



# St. John UMC Satellite

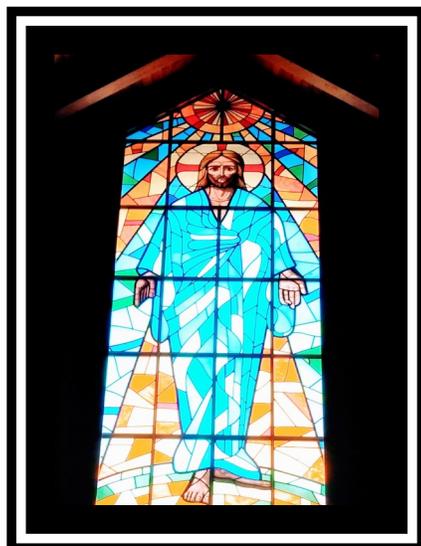
Invite \* Relate \* Nurture \* Send forth

## Can This Year Really Be Different?

By Glynnis Whitwer

### February 2026

Can This Year...	2-3
Help Office	3
Recipes	4
Choir Notes	5
Church Membership	6
Statements of Giving	6
Singles	6
Food & Fellowship	7
Methodist Men	7
Word Search	8-9
Family Life Pics	10
Emergency Contact	10



**“He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.” John 21:6 (NIV)**

Each year as I hang a blank calendar in my kitchen, I think, This year will be different!

This will be the year I finally finish that house project, get healthier, pray faithfully, spend more time with friends, and so on. It will be better than last year. Right?

And yet by March (if I last that long), I’ve often given up.

I get so frustrated because I know how to do this stuff! I can paint a wall, take a walk, eat a vegetable, sit and pray, and schedule time with friends. But for some reason, I either stop trying or just keep making the same choices as before, expecting a different result.

I wonder if that’s how the disciples felt in John 21. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, they went to Galilee to wait for Him, and while they waited, they returned to their old lives: fishing. They knew how to fish, but that night they caught nothing.

Until Jesus stood on the edge of the lake. He gave them a simple instruction: “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you

will find some [fish]” (John 21:6a).

Scripture doesn’t record the disciples’ thoughts, but since they didn’t recognize Jesus at first, I imagine they were confused and a bit annoyed at this advice. After all, they’d been doing everything they knew to do. Why should they keep trying? The fish obviously weren’t there!

Yet when they threw their nets in obedience to Jesus, they caught so many fish they were unable to haul them in.

This would have been a non-story had the disciples ignored Jesus’ suggestion to try again — His way. They could have insisted they already knew how to fish. Instead, they humbly listened and obeyed. The blessing of the fish was minor in comparison to seeing Jesus and His power at work in their lives again.

This passage encourages me to pause at the start of the new year. I’ve already proven I can’t do much in my strength. So instead of going back to my old ways, I want to stop and seek Jesus’ direction and help.

That’s when I’ll see the Lord work: When I admit my natural strength isn’t enough, God’s supernatural strength is evident.

So maybe this year can be different. Not because I’ve got a new game plan, brilliant strategy, or shortcut.

## Devotion (cont.)

Maybe the difference is simpler than that. I just need to wait on Jesus. In the big questions and problems and in everyday, seemingly mundane choices.

As the disciples learned, we are never far from success when we allow Jesus to direct our course.

***Dear Lord, I'm so sorry I've lived much of my life guided by my own direction. You have always been there offering wisdom and power. I want to become a woman who looks to You first before trying harder in my own strength. I need Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.***

### **My Perspective:**

Do you have a New Year's Resolution?? Or several?

I like to make a big checklist of things I would like to get done in the year. Clean out closets is always on it! Last year I got 1 big one cleaned out and items donated. Sadly, it is still on my list! My pantry closet is usually on there along with cabinets and I got those done this last year so I won't have to put that one 2026 if I can keep it under control. The garage is and will forever be on it, I suppose. I think this is going to be the year!!

God is going to give me the energy and a week of good weather! I have taken "losing weight" off the resolution list because it just stresses me out and makes me feel guilty if I eat a cookie or have a strawberry ice cream cone from The Dipper once a month. I am 61 and I am just not going to feel badly about that anymore. Swimming again for exercise is on my 2026 list. I thought after my toe surgery I might get to play pickleball again on a league but I am not sure I will be able to weekly for a bit. It is still very sore.

