

# JEFFERSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our mission is to make ROCK-SOLID disciples of Jesus Christ to change Jackson County and the world. We Become Disciples when we Celebrate! Connect! and Contribute!

Published September 17, 2019

Make time this Fall to  
**Celebrate! Connect! Contribute!**

## A Note from Pastor Chris Laskey

### The Nearness of the Father

Saturday, September 7th ended up being a pretty great day: it was my very first trip to Sanford Stadium and the newly dedicated 'Dooley Field'. My Uncle Juergen had called me a couple weeks before the game and asked me if I wanted to go with him, that he had found some tickets on-line. I said, "Absolutely!" I wanted to go for a number of reasons: I had never been before, I love spending time with my Uncle, and I am now a Georgia fan by association as my 2nd oldest son, Emerson, just started his first year at UGA as an 'Ag Dawg'. Not only was September 7th to be my first time at a UGA game, but Emerson put his name in for the student ticket lottery and got season home tickets so he had plans to go with some friends to his first UGA game, as well.

Wikipedia tells me that the "92,746-seat stadium is the tenth-largest stadium in the NCAA... And Sanford stadium is the 11th largest stadium in the United States and the 17th-largest such stadium in the world." I don't know if that's accurate, but that's what Wikipedia says, so it's gotta be true. Regardless, Sanford stadium is a BIG stadium and there were THOUSANDS of people at the game on September 7th (and it was 1000° degrees that day, BTW...so hot!).

My Uncle and I made our way into the Stadium about 30 minutes before the game. We got some food. We found our way to section 108, row 14, seats 23 & 24. Once we got situated, I looked over my left shoulder and about 5 feet from where I was sitting was my son, Emerson. With 92,746 seats in Sanford stadium, what are the chances that we would only be separated by 2 rows and 5 seats? I thought it was awesome! Emerson, *not so much*.

During that experience, I couldn't help but recall Psalm 139, where David says, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the Heavens, you are there. If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I go to a colosseum with my buddies and there are 92,746 seats, you are right there, right beside me..." David didn't actually say that last part, but you get the gist. How awesome it is to be loved so much by our Father in Heaven, and to know that He is *never far from us*. Be Encouraged!



## Jefferson First United Methodist Church Sunday Services

9:30 am Modern Worship at the Outpost Campus, Jackson County Comprehensive Highschool

11:00 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

## ADULT Discipleship

Connect Groups are now meeting. We have **115 people** participating in groups! Regret not signing up for one!?! The following groups are just beginning and still have room for a few more :) Contact Alice @ 770-307-6098 to join or get more information!

**UncomMEN - Men's Group** - We will gather on Thursday mornings on the Ebenezer Church campus for Bible study and prayer; 6-7 am. Location: 1368 Ebenezer Church Road, Jefferson. Leader: Pastor Brent Gilstrap

**Walking Down God's Path** - Hiking and Bible Study Walking Along God's Path with the Holy Spirit as Our Guide: As Christians travel along life's path; meeting on six Thursday evenings at 7pm and have six different hikes on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons (first hike is 9/28 at 8am). All skill levels are welcome—to participate in the hikes you should be able to walk 4-5 miles and have a good pair of shoes. Planned meetings are these Thursdays: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/31, 11/14, 11/21. Leader: Tom Riggsby

**Wednesday Evening Connect Group** - This connect group will meet on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm, for Bible study around the sermon from the previous Sunday. Great opportunity to get to know people and grow in wisdom as you study God's word. Location: Church Office, 57 Cooley Ave., across the street from the church.

**Birds on a Wire – For Moms of Younger Children** - We will meet weekly on the JFUMC campus at 9 am. Through short videos, sharing, and prayer we hope to grow in our faith and support each other as we strive to be great moms. Childcare provided. Leader: Elizabeth Varnedoe

**Sunday Morning Connect Group Bible Study for 55+** - Short-term Bible study for senior adults age 55+. This is a great opportunity to build relationships and to learn more about the scriptures. Location: JFUMC, 9:45 a.m. Leaders: James Keith, Mary Fitzpatrick

