

~The St. John's Post~

November 2026 Edition



Thoughts from Pumpkin Patch 2026

When you ask yourself, was it worth having the Pumpkin Patch again this year? You might answer no. Maybe you don't like being outside, learning to use the electronic equipment, or anything pumpkin-related.

From my perspective, the Pumpkin Patch is one of our best outreach opportunities all year.According to AI, 19,600 vehicles pass by 130 Tom Hall Street daily. Most of what we do at the church happens behind closed doors, so people who pass by don't really have a way to see what is going on. We know that the congregation of St. John's does so much to be the light of Christ in the community. Still, because we aren't Superman with X-ray vision, people don't know about the wonderful ministries happening within our walls.

When we risk saying yes to hosting the Pumpkin Patch again, we step outside the church walls so the world can see our actions. It puts us face to face with people who might never otherwise have the chance to interact with us. We get a chance to share our awesome story about our church and the ministries we are engaging in, listen to their stories, and invite them to be part of St. John's. Often, our conversation ends with a word of appreciation for coming to our patch and a reminder that they're always welcome at St. John's. On October 17th, we had an amazing day of ministry; our church grounds and parking lot were bustling with activities and people, and we even welcomed their pets. The next day, as I entered our church for worship, I first saw Jolee,

the dog from the doggie trick-or-treat the day before. She and her owner would likely have never found her way to St. John's if she had not experienced the hospitality at our Pumpkin Patch.

In a few days, our Pumpkin Patch will be over for the 2026 season, and we will have time to ponder whether the time we have spent in the Pumpkin Patch this year has been worth it. I hope most of us feel it was a good use of our time and effort to show the rest of the world who we are!

Thank you to everyone who has made the St. John's Pumpkin Patch the most inviting patch in town, where parents bring children for special pictures, and the sweetness of a new baby placed into a carved pumpkin for the cutest picture ever, and families search through thousands of pumpkins and gourds for the perfect porch decoration. It is all because someone dared to say, "I will take a shift, or two, or three, or more." Without people willing to volunteer, we couldn't have a patch. Thank you for being willing to put our church on display for the world to see.

See you at St. John's, where 19,600 cars pass by daily and know what's going on inside our building!

Shalom,

Karen



November 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

EXERCISE WITH AVIS:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
11:00am - 11:30am
Fellowship Center



Daylight Savings Time Ends November 1

LUNCH BUDDIES:

Lunch Buddies will return to the Rock Hill Diner on Tuesday, November 17. This has been a favorite of ours, where you can always find something yummy on their varied menu. We will meet at 11:30 as usual, at the diner, 2254 Cherry Road. New friends are always welcome to join us for good food, fun, and fellowship. Please register by Sunday, November 15, on REALM or the paper sign-up sheet.

DISCIPLE I CLASS

Monday Nights (MBC)
6:30pm - 8:30pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

November 4 @ 12:15pm
CONNECTIONS (MBC)
November 12 @ 10:00am
J.O.Y. Planning Meeting (FC)

CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Tuesday, November 10 @ 10:30am both the Clara Phillips Circle & the Morning Glory Circle will have a White Elephant Sale in the fellowship Center. This will replace their regular meetings for the month of November.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

All Saints Sunday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Veteran's Sunday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Stewardship Sunday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Harvest Sunday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

1st Sunday of Advent

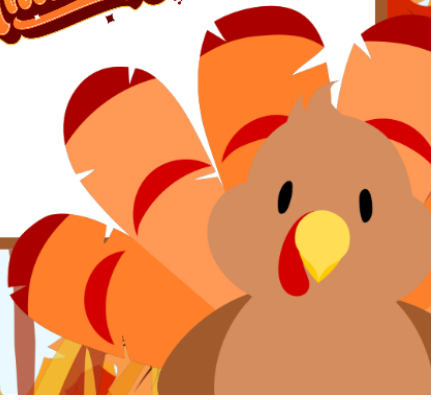
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:

The church office will be closed November 25 - November 2 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

BLOOD DRIVE:

Our next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, November 15 @ 1pm. Sign up on the link sent out through Constant Contact.





NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS!

