



St. John Journey

www.stjohnabingdon.org

Council President's Corner

In my last newsletter article, I commented that during Pentecost we are called to be church, the gathered people of God. Specifically, we are called to live out what Jesus means to us, in this place, particularly this community, and beyond. I also wrote that church is more than a building or a place, as it is people who make any church building a church. Church should be active and moving, not stagnant nor still. The church is responsive to all that God has done. Pentecost is a time when we not only respond to all the stories we've heard for the previous half year, it is a time when we can actively live out what God has taught us through Jesus Christ!

Today (as I am writing this article), I received a monthly update from Brad Farmer at Faith in Action. As a member of the Faith in Action Board, I see this report every month, but the reports for the last few months have been eye opening for me. For example, in May:

- 719 families received free food from the Stone Soup Food Pantry.
- This included 46 new families receiving food for the first time.
- 588 families received free food for the same month one year ago.
- This equates to a 22% increase in need from 2022 to 2023.

These numbers are eye catching; but more importantly, the increase in need from 2022 to the present is significant, particularly given the decrease in food received by Faith in Action both from the USDA and area churches. This trend has been similar every month this year. As a partner with Faith in Action, we at St. John have personally witnessed the increase in need every time we've worked this year. The increase in demand coupled with a reduction in available food, means less food for each family, each month.

I know that I've told many of you about how I taught my kids the difference between bad habits and good habits. You know, bad habits are easy, but the good habits are sometimes challenging—and often require effort. For example, pre-pandemic, St. John was known as the “tuna church” because we routinely provided canned tuna to Faith in Action. Bringing cans of tuna with us to worship was a habit—a good habit. I even remember word-of-mouth recommendations or emails from the church office telling us when one of the local grocers had tuna on sale. The pandemic (months and months of no in-person worship) turned a good habit into a bad habit. We simply got out of the habit of bringing canned tuna with us to Sunday worship because we weren't physically worshipping together in the sanctuary.

I would like to see us get back into the (good) habit of routinely bringing cans of tuna and placing in the lobby area. In the next few weeks or so, I want to provide a classy and functional drop-off place in the lobby. A place that will both remind us to actively think of others and simultaneously live out what Jesus wants us to do. This week, Kroger has tuna on sale for 99 cents/can and the Food Country on Route 19 is going out of business and has everything marked down 40% as of June 27th.

Our partnership with Faith in Action has been ongoing for years. We've often been called a “super church” by Faith in Action staff. Let's continue to demonstrate why we really are a “Super Church.”

Peace and Blessings,

Bill



Prayer Chain

Dianne Suhrbier
Jim Suhrbier
Joanna Wolfe
Wrenda Fuller
Larry Fuller
Kathy Smith
Bob Murphy

Richard Brumleve
Joel Rosen

Doris Vaught
Dallas Church
Peg Curphey
Taulbee Cherry

We pray for all on the front lines: doctors, nurses, medical personnel.

We pray for the homebound: Marty Dunn, Vickianne Dotten, Ann Godsey, Barbara Wright, Nancy King, Betsy Bohham

If you have names to add (or ones to be taken off) the prayer chain, please email Joan at the church office.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN JULY

Sunday July 2nd--Red, White, and Blue Brunch following Worship--bring a dish to share (something red, white and/or blue)

Sunday July 30th--11AM Worship at HMLRC with lunch afterwards



July Birthdays

July 3--Barbara Bjerke
July 21--Ellen Van Dyke
July 22---Jim Kroll
July 23--Betsy Bonham
July 26--Josh Spencer
July 27--Barbara Wright

If we missed your July birthday, please let the church office know.

Volunteers for July

Sunday July 2

Lay Asst.: Ken Croghan , Lector :Joan Shaver

Ushers: Sue Croghan, Don Williams,

Altar Guild:

Sunday July 9

Lay Asst :Joan Shaver, Lector :Doris Vaught

Ushers: needed, Altar Guild: Helen Findley

Sunday July 16

Lay Asst.: Ken Croghan , Lector: Brenda Murphy

Ushers: Poseys, Altar Guild: Karen Peterson

Sunday July 23

Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett , Lector: Dave Morris

Ushers: needed, Altar Guild: Helen Findley

Sunday July 30

no worship at St. John--service at HMLRC

Please find someone to trade with if you cannot serve your assigned Sunday.