### Ongoing Sunday School Classes—ALL Welcome visitors:

Standing Stones – 8:30 Room E2 (Multi Generational)  
Open Door – 9:45 Room E2 (Multi Generational) - see below for more information about new study  
Stan Escoe – 9:45 Room E (Senior Adults)

**The Open Door Sunday School Class** recently began a study by Max Lucado, called "Max on Life." For 25 years men and women have turned to Max Lucado for answers, encouragement, and insight into every facet of their lives. Together with Max they've journeyed through life's most exciting and challenging times—births, deaths, financial ups and downs, spiritual quests, and relational adventures. And Max has become a trusted advisor, pastor, and friend in times of need. Now, more than ever, Max's wisdom is needed to help readers navigate the tumults of every-day life. Different topics are addressed each week using a DVD format and class discussion. Please join us at 9:45 a.m. in room E-2. All ages, couples and singles, are welcome. Light refreshments are available each week.

## Children

**9/25: Art Night!** The kids will have an opportunity to create some free art after supper with a wide variety of craft supplies, collage materials, paint and more. \*Please come dressed to make a mess!\*

**10/9: Wednesday Night Fall Fun** activities! Stick around after Café & Connections for some fun stem projects and a fall craft.

**10/23: Trunk-or-Treat!** Bring your neighbors or a friend and come enjoy supper, a costume parade, and some fun trunk-or-treating in your best non-scary costume. It's so much fun when we have a parking lot full of decorated cars so please let Renee know if you would be willing to decorate your car and/or provide candy and other small goodies for that evening. Dinner starts at 5:45; Costume Parade in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30; Trunk-or-Treat in lower parking lot from 6:45-8:00.

**Pumpkin Patch:** It's time once again for the Children & Youth's only fundraiser for the year! Please show your support for these ministries by coming to help unload pumpkins and signing up for a shift or two at the pumpkin patch in the month of October. In total there are only 62 short time slots to fill so let's see if we can get it filled before the pumpkins even get here! Below are the important dates to note and the links to sign up. You can also call Renee Hilley or the church office if you would like to sign up for a shift and would rather do so over the phone instead of online. *Located at 87 Davis Street, across from Jefferson Elementary School*

**Pumpkin Unloading Day:** Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS AND HELPS AT THE UNLOADING WILL RECEIVE A FREE PUMPKIN PATCH TSHIRT WITH A NEW & FUN DESIGN! We will have jobs for all ages and ability levels. If possible (but not required) please sign up to attend so we can try to have your shirt ready to give you that day.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a8ad28a3f85-pumpkin>  
Pumpkin Patch Sign Up: Working a shift at the Pumpkin Patch is easy and fun! All you need to bring is a water bottle and a smile and we'll tell you everything else you need to know! All shifts are around two to three hours but you are welcome to split a shift with someone if you'd like.

The patch will be open:  
Sundays 12:00-7:30pm  
Monday-Friday 3:30-7:30  
Saturdays 10:00-7:30

Please use this sign up link or call Renee or Danelle to sign up for a shift  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a8ad28a3f85-2019>

Save the Date: **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>. More information about practices will be coming soon. If you would like to help in the production and planning of this event, please let Renee know.

For more information about any events, please contact Renee Hilley at 404-372-6796 or renee@jfumc.com

## YOUTH NEWS

**Do you have a youth in grades 6-12?** If so, please use the following link to sign up for news and updates! We will keep you informed on gatherings, events, and all the fun things going on.

- For Middle School Youth Group: text 81010 to @6a7c42
- For High School Youth Group: text 81010 to @6288kc

### Youth Currently Meet as follows:

Middle School - Sundays, 4-6p; JFUMC Fellowship Hall,  
High School - Sundays, a special faith study at Pastor Chris's house from 6-8p (621 Jefferson Blvd.).

### Pumpkin Patch to help fund Youth special events!!

It's time once again for the Children & Youth's only fundraiser for the year! Please show your support for these ministries by coming to help unload pumpkins and signing up for a shift or two at the pumpkin patch in the month of October. In total there are only 62 short time slots to fill so let's see if we can get it filled before the pumpkins even get here! And if you help unload you get a FREE T-shirt!! See the Children's section for details and links and please help support our only fundraiser!!