November 1: Loyce Sutton & Kelli Lewis
Brent & Bonnie Meche - Happy Anniversary!
November 3: Landry Cameron & Cole Migliorini
November 4: Sandra Bridges
November 7: Scott & Darra Dane Brown - Happy Anniversary!
November 8: Avis Wilson
Russ & Elisabeth Williamson - Happy Anniversary!
November 9: Dave & Sarah Robertson - Happy Anniversary!
November 10: Ricky & Julie Williams - Happy Anniversary!
November 12: Kristin Alexander
November 13: Margie Singer
November 14: Jo Adkins & Barri Helms
Cyrus & Carolyn Sumner - Happy Anniversary!
November 15: Gilbert Anderson
November 16: Ken Finch
November 17: Thomas Dickinson
November 18: Debbie McCrorie
November 19: Mary Fortier
November 20: Margaret Ervin
November 23: Fred Blackwelder, Christina Helms, Cody Shamblin,
Lauren Harris & Ann Troiano
November 24: Scott Gainey
Lou & Margie Singer - Happy Anniversary!
November 26: Brenda Little & Leigh Ann Edmondson
November 29: Jim & Margaret Messer - Happy Anniversary!
November 30: Barbara Gaither

BIBLE QUIZ

submitted by Rev. Bob Romanello

In Luke's Gospel and in Acts also written by Luke, we find a promise and a command given by Jesus to his Disciples; they would soon receive and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to take the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. (Luke 24:46-49, Acts 1:8).

It is in Acts, chapter 10, that Peter is shown in a vision that it is time to follow stage four of Acts 1:8 and open the Gospel to the Gentiles. Peter is asked to speak in the house of a Gentile, and while he is speaking the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles as on the Jews at Pentecost. This was proof to other Jews with Peter that God intended the Gospel to be taken to all people.

My question for you is:

What did Peter say about all of this? (Acts 10:47-48 NIV)

"_____ no one can stand in the way of their being _____ with water. They have _____ the _____ _____ just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the_____ of _____ _____.

Word choices:
Surely, received, Jesus Christ, baptized, Holy Spirit, name



W.E.E. School News!

Beth Meador, Director

Book Fair



November 16-18

The W.E.E. School will be hosting a Scholastic book fair November 16-18. Please stop by between 9am and 1pm, this is a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. Thank you for your support of our W.E.E. School!

Parent Night Out!

See flyer on separate page!



Spirit Nights

We will be taking a break from spirit nights the months of November and December. We will pick up in January at Paco's Tacos on January 12th between 4:00 and 8:00pm. Thanks for supporting our W.E.E. School.

Saturday, November 14th
5:30-8:30PM

W.E.E. SCHOOL

Parent Night Out Fundraiser

Open to W.E.E. School families and church members only

Ages 2-10
Cost: $40 per child
$60 per family

Scan the QR code to register

Leave the kids with us for a fun filled, evening, including dinner, while you enjoy a well deserved break! Staff will include some W.E.E. School staff!

Space is limited so reserve your spot ASAP! Registration opens on October 26th.

Questions? Contact Beth Meador
sjumcweeschool@gmail.com



NOVEMBER Meals

5:30PM-7PM

Fellowship Center

MENU:

November 4:
Baked Ziti, Salad, Garlic Bread & Dessert

November 11:
Soups, Grilled Cheese, Salad & Dessert

November 18: Thanksgiving Meal
Roast Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans & Assorted Pies

November 25:
NO MEAL - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



Wednesday Night Dinners are offered on a donation-only basis. All donations are greatly appreciated and help us continue providing meals for our church family and community!

Connections
COMMITTEE NEWS!

FALL PAINTING CLASS

For those who signed up for the Fall painting class, it has been rescheduled to November 8th from 2pm-4pm. Instead of a Fall painting, it will be a Christmas painting with Ruth Orwig, our resident artist. We will meet in the loft. Cost is $5 per person and can be paid at arrival.

GAMES & SNACKS

Come and share games and snacks on Saturday, November 14th from 2pm-4pm in the fellowship center for our next Game Day. If you are interested in a good time with family fun and a little competition this event is for you! All ages are welcome. Bring your favorite game to play and a snack to share. Sign up on REALM or the sign up board so we know how many to plan for. See you at game day!!!

