



St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

Mustard Seed Faith By Danielle Ripley-Burgess

June 2025

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He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

I'll never forget the day I was walking down the spice aisle in my local grocery store and noticed a jar of mustard seeds sitting on the shelf. I looked around to see if anyone else noticed, and I just stood there in amazement.

"Woah," I thought. "If one of these grains of mustard seeds can move mountains, I can only imagine what this entire jar can do."

THE MUSTARD SEED STORY

Just days before at youth group, we had been learning about mustard seeds and faith. Diving into Mat-

thew 13 and Luke 17, I learned about faith like a grain or seed. Although I'd grown up in church, Jesus' words and stories were hitting me in new ways. I'd learned that He taught about genuine faith and how it's not big and verbose, but that it is actually humble and small. Jesus said faith worked a lot like mustard seeds. Plant tiny little dots in fertile soil and huge bushes will grow. That's the power of God we get to believe in. I was captivated by the imagery and encouraged that my emerging faith would one day be even stronger.

I couldn't believe that a jar full of hundreds of mustard seeds was just nonchalantly sitting on our supermarket's shelves. I was grateful when my mom agreed to buy it for me.

A SINGLE SEED

Back home, I took my new prized possession to my room and carefully



Devotion (cont.)

opened it up, not wanting to drop any seeds in my carpet. I took out one mustard seed and dropped it into a tiny glass container I'd been saving for something special. I loved owning a big jar of mustard seeds, but the one small seed meant the most. I was a young teenager just starting to develop my own faith, a faith separate from my parents' faith. It felt small, but I believed the truth if you have faith: even a small amount can lead to big things.

A MORNING REMINDER

For the rest of my school year, as I got ready for school, the small mustard seed sat on my dresser and reminded me to keep the faith throughout my day. It helped me enter conversations with friends who thought being a Christian was lame, those who had a lack of faith. It encouraged me to keep going to youth group even when my friends didn't want to go. As I got older, and my faith continued to grow, the mustard seed stayed put, right by the mirror I used to get ready each morning.

It reminded me that my faith in God meant I possessed the self-control to stay pure when I started dating. It helped me trust that I was not alone, God was with me, when my parents kept fighting on the other side of my closed bedroom door. And when the big whammy came my junior year of high school—colon cancer at age 17—I clung to my faith to get through it. Cancer felt so big and scary, but I wasn't fazed; I knew God was with me. How could I trust so quickly and easily? Years earlier, I'd nurtured a small faith that had started out the size of a mustard seed, and it had grown.

25 YEARS LATER

It's been over 25 years since I first dropped that tiny little mustard seed into the glass container. I still keep it near me today. In every dorm room, apartment and house I've lived in, the mustard seed has stayed right by my mirror and greeted me each morning. It's reminded me to keep trusting God when my circumstances tell me I deserve a crisis of faith. It's pushed me to keep trusting in a God I can't see.

Mustard seed faith has never left me; it rooted me when I was younger, and it's not going anywhere now. What faith as a mustard seed means to me is that it's OK to have questions and answers in the midst of following God, because it comes down to belief.

MATURED MUSTARD SEED FAITH

This kind of faith has helped me find healing despite facing a second colon cancer in my 20s; it's helped me embrace adoption and foster care despite my infertility; it's brought forgiveness, healing and true celebration of my blended family despite my parents' divorce. Even in the dark moments when I got angry at God, having faith the size of a mustard seed grew roots of trust and belief that wrapped around my heart. Even when I try to turn my back on God, I never make it too far.

Faith the size of a mustard seed isn't a magic wand: Even if you have faith, mountains don't exactly start moving right away. But, having faith as small as a mustard seed will eventually grow.

Devotion (cont.)

It may start small, but if you keep nurturing it, it will lead you to see God's promises fulfilled, and one day you'll feel like you don't only have one small seed of faith, but a jar full of them.

As I got off the boat and started receiving emails and texts again, I received news that I no longer had a teaching job next year because the Board had "dissolved" the high school part of Grace Christian Academy. It was a shock to say the least. The high school has been the vision and driving force of Grace from the beginning. I must have faith that God has a plan for me.

Faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains. I don't really need any mountains moved and I am sure you don't either. BUT, we could all use some doors or windows to open for opportunities to happen. Maybe we need the dr. to give us some wonderful news or prescribe a treatment that will heal us. Perhaps we need healing in a rela-

tionship or situation that we are in. There are also those who are struggling with loss. Many may also have lost their way from God or their faith and need that restored. Those are mountains in our lives today that need "moving" and require faith the size of a mustard seed and maybe the whole jar.