**Special Opportunity for Middle School Youth Families: Stronger Families** - This group is designed for families of middle school youth-age children (6th-8th grade). Families will gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a casual meal and fun conversation starters that help families communicate and become a healthier, stronger family. Nursery provided for children under 8. Meet One Wednesday Each Month: October 16th, November 20, December 18  
Cost \$10 per family. Location: JFUMC, 188 Martin Street

To learn more or ask questions about our youth ministry, please contact Alice Lipscomb, 770-307-6098.

### Come and Be | September 22

**Membership Sunday for the Traditional Campus**—Sunday, September 22 will be a Membership Sunday at the 11:00 worship service for anyone interested in joining the church. Contact Pastor Chris at [chris@jfumc.com](mailto:chris@jfumc.com) or 706-983-2416 with any questions!

**Baptism & Belonging for the Outpost Campus**—Sunday, September 22 will be a time for anyone desiring baptism, remembering of their baptism or membership at the Outpost Campus. Contact Pastor Chris, [chris@outpost129.com](mailto:chris@outpost129.com) or 706-983-2416 for more information on options, including full immersion baptism for those interested.

## Service Opportunities

Make Service a part of your life! Contact Renee Hilley, 404-372-6796 for more information!

### Operation Christmas Child

OCC is only 9 weeks away! Please continue to bring items in for our upcoming Packing Party. Contact Renee on ways in which you can be a part of this joyful ministry...Prayer Team, help during National Collection Week, etc.

Important OCC Dates:  
September: bring in hygiene items  
October: bring in toys, games, puzzles

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Operation Christmas Child team meeting at JFUMC in E-2 at 4:00.  
November 6<sup>th</sup>: OCC Film Festival following Wednesday Night Café & Connections  
November 10<sup>th</sup>: JFUMC & Outpost Packing Party at JFUMC Fellowship Hall 2:00-3:00  
November 17<sup>th</sup>: JFUMC & Outpost Church Collection Sunday  
November 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>: National Collection Week

### iServe Dates:

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>: Pendergrass  
Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: Athens  
Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: Commerce

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: Pendergrass  
Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: Athens

### Our Daily Bread Dates:

Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

## Women's Book Club

Do you love to read? Book Club is a drop-in any month type of club—read and come any month you are able and enjoy fellowship with other bibliophiles! We have a variety of books chosen for the next few months—choose one or all of them to read and join us. Text, call or email Tiersa Laskey, 770-519-5399 or [334sunshine@gmail.com](mailto:334sunshine@gmail.com) for more information and addresses.

**Thursday, September 19th**, 6:30p at the home of Elaine Roller—we will discuss *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty

**Tuesday, October 15th**, 6:30p at the home of Tiersa Laskey—we will discuss *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

**November** (Date TBA) at the home of Pam Henley—we will discuss *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle

**December** (Date TBA) at the home of Linda Baccell—we will have our annual Used Book White Elephant Book Swap Christmas Party and discuss *The One-In-A-Million-Boy* by Monica Wood

Fill your fall with books and join this multi generational and multi-church group of avid and not-so-avid readers: :)

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY

### Christmas Cantata!

The Christmas Cantata "Everlasting Light" will be presented December 15th at the 11:00am morning service. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:30p. This is a wonderful way to prepare for and celebrate the joy of Christmas. We would love to have you with us. Step out of the box and use your talent with a great group of singers as we praise and celebrate the Christmas Season. Contact Carole Frankum ([carole@jfumc.com](mailto:carole@jfumc.com)), any choir member, or just show up!!

### Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir always welcomes new members. We meet at 7:00pm each Wednesday evening.

Contact Carole Frankum at [carole@jfumc.com](mailto:carole@jfumc.com) or see her following worship any week!

## Additional News & Information

You're invited to the  
**Ladies Picnic Lunch**  
hosted by the Ruth Circle  
**Sunday, September 29 at 12:30pm**  
JFUMC Fellowship Hall  
RSVP: 225-963-4757

### Outreach Ministry

Hey guys, Let's all help out to the following we are in the community and want them to worship! If you would like to help out at one of the following outreach events, please text/call Alice Lipscomb | 770-307-6098.

