

# St. John's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## MISSION

Good Neighbors, Sharing the Good News

## MESSAGE

Around the Cross; Stories of Lent  
“Centurion”

## DATE

March 15th, 2026  
4th Sunday of Lent  
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](http://stjohnsumc.org/worship), scan the QR code, or fill out the “guest card” located at the end of the pew, and place it in the offering plate.



## 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(ren) attend Sunday School, you can ask an usher for directions to room 203 (Kid’s Club House). *\*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 Neighbor2Neighbor of Kansas City (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

## 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](http://mzinitiative.com).

## GIVE

We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in ministry! Scan the QR code to give online or Text BLESS6900 to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483).



# SERVING

## THIS WEEK | 3.15.2026

### 8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | John Rasmus

USHERS | John Rasmus

### 10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | Steve Doyal

USHERS | Bonnie Pearson

Doug Pearson

## NEXT WEEK | 3.22.2026

### 8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY READER | John Rasmus

USHERS | John Rasmus

### 10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY READER | David Soxman

USHERS | Peter Barth

Gary Fischer

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE | Dale Morehouse, organ

## INTROIT (10:45) | *Lest We Forget*<sup>2</sup> | music by Charles Yannerella, 1984 Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, conductor and pianist

We lost American Baptist pastor **Mary Kay Beall**, this work's lyricist, earlier this year. Her words in "**Lest We Forget**" summarize the central purpose of Lenten worship, allowing us to begin again the journey from Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane to Golgotha to an empty tomb: "*That He should die that we might then be free, Lest we forget, we sing of Calvary.*" **Charles Yannerella** sets her words to original music in the outside sections, but in the middle he quotes the moving Good Friday hymn, "*Ah, Holy Jesus.*"

*Lest we forget that Christ was born to save, Lest we forget the wondrous gift we share,  
That He should die that we might then be free, Lest we forget, we sing of Calvary.*

*Lest we forget the cross upon a hill, Lest we forget the Lamb who bore our shame,  
That He should die that we might rise above, Lest we forget, we sing of God's great love.*

*Remember now, that in His name, We share the cup and break the bread.  
Remember now for us He came To bear the thorns upon His head.*

*Lest we forget that dark and lonely hour, Lest we forget the sinners by His side.  
That He should die that we might truly see, Lest we forget, we sing of Calvary.*  
(words by Mary Kay Beall, 1984)

## 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.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**\*OPENING HYMN | I Sing the Almighty Power of God | UMH 152**

1. I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains  
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord, who filled the earth with  
3. There's not a plant or flower be-low, but makes thy glo - ries

rise, that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
food, who formed the crea-tures thru the Word, and then pro-nounced them good.  
known, and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;  
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,  
while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care;

the moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky.  
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres - ent there.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715  
MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

FOREST GREEN  
CMD

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader | Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**People | The author and perfecter of our faith,**

Leader | Who for the joy set before him endured the cross,

**People | Scorning its shame, he sat down at the right hand of God.**

Leader | Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people,

**People | So that we will not grow weary and lose heart.**

**ALL | Amen.**

(The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd ed., Baker Books: Grand Rapids, pg. 560)

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE (10:45) | *Fill My Cup, Lord*<sup>2</sup>

1 Like the wom - an at the well I was seek - ing For things that  
2 There are mil - lions in this world who are crav - ing The pleas - ure  
3 So, my broth - er, if the things this world gave you Leave hun - gers

1 could not sat - is - fy; And then I heard my Sav - ior speak - ing: "Draw  
2 earth - ly things af - ford; But none can match the won - drous treas - ure  
3 that won't pass a - way, My bless - ed Lord will come and save you,

1 from My well that nev - er shall run dry."  
2 That I find in Je - sus Christ my Lord. Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it  
3 If you kneel to Him and hum - bly pray:

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

up, Lord! Come and quench this thirst-ing of my soul; Bread of heav-en,  
feed me 'til I want no more—Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

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ASPIRATION

## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT II

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.

**Aaron and Maggie** - what name has been given to the child that you present today for baptism?  
**Kennedy Joy Lund**

*To the 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.**
- 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.**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*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 live and include this child now before you in your care? **We will.**

**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.**

*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.

**Kennedy Joy Lund**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

To congregation and family: Congregation please join me in the commendation and welcome.

Members of the household of God, I commend **Kennedy Joy Lund** to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her 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**

Kids/Youth Cooking for Neighbor2Neighbor of Kansas City

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRAYER JOYS

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of **Harry & Grace Dunbar**. Given with love by **The Jack Dunbar Family**.

