



St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

Live Every Day Like It's Your Last Sondra Jones

July 2024

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I sat there stunned at Emily's kitchen table. I was scrolling through Facebook and found a post by a group of women that said we had lost another friend, Lura, and she "was gone too soon". I could not believe this to be true. I quickly texted a friend and she called saying it was, in fact, true. She had died in a freak scuba accident in Mexico the day before. We both sobbed on the phone. Talked about her joyous spirit and love for adventure and the "unrealness" of it. We also talked briefly about her family and then said good-bye. I texted several friends to make sure they knew and then I sat praying for her family and friends. I cried a great deal that day.

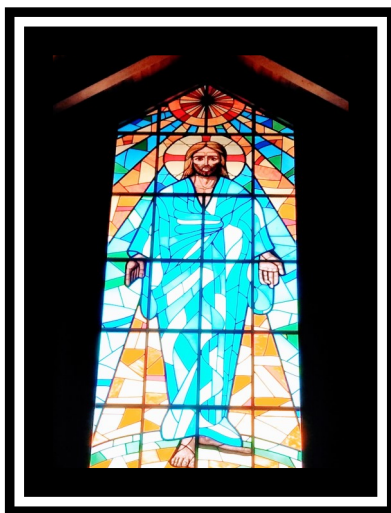
Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."
James 4:14 (NIV)

There is no way for us to know when our last day on Earth is going to be. I couldn't help but ask myself if I was taking for granted the time God was giving me here. I wondered if I

would have regrets had her last day been my last day. I began to ponder if I was truly enjoying and embracing the life God has given me, even if it hadn't turned out the way I thought it would or should. I couldn't help but ask myself if I was embracing waking up every morning and being given another day, or if I was spending time being unhappy because of difficult circumstances instead of living with joy.

In Psalm 90:12, the psalmist reminds us that all of our days are numbered and none of us know how many we will have: ***"Teach us to use wisely all the time we have."*** Therefore, we should all live as if the present day is our last. If we actually did this, would we live differently? We might:

- Think more positively.
- Forgive quicker.
- Step out of our comfort zones and do that thing God has been calling us to do.
- Anger slower.
- Spend more time with loved ones.



Devotion (cont.)

- Make more time for ourselves.
- Allow ourselves to have fun.
- Hug others more.

When you consider that our entire lifetime is but a moment to God, it becomes apparent that it is important to make each moment count. Our life is brief on this earth but forever in Eternity. Shouldn't we try to live each day to impact Eternity? Influencing others for the Kingdom would be a start. Thanking God for our blessings instead of wishing we had what our neighbors have, would also be a start. I feel like many of us, and that includes me, are so busy we forget to stop and appreciate all the glorious blessings God has placed around us. Just laughter with my church family is a wondrous gift to me. When our time is consumed with earthly things, it becomes impossible to make a difference in the Kingdom of God. God knows just how many days you have including each moment. He has a Plan for you that is good! (Jeremiah 29:11) ***The Lord has written it out carefully and precisely before "a single day had passed."***

With Lura's sudden and unexpected death, I was vividly reminded of how fragile life is and the importance of appreciating every single moment God's given us and living life with a happy heart instead of a heavy one. What a shame we might waste the only life we have being grumpy all the time because we allow our problems and disappointments to steal our joy and shift our daily focus from thankfulness to unhappiness.

Whether we're facing a divorce, illness, financial hardships, loss of loved ones, relationship problems, unemployment, disappointment, crushed dreams — we can still make the intentional choice to be thankful

for the life we have, even if it looks different than we want it to. We can still determine to enjoy the life God has given us and remember to thank Him every day for what we do have instead of focusing on what we don't. We can still choose to be happy, despite our circumstances. We all know people who are never happy in their circumstances. I know people who say, "Why don't I have....?", "Why wasn't I loved by....?", "Why did happen to me?", "Why did God punish me by doing?". Did a particular person come to mind? I call these "hard" people to love. I pray I am not one of them and try each day not to be!

Time is precious. We need to use the time we have in this life wisely and commit to waking up each day with the joy of Christ in our hearts and a smile on our faces. Wasting time being unhappy about the way life turns out is something I want to avoid — God wants us to enjoy the life He has designed for us. God is asking us to dream big and do the things He has set before us. Will you join me in shifting our perspective to have a kingdom view and stopping living life for only ourselves but for God's kingdom? You never know how your action may light a fire in someone else's life.

