

New Visions

Recently I was blessed to be able to spend five days in Santa Fe, New Mexico for the sole purpose of catching up on some church-related reading. I read a biography of one of my favorite Old Testament scholars, a book addressing church decline, a new commentary on Romans, and more. One of the books that I read, *Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters* will be the focus of our Lunch Bunch reading for the next few months. The topic of creation has been a favorite of mine since I was a child, and I'm looking forward to not only talking about it in our small group, but in preaching about it in worship! This summer we will hear all about God's creation and how important it is to God and to us. Maybe we'll even be more inspired to take care of this incredible gift that God has given us! Here are the scriptures and topics to look forward to:

May 26– Genesis 1:1- 2:4a Created to Care

June 2- Job 38:4-38 Humans and the Sky

June 9- Psalm 65 Humans and the Water

June 16- Psalm 104 Humans and Animals

June 23- Leviticus 26:3-22, 34-35, 40-45
Humans and Environmental Devastation

June 30- Ezekiel 47:1-12 Humans and
Environmental Renewal

Love and blessings to you all,

Rev. Becky Downs

Our Staff

Rev. Becky Downs

Pastor

Sayaka Seki

Music Director

Katie Grant

Office Manager

Newsletter Editor

Corinna Smith

Marina Pensamiento

Child Care Providers

Sunday School for all ages

9:15 AM

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM

**You may reach us at
713-462-5448 if you have
questions or concerns.**



**Join us for in-person Sunday
School at 9:15 AM and worship on
Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM.**

**For those who are not
comfortable with attending in
person, we also offer online
worship. See our facebook page,
or our website at:
www.johnknoxhouston.org**

Session Notes

- Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$555 plus 50-60 cans of food for the food pantry.
- The lunch bunch finished their study of Mark before Easter.
- The Property Committee purchased a new hot water heater and new backpack blower.
- May 19 – Pentecost and Graduation Sunday
- VBS will be July 29-August 2. Theme: “John Knox Rocks”
- Saturday Night Out events have included game night in March and a tour and dinner at Saint Arnold’s Brewery in April.
- Katie Grant in the office will now be the contact person for building use requests.
- The value of the investments as of April 2, 2024, is \$692,155 and has increased by \$73,265 (11.8%) so far this year.



Mothers & Others Brunch

Everyone is invited to attend the Mothers and Others Brunch on Saturday, May 11 beginning at 10 AM. We'll start with a delicious brunch followed by the program. Our speaker will be Jeff Baldwin who is one of the chaplains to the seafarers at the Port of Houston. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend. Cost is \$10.00/person.

Spring Gathering 2024

Spring Gathering was held at First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena this year. More than 100 women from churches in New Covenant Presbytery gathered on April 6 for fellowship, lunch, worship and interesting speakers. There was an auction with 20 plus baskets to bid on, a used book sale and jewelry sale as well. Many thanks to those who put this gathering together – especially the members of First Presbyterian of Pasadena who were the most wonderful hosts.

Day Circle

The last Bible study lesson for this semester will be on Thursday, May 9 at 9:30 AM in the parlor. After the lesson, we will plan to go to Brookwood for lunch and shopping. Please let Sue Kessler know if you plan to attend. We will then take the summer off and return with a new Bible study in September. The Bible study overview for 2024-2025 will be held at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 3.
More information soon.

Outreach Committee

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, June 30 from 9 AM until 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Katie in the church office if you would like to sign up to help save a life by donating. More information will be available in the bulletins in June.



GRADUATE SUNDAY

We will be celebrating our graduates on Sunday, May 19.

There will be an insert in the bulletin with information about each graduate followed by a reception/luncheon after worship where PW will do a short presentation. Please help us celebrate by sending the following information to Katie in the church office no later than May 15:

Name of graduate:

School graduating from:

Degrees? Special honors/achievements? Favorite subject/sports?

Future plans:

Any additional information you would like to share about your graduate?

We will also be celebrating Pentecost that day so be sure to wear red and join us for lunch in Fellowship Hall. CCE Committee will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and PW will provide dessert.

Gathering Place

DATES & THEMES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February, 2024: Mardi Gras was the theme this month, and a festive atmosphere greeted Gathering Place members. The purple placemats, beads, masks and feathers all added to the joyful feeling. Entertainers, "The Grateful Geezers", were greeted warmly and their music was enjoyed by all. This was followed by a great Cajun meal: chicken and sausage pastalaya and much more.

March, 2024: Happy Easter everyone! Jay and Nina Cantu were welcomed back to Gathering Place. They brightened up our morning with their songs. Our meeting was just a few days before Easter Sunday, and a typical Easter meal was served: baked ham, potato casserole and a wonderful angel food cake with crushed pineapple.

April, 2024: Go Astros! We've found that several Gathering Place members are big Astros fans. The tables were decorated with Astros memorabilia, and Astros attire was very common this morning. Our entertainer, Bill Parrish, is always a treat with lots of jokes, as well as interesting information. What would we eat at a ball game? Our kitchen staff served typical ballpark food: hot dogs, nachos, chips, peanuts, followed by ice cream and cookies. Lunch was a big hit (no pun intended).

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming meetings. We hope you can join us each month at 10:15 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, followed by the program at 10:30 a.m. Bring your friends. No reservations are necessary.



May
23

*You are my
Sunshine*

Quik Tones will entertain.
Lunch will include chicken
noodle casserole
(prepared by women of
the church)



June
27

Patriotic/ Picnic

Julie Laskoski will make
her first appearance at
Gathering Place so let's
give her a big GP welcome.
Lunch will be ham and
turkey sandwiches and
watermelon.

