October 2026 Edition

~THE ST. JOHN'S POST~

Start Where You Are

There was a time in my life when I was very fit, while my younger sister was not. She asked me to help her start a fitness program, so we began with what I thought was a light workout: some stretches, 100 sit-ups, and a one-mile run.

The next day, she could barely get out of bed. I didn't experience the pain from that workout myself, but I heard about it for years afterward! What I learned from my first attempt at being a personal trainer was that you have to understand a person's fitness level before you begin. After a few days of recovering from extreme soreness, we were ready to try again.

That experience taught me an important lesson—not just about fitness, but about life. My sister wanted to become more physically fit, and I tried to help her accomplish it in one day. But real change takes time, patience, and consistency.

As we enter our Stewardship season this year, perhaps we can take a lesson from my fitness experience: meet people where they are. Just as it takes time and discipline to become physically fit, it also takes time to grow in our spiritual lives.

In the coming weeks, we will begin having conversations about Stewardship. In the United Methodist Church, stewardship means faithfully managing all that God has entrusted to us through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. When we join the church, we make a commitment to support the church and its ministry.

The Bible speaks often about tithing. The word tithe appears throughout Scripture, particularly in the Old Testament, where it was part of the Mosaic Law. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a tithe is "a tenth part of something paid as a voluntary contribution or tax, especially to support a religious establishment."

Through my experience with my sister, I learned that physical fitness doesn't happen overnight. In much the same way, developing the spiritual discipline of regular giving takes time. For many of us, tithing or intentional giving may be something we grow into gradually as our faith deepens.

So, what is spiritual discipline? Spiritual disciplines are intentional practices that help us become more connected to God, deepen our faith, and shape the way we live our lives. These practices might include spending time in prayer each day, reading and meditating on Scripture, participating in Bible studies, sharing our resources with others, reading a Psalm and a Proverb each day, serving through outreach ministries, and regularly asking ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

The goal of spiritual discipline is not perfection. It is to gradually become people whose ordinary lives are increasingly oriented toward God.

As we move through our Stewardship season, I want to challenge each of us to take an honest look at where we are in our relationship with God. Where are we today, and what would it look like to take one step forward? Perhaps for some, that step will be spending more time in prayer. For others, it may be becoming more involved in service or outreach. And for some, it may be taking a step toward more intentional or generous giving.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, encouraged Christians to live simply and generously. He famously said, "Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

If regular tithing or intentional giving is new to you, consider it part of your spiritual discipline rather than simply a financial goal. May our giving become an expression of worship, and may God use whatever we are able to offer to bring hope, healing, and grace to our community and our world.

I look forward to seeing how God will lead us through **His** Stewardship season and the opportunities He will reveal to each of us.

Gracious God,
Everything we have comes from You. Teach us to receive Your gifts with gratitude, manage them with wisdom, and share them with generous hearts. Help us trust You more deeply and use our resources to love our neighbors and participate in Your work in the world. Amen.

Shalom,
Karen

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

October 1 - Joy Honeycutt & Jimmy Anderson
October 2 - Melanie Edwards, Cameron McBride & Ramsey Starnes
October 3 - Vera Emelife & Amelia Vandergriff
October 4 - Tyoma Frick
Chris & Lisa Henley-Happy Anniversary
October 5 - Josh Honea
October 6 - Aileen Yount
October 7 - Scott & Rebekah Conant-Happy Anniversary
Jamie & Kelli Lewis-Happy Anniversary
October 8 - Drew Robertson
October 9 - James Kimbrell
Brennan & Tiffany Reavis - Happy Anniversary
Gene & Lorena Snyder-Happy Anniversary
October 10 - Doug Chambers & Marti Messer
October 11 - Pete Adkins & Peyson Cooke
Rick & Tracy Olinger-Happy Anniversary
October 12 - Jim Cooke
October 13 - Bryce Robertson & David Rowland
October 14 - John Ede, Nancy Rivers & Julie Williams
October 15 - Rachel Lovick & Janelle McBride
October 16 - Rick Diak
October 18 - Sherry Ede
Mark & Lori Vidonic-Happy Anniversary
October 19 - Dianne Lowder
October 20 - Chandler Meador
Greg & Courtney Bonéy-Happy Anniversary
October 21 - Craig Brown
October 22 - Rev. Bob Romanello & Megan Spilmann
Reggie & Jo Adkins-Happy Anniversary
Nick & Adriane Starnes-Happy Anniversary
October 25 - Tyler McDonald
Wayne & Harriett Bouldin-Happy Anniversary
Greg & Janelle McBride - Happy Anniversary
October 26 - Heather Taylor
October 27 - Elaine Cryderman & Julie Taulbert
October 28 - Katherine Burns
October 29 - Patty Robinson
Carlos & Cindy Lobo-Happy Anniversary
October 30 - Bill Bagwell & Judy Odom
October 31 - Gene & Mary Adkins-Happy Anniversary
Josh & Terri Honea - Happy Anniversary