Ready, Set, Go! Lura died living one of her favorite adventures seeing some of God's great beauty. Let's live each day like it may be our last one and be ready for God's Kingdom and all the beauty it will hold.

God bless you this month,

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 schedule for 2024.

You will also find the restaurant

choices in our bulletins and on the calendar on our website

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.



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 and Help Office News

Thank you to all of the volunteers that make St. Benedict's happen each month. We continue to serve about 50-60 men the first Monday of each month. The menu is ham and cheese sandwiches with lettuce and tomatoes, beans, potato salad and ice cream. The cost is about \$125 and we are funded through the end of the year. A big thank you to all who have donated to this worthwhile mission.

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,

stjohnnum.org .



Vicki Hast.

The dates we serve are:

RECIPES

Zesty Ranch Drumsticks (or Thighs)

Ingredients:

8 (4 oz.) Chicken drumsticks or thighs

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp black pepper

1/4 cup dry ranch seasoning

1/2 cup panko bread crumbs

1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

Cooking spray

Instructions:

1. Preheat your Air Fryer to 375.
2. Sprinkle chicken with salt, pepper and ranch seasoning.

3. Dip the floured asparagus into the beaten eggs, allowing any excess to drip off.
4. In a paper lunch bag or large baggie, combine bread crumbs and parmesan cheese. Add chicken to the bag and shake to coat. Spritz with cooking spray.
5. Place chicken in air fryer basket and cook 20 minutes, turning halfway through cooking time, until the internal temperature reaches at least 165 degrees. Serve warm.

I like mine extra crispy so I cook mine just a little longer.



Sunday School

The Seekers Sunday School class will be starting a series of lessons on being a United Methodist using the book, *The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way* by Phil Tallon and Justus Hunter. The lessons will cover three primary sections: John Wesley's life, his core theological message, and the legacy of Wes-

ley's leadership on the Methodist church. We will also supplement the study with other topics such as United Methodist beliefs, Methodism in America, and the Method of our Mission. We are very informal and meet every Sunday at 9:00 down the hall. Get your coffee, tea, or donuts and come join us!

United Women in Faith

By Kathy Sherman

At our last meeting six of us met to make bears to give to My Sisters' Keeper Women's



Shelter. Thanks to everyone who helped. We started, but didn't quite finish,

ten bears. We will pick a time in July to finish but will not be meeting on our regular monthly meeting day. Our next formal meeting will be August 6, at 4:00 in the church fellowship hall. Please join us!

The Kentucky Conference Mission U will be held at Lindsay Wilson College in Columbia, KY, July 19-21. Cost for adults is \$110 which includes registration, room, and meals. Children & youth (grades 1-12) are \$35 & \$75 respectively.

We will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 6, at 4:00.

Mission U is a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. All are welcome to engage with either or both components of Mission U.

Interested in deepening your faith in community? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? Mission u is for you!

Our theme is The Kingdom Is Among You: Drawing Closer to God and One Another.

If interested, please see Kathy Sherman for more info on how to register, She'd love to have a roommate!

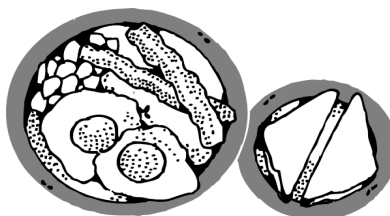
Methodist Men's News

So sorry I wasn't able to attend, but I was told that 25-30 ladies and gentlemen enjoyed the morning at the June breakfast meeting. Always a good time and great food there! The next

meeting will be July 20, at 8:30 am. Hope to see you there!!

Tks.

Jim



Family Life

Congratulations to George and Beverly Plain—the winners of the Not— So— Newlywed Game! All of the contestants had some tense moments as well as some hilarious ones laughing along with the audience. A big “thank you” to Sondra Jones for a great job as the emcee, and to the other contestants for being such good sports; Josh and Abi Bowles and Presley and Sharon Sauer. We all had a blast!

An ice cream social is coming up on August 18th. Get you taste buds ready. But right now—

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner—July 24-26, with a barbeque following church service on the 28th. Please con-

sider who you can invite and how you can help. Will you ask neighbors’ kids, grandchildren? Can you help teach, make crafts, build decorations, make refreshments, lead the music? This year’s SCUBA theme “takes kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they will experience the ever-flowing, never ending love of God”. A short meeting for volunteers is to be held on Sunday after church, or you can contact me directly. Where are you being led to participate?

