

St. John's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION

Good Neighbors, Sharing the Good News

MESSAGE

Around the Manger: Stories of Christmas
"Mary"

DATE

Hanging of the Greens
November 30th, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color | Purple

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.

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.

**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 | 11.30.2025

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | John Rasmus

USHERS | John Rasmus

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Jill Gardner

USHERS | Stephanie Toigo
Bethany Trogstad

NEXT WEEK | 12.7.2025

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | John Rasmus

USHERS | John Rasmus

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Cathy Doyal

USHERS | Bonnie Pearson
Doug Pearson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE | *Aria, from BAROQUE SUITE* | music by Gordon Young, 1963
Dale Morehouse, organ

INTROIT (10:45) | *Hope is Dawning on the World* | words and music by Larry Shackley, 2020 | Chancel Choir; Aaron Bunnell, soloist; Dale Morehouse, conductor

South Carolinian **Larry Shackley's** bright, spiritual-style a cappella anthem expresses the hope and joy of Christ's birth. Call-and-response sections explore the identity of the Messiah, and the uplifting ending should add a burst of joy to beginning of our Advent season.

*Lift up your eyes, for the light is shining:
Hope is dawning on the world.
So make ready your heart, make ready your soul,
Hope is dawning on the world.*

*Lift up your eyes, for the light is shining:
Love is dawning on the world.
So make ready your heart, make ready your soul,
Love is dawning on the world.*

*Oh, what do they call Him? The Root of Jesse.
What do they call Him? The Lion of Judah.
What do they call Him? Seed of David.
Christ is coming to the world.*

Continued on page 3

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Lift up your eyes, for the light is shining:
Joy is dawning on the world.
So make ready your heart, make ready your soul,
Joy is dawning on the world.*

*Oh, why is He coming? To heal the nations.
Why is He coming? To save God's people.
Why is He coming? To bring salvation.
Christ is coming to the world.*

*Lift up your eyes, for the light is shining:
Hope is dawning on the world.
So make ready your heart, make ready your soul,
Christ is coming, Jesus Christ is coming!
Hope is dawning on the world!*

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 | Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | UMH 196**

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

ORDER OF WORSHIP

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,
let us find our rest in thee. Is-rael's strength and con - so -
now thy gra-cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal
la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -
ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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HANGING OF THE GREENS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE | *Prepare the Way* words and music by Joel Raney, 2025

Choir/Soloist: A candle of hope to light our way, with longing hearts, we watch and pray.
Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light.
Come, o come Emmanuel.

$\text{♩} = 58$

Voice

Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Make way for the Prince of Peace,

King of kings, Lord of Lords, Je- sus Em- man - u - el, Pre- pare the way.

Pre - pare the way.

(The first candle is lit.)

Leader: As we enter the season of Advent, we gather with anticipation, waiting for the arrival of the one who brings light into our darkness. The first candle represents the hope we have in Christ. We await the coming of Emmanuel with hearts full of expectation, knowing that he will bring new life to all creation.

All: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD WITH HOPE,

Leader: When we feel weary or burdened, we trust in the God who renews our strength and fills our hearts with hope.

All: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD WITH HOPE.

Leader: When we see injustice and suffering, we are reminded of the coming Christ who will make things right.

All: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD WITH HOPE.

Leader: In our times of struggle, may we remember the promises of God who is with us, guiding us toward a future of restoration.

All: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD WITH HOPE.

Leader: As we wait for the Christ child, may our hearts be open to his light, and our lives be ready to reflect his love and grace.

All: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD WITH HOPE.

Leader: As we walk this Advent journey, may we be bearers of hope to those around us, proclaiming with our lives that Christ is near. O Emmanuel, God with us, we place our hope in you.

All: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD WITH HOPE.

Soloist/Choir: Come, O Come, Emmanuel. (Then all join in the refrain.)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Marilyn Senter | HOG

PRAYER CONCERNS

Stephanie Toigo

Lynda Hoffman | Mother of Tiffany Hoffman

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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.

SOLO | Gesu Bambino | music by Pietro Yon, 1917
Samantha Georgiana, soprano; Dale Morehouse, piano

Born in Italy, **Pietro Yon** (1886-1943) came to the U.S. at age 21 after serving as assistant organist at St. Peter's in the Vatican. He went on to be the organist and director of music of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York and a famed teacher and composer. He was a consultant for both the St. Patrick's and for Carnegie Hall when they were seeking new organs. Among his pupils was Cole Porter, as well as many noted organists and classical composers.

Originally written in Italian in 1917, *Gesu Bambino* was brilliantly adapted into English by Frederick H. Martens. Its melody has an ethereal quality that transcends time and place. Its chorus, a harmonious blend of melody and lyrics, draws inspiration from the classic carol "Adeste Fideles" (O Come All Ye Faithful), weaving a tapestry of musical heritage and tradition. This fusion of melodies creates a piece that is both familiar and fresh, evoking a sense of time-honored tradition while offering a unique auditory experience. Music historian Salvatore Basile notes that the song achieved "the near-impossible feat of surviving in the standard holiday repertoire, with important performances, innumerable recordings, and every kind of vocal and instrumental arrangement."