OCTOBER EVENTS & REMINDERS





*If you have a need to use our facilities, please contact the church office for a full list of availabilities

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Hospitality
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

COMMUNION SUNDAY:

October 4 - Offering supports the Riverview Elementary Snack Shack

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Care Team - October 11 @ 12:15pm (MBC)
WEE School Board - October 15 @ 6:30pm (FC)
Church Council - October 19 @ 6pm (FC)
Stewardship - October 25 @ 12:15pm (Loft)

EXERCISE WITH AVIS

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
11am - 11:30am
Fellowship Center



LUNCH BUDDIES: Blue Smokehouse is the next stop on the Lunch Buddies trail through our greater 'neighborhood.' Not a new restaurant for us, but always a good meal. Their address is 1500 Fort Mill Parkway. Please plan to join us on Tuesday, October 20 at our usual time of 11:30 and let us know you'll be coming through REALM or the hallway sign-up sheet by Sunday, October 18. See you soon!

BLESSING OF THE PETS: Join us on Sunday, October 18 at 5:00pm at Deb's Place for a special time of blessing our beloved pets! Bring your furry friends and celebrate the joy, companionship, and unconditional love they bring into our lives. All pets and their people are welcome!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

**Chicken Nuggets will be available for kids at each meal*

OCTOBER MEALS:
October 7 - Chicken Pot Pie, Salad & Dessert
October 14 - NO MEAL
October 21 - BBQ Shredded Chicken Sandwiches, Tater Tots, Green Beans & Dessert
October 28 - Halloween Meal: Mummy Hot Dogs, Chili, Cornbread, Pumpkin Veggies & Halloween Dessert

*We will have a pumpkin carving contest on October 28.

ST. JOHN'S UMC PRESENTS

Halloween Double Feature







A SPOOKY MOVIE-WATCHING EVENT UNDER THE STARS

Mickey and Friends Trick or Treats

Halloweentown

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 16

PUMPKIN PATCH

Movies begin at 6:00pm - Popcorn, cotton candy, & cold drinks provided
. Bring your own chair and blanket.

During Fort Mill's Fall Fest, find a parking space, grab a pumpkin, buy some bbq, and listen to some great Bluegrass while your kids jump in a bounce house!





PARK AT THE PATCH

OCTOBER 17, 2026
BBQ SALE STARTING AT 10:00AM
MUSIC FROM 12:00-3:00PM

www.stjohnsfm.org/ 130 Tom Hall Street Fort Mill, SC 29715

TRICK OR TREAT



LOTS OF TREATS • CREATIVE COSTUMES • FUN GAMES

OCT 25

130 TOM HALL ST. FORT MILL, SC 29715

GET READY FOR A DAY FILLED WITH SWEET TREATS, SPOOKY SURPRISES, AND FESTIVE FUN FOR EVERYONE.