NEXT MEETING

On November 4th @ 6pm we will have our next Connections Committee meeting in the Men's Bible Classroom. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome to come by. We will be planning next year's activities.

*There will not be a 5th Sunday breakfast this month due to the Advent breakfast on December 6th.

LOOKING AHEAD: On December 6th at 4pm we will be caroling and taking soup to shut-ins. Bring your voices to share some Christmas spirit!

January 10, 2027 - Chili Cook-Off details coming soon!



November 2026

Children and Youth News

Children and Youth Director: Mallory Capps- stjohnsumc.youthandchildren@gmail.com-

Season of Gratitude

As we enter this season of thankfulness, I'm especially grateful for the amazing kids and youth I get to spend time with each week! This month, we're gearing up for Harvest Sunday on November 22, when we'll collect and deliver food to support the Fort Mill Care Center.



Advent is just around the corner, bringing even more opportunities to give and serve. Be sure to check out the Angel Tree and other ways to share joy and generosity with our community this holiday season!

UPCOMING EVENTS

COME JOIN US!

REAL Kids will be on Sunday Afternoons on November 1st, 8th, and 15th at 2:30pm.

UMYF will be on November 1st, 8th and 15th from 4:00-6:00pm! This is for all students 6th-12th grade and we meet in the Zone!

Harvest Sunday is November 22nd. The youth will go out for a Hibachi Dinner as a youth family!

United Women in Faith

JUMP INTO THE FUN with UWF

NOVEMBER 5:
We will provide breakfast to our District Clergy at 9:30 am. Members of both the Clara Phillips Circle & the Morning Glory Circle are asked to provide goodies for this important event.

NOVEMBER 10: WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION
The Morning Glory Circle and Clara Phillips Circle will join together for a special meeting on November 10 in the Fellowship Hall for a White Elephant Sale to raise money for Missions!



The sale will begin at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to come at 10:15 am and bring several items to sell.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, find some treasures, and support our mission efforts.

Bring your items, bring a friend, and join us for a fun time of fellowship while supporting a worthy cause! We look forward to seeing you then.

LADIES: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR WORLD THANK OFFERINGS ON NOV 10 TOO.

NOVEMBER 30:
We will feed the Winthrop Students supper at 6:30 pm at Winthrop on Monday, November 30.

Thanks to all those who are already helping with this event!

Stewardship Committee News

As you all may know we are in the middle of Stewardship Season. It started on September 27th and will go until November 15th.

Stewardship Season is the time of the year when we communicate to church members the need for making next year's pledges during the fall so that our Finance Committee can work on a budget for the following year. During this time, we are trying to provide additional communication about pledging so that church members have information they might not have had in the past. We're talking about a number of topics; how to establish a plan for pledging if you haven't pledged before, how to pledge online if you are more comfortable with that than using a check or cash, the theology of giving, other topics that might help as you plan how to help the church with your pledges.

Something else that is new this year is a mailing to all church members that not only includes a pledge card that you can fill out and return but there is also information entitled "2026 In Review". This shows you where your money was spent this year and who in our community was helped by the members of St. John's. It's a great document that will show what a strong community partner St. John's is for Fort Mill and the surrounding area. St. John's is grateful for the support of all its members. You should be very proud to be a part of a church that is such a strength in the community.

In January, we will be discussing another part of Stewardship Season where we ask about your interest in the various programs and missions of the church. In the past we have asked for this information along with the financial pledges but decided to break those up this year so that more attention could be devoted to each area. Look for those communications after the first of the year.

If you would, please return your pledge card as soon as you can. Some members have already returned their pledge cards and that is very appreciated. We would like to have all of them back by Sunday, November 15th. They can be returned by postal mail, you can indicate your pledge online, or you can put your pledge card in any of the wooden boxes located around the church.

As always, if you have any questions about the pledging process please let me know and if I can't answer them, I am happy to get answers for you.

Again, thank you for your support of St. John's, for this year and in the past. St. John's would not be able to do what it does without your continuing support.