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.*

*O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

(words by Frederick H. Martens, 1923)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE | Luke 1:26-38¹ | NRSVUE

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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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MESSAGE | Around the Manger; Stories of Christmas "Mary"

Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

GENEROSITY MOMENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:45) | *A Stable Lamp is Lighted* | music by Michael Larkin, 2006 | Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, conductor and pianist MorningStar 2006

The doubled lines in each stanza of this reflection on Christ's birth and death echo his saying (Luke 19:40) that creation will praise him if people are silent. Reverend Dr. Paul Hooker writes about this carol below:

I love it because of its central image, “and every stone shall cry.” The stanzas are vignettes from the Christ story, woven together in a single narrative by the image of the stones in the central two lines. The image is repeated verbatim, but each time it functions differently. In the first, the stones share the joy of creation—the “stars shall bend their voices”—at the news of Christ's birth. In the second, they form the silent roadway (“heavy, dull, and dumb”) on which Christ rides into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. In the third, they weep for the tragedy of the crucifixion and in their stoniness reflect “hearts made hard by sin.” Then, in the final stanza, they shout in triumphant “praises of the child / by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.” Indeed, the stones—pieces of the bedrock of creation—serve as the common denominator between “the worlds” of God and humankind. Echoing the first stanza, once again “the stars shall bend their voices,” bringing the story to a sort of mythic completion.

But I think I love this hymn most because it resolutely refuses to remain “A Christmas Hymn.” In the image of the crying stones, Wilbur forces us out of the soft glow of the stable-lamps of the nativity and into the footlight-glare of the drama of human sin. The stones—the very ones that, in Luke, Jesus declares would “cry out” if the Palm Sunday crowds fell silent—draw us like a magnet through the Christ-story—indeed, through the whole story of creation and redemption—insisting that we cannot understand the meaning of the beginning of the story until we have seen it through to its end. That, it seems to me, is the real message of Advent.

*A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry and straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.*

*This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches and every stone shall cry;
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb,
And lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.*

*Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die.
The sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry for thorny hearts of men.
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.*

Continued on page 10

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry in praises of the child
By whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.*

(words by Richard Wilbur, 1959)

*DOXOLOGY | (Sung to Veni, Emmanuel)

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 5, 11, and 17 marked at the beginning of their respective lines.

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; praise God, all crea-tures
here — be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Ho - ly Ghost. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el shall
come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*HYMN OF SENDING FORTH | *Lift Up Your Heads* | UMH 213

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on

be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
make it a tem - ple, set a - part
our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
un - til our glo - rious goal is won;

the King of kings is draw - ing near;
from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,
let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame

the Sav - ior of the world is here!
a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
thy grace and love in us re - veal.
be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)
MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
LM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE | Dale Morehouse, organ**

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GOING DEEPER

December 1st to December 6th

Scripture Reading(s) for the week: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18ff; Isaiah 3:1-41a

I recently had an adventure with my father-in-law. His driver's license was near its expiration and he needed to get it renewed. By the way, my father-in-law is 91 years old. He does not drive anymore partly because he can't escape their residence without one of us. Still the state renewed his license. I wonder why it is that we feel powerless to say "no." The state did not tell him "no." His daughters did not tell him "no" either (as if any of them could anyway.) Sometimes we feel powerless to say "no" to others. We may even feel that way about ourselves. But "no" isn't the only answer we can give to circumstances. There are some circumstances we should say "yes" to but maybe we don't.

I think about Mary and her surprise visit with one of God's angels. I can imagine that she was shocked first by the angel's presence and second by the announcement. Mary, a young virgin, had found favor with God and she would become the bearer of God's son. She is told how this would happen and even what name she would give the boy. I can also imagine some of the objections Mary might have felt or thought, but didn't say. "Excuse me . . . how can this be?" "Are you sure? I'm a virgin!" or "How, since I am a virgin?" She could have made excuses for why she should say "no" to God's emissary. But she didn't. Maybe instead, she reflected upon the history of her people and how God had opened the womb of women who longed for a child. Sarai, Rachel, Hannah, and even her cousin, Elizabeth. All things were possible with God, even pregnancy by the Holy Spirit. And so Mary had a different reply "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Actually, if I were to boil this down to a six-word memoir for her, I think her summation would be "All I could say was 'yes!'"

As a community of faith, we say "yes" to a lot of opportunities to serve. We are invested in two distinct and powerful ministries for people who are marginalized. There are dedicated people who diligently serve these missional ministries, but it seems to be consistently the same people. One area of growth for us as a church is inviting others to join us and to expand the depth of involvement across a larger swath of the church. It is part of every disciple's journey, serving others.

Jesus has some powerful words of command and warning in the gospels. On one occasion he tells his disciples that they are the ones to feed the hungry crowd. On another occasion he told them that the ones welcomed into God's kingdom will be the ones who served Jesus. They did this when they fed, clothed, gave drink to, visited when sick and in prison, the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters. In other words, our welcome into the kingdom is tied to how we serve Jesus by serving those who are distressed and in need today. As we listen more intently to God's call maybe we will realize like Mary that "all we could say was 'yes!'"