4:00 PM

October 2026

Children and Youth News

Director of Church Ministries: Mallory Capps- stjohnsumc.youthandchildren@gmail.com- (843)-504-5419

The year is back in full swing and we are off to a great start! We have REAL Kids, our Kindergarten-5th grade weekly program, happening on Sunday afternoons at 2:30pm. UMYF, the 6th-12th grade weekly meeting, is happening. We had our Boomers Meet Zoomers and our first ever CHOPPED cooking competion. Join us for our ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT event on October 25th from 4:00-5:00 pm! Also on October 28th, we will do a pumpkin carving event at our Community Meal! Come join us for a night of fun!







UPCOMING EVENTS:

REAL Kids will be on October 4th, & 18th from 2:30pm-3:30pm.
We meet in the Children's Church Room.

UMYF will be on October 4th, 11th, and 18th from 4:00-6:00pm!
This is for all students 6th -12th grade and we meet in the Zone!

On October 16th, we will host an outdoor movie night at 5:30pm!
Come bring a blanket, chairs, and join us by the pumpkin patch!
Popcorn will be provided!!!

TRUNK OR TREAT will be October 25th from 4:00-5:00pm!





— W.E.E. SCHOOL NEWS —

BETH MEADOR, DIRECTOR

SPIRIT/FUNDRAISER NIGHTS:

Thank you to everyone who supported our spirit night at Bossy Beulah's in September. Please join us on Tuesday, October 13th at Hobo's in Fort Mill from 5pm-10pm. Thanks for supporting our W.E.E. School!

W.E.E. SCHOOL AVAILABILITY

We have spots available in our MWF 3-year-old class and a couple of spots in our 2's classes. If you know anyone interested, please have them contact Beth at sjumcweeschool@gmail.com



STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE!

We have talked in the past about the four parts that make up **Stewardship: Give, Serve, Attend and Grow**. And this is the time of year we call Stewardship Season where we give extra thought to each of these and how we can prepare our church for 2027.

In the past, as we began Stewardship season, we have focused our efforts on a combined singular document; asking about financial giving to the church and also asking about serving in various missions within the church. This year we are taking a different approach so that greater consideration can be given to these two areas separately.

Starting on Sunday, September 27th through Sunday, November 15th, during services we will be providing education about the financial aspect of giving to the church and various topics that might be of interest as you consider your pledge for 2027. And then in January, we will have discussions about the various programs within St. John's and explain how and who they serve so that members may decide where they would like to participate.

Here are the topics that will be presented this fall during services:

September 27th – An Overview of Stewardship Season & How It Will Work This Year

October 4th – How To Get Started with Financial Giving

October 11th – The Theology of Giving

October 18th – Automated Giving and How it Works

October 25th – Restricted vs Non-Restricted Giving

November 8th – Update on Stewardship Season

November 15th – Final Deadline for Pledge Cards

We will be mailing to your homes your pledge card for 2027. You will also find pledge cards located in the pews. Feel free to complete that and turn it in to one of the designated boxes you will find in the church or mail it back to the church at PO Box 1298 at any time during Stewardship Season. We would like the cards to come back to the church throughout these weeks so don't feel you have to wait until the final deadline of November 15th to return it.

In that same mail you will find a new document 2026 In Review. It is an overview of the number of people and programs who have benefited from your support this year. You will find the numbers very impressive and be very pleased by the reach that St. John's has in the Fort Mill community. Thank you so much for that support!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information on anything I have mentioned here. You can always reach me at melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com

Our next Stewardship Committee meeting is Sunday, October 25th at 12:15pm in the Loft after the 11:00am worship service. If you would like to join the committee or you have any ideas for the group please feel free to join us. Everyone is welcome!

submitted by Melissa Morse, Stewardship Chair

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

submitted by Amy Bartholomew
Committee Chair

Shout out to the United Methodist Men for donating basketball shorts for men at the Bethel Shelter! Thank you to everyone who has donated their time and resources to our Missions projects this year. It is very much appreciated.

OCTOBER COAT DRIVE

We will have a Coat Drive in October. Boxes will be set up at each portico to collect your gently used coats. Spread the word! These coats will be distributed to organizations that serve our community.