Thank you **Barb Mueller** for donating donuts for the Youth Donut Sale. All proceeds go towards items purchased and meals prepared for our friends at Neighbor2Neighbor of Kansas City.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**The Family & Friends of Virginia Robbins** | Mother of Rev. Sid Robbins | on her death  
**Jesse** | Friend of Virginia Stanzel  
**Bailey Andrus** | Husband of Beth Andrus  
**Marci Allen** | Sister of Laura Jones  
**Madison Price**  
**Dianna Hackler** | Mother of Mason Hackler  
**Darren Wallace and his family** | Uncle of Grace Mott, and Brother of David Wallace  
**Rosa Maria Luque** | Mother of PDO Teacher Blanca Quinto  
**Mark McMillen** | Cousin of Jill Gardner and Nephew of Max Miller  
**Marilyn McMillen** | Aunt of Jill Gardner and Sister of Max Miller  
**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**  
**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 | *I Surrender All*<sup>2</sup> | music by Larry Shackley, 2009  
Sam Enriquez, baritone; Dale Morehouse, piano**

***“I Surrender All”*** is one of the best-known gospel invitation hymns in American church music., with words by American art teacher and musician **Judson W. Van DeVenter** (1855–1939). Van DeVenter, who subsequently became a music minister and evangelist, said of the inspiration for the text:

“For some time, I had struggled between developing my talents in the field of art and going into full-time evangelistic work. At last the pivotal hour of my life came, and I surrendered all. A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, He caused me to sing.”

South Carolinian Larry Shackley provides a gentle, flowing accompaniment that sets the tone for a refreshing, contemporary setting of this familiar hymn text.

*All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give.  
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.  
All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now.*

*REFRAIN: I surrender all, I surrender all; All to Thee, my Savior, I surrender all.  
I surrender all, I surrender all; All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me, may I know Thy pow'r divine. REFRAIN  
(words by Judson W. VanDeVenter, 1896)*

## SCRIPTURE | **Matthew 27:50-54**<sup>1</sup> | **NRSVUE**

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

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

<sup>1</sup>“Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## **MESSAGE | Around the Cross; Stories of Lent “Centurion” | Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman**

*Rank and order among the troops isn’t a modern invention. The Roman army had rank and order within its system. A centurion was over a group of about 80 men. This was called a cohort. The three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) add a specific detail to the crucifixion story – a Roman centurion was present. It is natural to assume that he was in charge of the cohort that performed executions on Golgotha. He had probably seen a lot of guilty people crucified on that hill but none like Jesus. Something was different about this one man called “The King of the Jews.” Outside of Jesus’ followers most did not see it. However, when Jesus took his last breath and died, the centurion saw him. “Truly God’s Son – an innocent man!”*

## **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:45) | *When I Survey*<sup>2</sup> | music by Marianne Forman, 2025 Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, organist and conductor**

**Isaac Watts** wrote over 750 hymns, including “*Joy to the World*” and “*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*.” “***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***” is based on Galatians 6:14 (*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*). Watts starts with contemplation of the cross and the fact that all our worldly achievements and possessions pale in comparison. Next he shows that Christ went to the cross out of love for us. And the last verse shows that the only proper response to this amazing love is complete devotion. There is the expectation that we dedicate ourselves entirely to God, for God demands not just a piece of who we are, but “*our soul, our life, our all.*”

**Marianne Forman’s** setting is a moving rendition that reflects deeply on the sacrifice of Christ and the meaning of the cross. Through gentle phrasing and a reverent tone, Forman brings a quiet intimacy to the lyrics, which speak of humility, gratitude, and awe in the face of divine love. The central message—that worldly pride fades when confronted with such profound sacrifice—is expressed with emotional sincerity in her performance. By blending traditional melody with heartfelt interpretation, Forman’s version invites listeners into personal reflection and spiritual contemplation.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

(Isaac Watts, 1707)

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

The image shows a musical score for a doxology. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style.