Melissa Morse
Stewardship Committee Chair

melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com



2nd Annual Fort Mill Tree Fest

Mark your calendars and spread the word; the second annual Fort Mill Tree Fest is going to be held right here at St. John's United Methodist Church again this year!

The event is Saturday, December 5 from 9am-6pm, located in our Fellowship Center.

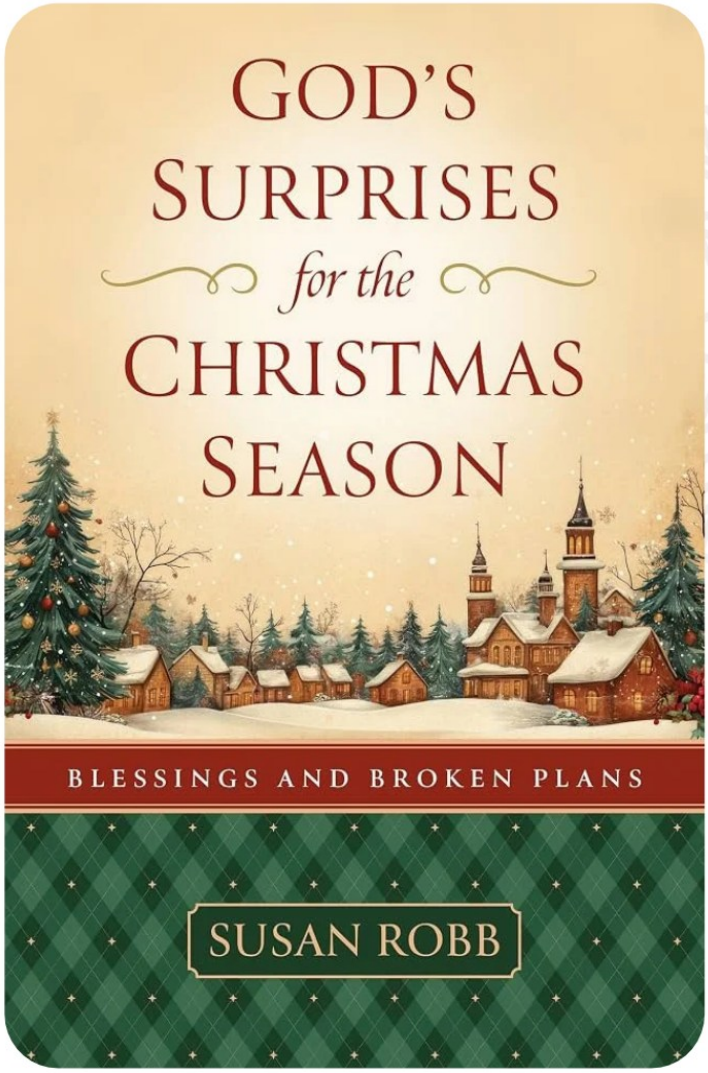
This event of 17 beautifully decorated holiday trees includes food, drink and holiday music. Each decorated tree will be provided by a local non-profit and then displayed in a silent auction format for the public to view and bid.

The winning bidder gives that amount as a donation to the non-profit and then takes the tree home.

Admission is FREE
&
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Advent Bible Study

Join us for our 2026 Advent Bible Study featuring Susan Robb's book, "God's Surprises for the Christmas Season."



Books can be purchased on the Cokesbury website for 22.99

or

on Amazon for 22.99.

PASTOR KAREN RADCLIFFE WILL LEAD OUR STUDY

Monday nights:
November 2, November 9, November 16 & November 23
6pm-7:30pm
Meet in the Loft



News From
The Missions Committee

HARVEST SUNDAY

Harvest Sunday is coming! We will be collecting items to deliver to the Fort Mill Care Center on Sunday, November 22. Bring your donations to the sanctuary that day and place them around the altar. Let's make this our biggest group donation ever!

DONATION AREA

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 be placed in this area.



THE SATURDAY PROJECT

We will have two opportunities for our Saturday Project this month on Nov. 21:

Gift Bags for Meals on Wheels:
We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am to make gift bags for Meals on Wheels recipients. A Sign-Up Genius will be sent out for donations and volunteers to put the bags together.