Those are all 'chore' or 'health' things; what about 'soul' things? I have a very active and, I think, healthy prayer life. So, I will stay on track with that. It is my Bible time that it is lacking. I must set aside more time to read the Word. If I can do these things, it will be a great 2026.

Like the author of this devotion, however, many years in the past, I would fail at my resolution within the first month and quickly give up. I rely on myself and my abilities to do the things I have set for myself. I must fully rely on God. He knows the plans he has for me as Jeremiah states.

## Devotion (cont.)

He wants me to be successful. By putting my trust and faith in Him, I am setting myself up for success.

I challenge you, this 2026, to put your trust in God. Fully rely on Him to provide the strength and wisdom you need to meet your goals. Loving God and committing your life to

Him, becoming part of a church and community of believers, and joining St. John will help you meet your goals in 2026.

Blessings,  
Sondra

## ST Benedict's and Help Office News

Thank you for your support of St. Benedicts Homeless Shelter. Because of your donations and support we are funded through the end of the year.. St John is able to feed about 50 men on the first Monday of each month. It takes about \$125 to serve ham and cheese sandwiches, lettuce and tomatoes, potato salad, beans and ice cream. The meal is very well received by the men and it is always a blessing for those who serve the meal. Thanks to everyone who serves a meal, donates monetarily, or prays for these men.

The Help Office is continuing to see increased levels of need. I am part of the Monday crew that works filling food orders in the food bank. Any food or hygiene items left in the cloak room will be taken to the Help office. There is always a need for crackers, baked beans, instant potatoes, laundry

Pods and dish soap. Right now there is even a need for corn and green beans.

The Car Show donated over \$800 to the Help Office and over \$200 to St. Benedict's. So many people were helped with the money donated to the Help Office. There is a thank you note on the bulletin board outside the office.

Vicki Hast

The dates we serve at St. Benedict's are:

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

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

[stjohnum.org](http://stjohnum.org) .



# RECIPES

## EASY POTATO SOUP

### Ingredients:

1 30-32 oz. bag diced frozen hash browns

1/3 cup finely chopped onion

1/4 tsp black pepper

2 cans chicken broth (14.5 oz)

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 package cream cheese (softened)

Shredded cheese

Bacon bits either homemade or bought (I use real bacon pieces.)

### Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients except for cream cheese and shredded cheese in the crockpot.
2. Mix well and cook on low for 6-8 hours.
3. Add the cream cheese and 1/2 the shredded cheese and cook for 30 more minutes.
4. Stir well until the soup is smooth.
5. Add toppings like extra cheese, bacon, sour cream, etc.

Hope your heart is  
very happy today!

HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY



# CHOIR NOTES

Several places in Scripture command us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord (Psalm 66:1; 95:1–2; 100:1; 1 Chronicles 15:16). The verses that follow explain what that means. For example, Psalm 98:4–6 says, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!” This psalm goes on to describe the sea roaring, the rivers clapping their hands, and the hills breaking forth in song. The picture is that of all creation joining together in noisy worship of God.

A joyful noise is not merely noise for its own sake. Our world is filled with noise, much of it harmful or distracting. A joyful noise is a bold declaration of God’s glorious name and nature, with shouts, clapping, and other outward expressions of praise. A joyful noise often includes music, such as singing, playing instruments, and dancing ([Psalm 95:1](#); [98:6](#); [149:3](#); [1 Chronicles 15:28](#)). While there is a time for quiet reverence in the presence of the Lord ([Psalm 5:7](#); [95:6](#)), God also delights in our outward displays of joyful abandon as we worship Him with all we have. Scripture is filled with examples of God’s servants praising Him in a variety of ways, many of them noisy and active. David danced ([2 Samuel 6:14](#)); Miriam played the tambourine, singing and dancing ([Exodus 15:20–21](#)); the children of Israel shouted and sang ([2 Chronicles 15:14](#)); Solomon lifted hands before all the people ([1 Kings 8:22](#)); Paul and Silas sang loudly in jail ([Acts](#)

[16:25](#)); and Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with loud shouts of joy ([John 12:13](#)).

When the fruit of the Spirit dominates our lives, we cannot help but express it—and part of that fruit is joy (Galatians 5:22). God wants us to find such joy and excitement in Him that we cannot contain it. Ephesians 5:18–19 instructs us to “be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.” When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we desire to sing to Him and edify others. Musical talent has nothing to do with it. A joyful noise incorporates many creative expressions of praise: dancing, singing, clapping, shouting, raising hands, and playing instruments. When the focus of our hearts is God and His greatness, our noise is a sweet sound to His ears.

