

St. John's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION

Good Neighbors, Sharing the Good News

MESSAGE

Ascend

"Our Eyes Look to the Lord our God"

DATE

November 16th, 2025

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Color | Green

WORSHIP GUIDE

NEW HERE?

WELCOME GUESTS

If you are interested in getting to know us, please provide information you are comfortable sharing via our online sign-in link on our website; stjohnsumc.org/worship, scan the QR code on the back of your worship guide, or fill out the “guest card” located at the end of the pew, and place it in the offering plate. **Questions?** Church Office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org

NURSERY SERVICE | Room 103

Children, newborn through 5, are welcome in the nursery during the 10:45 AM worship service. The nursery staff kindly asks all parents to sign-in each Sunday and leave a cell phone number in case they need to contact you during the service. Also, please clearly label all of your child's important belongings. **Questions?** Allie Cobb; allie.cobb@stjohnsumc.org

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kid's Club House

During our 10:45 AM worship service, children from kindergarten to 5th Grade will be dismissed to participate in our Deep Blue Sunday School curriculum, led by our Safe Gatherings certified teachers. If your child(ren) is new to class, please feel free to accompany them to our classroom and meet their teacher. Should you decide to have your child attend Sunday School, you can ask an usher for directions to room 203 (Kid's Club House) after the worship service. **Questions?** Allie Cobb; allie.cobb@stjohnsumc.org **On the 3rd Sunday of the month, all children and youth are invited to participate in our service during Sunday School. Our children and youth will help cook and provide a meal for our friends at Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N).*

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

8:30 AM WORSHIP | Chapel

9:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL | Sanctuary
PATHWAYS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL | 205

10:45 AM WORSHIP | Sanctuary and Virtual
NURSERY CARE | 103
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kid's Clubhouse

MEMBERS & GUESTS

Please register your presence on the attendance pads at the end of your pew, scan the QR code on the back of the Worship Guide, or visit our website: stjohnsumc.org/worship.

MAKE SOME NOISE FOR MISSIONS

Loose change in the offering plate is used to support our local and international missions, service, and justice efforts including the Missouri United Methodist Conference's Mozambique Initiative. For more information on the Mozambique Initiative visit mzinitiative.com.



SERVING

THIS WEEK | 11.16.2025

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | Sharon Curtright

USHERS | Jay Curtright
Sharon Curtright

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Dennis Young

USHERS | Annette Young
Dennis Young

NEXT WEEK | 11.23.2025

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | Sharon Curtright

USHERS | Jay Curtright
Sharon Curtright

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Marilyn Senter

USHERS | Margaret Smith
Gary Whitmer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE | *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*² | setting by John Purifoy, 1997
St. John's Ringers; Cheri Leigh, director; Dale Morehouse, piano

Bells, a Baroque classic, an inspired Solo, and a rousing Spiritual enrich our Fall Worship this Sunday.

INTROIT (10:45) | *Hallelujah, Amen, from JUDAS MACCABEUS* | music by G. F. Handel, 1746 | Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, conductor and pianist

Our introit, “*Hallelujah, Amen*” is the final chorus of **G. F. Handel’s** great 1746 oratorio JUDAS MACCABEUS, based on the life of one of the greatest warriors in Jewish history. This hymn of rejoicing commemorates the restoration of Jewish worship at the temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE, and this is the central theme for the Jewish feast of Hanukkah (“Dedication”). For us, it is an invitation for all to unite in worship and “in songs divine harmonious join.”

*Hallelujah, amen.
O Judah, rejoice in songs divine,
with cherubim and seraphim harmonious join.*
(words by Thomas Morrell, 1746)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME & INVITATIONS | Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

Worship Symbol Notes

* | All are invited to rise in spirit and, as you are able, please stand

BLUE TEXT indicates 10:45 AM Worship Service only.

*OPENING HYMN | *A Mighty Fortress* | UMH 110 (1, 2, 4)

1. A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los-ing,
3. And though this world, with dev-ils filled, should threat-en to un-do us,
4. That word a-bove all earth-ly powers, no thanks to them, a-bid-eth;

our help-er he a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos-ing.
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri-umph through us.
the Spir-it and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sid-eth.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba -
The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y

power are great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
oth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
can en - dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit-tle word shall fell him.
they may kill; God's truth a - bid-eth still; his king-dom is for - ev - er.