- Fall Festival, October 26: Give out free popcorn
- Pumpkin Patch, Month of October: Two hours greeting people and selling pumpkins, making scarecrows to sell, or helping as needed to fill slots to man the patch. We need people to help unload pumpkins on October 5th!
- Serve in concessions at the Jefferson High School football game on October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Deliver pumpkins to merchants during the week of October 7th

### Café & Connections

Don't miss out on fellowship and fun with your church family at our twice monthly dinners. Upcoming dates:  
9/25—Dinner, followed by fellowship for youth and adults and Art Night for the kids  
10/9—Dinner, followed by fellowship and youth and adults and Fall Crafts for the kids  
10/23—Truck or Treat! - Plan now to decorate a trunk to bring joy to kids in our church and community!

### Church Chicks

Church Chicks continues to be an open group for any women! Would you like more fellowship with other Christian women? Bring a snack and join us for the next one on **Wednesday, October 17th at 5:45pm** at the home of Pam Henley, 165 Thornhill Circle, Jefferson. Contact Kim Theberge at 404-805-3416 for more information!

### A Note from our Lay Leader, Martha Shannon-Tonge

We have a small herd of sheep on our farm. Along with the sheep, we have sheepdogs. So, my ears perked up when I heard "PC"—that's Pastor Chris—mention sheepdogs in a sermon a few weeks ago. Since then, I have been mulling over his sermon, along with the words in 1 Peter. (By the way, it's an easy to read book with some clear messages in it, so dive in!) Sheepdogs can always be found near the flock. While the sheep are grazing, the dog is either watching carefully or patrolling for signs of trouble. Often times, their presence or a bark of warning is enough to keep the flock safe from attack. They have keen senses of hearing, sight and smell. They are confident and powerful in their guardian role. Sheep herding dogs are always on alert for instruction from the shepherd or sheep moving in the wrong direction. They influence the speed at which the herd travels. Herding dogs are agile and focused, never distracted. The job of a sheepdog is instinctual. The dog is compelled to act. Of course, if a dog is improperly trained or goes against instruction, the outcome can be brutal. But a shepherd working sheep with his dog is amazing to witness. It's a partnership built on respect and love with efficient, safe results.

This is an interesting comparison to following Jesus as his disciples. When Jesus gets inside our hearts and we develop a meaningful relationship with God our Father, we become more sheep dog than sheep. I am glad and thankful to worship and serve with you. Let's lift up prayer together for the kingdom of God!

"Once you were not a people, but now you are a people of God, once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:10 "As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for human desires, but rather for the will of God." 1 Peter 4:2

Contact: Martha Shannon-Tonge | 706-654-7646 | [shannonvs@shannonvetservices.com](mailto:shannonvs@shannonvetservices.com)

Find out more, register for events, and give at:

**JFUMC.com OR Outpost129.com**

Follow us on Facebook:

**Jefferson First United Methodist Church OR Outpost**

### Our Church Staff and Contact Information

188 Martin Street, Jefferson, GA 30549 | 706-367-8667 | fax: 706-367-5843 | [jfumc.com](mailto:jfumc.com)  
Office Hours | 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Senior Pastor Rev. Chris Laskey | 706-983-2416 | [chris@jfumc.com](mailto:chris@jfumc.com)  
Director of Youth, Outreach & Discipleship Alice Lipscomb | 770-307-6098 | [alice@jfumc.com](mailto:alice@jfumc.com)  
Director of Children's & Service Ministries Renee Hilley | 404-372-6796 | [renee@jfumc.com](mailto:renee@jfumc.com)  
Office Manager Danelle Gragg | 706-248-3564 | [danelle@jfumc.com](mailto:danelle@jfumc.com)  
Preschool Director Trina Riggott | 706-247-3899 | [trina@jfumc.com](mailto:trina@jfumc.com)  
Choir Director Carole Frankum | 706-677-1570 | [carole@jfumc.com](mailto:carole@jfumc.com)  
Outpost Worship Leader Kevin Whitfield | 706-248-0603 | [kevin@jfumc.com](mailto:kevin@jfumc.com)  
Accompanist Crystal Tucker | Beth Rector | Jan Purgason  
Nursery Staff Becky Kyle | Nicole Nash

For questions or additional information, or to remove your name from our distribution list, please contact the JFUMC office at [jfumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:jfumcoffice@gmail.com) or call 706.367.8667