

JANUARY 2024



## St. John Journey

<https://www.stjohnabingdon.org/>

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### Council President's Corner

The agenda for our Council meetings always includes a section for “upcoming events” and the January agenda reflected numerous upcoming activities. I guess what I’m saying is that February is shaping up to be a busy, busy month. It is an exciting time in the life of our congregation, so let’s look at what is going on this month.

Our rescheduled Congregational Meeting is on Sunday February 4 when we will consider calling a new pastor, as well as a compensation package. We have an opportunity to call a young, gifted pastor who clearly understands what it means to be clergy. I look forward to this day, when we can gather and collectively chart the course for our future.

The next Sunday, February 11, Bishop Phyllis Milton was scheduled to visit us. This visit has been canceled. Pastor Craig had already scheduled off in anticipation of the visit, so Pastor Kent will preside. Thank you, Pastor Kent! This will be the last Sunday after Epiphany before we transition to Lent.

Easter comes early this year (March 31) so if we back up 40 days (excluding Sundays), that means Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. We plan on having both a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and an Ash Wednesday service. Shrove Tuesday is February 13, and we traditionally serve pancakes, bacon, sausage, and the like. Thank you Sue Croghan for spearheading this. The Ash Wednesday service will be on Wednesday February 14 at 7:00 p.m. with the traditional imposition of ashes. Pastor Craig will preside.

**St. John is also participating in the Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon series again this year. The series starts on February 14 and will rotate to different Main Street churches on Wednesdays during Lent from February 14 to March 20. St. John does not host until March 13. The theme this year will be “Walking with Jesus.” More information will be provided when the schedule is finalized and printed.**

**On Saturday February 17, the women’s group will meet at the church. I am excited to see this group revitalized. Makes me wonder if a men’s group is on the horizon. Let’s talk about this guys!**

**Finally, on Sunday February 25, St. John will host a workshop for the entire Highlands Conference. Pastor John Wertz, the Director for Evangelical Mission and assistant to the Bishop, will lead the workshop.**

**Last, I want to take the opportunity to thank each one of you for your commitment to St. John, for all you do, and for all yet to do. This is an amazing, loving, and giving congregation and I for one am proud to be part of it. Our mission statement says that “we are a community of believers . . . called to respond to God’s gift of grace and set apart as disciples of Jesus Christ for a lifetime of learning, witness and service.” As we move into and experience 2024, let’s not forget our mission statement—our purpose. We are a community, and we are strongest when we are in meaningful relationships with God, each other, and the broader community.**

**God’s Peace and Blessings,**

**Bill Spencer**

**Council President**

### **Prayer Chain**

Steve Kluttz  
Laurie Kluttz  
Richard Brumlevee  
Leo Sturgill  
Joel Rosen  
Sally Johnson  
Dallas Church



Kathy Smith  
Bridgette Smith Keith Winters  
Peg Curphey  
Canon Donald Muller  
Nancy King  
Taulbee Cherry

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

We pray for the homebound: Vickianne Dotten, Barbara Wright, Betsy Bonham.  
If you have names to add (or ones to be taken off) the prayer chain, please email the church office.

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**February is a busy month! Upcoming save the dates:**

**Sunday, Feb.4th-Congregational Meeting immediately following the worship service.** Please plan to be there to vote on this important decision in person or online.

**Sunday, Feb 11th-"Souper" Bowl Sunday!**  
A soup/salad luncheon will be held following the service, and we are taking donations to Faith in Action. Place your items in the appropriate bins in the outer hallway no later than Sunday Feb. 11th. Monetary donations accepted also. Food suggestions for Faith in Action: canned tuna or other meats, boxes of crackers (any kind), canned vegetables, canned fruit, boxed mac and cheese, peanut butter, boxed cereal, canned soup.

**Tuesday, Feb.13th**-Shrove Pancake Supper  
6:00pm

**Wednesday, Feb.14th**-Ash Wednesday  
Service 7:00pm

**Saturday, Feb.17th**-Women's Group  
Organizational Meeting. 3:00pm  
More information [attached](#).

### **February Birthdays**

2/02-Carla Proffitt  
2/04-Linda Garnett  
2/08-Edie Hildebeitel  
2/13-Sarah Wellenhoffer  
2/15-Josh Kroll  
2/17-Spencer Wellenhoffer  
2/22-Sid Vaught  
2/24-Alexis White  
2/26-Carole Ann Rosen

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

### **Volunteers for February**

Sunday February 4  
Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett  
Lector :Doris Vaught  
Ushers: The Spencers  
Counters: Doris Vaught, Jim Suhrbier

Sunday February 11  
Lay Asst :Ken Croghan  
Lector: Amanda Meacham  
Ushers: Sue Croghan, Don Williams  
Counters: Roger Nipper, Chris Meacham

**Sunday, Feb.25th**-Highlands Conference Meeting 3:00pm

**Quilters**

Reminder, we meet from 9:30AM to noon on Tuesdays at the church fellowship hall. If you can tie a knot, you will get better at that by joining us. If Washington County Schools are closed due to weather issues, we do NOT meet. School holidays don't count.

**St. John's NexTrex Plastic Recycling Update:**

Total pounds so far--149!!

Keep up the great work--bring your plastic and fill our bins!

**Food Pantry:**

Thanks to all that helped in January! The next time we serve will be March 22-26, 2024.

**Book Group:**

We are reading Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Due to a scheduling conflict, we will not meet in February but will meet on 3/10/24.

**Tapestry Group**

Please watch the weekly emails for information on the next meeting.



Wednesday, February 14

Lay Asst: Ken Croghan

Lector: Doris Vaught

Ushers: Sue Croghan

Sunday February 18

Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett

Lector: Brenda Murphy

Ushers: Helen French, Dennis Bailey

Counters: Jim Kroll, Helen French

Sunday February 25

Lay Asst.: Ed Davis

Lector: Kent Peterson

Ushers: The Krolls

Counters: Tammie Kroll, Sandy Davis

Sign-up sheets for Usher and Altar Guild are on the bulletin board. There is also one for refreshments.

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