WORDS: Martin Luther, ca. 1529; trans. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853 (Ps. 46)
MUSIC: Martin Luther, ca. 1529; harm. from *The New Hymnal for American Youth*, 1930

EIN' FESTE BURG
87.87.66.667

***CALL TO WORSHIP | Allie Cobb, Director of Family Ministries**

Leader | The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

People | **Come let us adore him.**

Leader | Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

People | **Come let us adore him.**

Leader | The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People | **Come let us adore him.**

Leader | Lord, open our lips.

People | **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader | Lord, open our eyes.

People | **That we might behold your glory and worship you.**

ALL | **Amen.**

(The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd ed., Baker Books: Grand Rapids, pg. 53)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*HYMN OF PRAISE (10:45) | *Spirit Song*² | UMH 347

Unison Gmaj7 Gmaj7/F# Em7 A7 A7/G

1. O let the Son of God en-fold you with his
 (2. O come and) sing this song with glad-ness as your

F#m7 Bm7 Em7

Spir - it and his love. Let him fill your heart and
 hearts are filled with joy. Lift your hands in sweet sur -

A7 D Dmaj7 Em7 F#m7 Gmaj7 Gmaj7/F#

sat - is - fy your soul. O let him have the things that
 ren - der to his name. O give him all your tears and

Em7 A7 A7/G F#m7 Bm7

hold you, and his Spir - it like a dove will de -
 sad - ness; give him all your years of pain, and you'll

WORDS: John Wimber, 1979
 MUSIC: John Wimber, 1979

© 1979 Mercy Publishing

SPIRIT SONG
 9 7 11 D

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Em G6/A G/A A7 D C/D D

scend up-on your life and make you whole.
en - ter in - to life in Je - sus' name.

Refrain
Gmaj7 A7 A9/G F#m7 Bm

Je - sus, O Je - sus,

Em7 A7 Dmaj7 C/D D

come and fill your lambs.

Gmaj7 A7 A9/G F#m7 Bm

Je - sus, O Je - sus,

Em7 G6/A G/A D 1 2

come and fill your lambs. 2. O come and

ORDER OF WORSHIP

BAPTISM AND RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

(New Members – 8:30am) – I present **Brad** and **Sheila Blodgett** who come to join with this congregation of the United Methodist Church.

(Baptism - 10:45am) – **Justin** and **Megan** - what name has been given to the child that you present today for baptism? **Ellie Lynn Evans**

To prospective new member(s) or responding parents:

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

- Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers in this world, and repent of your sins? **I do.**
- Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**
- Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races? **I do.**
- **(10:45am only)** Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

(10:45am only) To the congregation:

- Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**
- Will you nurture one another in Christian faith and love and include this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

(10:45am only) Let us pray: Pour out your Holy Spirit to bless this gift of water and on those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness through their lives, that dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory. Amen.

Ellie Lynn Evans, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Continued on page 8

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of the water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen

(8:30 am and 10:45am) To the congregation and family: Congregation please join me in the commendation and welcome.

Members of the household of God, I commend Brad and Sheila Blodgett, and Ellie Lynn Evans to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our faithful witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT & *DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

***Allie Cobb, Director of Family Ministries | Kids/Youth Service Sunday**

**On the 3rd Sunday of the month, all children and youth are invited to participate in our service during Sunday School. Our children and youth will help cook and provide a meal for our friends at Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N) of Kansas City.*

PRAYER JOYS

Thank you **Christine Copeland** for donating donuts for today's Youth Donut Sale. All proceeds go towards items purchased and prepared by St. John's Kids & Youth for Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City.

Congratulations to the Evans family for the baptism of **Ellie Lynn Evans**.

