



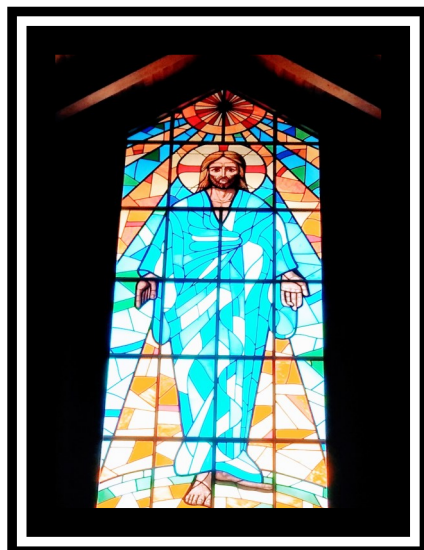
St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

Back-to-School Prayer Sondra Jones

August 2026

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As I've said before, I love summer.

Some of my favorite memories are of spending time at my great-grandmother's farm. This was the time of year when we would shuck corn fresh from the field for lunch, slice open a watermelon under the big tree in the backyard, and eat it right there. We'd pick all the green apples we wanted for snacks, and I'd eat so many that my stomach would hurt.

That giant tree always seemed to provide the perfect shade and a gentle breeze. Somehow, I don't remember the hot, humid, muggy days of childhood. Even when my cousins and I played for hours on the hay bales in the barn, I never remember feeling hot. Oh, to go back for just a day or two!

Back-to-school season brings back wonderful memories, too. I loved school for most of my life. I was a "walker" because school buses weren't part of my childhood. We walked to and from school with classmates serving as crossing guards. Our lunchroom doubled as the gymnasium, and somehow they managed to set up and take down a trampoline for P.E. classes. I always looked forward to the President's Physical Fitness Test, and I was pretty good at it back

then—much more fit than I am now! And when recess began, it was always a race to see who could get to the swings first.

As our children, young people, and teachers prepare to head back to school, I've been thinking about how we can support them. Today's world feels a little more uncertain and a little scarier than it did when I was a "walker."

Years ago, while my sister was serving as a missionary in China, I came across these words from Paul in Colossians. They became a powerful guide for how I prayed for her and her family. As I read them again, I realized they also provide a beautiful model for praying for our students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Devotion (cont.)

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:9–12 (ESV)

Here are four prayers inspired by this passage:

1. Pray for Wisdom and Discernment

Heavenly Father, as our children return to school, we lift them up to You. Fill them with the knowledge of Your will and grant them wisdom and understanding. Help them recognize right from wrong, make wise choices, and remain faithful to the path You have set before them. Amen.

2. Pray for Christlike Living

Lord, we ask that You guide our children to walk in a manner worthy of You. May their words and actions bring glory to Your name and have a positive influence on everyone they meet. Let them shine as lights in their schools so that others may see You through their lives. Amen.

3. Pray for Purpose and Compassion

Heavenly Father, we pray that our children will use the talents and abilities You have given them to honor You. Help them to work diligently in their

studies, show kindness to their classmates, and have compassionate hearts for those who are hurting or in need. May their lives bear fruit that points others to You. Amen.

4. Pray for Strength and Faithfulness

Heavenly Father, strengthen our children each day. Give them courage to face the challenges they encounter at school and remind them that their worth is found in You, not in the approval of their peers. Equip them to stand firm in their faith, to make godly choices, and to trust You in every circumstance. Fill them with endurance, patience, and joy as they walk with You. Amen.

These four prayers build on Paul's themes of wisdom, worthy living, fruitful service, strength, endurance, and faithfulness.

Won't you join me in praying for our students, teachers, school employees, parents and community as they head back to school. Let them "Love God with all their heart, soul and mind." Then secondly, let them "Love your neighbor as yourself". If each and everyone could do these things, the school year would be the best ever!

Blessings,
Sondra



VBS Pics



ST Benedict's and Help Office News

The Help Office continues to serve the homeless and hungry in the city of Owensboro. The need is great. We are always in need of crackers. Cash is a great way to help, as well. I work in the food bank each Monday. Lots of food may also be obtained from the Tristate Food Bank.

At St. Benedict's, we feed 50-60 men for about \$125. Serving starts at 7:45 pm on the first Monday night of each month. We missed July as we usually do but will be back serving at St. Benedict's on August 3rd. Come join us. You will be blessed.

