting to sway or move to the music, maybe it is time you come join the choir. The music is in you too! You can make a joyful, or lovelier, sound than me and get your week started in fellowship with the Lord. Pastor Chris' sermon is the icing on the cake after singing first. We don't practice during the week due to scheduling conflicts, just on Sunday morning at 9 am.

Have a wonderful August! If you or any of your family are headed back to school, may you have a blessed school year!

Making a joyful noise,

Sondra



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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

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August 5, Serving @ St. Benedict's @ 7:45 pm August 6, UWF Mtg. @ 4 pm August 17, MMen's Breakfast @ 8:30 am August 18, Ice Cream Social @ 2 pm August 19, Family Life Mtg.@ 4 pm August 21, Singles @ Windy Hollow Biscuit @ 11 am August 27, Supper Club @ Briar Patch @ 5 pm

