

APRIL 2024



St. John Journey

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

Message from our pastor:

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! Did you know that Easter is a seven-week celebration and Church season? While we won't necessarily be having an easter egg hunt and brunch every week there will be parts of our liturgy and services that will reflect the excitement and joy of Easter as well as scripture lessons that tell fascinating stories about Jesus' interactions with his followers in those 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. It is a fun and fascinating time in our Church year!

It is also a time to celebrate new beginnings. With spring flowers poking up through the ground and fresh buds on the trees we at St. John also have a fun opportunity to reflect on what we may want to resurrect in our church and our faith lives. With a new pastor begins a new chapter that picks up where the previous chapters have led but holds the potential for new stories and traditions.

In the coming weeks I would love to meet with as many of you as possible to get to know you and you can get to know me. I want to hear your stories as well as your ideas for St. John! I am so excited about this journey with you all and hope you are too! Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Blessings,

Pr Elise

Upcoming April Events

Sunday, April 7th - Our traditional 5th Sunday offering was postponed since it was Easter Sunday. Please bring your loose change to benefit Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center. Paper money and checks are great too!

Sunday, April 21 - Reception honoring Pastor Craig Wylie. We want to show our sincere appreciation for his service to St. John as interim pastor. Please plan to bring a dish to share for a luncheon after the service.

Prayer Chain

Laurie Kluttz-hospitalized in Johnson City

June Bjerke-hospitalized in Abingdon

Lisa Roberts-recovering from hip

replacement surgery

Helen Deatherage

Richard Brumlevee

Leo Sturgill

Joel Rosen

Sally Johnson

Dallas Church

Kathy Smith

Louise Sansing

Helen Findley

Bridgette Smith

Peg Curphey

Donald Muller

Nancy King

Taulbee Cherry

Rita Kestner

Bob Murphy

Kevin Campbell

The Pitre family

Dave Valerio

Holly Salmon



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 Jill at the church office.

NEWS

Women's Group

The next meeting will be Sunday, May 5th at 2:00pm. Sam Davis will give an Intro to World Religions talk. A small group will be offered later to further explore this topic. We will have plenty of time for fellowship and food, so please join us!

The Women's Retreat at Hungry Mother is May 31-June 2, 2024. Feel free to come and relax with women from the Highlands Conference. For more information click [here](#).

Tapestry Group

We will have a St. John Tapestry group Zoom meeting on Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00pm. The Zoom link will be sent out in the weekly announcements.

A book study is coming up in May with the Virginia Synod Tapestry group. You must preregister to participate. Click [here](#) to register.

On May 6, 13, 20, and June 3 at 7pm on Zoom, the Tapestry Team's LGBTQIA+ Thread will explore these questions and more in their book study on [Welcoming and Affirming: A Guide to Supporting with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth](#). This is for parents, guardians, rostered ministers, youth leaders, grandparents, and anyone who wants to learn how to better love and care for the LGBTQIA+ teens in their lives.

Book Group

Book Club will meet on Sunday, April 14th at 2:00pm in the conference room.

We are reading *The Swedish Art of Death Cleaning* by Margareta Magnusson. If you'd like to lead the discussion, please let Jill know. Snacks will be pot-luck.

Highlands Conference Newsletter

A new quarterly newsletter regarding news in our conference is [attached](#). There's an article announcing Pastor Elise's call to our church, as well as a lot of information about what is happening in our conference.

Quilters:

The quilters are continuing to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 to noon (come late, leave early as needed). Quilt Sunday is scheduled for May 12 (Mother's Day).

NexTrex Plastic Recycling Update:

Another 60 pounds was collected this month, bring out total to 254! Keep up the great work--bring your plastic and fill our bins!

Food Pantry:

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped in March! Our next time to serve will be May 13-17.

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.

**April Birthdays**

4/25-Debbie Phillips

4/27-Joanna Wolfe

There must be more birthdays in April!!! Please email Jill in the office to let us know if we missed yours so it can be added to our database.

Volunteers for AprilSunday April 7

Lay Asst.: Ken Croghan

Lector :Bill Spencer

Ushers: Katie Gifford, Doris Vaught

Counters: Roger Nipper, Chris Meacham

Sunday April 14

Lay Asst : Ed Davis

Lector: Kent Peterson

Ushers: Don Williams, Sue Croghan

Counters: Jim Kroll, Sandy Davis

Sunday April 21

Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett

Lector: Dave Morris

Ushers: The Krolls

Counters: The Krolls

Sunday April 28

Lay Asst: Ken Croghan

Lector: Dianne Suhrbier

Ushers: Helen French, Dennis Bailey

Counters: Helen French, Jim Suhrbier

If you are unable to serve, please let Jill in the office know as soon as possible.