Welcome, **Brad and Shelia Blodgett**, to the St. John's Faith Community. Thank you for entrusting us with your faith journey.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Stephanie Toigo

Don Bennett | Husband of Donna Bennett (Huffman UMC)

Elder Rev. Sherry Habben

Continued on page 9

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Friends and Family of Reverend Elroy Henry Hines | on his death

Lynda Hoffman | Mother of Tiffany Hoffman

Jenny Wolff

Darren Wallace and his family | Uncle of Grace Mott, and Brother of David Wallace

Rosa Maria Luque | Mother of PDO Teacher Blanca Quinto

Douglas and Christine Young | Sue Young's Son and Daughter-in-law

Mark McMillen | Cousin of Jill Gardner and Nephew of Max Miller

Marilyn McMillen | Aunt of Jill Gardner and Sister of Max Miller

Marci Allen | Sister of Laura Jones

Ken and Mary Gray | Parents of Margaret Hoffman

Paula Shafer | Aunt of Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

Chris Mueller

Lazarus | Grandson of Bill and Gretchen Longmire

Crystal Vines

Shirley Thorn

Marcia Kelly | Friend of Linda Potter

Luke Karel | Friend of Cindy & Barry Mayhew

Linda Edwards | Friend of Ginny Miller

Susan Lovell | Mother of Mason Paoli

Those in Hospice Care, their families, and caregivers

Those Dealing with Dementia, their families & caregivers

UMC Hospice Program in Mongolia

Our Pastors & Other Church Leaders

Northwest District Superintendent, Reverend Robin Roderick Bell

Missouri Conference Bishop, Bob Farr

Lionzuane UMC in Mozambique and Pastor Moises Jeremias Manhique

Worldwide Unrest and Persecution

Those who live on the margins of society

Those serving in the Military and all First Responders

Petty Officer 2nd Class, Dominic Gattorna

Those impacted by natural disasters

Those suffering at the hands of others

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SOLO | *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*² | words and music by Jay Althouse, 1992
Sam Enriquez, baritone; Dale Morehouse, piano

North Carolina resident **Jay Althouse** received a B.S. degree in Music Education and an M.Ed. degree in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has more than 700 works in print for choirs of all levels. He is the co-writer, with his wife, Sally, of *I Hear America Singing*, a choral work performed by the San Francisco Girls and Boys Choirs at the Inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20, 2009. “***Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You***” is a song confirming our reliance on God’s blessings, drawing from Romans 12 and Matthew 15.

*Lord, I stretch my hands to you; no other help I know.
If you should leave me all alone, where, then, shall I go?
Oh, Lord, I give my soul to you; I seek your care and love.
No other blessings do I need but those from you above.
Lord, I ask you: give me faith and help me understand.
And, Lord, when I this life shall leave, just hold me in your hand.
Lord, I stretch my hands to you; no other help I know.
If you should leave me all alone, where, then, shall I go?
Oh, Lord, I stretch my hands to you. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 123¹ | NRSVUE

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

READER | The Word of God for the people of God
PEOPLE | Thanks be to God

¹“Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

MESSAGE | Ascend “Our Eyes Look to the Lord Our God” | Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

GENEROSITY MOMENT

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:45) | Great Day! | African-American spiritual arranged by Paul Christiansen, 1993 | Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, conductor

“Great Day!”—All through the Bible there are references to “the day of the Lord.” Usually the meaning is that of the final day of judgment, a day when all things will be set right. This “day,” therefore, would be a symbol of hope to enslaved people, and certainly freedom, justice, conquest, deliverance, and judgment must have been ever present in their minds.

“God’s going to build up Zion’s walls”—Specifically this phrase would seem to reference the return of exiled Jews to Jerusalem (“Zion” refers literally to Jerusalem but generally to God’s kingdom), when they were given permission and support by Cyrus, king of Persia in around 540 BC to rebuild the walls that had been destroyed in the siege of the city by Nebuchadnezzar.

“The chariot rode on the mountain top/My God spoke and the chariot did stop”—This line has to be at least partly a reference to the prophet Elijah’s being taken up into heaven: If God took Elijah up into Heaven from earth, might He not do the same for the enslaved?

“This is the year of jubilee/The Lord has set His people free”—Under Mosaic law, as codified in the book of Leviticus, there was to be a general release of all debts and a freeing of all slaves: On a spiritual and a physical plane, the slave hoped as he or she sang these words that God would indeed bring about this freedom.

This setting is by noted Lutheran composer and conductor Paul Christiansen, whom I once beat handily at tennis. Of course, he was 80 and I was 24. Still, for me it was another Great Day!