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

OLD 100th  
LM

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**\*HYMN OF SENDING FORTH | *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*<sup>2</sup> | UMH 295 (1, 2, 4, 5)**

1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering  
2. When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3. When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4. Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the  
5. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow - ering

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that  
o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.  
sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

WORDS: John Bowring, 1825  
MUSIC: Ithamar Conkey, 1849

RATHBUN  
87.87

## **\*BENEDICTION**

## **\*POSTLUDE | Dale Morehouse, organ**

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# THIS WEEK

## SUNDAY | 3.15 | 4th Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
- 10:45 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Kids / Youth Cook for N2N | Brookside Hall Kitchen
- 12:00 PM Youth Donut Sale
- 3:00 PM Youth Chorus of Kansas City | Sanctuary

## MONDAY | 3.16

- PDO on Spring Break
- 9:00 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Prep | Brookside Hall Kitchen
- 10:45 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 | 3.17

- PDO on Spring Break
- 9:30 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study | 205
- 9:30 AM Mystic Misfits; Contemplative Prayer Group | Brookside Hall
- 11:30 AM Bell Choir | Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Mandolin Orchestra of Kansas City Rehearsal | Brookside Hall

## WEDNESDAY | 3.18

- PDO on Spring Break
- 8:00 AM Foundations for Faith | Brookside Hall
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting | Zoom / Library
- 6:30 PM Wise Women "Wired Word" Study | Location TBA

## THURSDAY | 3.19

- PDO on Spring Break
- 2:15 PM Happy Feet | Susana Wesley Hall
- 6:00 PM Neighbor2Neighbor Board Meeting | Library
- 6:30 PM Baby Grace Diaper Distribution | Trinity UMC

## FRIDAY | 3.20

- 1:00 PM Living Streams | Zoom
- 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal | Sanctuary

## SATURDAY | 3.21

- 1:00 PM Mo-Kan Heart Quilt Group | Susana Wesley Hall
- 4:00 PM Wedding | Sanctuary

## SUNDAY | 3.22 | 5th Sunday of Lent

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



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# GOING DEEPER

**March 16th to March 21st**

**Scripture Reading(s) for the week: Matthew 27:50-54; Mark 15:37-38; Luke 23:44-48**

We humans like a good mystery. I noticed this week that a new artist's sketch of the famed D. B. Cooper is circulating, bringing new interest in the mysterious sky-diving robber. Overshadowed by the recent events in Iran, the Pima County Sheriff's department and the FBI continue to try and unravel the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie. On the more mundane side of it, this is the season where our Bishop, and his cabinet representatives begin to unravel this year's appointments. For clergy under appointment, this is a mystery that may affect some of us this year.

In the time of Jesus, a Roman Centurion was a career army professional with between fifteen to eighteen years of experience. That experience could have been a combination of serving in combat, umpiring boundary disputes, supervising building projects, overseeing mining or quarry operations, or even tax collecting. He would have also had responsibility for drilling his troops, inspecting their armament, food, and clothing, as well as commanding them in the field. At the crucifixion of Jesus, a Roman Centurion stood watch over his detail; this Centurion was the head of an execution squad under the command of Pontius Pilate. There was not much for him to speculate about when it came to his job and the people he encountered. I wonder if he picked up the skill of being good at reading people. He certainly had a bead on Jesus; he knew an innocent man when he saw one. It is also evident he knew enough about Jesus to bear witness to his true claims of divinity.

The scriptures tell us much about Jesus. The prophet Isaiah said that he would be a wonderful counselor, suffering servant, and prince of peace. The gospels tell us that Jesus was the Son of Man, the Son of God, Son of David, Son of Joseph, child of Mary, Christ, messiah, crucified God, and Savior of the world. He was also a carpenter, teacher, master, healer, and miracle worker. Some however, mistook him for a reincarnated John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets from ancient Israel. What I find curious is that the Centurion said that Jesus was "truly the Son of God" and an innocent man. He did not deserve death and yet, he died upon a Roman cross. The Roman Centurion summed up this moment with these six words – "Truly God's Son – an innocent man."

I wonder, what does it mean for Jesus to be the "innocent" Son of God? As an answer to this question, I point to one of Paul's letters. It is his second letter to the church in Corinth. The last verse of chapter five reads this way:

"For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Traditionally we proclaim Jesus to have lived a perfect, sinless life. Only then could he be truly

# GOING DEEPER

human (lived among us in flesh) and truly divine (did so without sinning.) He was the perfect sacrificial lamb who could take away the sins of the world. One of the credal statements of the early church put it this way:

“For us and for our salvation [Jesus] came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.”

If you ever feel the need to speculate about your relationship with God, maybe you should pause and remember that the innocent Son of God died on a cross to reveal God’s love for you.

I invite you to take time and read each of the scriptures above followed by reflection on the questions below. Discern who Jesus really is to you and the impact that has on your life. Lastly, I pray that God bless the reading of God’s Word and the meditations of your heart.