Luckily, St. John has a wonderful family of people who are willing to pray for and support each other. If your Faith is not even the size of a mustard seed these days, connect with us on Sunday and get your name on our prayer chain. Let us support you with prayer. Before you know it, that 'mustard seed' faith will be restored and "moving" mountains again!

Have a blessed June!!

Sondra

**"If you have faith, you
will receive whatever
you pray for."**

MATTHEW 21:22

Garage Sale

The St. John Garage Sale is June 6th and 7th. On Thursday, June 5th, we will be setting up the Fellowship Hall for the sale. If you can help, we will be starting at 9:30 am. All helpful hands will be very much appreciated!

On Saturday, after the sale, about 2:00 pm we will be cleaning up the Fellowship Hall and boxing up items not purchased. Helpful hands at

that time will be very much appreciated, as well!!.

Church family, we have several pieced of nice furniture going into the sale. We have end tables, leather electric recliner, pretty dining chairs, and lots more....If you are interested in seeing these before the sale, please call Memaw, 270-302-4999. All items are priced to sale not save!

ST Benedict's and Help Office News

Thank you for your support of St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter. Because of your donations and support we are funded through July. 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.

Thank you for your support of St Benedict's and the Help Office.

Vicki Hast

The dates we serve at St. Benedict's are

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

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



RECIPES

Chicken Taco Pinwheels

Ingredients:

2 8 oz. blocks cream cheese softened
2/3 cup thick salsa (mild)
1/2 cup sour cream
2 tbsp. taco seasoning
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
2-3 cups chopped cooked chicken (I used 3 cans Swanson chicken)
6 extra large burrito size tortillas
1/3 cup chopped green onion (if you like them)
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

1. Using an electric mixer on medium, whip together the cream cheese, salsa, sour cream, taco seasoning, salt, garlic and lemon pepper until fully blended.
2. To the bowl add chicken, cheese, and green onion. Mix until evenly distributed by hand.
3. Lay the tortillas on a flat surface. Divide the mixture among the tortillas spreading the cream cheese mixture evenly leaving a 1/2 inch border all around.
4. Begin to roll starting with the the widest side ending seam side down. Shape evenly by hand. Wrap each tortilla in plastic wrap and chill for 4 hours or overnight.
5. Just before serving use a sharp knife to slice each into 8 pinwheels and serve with salsa, sour cream, guacamole, etc.

ST. JOHN UNITED METHODIST
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 13-16

FAMILY LIFE

Wow! So much is going on in June. With the garage sale and Annual Conference this month, our “Game Night” is being re-scheduled. However—Bowling (from last month) is now scheduled for Saturday, June 28th from 12:00—2:00 pm. We always have a lot of fun with the kids and appreciate our non-bowlers who cheer us on. Give it a try! (We also fellowship with a meal.)

Vacation Bible School is planned for July 13-16. See more info in the VBS section of the Satellite.

School's out! Have a wonderful month of Family Time.

Dorothy
270-401-8702

CHOIR NOTES

June—Summer! Warm weather, sunshine, swimming! But wait...where has the sun and warm weather been? Mother Nature has somehow forgotten that by Memorial Day it is supposed to be pool weather. I came back from my cruise, where we were told it was unseasonably warm, to cool weather and I have been wearing sweatshirts. I even had my little space heater on in the office. I can't imagine getting in a pool right now. It will be quite some time before that water warms up at the rate we are going!!

Still, this is a favorite time of mine. My life as a teacher comes to a halt for a short time and things slow down. I get to take a deep breath and catch up on things around the house that have gotten out of hand, i.e. dust bunnies, amazon boxes, clothes donations, kitchen table piles, etc. It may take me until August to get to the bottom of my kitchen table piles!

I think back on the summers with the girls. We would plan things that they wanted to do. They swam on the swim team for many

summers. Sarah played slow-pitch softball. Much time was spent going to and from those practices, meets or games. We always managed to do short trips and fun little things when they were younger. Zoo trips, Louisville slugger museum, boat rentals, and Holiday World are just a few that come to mind. I miss them being little sometimes.