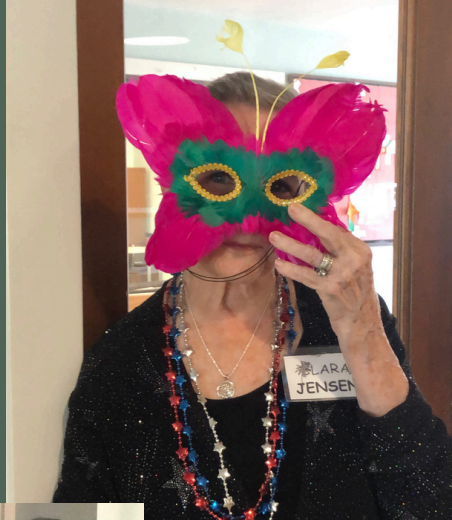


July
25

*Beach Theme.
Bikinis optional*

Lunch will be pasta
salad. We will have
another first time
entertainer at Gathering
Place – Dennis Evans.

Gathering Place February - May 2024



Serving God as we Serve John Knox

Officer of the Day

May 5 Venetta Godwin
May 12 Lynn Wolff
May 19 Jim McGough
May 26 David Lewallen
Jun 2 Cheri Jantzen
Jun 9 Scott Kerns
Jun 16 Susan Smith
Jun 23 James McElhinney
Jun 30 Dave Jantzen
Jul 7 Venetta Godwin
Jul 14 Sue Kessler
Jul 21 Lynn Wolff
Jul 28 Jim McGough

Liturgist*

May 5 Alan Keese
May 12 Robin Henry
May 19 Debbi Englade
May 26 James McElhinney
Jun 2 Alan Keese
Jun 9 David Lewallen
Jun 16 Dave Jantzen
Jun 23 James McElhinney
Jun 30 David Lewallen
Jul 7 Robin Henry
Jul 14 Dave Jantzen
Jul 21 Debbi Englade
Jul 28 James McElhinney

Sound Technician

May 5 Scott Kerns
May 12 Susan Smith
May 19 Shirley Williamson
May 26 Scott Kerns
Jun 2 Susan Smith
Jun 9 Lynn Wolff
Jun 16 Wendell Zumwalt
Jun 23 Susan Smith
Jun 30 Shirley Williamson
Jul 7 Scott Kerns
Jul 14 Lynn Wolff
Jul 21 Wendell Zumwalt
Jul 28 Susan Smith

Ushers

May 5 Zumwalts
May 12 Nancy Holcomb
Ann Eldredge
May 19 Connie Powell
Venetta Godwin
May 26 Lynn Wolff
Bob Lopez
Jun 2 Scott Kerns
Jun 9 Zumwalts
Jun 16 Ann Eldredge
Nancy Holcomb
Jun 23 Connie Powell
Venetta Godwin
Jun 30 David Lewallen
Scott Kerns
Jul 7 Lynn Wolff
Bob Lopez
Jul 14 Nancy Holcomb
Ann Eldredge
Jul 21 Connie Powell
Venetta Godwin
Jul 28 Zumwalts

Coffee servers

May 5 Lynn Wolff
Bob Lopez
May 12
May 19 Clara Jensen
Sandy Abdou
May 26 Lisa Pena and family
Jun 2 Sue Kessler
Maru Stogner
Jun 9 Zumwalts
Jun 16 Clara Jensen
Sandy Abdou
Jun 23 Debbi Englade
Jan Thomas
Jun 30 Lynn Wolff
Bob Lopez
Jul 7 Lisa Pena and family
Jul 14 Zumwalts
Jul 21 Debbi Englade
Jan Thomas
Jul 28 Clara Jensen
Sandy Abdou

Money Counters

May 5 Zumwalts
May 12 Jim McGough
May 19 Shirley Williamson
May 26 Connie Powell
Jun 2 Zumwalts
Jun 9 Jim McGough
Jun 16 Shirley Williamson
Jun 23 Connie Powell
Jun 30 Zumwalts
Jul 7 Jim McGough
Jul 14 Shirley Williamson
Jul 21 Connie Powell
Jul 28 Zumwalts

Elder of the Day

May 5 David Lewallen
May 12 Dave Jantzen
May 19 Debbi Englade
May 26 Angela Speer
Jun 2 David Lewallen
Jun 9 Robin Henry
Jun 16 Scott Kerns
Jun 23 Dave Jantzen
Jun 30 Angela Speer
Jul 7 David Lewallen
Jul 14 Scott Kerns
Jul 21 Debbi Englade
Jul 28 Angela Speer

Communion Servers

May 5 Connie Powell,
Amber Vale, James
McElhinney, Lynn Wolff, Jim
McGough (Choir)
Jun 2 Scott Kerns , Venetta
Godwin, Robin Henry, Susan
Smith, James McElhinney
(Choir)
Jul 7 Venetta Godwin,
Scott Kerns, Lynn Wolff,
Connie Powell, Cheri Jantzen
(Choir)


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DATED MATERIAL



Newsletter Articles are due July 25th for the August newsletter.



HO, HO, HO, we will be celebrating Christmas in July again this year. We will fill the Seafarer's boxes on July 14 and have Christmas carols and snacks. Please mark your checks designating the seafarer's boxes. If you prefer to shop that is fine also. Please turn in all donations by June 16, this will allow us see how many boxes and supplies we will need. In 2023, we filled 24 boxes! Contact Shirley for more information 713-460-0316.