THE SATURDAY PROJECT

We will have two opportunities for our Saturday Project this month on October 17:

1-**FROZEN MEALS FOR DEFEND THE FATHERLESS**

We will meet in the kitchen at 10:00 to make dinners that can be shared with foster families in need. A Sign-Up Genius will be sent out for food donations and volunteers to cook that day.

2-**BETHEL SHELTER**

We will have our monthly visit to clean and restock the donation closets at the Bethel Day Shelter. You can meet Shawne Hereen in the church parking lot at 9:30 to carpool or meet her at the shelter at 10:00: 546 S. Cherry Road, Suite S, Rock Hill. Please let Shawne know if you plan to attend.

Please check the lists of donation requests for the Fort Mill Care Center and Bethel Shelter in the donation center outside the door to the fellowship hall. Donations can also be placed in this area.

OCTOBER MISSION SPOTLIGHT: ISAIAH 117 HOUSE

Ronda Paulson and her husband Corey created the Isaiah 117 House in 2017. The idea came to them when they were training to become foster parents and learned that when children in their area were removed from their homes, they often had to go to the DSS office to wait for placement. This could take several hours or several days. The children often had nothing with them and were scared, lonely, and in dirty clothing. There had to be a better way.

The purpose of Isaiah 117 House is to provide a comforting home where these children can be brought to wait for their foster families. It is a place that is safe with friendly, loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys and snuggly blankets. This space allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while child welfare staff do the necessary paperwork and identify a good placement.

If you are interested in helping Isaiah 177 House, you can contact their York location at yorkSC@isaiah117house.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SHOWING GRATITUDE

The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women drop a coin in a jar each day to give thanks for their daily blessings, while others add coins and dollars on special occasions in their lives. Last year we raised $153.64 for this cause. Let's top that figure for this year.

WE CAN DO IT!

Through the World Thank Offering, you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith in the United States and around the world.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

At our Circle meetings in October you will receive a sticker with the WTO image that you can affix to a cup to collect your donations. Each day as you reflect on your blessings, drop a few coins in your jar. Bring your cup and your donation to our November Circle meetings so we can total the donations.



CLARA PHILLIPS CIRCLE
October 12 @ 5pm (handbell room)
MORNING GLORY CIRCLE
October 13 @ 10:30am (MBC)

submitted by
Elaine Cryderman

Connections Committee

submitted by Denise Holland, Co-Chair

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Everyone is welcome to come to our Halloween Family Movie Night on October 16th at 5:30pm! It will be a double feature. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on while watching the movies. We will have concessions available with popcorn, cotton candy and drinks. We look forward to seeing you at the movies!



GAME DAY EVENT!

Mark your calendars for another exciting Game Day on November 14th from 2pm-4pm. It is open to young through seniors. Bring a snack to share and your game playing spirit to the Fellowship Center!

DECEMBER FUN!

Looking ahead we are going to be caroling and taking soup to our shut ins on December 6th at 4pm. Just bring your beautiful voices and share some Christmas spirit with those who would really appreciate a visit.

J.O.Y.

"Just Older Youth"

FORT MILL COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE MATINEE:

The J.O.Y. group will be going to the Fort Mill Community Playhouse for a Sunday afternoon matinee on November 15 @ 3pm to see "On Golden Pond".

We have a group of 12 tickets. The price is $20 per ticket. Any member of the J.O.Y. group is welcome to attend, but it is on a first come, first serve basis.

Please sign up on the sign up board in the hallway. There are 12 slots, so one name per slot.

Payment can be made to the church by cash or check. Please make checks out to St. John's. Mark your payments as "Play Tickets".

The deadline to sign up and have your money in is Sunday, October 11. For questions, call the church office.

J.O.Y. GROUP GATHERING:

Join us for our next J.O.Y. Group gathering on Thursday, October 15, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Center at St. John's!

The church will provide drinks, and we invite everyone to bring a favorite potluck dish to share.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Chuck Epps, retired superintendent of the Fort Mill School District.