Choir is still “singing” right along during the summer months. Please feel free to join us and fellowship with us at 9 am on Sunday mornings. You will enjoy the time praising the Lord with song and beginning your week in worship with us. We do some laughing, loving each other and singing each Sunday and it is the best group of people! They lift me up each week and bring me joy. I know they will do the same for you.

Making a joyful noise!
Sondra

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.

See you soon!!

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

June 24 O'Charley's

July 22 New China

Aug. 26 Briar Patch

Sept. 23 Old Hickory

Oct. 28 Cracker Barrel

Nov. 25 Moonlite

No meeting in December

Supper Club
FOOD & FRIENDS

"Therefore I say to you,
whatever you pray and
ask for, believe that
you will receive it, and it
will be so for you."

MARK 11:24

Methodist Men's News

Though our attendance was down a little this month, there was plenty of food and fellowship to go around at our May UMM meeting. Always a great time. As always, we thank the guys who come and prepare and cook for us! As summer approaches, we should enjoy all the good things that are in our plans, but remember to be safe in all we

do. Our next meeting will be June 21, at 8:30 am. You are welcome to come and join us!

Tks.

Jim



Flag Day

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

flag pole	Air Force	represent	old glory	celebrate	patriotic
military	flutter	victory	uniform	tribute	Marines
soldiers	picnics	stripes	America	states	pledge
salute	wisdom	picnic	pride	unite	white
stars	Navy	Army	blue	fly	red

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS—

July 13—16, 2025

9:00 —11:30 am

CAMP FIRLIGHT NEEDS YOU!!

VBS is fast approaching. The theme this year is based on Psalm 56:3. "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." The kids attend "Camp Firelight" to have a summer camp adventure with God through music, crafts, science, snacks, games and of course, Bible stories that they can then relate to their own lives.

Each part of the morning stressed the Bible verse. Counselor Sam and Lee, the Firefly, set the stage for an exciting day. One of the ways to tell the Bible story is through skits. It really grabs their attention.

Please prayfully consider how you can help. The opportunities are so varied it should be easy to choose one or more ways to serve our children. There are decorating parties, skit practices, leader training and much more planned before the be-

ginning of VBS. You can choose to participate from one hour or throughout the whole planning and VBS time.

Perhaps you can portray a Bible character or lead an activity during VBS. If you are unable to attend VBS perhaps you can make decorations or prepare costumes ahead of time. (A list of opportunities to serve is included in this issue.) Please use one form per person or family and choose as many ways to help as you wish. If you would like to know more, please contact Dorothy Koepplinger at 270-401-8702.

Thank you,

The Family Life Committee

****Additional forms are available in the Fellowship Hall.**

Camp Firelight VBS

July 13-16, 2025

Join us as we go on A Summer Camp Adventure with God!



Currently seeking:

Team Leaders and Assistants for: Name Tel.

Music	_____	_____
Crafts	_____	_____
Science	_____	_____
Recreation	_____	_____
Snacks	_____	_____
Decorating	_____	_____
Publicity	_____	_____
Preschool	_____	_____
Elementary	_____	_____

Assembly Leaders

Counselor Sam	_____	_____
Lu, the Firefly	_____	_____
Sound and Video Tech	_____	_____

Please prayerfully consider how you may help. Sign up for opportunities to serve, lead and most of all, have fun at Camp Firelight.

Also seeking skit participants for the following roles: (Choose one or one each day.)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel.</u>
All days - Storyteller	_____	_____
Day 1 – Jacob	_____	_____
Angel	_____	_____
Day 2 – Ruth	_____	_____
Naomi	_____	_____
Orpah	_____	_____
Day 3 – Traveler (2)	_____	_____
Joseph	_____	_____
Mary	_____	_____
Rabbi	_____	_____
Young Jesus	_____	_____
Day 4 – Phillip	_____	_____
Ethiopian Man	_____	_____
Angel	_____	_____
Horse (2)	_____	_____





Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

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

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*June 2, 7:45 pm Serving @ St.
Benedict's*

June 3, 4 pm UWF Mtg.

June 6-7 Garage Sale

June 8, Conf. Event @ Church

June 9-11 Annual Conf.

*June 18, 11:30 am Singles @
Delores' Café*

*June 21, 8:30 am Meth. Men's
Breakfast*

*June 24, 5 pm Supper Club @
O'Charley's*

June 28, 12—2 pm Bowling



The righteous
man walks in
his integrity;
**His children
are blessed
after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7