Vicki Hast

The dates we serve are:

Aug. 3 Sept. 7 Oct. 5 Nov. 2
Dec. 7

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

stjohnnum.org.



RECIPES

Easy Peach Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 2 cups peaches (or other fresh fruit)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven at 350 degrees.
1. Spray 9 by 9 pan with cooking spray and melt butter in it.
2. In a separate bowl, beat together milk, flour, & 1 cup of sugar. Pour over butter but DO NOT MIX!
3. Sprinkle your 2 cups of fruit over the top of your mixture. DO NOT MIX! Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup of sugar over the fruit.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min. to 1 hour until golden brown and the center is done. (Sometimes I have to cover with foil to get the center done)



August 9th
10 am

Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS

What an incredible week we had at Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS! We had parkas, sleds, snowy scenes, snowmen, a seal named Ollie, "snow," Bible lessons, dancing, music, snowball fights, and even snow cones! Up to 12 children joined us each day for the Snowball Mountain Challenge and the Lift Lessons we shared together.

Throughout the week, the children learned valuable lessons from God's Word. They discovered how Queen Esther showed bravery and courage when she trusted God. They learned from the widow who gave her two small coins that giving our "all" doesn't always mean money—it can also mean showing kindness, praying for others, obeying our parents, helping those in need, and serving with a willing heart. Finally, the challengers learned that they can pray just as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane. I think they were a little surprised to discover that even Jesus needed quiet time to pray!

So many people contributed to making this event such a success! Our fellowship hall and hallway were transformed into a beautiful Winter Wonderland. Countless hours of planning, building sets, cutting decorations, painting, and hanging everything

came together to create an amazing experience for our children. Thank you to everyone who shared your time, talents, and creativity!

Many volunteers—some serving all week and others helping on different days—came to teach, encourage, play with, and love on our challengers. The smiles on the children's faces and their excitement each day made every hour of preparation worthwhile. My granddaughter, Brooklyn, could hardly wait to come back each day, and she even said she would love to come every Sunday!

I've shared this before in a text message and during our praise time, but it's worth saying again: the people of St. John UMC are some of the best people I know. You are hardworking, God-loving, creative, fun, caring, big-hearted, and kind. I can't imagine a better group of people with whom to worship God and serve our community. Thank you for making Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS such a wonderful week and for sharing God's love with our children.

Blessings

Sondra



FAMILY LIFE

Back to School already! I remember when it started after Labor Day, a long time ago. We plan to send our kids off with a Back-to-school Potluck on Sunday, August 9th. Bring your backpacks to church for the “Blessing of the Backpacks”. After the service we join together for a good meal and great fellowship.

And—Let’s give a huge shout-out to all the fabulous people who gave their time and talents to make Vacation Bible School a reality. Special thanks to our leaders:

Decorations—Tom Cox & Sondra Jones

Assembly Leader—Sondra Jones

Puppeteer—Emmett Brey

Attendance—Kathy Sherman

Crafts—Lydie Boone & Stephanie Brey

Pre-School—Monica Toney & Beverly Plain

Snacks—Kathy Brey

Storytelling—Margaret Pickerill & Scott Marksberry

Science—Kathy Sherman

Recreation—Abi Bowles

Reflection—Pastor Chris & Sondra Jones

Publicity—Mary Cook

Video Tech—David Addington

Music—Sharon Sauer

Mountain Scenery—Stephanie Brey

Thanks also to all who brought children or showed up in any way to support them (either with building the decorations or helping during the actual event)—Connie, Johnny, Ryan, Bob D., Sarah H., Monica, Scarlett, Bailey, Bob V., & Danny. Also a big thanks to Kristie and Jim (Tug) who provided SURPRISE sno-cones to everyone on Friday! Check out the pictures elsewhere in this issue of the Satellite! It was a success, thanks to you all. I appreciate all of you immensely including all who lifted VBS in prayer.

Thank you again,

Dorothy



Safe Sanctuary

Safer Sanctuaries is the name commonly given by local United Methodist Annual Conferences and local churches to their individual efforts to make conference, district, and local church programs welcoming and safe for children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Following the guidelines setup by our Kentucky Conference we are required to do the following:

This policy sets forth the MANDATORY requirements in the areas of:

- 1) Screening,
- 2) Supervision,
- 3) Reporting, and
- 4) Response Plan.