Please sign up on REALM or the sign-up board by Sunday, October 11.

We look forward to delicious food, great fellowship, and an inspiring time together!



BIBLE QUIZ

submitted by Rev. Bob Romanello

PAUL'S MAJOR MESSAGE TO US:

When one studies the writings of the Apostle Paul, she or he finds that Paul was instrumental in explaining Jesus' part in our salvation by taking on the flesh of mankind and suffering death on the cross. Because of his fervent witness about the resurrection of Jesus, Paul answers many questions as he stands before ordinary people, Kings, High Priests, and Roman authorities. (Acts 24-25-26). It is in his letter to the Ephesians that Paul explains God's part and our part in our salvation.

My questions for you are three.
What part did God play?
What part does our faith play?
What part do our good works play?

Fill in the blanks below to find Paul's answer that is still in effect today.

"For it is by _____ you have been _____, through _____ and this is not from_____, it is the _____ of God— not by _____, so that no one can _____." (NIV) EPH. 2:8-9

Fill in words: saved, faith, grace, gift, yourselves, works, boast

Note: Our good works are our response to what God in Christ has done for us. It is good to be reminded of this now and then.

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME



Two Roads Diverged

Throughout its 130 years, Epworth Children's Home has transformed thousands of lives. One of the most remarkable stories is that of two young brothers from Union, South Carolina, whose time at Epworth broke a cycle of poverty and altered the trajectory of their family for generations.

In the 1920s, widowed mother Paughnee Fowler struggled to support her seven children. Unable to read or write, she watched helplessly as her older children dropped out of elementary school to work. Desperate to secure a better future for her youngest, Paughnee sought employment at Epworth in Columbia so her children could live on campus. Facing soaring demand and plunging donations during the Great Depression, Epworth could only accept two: seven-year-old Dennis and nine-year-old Jim. Heartbroken but resolute, Paughnee sent her two youngest boys off to Columbia in 1929 with a small suitcase and a basket of food.

At Epworth, Dennis and Jim received the nutrition, stability, and education they desperately needed. They excelled as team captains on championship sports teams, played in the band, worked on Epworth's 800-acre farm, and learned trade skills like printing. Their deep brotherhood shone through every hardship: when young Dennis found a $20 bill on the campus grounds, he gave it to Jim to buy a suit for high school graduation; when Dennis graduated years later, Jim returned the favor. Dennis and Jim became the only children in their family to finish high school.

That education opened doors that changed everything. Both brothers served their country with distinction—Jim as a decorated World War II Army Captain earning a Silver Star and Purple Heart, and Dennis in the U.S. Marines. Returning to South Carolina, Jim built a long career in printing while Dennis worked for the Burroughs Corporation. Grounded in faith and accountability, both men served as lifelong church leaders, continuously gave back to Epworth, and raised families anchored in service.

The impact of Epworth did not end with the brothers. Because Dennis and Jim earned their diplomas, their children became first-generation college graduates, going on to careers in elder advocacy, law, military service, and foster care. What began as a mother's painful sacrifice in 1929 blossomed into a multi-generational legacy of faith, resilience, and hope—all starting the day two young boys arrived at Epworth and received their very first Bibles.

Epworth article submitted by
Katherine Burns, St. John's Epworth Representative

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Lisa Henley ..... Administrative Coordinator
Mallory Capps ..... Director of Church Ministries
Beth Meador ..... W.E.E. School Director
Minda Siebert ..... Finance Coordinator
Terry Helms ..... Building Administrator
Noah Sigsworth..... Director of Music
Lauren Harris ..... Accompanist
Nancy Rivers ..... Handbell Director
Suzanne Fisher ..... Kitchen Coordinator
Maggie Helms ..... Custodian
Katherine Burns ..... Music Makers Director
Amber Boan ..... Golden Ringers Director
Molly Bonéy..... Nursery Worker
Oriana Gilmore ..... Nursery Worker

...TO BE CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE BY LIVING OUT GOD'S CALL TO LOVE, SERVE, AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD.