



St. John UMC Satellite

Invite * Relate * Nurture * Send forth

New Beginnings SONDRA JONES

May 2024

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April showers bring May flowers! Everything is in bloom! All the flowers and trees are beautiful and if you suffer from allergies, your nose is running! I have had a headache for several days thanks to the stuff in the air. I have mixed feelings about this time of year since my allergies are always in high gear but so is God's beauty! I think in the spring, God pulls out His best paint brush with the very best colors. The purples, yellows, greens, pinks, oranges, etc. of the spring season are the colors that make me most happy! Many like the fall colors but I am definitely a lover of spring.

Spring also makes me think of new beginnings. In this season of newness, God's grace urges us to look ahead for what is to come—though He never changes, He's always doing a new thing. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that just as the new blooms signal renewal, God is continually working to bring new vitality and purpose into our life. "Do not call to mind the former things, or consider things of the past," he writes. "Behold, I am going to do something new, now it will spring up ... I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

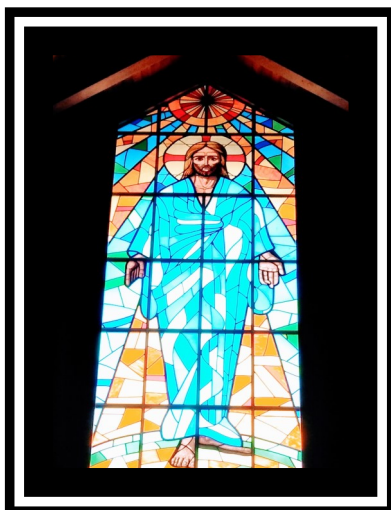
There are many things this spring and summer that I need to begin.

I need to do a complete cleaning of my house and garage. I need to decide if I will have a job at GCA next year and what my next move will be. This is going to require a great deal of prayer!! As Paul says in Philippians 3:13b-14, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus".

I have always been a planner. I'm a goal-oriented person, so I like to have a plan and then check things off my list. However, over the years, I've learned an important lesson—life doesn't always go as planned!

Whether it's a little plan or a big plan—your daily schedule or your career strategy—it can be disappointing if everything doesn't work out the way you had hoped. And many people fall apart when their plan falls apart.

There were so many times I missed the chance to appreciate what God put in my path. With age came much more clarity and much more patience!! I apologize



Devotion (cont.)

to my children often for not appreciating the journey we traveled when they were younger. I enjoyed them when they were little but I was so busy sometimes I didn't stop "and smell the roses" often enough. Little by little, God helped me to change my attitude about these disappointments. Instead of focusing on what has been lost, God helped me to focus on the good things He can do in the future.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV) says, The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning....

It's no coincidence that our time is divided into 24-hour increments. God gives us new opportunities each and every morning to start fresh! It's a chance to begin again—to try again, hope again and watch Him do something we never expected. It's just like the spring blooms!! I love that we get a chance to begin again and start over each day! Our slate is wiped clean and we get a new one if only we ask.

I have had a Plan A in place for whatever and maybe it didn't work. God is so prepared He has a plan B that is even better than the plan I had in place! The plan B I have had to put in place, many times, worked so much better than the original plan. It is definitely a God thing!!

In Joel 2:25-26, God says, "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten...(NIV)." And in Isaiah 61:7 (NIV), He tells us, Instead of your former shame, you will receive a double portion...

God doesn't say that you will receive that double portion immediately or how it will be received. Maybe it is not even here on Earth. I don't know for sure. All I know is that I trust Him. My divorce and the failure that I felt was one of the most difficult things for me. I had never failed at anything. I wondered how in the world that had happened?? I had let so many people down, especially my children. At the same time, I had to also take care of myself and not put them in an environment that wasn't healthy. I thought for sure God would help me find someone else, if that was

His plan. Maybe it still is. I don't know. I just have to live my life and trust in His plan, not mine. That is hard for me, at times. Hard for all of us "planners". What is that saying..." Let go and Let God".

When I am in the middle of a bad day or disappointing time, I am so tempted to give in to the thoughts like, "This is it. It's too late. I'm too old." But it isn't too late! It's never too late to have a fresh start if you live a life in Christ. Tomorrow is a new day! It is a new opportunity to finish a project I started, meet new people, try something new, begin a new adventure, start a new job, etc. Who knows?

I think the attitude with which I face the day impacts my day. I encourage you to look at each day as a chance to start again. Psalm 118: 24 says, "This is the day the Lord has made—I will rejoice and be glad in it!" God is the God of new beginnings and second chances. Look at the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, Andrew, and the list goes on and on. If we let Him, He will give us a fresh start and it will be better than we can imagine!!

Have a blessed May!

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.



May 28 Olive Garden

June 25 O'Charley's

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.



Vicki Hast.

If you would like to see what happens at

the Help Office there will be an open house **Wednesday May 15 11-1 pm**. And again from **4 pm- 6pm**. Please stop by. You will be amazed at what is available to the needy in our community.

The dates we serve are:

May 6	June 3	
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 .