Refrain:

*Great day! Great day, the righteous marching;
Great day! God’s going to build up Zion’s walls!
Great day! Great day, the righteous marching;
Great day! God’s going to build up Zion’s walls!*

Continued on page 12

ORDER OF WORSHIP

1 The chariot rode on the mountain top,
God's going to build up Zion's walls!
My God spoke and the chariot did stop,
God's goin' to build up Zion's walls! [Refrain]

2 This is the day of jubilee,
God's going to build up Zion's walls!
The Lord has set His people free,
God's going to build up Zion's walls! [Refrain]

(Traditional Spiritual)

*DOXOLOGY | Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow | UMH 95

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 2/2 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men." The score consists of three systems of staves, each with a treble and bass line. The music is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the third system.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100th
LM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*HYMN OF SENDING FORTH | *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* | UMH 381 (1, 2, 4)

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we
 2. We are thine, thou dost be - friend us, be the
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and
 4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly

need thy ten - der care; in thy pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; thou hast mer - cy to re -
 let us do thy will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare.
 fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
 Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! We will
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast

WORDS: Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836 (Jn. 10:1-29)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

BRADBURY
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

bought us, thine we are. Bless - ed Je - sus,
hear us when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
ear - ly turn to thee. Bless - ed Je - sus,
loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,

bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
bless - ed Je - sus! We will ear - ly turn to thee.
bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE | Dale Morehouse, organ

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GOING DEEPER

November 17th to November 22nd

Scripture Reading(s) for the week: Psalm 123; Psalm 141:8-10; Amos 6:4-7

A couple of weeks ago, I shared with you a part of my biography, however, I was reminded by someone that I did not close the loop. I did not tell you the full story, particularly how I went from feeling ineligible for ministry to rehearing my call, and now actually being in ministry. Well, this week's sermon rounded that out for everyone and if you would like to hear the rest of my story, check out the recording for our November 16th worship service on christianworldmedia.com/livechannel/StJohnsUMCKC.

My friend and colleague, Rev. Laura Murphy recently preached here at St. John's. You might recall that she challenged us to think about summing up our story in six words. I thought about mine and the six words that I settled on are "I know how I got here." In one form, I have arrived at the place God wants me to be. However, in another sense, I have yet to arrive.

One of the things that I constantly remind myself of is the fact that I am on a journey. I have not arrived at the final destination or a place of completion. There is still much work that God wants to do in my heart and life – if I am willing to let God do that. I think complacency is our greatest nemesis. We feel steady, okay with, or comfortable and so we stop working on what could be. The author, Jim Collins once said that "good is the enemy of great." Just good enough causes us to stop and maybe even neglect what could be, even in our spiritual lives.

The writer of this Psalm of ascent knew that he could not make it all on his own. His purpose was to come to Jerusalem, to praise God, to experience God's blessing, but also to seek God's help. His quest was to overcome those who persecuted him, to move past their contempt and scorn. His adversaries thought they knew more or knew better and that the writer was somehow below them, worthy of their prideful disdain.

If there is anything that I feel about our environment today, it is this – there is ample prideful disdain on display. We can be quick to judge others because of differing views on politics, culture, religion, and more. Christians even have the temerity to tell other Christians exactly how they are to interpret the Gospel and live it out. Personally, if I am going to look for direction on what it means to be transformed and to live like Jesus, it probably won't be laterally. Instead, I think I will follow the example of the Psalmist and direct my eyes to "look to the Lord our God."

I invite you to take time and read each of the scriptures above followed by reflection on the questions below. Consider what it means to look to God for deliverance and growth in this life. Lastly, I pray that God bless the reading of God's Word and the meditations of your heart.

GOING DEEPER

Questions to Consider this week:

- **Monday:** Do you read self-help books or articles? Why?
- **Tuesday:** What secular piece of advice do you try to live in to each day?
- **Wednesday:** What has to happen to you for you to look to the Lord your God?
- **Thursday:** Have you ever been the subject of someone's scorn or disdain? Where did you turn for help?
- **Friday:** When has God been your help?
- **Saturday:** How are you seeking God in order to continue to grow and be more like Jesus?

Actions for the Week:

- **Head:** Write down who you trust and seek counsel from to resolve conflict.
- **Heart:** Discern the state of your spiritual journey – is it stagnant or growing.
- **Hand:** Take time to look to the Lord for guidance, wisdom, and help in becoming the person God desires you to become.

Prayer: We follow the example of the Psalmist and direct our eyes to look to you, the Lord our God. We seek your help and blessing to overcome those who persecute us, moving past their contempt and the ample prideful disdain that is on display. Remind us always that we are on a journey and have not arrived at a place of completion, so we may avoid letting complacency become our greatest nemesis. We are willing to let you do much work in our heart and life, preventing us from neglecting what could be, even in our spiritual lives. We look to you for deliverance and growth in this life as we seek to follow your Son, Jesus. We pray this in his name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If you have thoughts, comments, or questions about today's service or this week's devotional, please e-mail them to jimh@stjohnsumc.org

ST. JOHN'S MUSIC

NOVEMBER 2025

I am offering this monthly report to share our ongoing effort to diversify our musical offerings and the balance we are striving to achieve as we hope to touch your hearts and minds. Special services include All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 2), Thanksgiving Sunday (Nov. 23), and the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30).

Our choral and solo music in November draws from a variety of sources:

Music by the best American composers of traditional church music: "Still, Still with Thee" and "Thanksgiving" by John Ness Beck; "Lord, I Lift My Hands to Thee" by Jay Althouse; "Hope is Dawning on the World" by Larry Schackley; "A Stable Lamp is Lighted" by Michael Larkin; "We Are Called" and "To God Be the Glory" by Mark Hayes

Music by great Classical composers: "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from A GERMAN REQUIEM by Johannes Brahms; "O God Beyond All Praising" by Gustav Holst (arranged by Rodney Abriol); "Hallelujah, Amen" from JUDAS MACCABEUS by G. F. Handel; "Gesù Bambino" by Pietro Yon

Choral Settings of Traditional Spirituals: "Let Us Break Bread Together" by George Lynn; "Great Day" by Paul Christiansen

We also welcome the contribution of the St. John's Ringers under Cheri Leigh, playing John Purifory's arrangement of "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" and Canon John Schaefer who will play for me while I'm in New York City over UMKC's fall break.

Our hymns draw from various sources, as well:

The great traditional hymns of the Protestant Church (what I call the Bedrock of our singing tradition), including those particularly appropriate for Advent and the church's Fall festivals: "For All the Saints," "Come, Let Us Join the Saints Above," "Sing with All the Saints in Glory," "A Mighty Fortress," "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us," "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated," "We Gather Together," "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," "Now Thank We All Our God," "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," "Lift Up Your Heads," the Gloria Patri, and the Doxology sung to "Veni, Emmanuel"

Important new hymns of our lifetimes that we are adding to our faith: "Pass It On," "Here I Am, Lord," "Spirit Song"

The newest liturgy for lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath: "Prepare the Way" by Joel Raney

It is my hope that these reports will convey a useful picture of the breadth of music offered here at St. John's.

Dale Morehouse, Organist and Director of Music Ministries

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY | II.16

- 8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
- 10:45 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Kids/Youth Service Sunday | Brookside Hall
- 12:00 PM Youth Donut Sale | Rotunda

MONDAY | II.17

- 9:00 AM PDO Fall Session
- 9:30 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Prep | Brookside Hall Kitchen
- 11:30 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Served | St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
- 12:30 PM Quilting Group | 205
- 2:15 PM Tippi Toes | Susana Wesley Hall

TUESDAY | II.18

- 9:00 AM PDO Fall Session
- 9:30 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study | 205
- 9:30 AM Mystic Misfits; Contemplative Prayer Group | Brookside Hall
- 10:00 AM Baby Grace and Neighbor 2 Neighbor Drop Off (until 2 PM) | Rotunda
- 11:30 AM Bell Choir | Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Mandolin Orchestra of Kansas City Rehearsal | Brookside Hall

WEDNESDAY | II.19

- 9:00 AM PDO Fall Session
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting | Library
- 6:30 PM Wise Women | Location TBA



**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
FRIDAY E-NEWSLETTER**

THURSDAY | II.20

- 8:00 AM Foundations for Faith | Brookside Hall
- 9:00 AM PDO Fall Session
- 10:00 AM Baby Grace and Neighbor 2 Neighbor Drop Off (until 2 PM) | Rotunda
- 2:15 PM Happy Feet | Susana Wesley Hall
- 6:30 PM Baby Grace Diaper Distribution | Trinity UMC

FRIDAY | II.21

- 1:00 PM Living Streams | Zoom

SATURDAY | II.22

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY | II.23

- 8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
- 10:45 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary

CONNECT WITH US!



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ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

SUN 11.30 Hanging of the Greens ~ “All I Could Say was ‘Yes!’ (Mary)”

SAT 12.6 Happy Birthday Jesus

SUN 12.7 “Surrounded by Family; I Felt Alone (Joseph)”

SUN 12.14 Christmas Cantata ~ A Christmas Trilogy (No 8:30 AM Service)

SUN 12.21 “Their Song Took Away My Fear (Shepherds)”

SUN 12.24 Christmas Eve - “Rome Counts; Power Shifts; God Saves (Travelers)”

4:00 PM - Live Nativity Christmas Eve Service

6:00 PM - Traditional Christmas Eve Service

As the story goes, **Ernest Hemingway** was once challenged to tell a story in six words. Purportedly, his response was “**For sale: baby shoes, never worn.**” The former SMITH magazine re-ignited the challenge asking readers to submit their own six-word memoirs. Subscribers did and they crossed the spectrum from the bittersweet (cursed with cancer; blessed with friends), poignant (I still make coffee for two), to the inspirational (business school – bah; pop music – hurrah!) This phenomenon took on a life of its own and replaced SMITH magazine with a project called the Six Word Memoir.



If you consider the well-known story of Jesus’ birth and the various people who watched heaven come to earth, each one of them might have a **six-word memoir** from their unique experience. As we journey through the season of Advent and Christmas, we will wrestle with a suggestion of what they might say and how we might see the story through their eyes and words. I invite you to join me as we consider these stories, what they say, and how we might also express our view of the Christmas story.

Come and join us this Advent beginning **with the Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, November 30th** as we read and reflect on the **Christmas Story** and those who tell us their version.

“SIX WORDS” CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

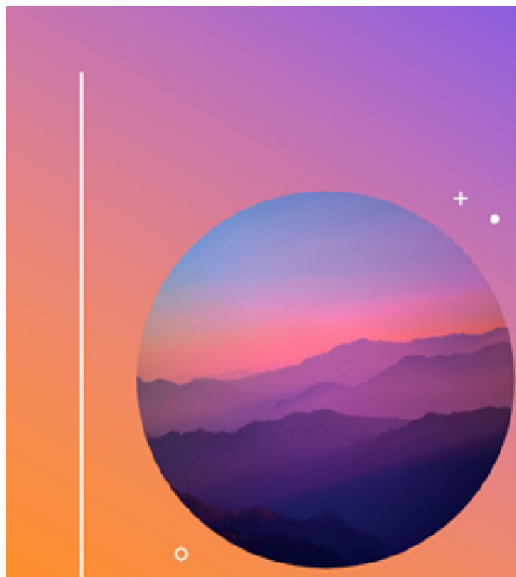
We invite you to take a blank wooden ornament and think about 6 words (not 5, not 7 – just 6 words) that describes the birth of Jesus for you. Then, on one side of the ornament write them down and on the other side, write your name. Please do this before **Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 30th**. On that day, you will be invited to place your ornament(s) on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Then after Christmas is over, you will be invited to reclaim your ornament and make it an annual part of the ornaments on your Christmas tree. **Questions?** Pastor Jim; jimh@stjohnsumc.org or 816.679.1070

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

ALL-CHURCH DECORATING FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH | 9:00 AM

Please join us for a morning of decorating for the Advent and Christmas season. All are welcome to help us make our sanctuary look “Merry and Bright” for this special time in the life of the church.



A CHRISTMAS TRILOGY

Mary McDonald GLORIA
Felix Mendelssohn CHRISTUS, PART ONE
Ralph Vaughan Williams FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

St. John's Chancel Choir
Dale Morehouse, conductor and pianist

St. John's United Methodist Church
December 14, 2025 10:45 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RESUMES ARE PILING UP!

We **still** need a **Recording Secretary** for our Leadership Council. This is a one year term and the current Recording Secretary has a system in place to make this an easy transition for anyone stepping in. **Interested?** Contact: John Rector; johnrector2015@gmail.com

WE ARE HIRING!

Do you know someone that would be a good fit for our Coordinator of Family Ministries position? We have included a link (<https://tinyurl.com/SJUMCjob>) and QR code with a job description. If you are interested in this role or know someone who may be a candidate, please contact: Valerie Hoover, AJA Talent LLC; vhoover@ajatalent.net.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NUT SALE

It's time to order your nuts for Thanksgiving and Christmas! We have nuts for eating, cooking, and gift giving! Pick up an order form in the Rotunda or scan the QR code for a printable order form. **Questions?** Paula Rector; 913.226.4643

Thanksgiving – Orders can be picked up at church
on TODAY

Christmas – Order needed by December 5th
(pick up at church December 7th or December 14th)



INVITATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS REGISTRATION IS OPEN! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH | 9AM - NOON

Join us for a fun and festive celebration to honor the birth of Jesus! Happy Birthday Jesus is filled with joyful activities, games, and meaningful moments for children 3 years old (and potty trained) - 5th grade. Lunch will be provided.



Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/HBJ2025> to register today. Please fill out a separate form if you have more than one child participating, if you are a volunteer and your child is taking part in our nursery, or if you have a child 6th-12th grade that wants volunteer. We can't wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus with you! **Questions?** Allie Cobb at allie.cobb@stjohnsumc.org

ALL AGES (12+) CAN SERVE AT HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

If you love working with kids and connecting with the community outside our church, consider helping at Happy Birthday Jesus this year! It's a one-time service opportunity on **Saturday, December 6th from 9:00 AM - noon**, with set up on Friday, December 5th. Scan the QR code or visit: tinyurl.com/HBJVolunteer if you can help out! **Questions?** Allie Cobb; allie.cobb@stjohnsumc.org



MISSIONS, SERVICE, & JUSTICE

IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN TURKEYS THIS YEAR

The federal government shutdown continues — and with every passing day, the impact deepens. 30,000 – 40,000 civilian federal employees in our region have missed their first full paycheck. And in Harvesters' service area, 200,000 people, including 88,000 children, receive SNAP benefits. For every meal Harvesters' network provides, SNAP provides 9. The result is an **urgent gap** between what our neighbors need and what's available to provide.

Harvesters is committed to meeting this moment — but they can't do it alone. Let's do our part to ensure that no one in our region goes without food during this uncertain holiday season.

Now through Sunday, November 23rd we are collecting monetary donations for Harvesters. Your part is easy...just donate any amount. In keeping with our Most Fowl tradition "turkey equivalents" are \$20 each. Every dollar Harvesters receives can provide 2 meals.

Here's how to participate: **Cash or checks made out to St. John's with "Harvesters" in the memo line** can be dropped off at SJUMC anytime between now and the 23rd. You can also scan the QR Code or donate online at stjohnsumc.org/donate (select Missions Fund and Harvesters as the sub-fund). **Questions?** Julie Salmon; julie.r.salmon@gmail.com



We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Key Ingredients Food Pantry at Keystone Church in Waldo. Items can be placed in the bin in the rotunda. Or contact Sue Young (sbyoung01@hotmail.com) if you need assistance getting your donation to church.

Your generosity is appreciated.

BABY GRACE ANGEL TREE

The **Baby Grace Angel Tree** is back again this year! Become a Baby Grace Angel to support the children we serve by providing diapers, wipes, and clothing to those families who are at or below the poverty level. These items are not available to them on government assistance programs. The parents have to purchase these items while struggling to provide food, shelter, and other basic necessities. In addition, we would like to start providing other services that help our families become independent and give their children a better life.

Some angel ornaments have a specified donation amount written on them while others are blank and allow you to choose a donation from your heart. No amount is too small or too large.

We will also have a Christmas Party for our families and each child will select a couple of free toys. We are accepting donations of toys \$10.00 and under. Some Angels don't have wings. Consider being one for a family this year.



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816.523.6788
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SENIOR PASTOR

Jim Hoffman | Ext 103
jimh@stjohnsumc.org

ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dale Morehouse
dmorehousekc@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

Allie Cobb | Ext 102
allie.cobb@stjohnsumc.org

CHURCH OFFICE MANAGER

Jessica Gattorna | Ext 100
jessicag@stjohnsumc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

PARENTS DAY OUT | PRESCHOOL

DIRECTOR

Jill Gardner | 816.523.6788 Ext. 101
jill.gardner@stjohnsumc.org



Register attendance

BE OUR GUEST



Network Home: **SJUMCWireless_Guest**
Network Password: **sjumcguest**