GOING DEEPER

I invite you to take time and read each of the scriptures above followed by reflection on the questions below. Discern how God is calling you and how you can say “yes.” Lastly, I pray that God bless the reading of God’s Word and the meditations of your heart.

Questions to Consider this week:

- **Monday:** Who was the last stranger you helped?
- **Tuesday:** What did you do for the stranger who was in need?
- **Wednesday:** How did helping the stranger make you feel?
- **Thursday:** How is God calling you to serve on a routine basis?
- **Friday:** Who is God calling you to serve next?
- **Saturday:** Do you know how St. John’s is serving the least and lost of Kansas City? If not, will you go on a journey to find out?

Actions for the Week:

- **Head:** Consider your understanding of what it means to say “yes” to God.
- **Heart:** Search your heart and soul to see if God is tugging and nudging you to deeper and more meaningful service.
- **Hand:** Find a particular ministry or project that aligns with serving the least in our community and volunteer to help this week.

Prayer: Merciful Lord, your story reminds us of how you choose to use ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Abraham, Moses, Solomon, Elijah, and more dominate the story of faith. But it also includes Sarah, Ruth, Esther, and more – women who also served as your instruments. Of all these, the angel said to Mary, “you are highly favored” and she was chosen by you to bear your Son, Jesus. I imagine she might have wanted to say “no” but she didn’t. She said “yes;” all she could say was “yes.” In the ways in which you are calling each of us to serve the hurting world, we ask that your Spirit empower us to say “yes” because it is literally all that we can say. Use us each day to be your ministers of grace and healing. We ask this in Jesus’ name. 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

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY | 11.30 | Hanging of the Greens | 1st Sunday of Advent

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

MONDAY | 12.1

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
6:30 PM Leadership Council Meeting | Library

TUESDAY | 12.2

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 | 12.3

9:00 AM PDO Fall Session
9:30 AM Staff Meeting | Library
6:45 PM Men's Pizza Night | Waldo Pizza

THURSDAY | 12.4

8:00 AM Foundations for Faith | Brookside Hall
9:00 AM PDO Fall Session

FRIDAY | 12.5

1:00 PM Living Streams | Zoom

SATURDAY | 12.6

8:30 AM Memorial Garden Clean-Up Crew
9:00 AM Happy Birthday Jesus!

SUNDAY | 12.7 | Communion Sunday

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



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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 ~ Mary

SAT 12.6 Happy Birthday Jesus

SUN 12.7 Joseph

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

SAT 12.20 Hansel & Gretel by Dramatic Voices Midwest

SUN 12.21 Shepherds

WED 12.24 Christmas Eve - Travelers

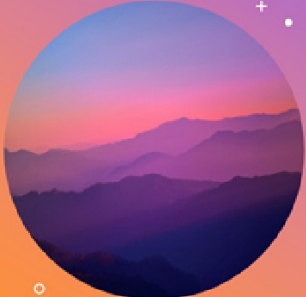
4:00 PM - Live Nativity Christmas Eve Service

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 reignited 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.



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

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

HANSEL AND GRETEL By Dramatic Voices Midwest

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH | 7 - 9 PM | SANCTUARY

Engelbert Humperdinck's charming 1892 opera, sung in English by some of Kansas City's finest singers, is sure to become a holiday favorite! Bask in the hallowed halls of St. John's United Methodist Church while you hear the story of Hansel and Gretel, two precocious children whose antics find them adrift in the deep, dark wood. This concert performance of Humperdinck's beloved work will thrill, charm and entertain you as you prepare for your holiday season. **All are invited to this FREE performance.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NUT SALE

It's time to order your nuts for 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



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

BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE COOKIE AT A TIME

Every Sunday after our 10:45 AM service, we gather in our Rotunda for fellowship. Cookies make this time a little sweeter. If you are interested in donating cookies for everyone to enjoy please scan the QR code, e-mail the church office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org, or sign up in the Rotunda.



HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS

Honor a loved one and donate flowers to beautify our Chapel and Sanctuary (\$100 Donation). Your donation will be mentioned in our weekly publications. If you would like to make a donation scan the QR code, e-mail the church office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org, or sign up in the Rotunda.



INVITATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH | 9AM - NOON

We still have several spots open! Register by Monday, Dec. 1st.

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!

MISSIONS, SERVICE, & JUSTICE

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.

N2N (Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City)

St. John's UMC is a long time partner with Neighbor to Neighbor of Kansas City. N2N is a local ministry that serves the homeless and near homeless in the Kansas City area. We are always collecting monetary donations for N2N.



Scan the QR code to donate. Choose the Missions Fund with the Sub-fund Neighbor 2 Neighbor.

Any material donations can be dropped off at St. John's UMC on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM. Questions? Ruth Gerald; ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com.



6900 Ward Parkway
Kansas City MO 64113
816.523.6788
stjohnsumc.org

SENIOR PASTOR

Jim Hoffman | Ext 103
jimh@stjohnsumc.org

ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dale Morehouse
dmorehousekc@yahoo.com

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**

2024 HANGING OF THE GREENS