RECIPES

One Pan Sweet and Sour Chicken

Ingredients: Sauce

½ cup water

¼ cup rice wine vinegar

⅓ cup light brown sugar, packed

3 tablespoons ketchup

**2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
(or tamari)**

2 teaspoons cornstarch

2 tablespoons cold water

Instructions:

Combine the ½ cup water, vinegar, brown sugar, ketchup and soy sauce in a small sauce pan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat.

Meanwhile, combine cornstarch and 2 tablespoons of cold water in a small bowl until well mixed.

Once the sweet and sour sauce mix has come to a boil, stir in the cornstarch slurry and stir constantly, for about a minute, until the sauce has thickened.

Remove from heat and use immediately or store in a jar or air-tight container for up to 2 weeks.

Ingredients: Chicken

**1 ½ lbs. boneless, skinless chicken
breasts, cut into ½-inch chunks**

2 tablespoons cornstarch

1 tablespoon canola oil

½ medium onion, chopped

1 small red bell pepper, chopped

1 small head of broccoli, cut into florets

1 cup snow peas

1 cup homemade sweet and sour sauce

Combine chicken and cornstarch in a small bowl and stir to coat the chicken pieces.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium high heat.

Add chicken and sear on first side for 3-4 minutes.

Flip chicken over, sear for 1-2 minutes on the second side and then add the onion, pepper and broccoli. Cook for 5-6 minutes, until the veggies have softened and chicken is almost cooked through. (If you haven't already, make the sauce now.)

Add the snow peas and ¾ cup of the sweet and sour sauce. Stir well to mix and warm through, scraping up any browned bits on the bottom of the pan, about 1-2 minutes more. Add extra sauce as desired. Serve over rice.

Road Trip

Ever have rolls thrown at you? Well, on Tuesday, May 14 you can! We are hoping to have a van/bus load to go Sikeston, MO to Lambert's Café, Home of the Thrown Rolls! And yes, they really throw them to you from across the room! It will be a fun outing full of wonderful food. We will need to know soon who is interested in going so we can rent a bus/van if needed. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Invite others to join us.

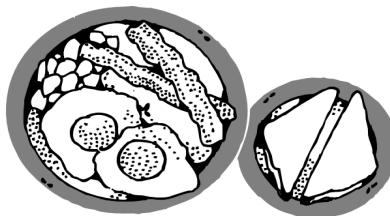
United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, May 7, at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Margaret Pickerill will lead the program. Our attendance has been rather low this year with several cancellations. Hopefully we can get back on track this month and make some plans for the rest of the year. We wish more women in the church would join us. Come learn how we can work together to be in mission for women and children.



Methodist Men's News

Over 30 guys, spouses and political candidates gathered for a wonderful time of food and fellowship at our April breakfast meeting. We welcome and thank everyone for being a part of great conversation and "resolving of the world problems." Our next



meeting will be May 18, at 8:30 am. Hopefully, we will see everyone there. Have a wonderful day, and remember to treat someone with kindness!

Tks. Jim

Family Life

A big "thank you" to Josh and Abi for hosting Game Night and to all who provided refreshments. We will definitely do it again. It was a wonderful afternoon with a little healthy competition.

Our "singles" luncheon was very well attended and most participants indicated they would like it to continue. Another get-together is set for Wednesday, May 15th at 10 am for coffee/breakfast at the Spot Coffee and Finery, 2815 Veach Rd. All are welcome—singles, widows, widowers, divorced, etc. If you are alone and would like

to participate in discussions, dining or other activities, this is the group for you.

The committee continues to plan for Vacation Bible School. It is scheduled for July 24-26, with a finale program during the July 28th church service. A picnic/barbeque will follow. Please make plans to invite others and be in prayer about how you can help.

Have a great summer and Happy Mother's Day!



CRAFT FAIR—SEPT. 21st

Mark your calendar for Sept. 21st!! St. John Annual Craft Fair and Car Show is already in the planning stages.

How can you help? Let me give you some ideas...

You can donate to the Sweet Shop!

You can donate to the Silent Auction with a basket or just items to put in a basket!

Help chop up vegetables and ham for bean soup!

Donate canned cokes, diet cokes, sprite, dr. pepper or waters.

Donate cash to help purchase items needed to make soup, buy hamburgers, hotdogs and chips sold that day.

St. John will have a booth. If you are crafty, in a good way;) and want to make items to donate to the table, get started now!! All donations welcome and appreciated!

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

Spring Word Search

I W Y J A H L E A F V O G V C D M A V F P V E P
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caterpillar	butterfly	baseball	sunshine	rainbow	camping	flowers
bubbles	yellow	basket	garden	storms	clouds	spring
picnic	easter	worms	green	ducks	birds	plant
walks	grass	seed	leaf	kite	park	hike
rain	Bake	fun	zoo	car		



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

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May 10 , Trip to Sikeston
May 15, Single's Mtg. @ The
Spot Coffee @ 10 am
May 18, Men's Breakfast @
8:30 am
May 20, Family Life Mtg. @ 4
pm
May 28, Supper Club @ Olive
Garden @ 5 pm