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

NOVEMBER MISSION SPOTLIGHT: FORT MILL CARE CENTER

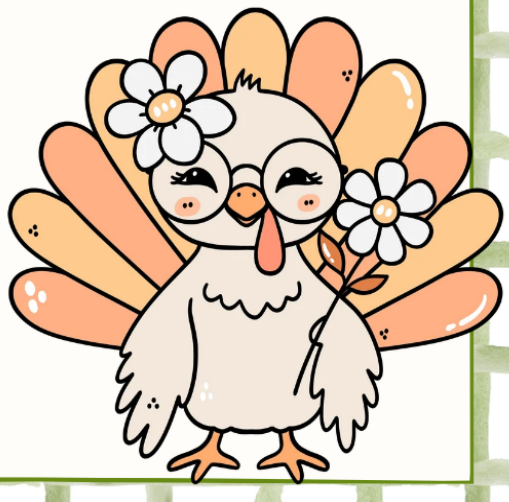
The Fort Mill Care Center was incorporated in 1987 by the Fort Mill Ministerial Association in order to manage the many requests for family aid from members of the Fort Mill community. They are more than a food pantry. In addition to providing food, personal hygiene, and household cleaning supplies, they also assist with utilities, prescriptions, and emergency dental care for the residents of Fort Mill and Tega Cay.

Their major emphasis is helping families who find themselves in need of basic necessities. If they cannot provide adequate assistance, they try to provide counsel, or guidance to other agencies that can help. They are generously funded through donations from individuals, businesses, churches, youth groups, and community organizations.

In 2013, they received the Angels Award from the SC Secretary Of State. Ten agencies in the state are awarded this designation annually for exemplary charitable giving.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact them at:

https://www.fortmillcarecenter.org/volunteer-application/



Music Ministry News

Noah Sigsworth, Music Director



November is a full month of music at St. John's! We begin with All Saints Sunday on November 1, featuring special music by Dan Forrest and a festival introit honoring the saints. On November 8, we will honor our veterans with brass music during worship, followed by Commitment Sunday on November 15 and Thanksgiving and Harvest Sunday on November 22.



Our Chancel Choir, bell choirs, and Music Makers continue rehearsing and are still welcoming new members! If you have been thinking about joining a choir or ensemble, this is a great time to get involved and share your musical gifts.



We will take a break from Wednesday choir rehearsal on November 25 for Thanksgiving week. At the end of the month, we look forward to our Chrismon service, featuring a wonderful variety of music from our Chancel Choir, bell choirs, Music Makers, and other musical groups as we begin the Advent season together. We hope you will join us for this special celebration of music and worship!

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH · FORT MILL

Christmas Caroling

Bringing soup, dessert, and a song to our homebound families



Our church, ready for Christmas

Sunday, December 6

4:00 - 6:00 PM · Meet in the Fellowship Hall

1

Gather & Pack

Meet in the fellowship hall at 4:00 PM. We will split into two groups, load up soup and dessert, and head out with carol booklets in hand.

2

Deliver & Sing

Visit our homebound families, deliver soup and dessert to each home, and share a few favorite Christmas carols at the door.

3

Come Back & Eat

Return to the fellowship hall and warm up together over a soup meal before heading home.

Everyone is welcome - families, youth, and singers of every age and ability. No rehearsal needed; just bring a warm coat, a flashlight for reading your booklet after dark, and a heart ready to brighten someone's evening.

Rain plan: If it rains, caroling is **cancelled**. Watch for an announcement that day.

Please Sign Up!

Sign up on **Realm** or on the sign-up sheet in the **main hallway** of the church.
Signing up helps us plan the two caroling routes, the soup and dessert, and enough booklets for everyone.
All church members are invited - the more voices, the merrier.

St. John's United Methodist Church
130 Tom Hall Street | P.O. Box 1298
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

Phone: (803) 547-7538 Fax: (803) 547-7539
Email: stjohnsfm@comporium.net
Website: www.stjohnsfm.org

Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe, Senior Pastor
864-313-9348 (Cell)
khradcliffe@umcsc.org

Robert E. (Bob) Romanello ..... Pastor Emeritus
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.