All staff and volunteers who have regular and direct contact with children, youth and vulnerable adults shall be required to fill out an application and a

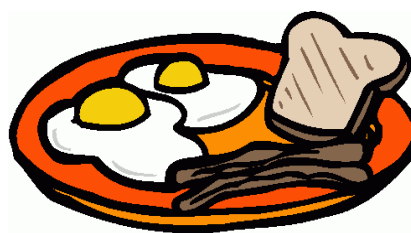
Background Screening Form that shall include but is not limited to:

- a. Standard contact information
 - b. Experience/qualifications for the position
 - c. Voluntary disclosure of past criminal history, including any criminal charges and/or convictions
 - d. Waiver of confidentiality allowing the church to secure the background checks and references necessary.
 - e. Listing of 2 non-relative references. This list shall have complete contact information for all references. This portion of the application process is considered incomplete if full contact information for the references is not provided. There is a 2 adult rule in a room.
- We keep all records in a locked cabinet. The training video is available online and I have copies of forms that can be filled out for the rest in my office. The website is: <https://www.kyumc.org/safer-sanctuaries-training>.

Methodist Men's News

Though the weather was warm, the attendance was down just a bit, and I was not present, I was informed that the breakfast meeting on July 18 was enjoyed by everyone there. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship and GREAT FOOD at our meetings. We want to remember Tom and everyone else who may be facing health or other is-

sues. Our next meeting will be August 15, at



8:30 am. Everyone welcome. Hope to see you there!!

Blessings.

Jim

ST. JOHN SINGLES

St. John Singles will meet in August at Donato's on New Hartford Road in Owensboro for food and fellowship. Please plan to join us on August 19th at 11:30 am for some good fun and good food! They

have a wide variety of calzones, pizzas, salads and wings. It is a great local place to eat that has supported our Craft Fair. See you there!

Food & Fellowship

Come join us for Supper Club. We meet once a month for dinner at a local restaurant. Food and fellowship is had by those who attend! Here are the dates and locations for this year. 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.

Aug. 25 Briarpatch

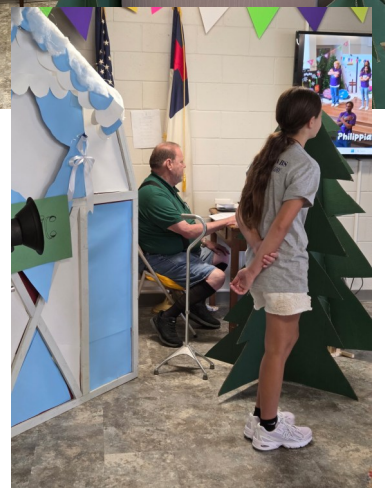
Sept. 22 Old Hickory

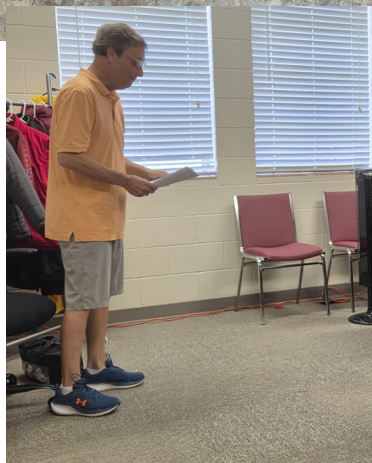
Oct. 27 Cracker Barrel

Nov. 24 Moonlite

No meeting in December







Back to School Word Search

K M B N K R D R A O B K L A H C D R V P C I Z H
 M Z I W G C W N E F J O G R E S A R E O D F M D
 U I A C O L O R E D P E N C I L S N L N F Z I W
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constructionpaper
 smartboard
 textbooks
 Schoolbus
 notebook
 crayons
 recess
 nurse

coloredpencils
 whiteboard
 pencilbox
 computer
 Collage
 pencils
 ruler
 aid

curriculum
 chalkboard
 principal
 backpack
 markers
 teacher
 lunch

protractor
 cafeteria
 classroom
 dividers
 lessons
 eraser
 paper



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

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Aug. 3, Ad. Bd. Mtg. @ 5 pm

Aug. 4, Serving @ St. Benedict's @ 7:45 pm

Aug. 5, UWF Mtg. @ 4 pm

Aug 6, Craft Fair/Car Show Mtg.

Aug. 9, Blessing of the Backpacks & Potluck @ 10 am

Aug. 15, Meth. Men's Comm. Breakfast @ 8:30 am

Aug 18, Fam. Life Mtg. @ 5 pm

Aug. 19, St. John Singles @ Donato's on New Hartford. Rd. @ 11:30 am

Aug. 25, Supper Club @ Briarpatch @ 5 pm