Thank you,

Dorothy Keopplinger

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.

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? Are you gathering items for the basket you will donate to the Silent Auction? Have you asked a business you frequent to donate something as a door prize or item for the Silent Auction?

It is never too early to get started. All items and donations are appreciated and welcome. Please as you are out-and-about this summer think about ways to get items for the Craft Fair.

Donate your time!! We need all the help we can get cleaning up so that the church is ready for wor-

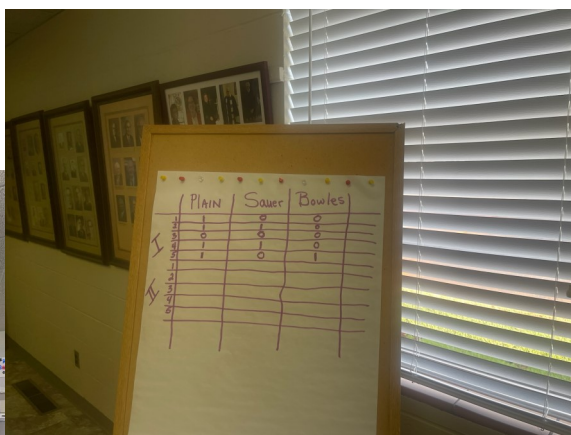
ship on Sunday!!

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 (or last year) the Car Show, come see what the excitement is all about. So many talented people making home-made items in our area. Also the cars that came last year were beautiful and fun to see.

You won't want to miss this year's fun!

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



FOURTH OF JULY

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

INDEPENDENCE	FIRECRACKERS	CONSTITUTION	DECLARATION	WATERMELON
PATRIOTIC	FIREWORKS	BARBECUE	STRIPES	LIBERTY
AMERICA	UNITED	STATUE	STATES	FOURTH
WHITE	UNCLE	STARS	BETSY	ROSS
JULY	FLAG	BLUE	BELL	SAM
RED	DAY			

GRADUATES

"On Sunday, June 23rd, we recognized our graduates. Elijah Bowles is moving from Elementary School to Middle School and Luke Wathen graduated with Honors from the University of Alabama! Luke wasn't

able to be here but we are so proud of these young men and wish them the best as they embark on their new adventures. May God bless this next part of their journey.



July Choir Notes



Well, I said I love summer and it came in blazing! I am okay with the heat because I don't have to work outside in it but I do worry about those who do. When I was in Lexington, I did play with Piper out in it. Apparently it is never too hot for an eighteen month old to want to go outside and be pushed in her bubble car and swing. Of course, I was not going to say no!

June was a very busy month for me; almost a blur really with all the travel to and from Lexington. Baseball is finally over and I am glad to be back home (although I miss that eighteen month old very much). I missed my church family and I missed singing in the choir on Sundays. If you have an interest in making a joyful noise or an even prettier one, why don't you come try us out?

We practice at 9 am on Sunday mornings to get ready for that morning and the following Sunday. Aaron is great at helping with the fancy music stuff;) that I don't understand completely and that the music people do. What I am saying is...he meets everyone where they are musically!!

We laugh, fellowship and love with each other and love the Lord too. It is a wonderful way to start your worship and your week. Come on Sunday and sing with us. We will make you feel welcome and your heart will be full when you get done!

Have a blessed July.

Making a joyful noise,

Sondra



SINGLES

St. John Singles Ministry will meet at the church on Wednesday, July 17th at 5 pm .

We will be going over the results of the survey that was mailed out and planning future activities. Supper will be provided.

Lena Booth, ready to fight Goliath!



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

Chris Toney, Pastor
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We're on the Web!
www.stjohnum.org

Check us out on Facebook!

Twitter: stjohnumc1

*July 1 @ 7:45 pm, Serving @
St. Benedict's*

*July 9 @ 5 pm, Admin. Bd.
Mtg.*

*July 17 @ 5 pm, Singles @ St.
John*

*July 20 @ 8:30 am, Meth.
Men's Breakfast*

*July 23 @ 5 pm, Supper Club
@ New China*

July 24-26

*July 28 @ 10 am, VBS Pro-
gram and cookout.*