If the joy of the Lord has taken hold of you and you feel the need to express it by singing in the choir, come join us on Monday nights for practice. You may also join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15. We would love for you to join us in worshiping the Lord with song.

If you want to raise your hands, clap, dance, and sing with us in the pew, feel free to do that too!! According to the Bible, it is all allowed as part of worship. You won’t be the only one. Several choir members have the music in them too!1

Blessings, Sondra

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. John United Methodist Church?

Well, it begins with a desire to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ as part of our congregation. For United Methodists, being baptized and committing to active participation in a church community are the first steps to becoming a member.

Baptism marks the beginning of our life-long journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. In baptism, we are initiated into the Christian church and incorporated into the community of God's people, the body of Christ. Those who have never been baptized will receive the sacrament of baptism before becoming members. Those previously baptized will reaffirm

their Baptismal Covenant as part of the member vows they say when they join.

In the vows, we take when we join the church we promise to faithfully live out the call to serve Christ through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

If this sounds like something that interests you, talk with Pastor Chris about what it means to be a member of our church and how to begin your faith journey with us as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We would love to have you as part of our church family not just in our pew but on our membership roster!!

# STATEMENTS OF GIVING

**Statements of Giving** are available on request!

Several years ago, the Finance Committee stopped printing and mailing the statements of giving due to the high cost of printing and mailing. The state-

ments are available on request, however. Just let Sondra or Dorothy know you would like a paper print-out and we can deliver it to at church the next Sunday or mail it to you. We will be happy to do that for you at your request!

# ST. JOHN SINGLES

St. John Singles will meet in February at Buffalo Wild Wings for food and fellowship. Please plan to join us on Feb. 18th at 11:30

am for some good fun and good food! 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 [stjohnnum.org](http://stjohnnum.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.

**Feb. 24 Briarpatch**

**Mar. 24 Old Hickory**

**Apr. 28 Cracker Barrel**

**May 26 Olive Garden**

**June 23 O'Charley's**

**July 28 New China**

**Aug. 25 Briarpatch**

**Sept. 22 Old Hickory**

**Oct. 27 Cracker Barrel**

**Nov. 24 Moonlite**

**No meeting in December**



**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.**

MATTHEW 5:3

## Methodist Men's News

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but I was told that 23 came out to the January breakfast meeting. Good to hear that they had good attendance. Hope everyone got through all the cold and snow OK. Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 21

at 8:30 AM. Hope everyone stays safe and healthy and will be able to join us!

Blessings.

Jim



# Winter Wordsearch

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

hotchocolate	gingerbread	snowstorm	snowflake	evergreen	toboggan
reindeer	pinecone	flurries	firewood	february	earmuffs
blizzard	blanket	sweater	snowman	mittens	january
flannel	winter	shovel	sneeze	shiver	jacket
icicle	gloves	eggnog	socks	slush	sleet
skate	scarf	quilt	frost	boots	wind
sled	ski				

# Valentine's Day

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

celebrate couple  
 restaurant  
 affection  
 holiday  
 sweet  
 candy  
 kiss

secret admirer  
 girlfriend  
 festival  
 flowers  
 roses  
 adore  
 gift

bow and arrow  
 love birds  
 envelope  
 devoted  
 heart  
 pink  
 dove

sentimental  
 boyfriend  
 decorate  
 cherub  
 cupid  
 lace  
 date

# FAMILY LIFE POTLUCK



## Emergency Contact

The office would like to collect an emergency contact for each person in the church. Several committees have met recently and feel like if an emergency were to occur, Pastor Chris may need to contact someone on your behalf. This

information would be kept for emergencies only. Watch for the opportunity to provide a number to reach in case of emergency!



Open hearts.  
Open minds.  
Open doors.

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We're on the Web!  
[www.stjohnum.org](http://www.stjohnum.org)

Check us out on Facebook!

Twitter: stjohnumc1

*Feb. 9, 4 pm Worship Com. Mtg*  
*Feb. 10, 4 pm UWF Meeting*  
*Feb. 17, 4 pm Fin. Com. Mtg.*  
*Feb. 17, 5 pm Family Life Mtg.*  
*Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday Serv.*  
*Feb. 18, 11:30 am St. John Sing-  
gles @ Buffalo Wild Wings*  
*Feb. 21, 8:30 am Meth. Men's  
Breakfast*  
*Feb. 24, 5 pm Supper Club @  
Briarpatch*