## Questions to Consider this week:

- **Monday:** Why do we claim that Jesus was divine?
- **Tuesday:** Why did Jesus have to come to earth, take on flesh, and dwell among us?
- **Wednesday:** Even if Jesus was not fully divine, what is the significance of his life and death?
- **Thursday:** How does Jesus’ innocence affect your belief in him?
- **Friday:** How does Jesus’ death reveal God’s love for you?
- **Saturday:** Where can you share the message of God’s universal love?

## Actions for the Week:

- **Head:** Consider the certainty of Jesus’ death as revelation of God’s love for all.
- **Heart:** Allow the reality of Jesus’ sacrifice to penetrate your heart making space for God’s love.
- **Hand:** Bear public witness to the death of Jesus as the gateway for God’s love to come to us.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, there is much in our world that is still a mystery. Conflicts that still burn around the world. Murders, abductions, robberies, and more that we cannot find the clues to unravel. We might even speculate on your willingness to come, be one of us, take abuse at the hands of a tyrannical government, and suffer a horrific death. However, the Roman Centurion encapsulated what we need to know, the innocent Son of God died for us. Jesus bore our sins and the penalty for them so that your love could dominate our hearts and lives. Help us to live in the power of this reality – we are free to be loved and to love all because of you. Almighty God, we give you honor and glory through Jesus Christ, the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

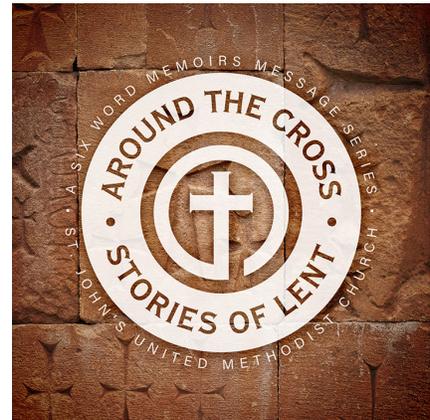
# LENT / EASTER 2026

- \*3.15 4th Sunday of Lent | Stories of Lent “Centurion”
- \*3.22 5th Sunday of Lent | Stories of Lent “The Crowds”

## HOLY WEEK / EASTER 2026

- 3.29 Choir Cantata / Palm Sunday | 10:45 AM ONLY
- 4.2 7:00 PM | Maundy Thursday | Chapel
- 4.3 7:00 PM | Good Friday | Chapel
- \*4.5 Easter Sunday | Stories of Lent “Women”

\*8:30 AM Chapel Service and 10:45 AM Sanctuary Service  
Our 10:45 AM service can be found online: [stjohnsumc.org](http://stjohnsumc.org)



## LENTEN CANTICLES

— on Palm Sunday, March 29 —

Our Chancel Choir, under the direction of our  
Director of Music Ministry Dale Morehouse,  
offers their annual Lenten cantata to begin our Holy Week journey.

Capturing the varying moods and colors of Passion week,  
John Leavitt's **LENTEN CANTICLES** contains  
classic, well-known texts and melodies seamlessly woven together  
with the spoken word and hymns for the congregation.

In addition to his original settings, John Leavitt incorporates and reflects  
the musical language of earlier sacred composers whose works have  
shaped Christian Lenten choral tradition:

- Samuel S. Wesley's *Lead Me, Lord*
- J. S. Bach's *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*
- John Stainer's *God So Loved the World*
- G.-F. Handel's *Jesus, My Treasure*
- J. S. Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

# LENT / EASTER 2026

## **EASTER BRUNCH & EGG HUNT**

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH (EASTER SUNDAY)**

***Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt is back!!*** Join us for brunch in Brookside Hall at 9:30am followed by a short Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard or inside if raining! (We will start the hunt around 10:20am). Look for sign-up to bring a breakfast item or juice for our Brunch in the coming weeks!

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## **EASTER AT NEIGHBOR 2 NEIGHBOR OF KANSAS CITY**

N2N has asked St. John's to bring a special meal on the Monday following Easter to help our neighbors celebrate. We will also be taking small Easter goody bags and need the help of the entire congregation. We will be collecting Hygiene products and some sweet treats to fill those bags.

### **Some ideas might be;**

- Toothbrush and small tube of toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Chap Stick
- Razor
- Washcloth and soap
- Comb
- Granola bars
- Candy bars
- small bags of packaged candies
- Chips

**We will accept donations from now until April 5;** but the sooner the better so we have time to prepare the bags. We will also accept cash donations to purchase needed items. **Questions?** Ruth Gerald; [ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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 or sign up in the Rotunda.

**Questions?** Church Office; [stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org](mailto:stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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 scan the QR code or sign up in the Rotunda. **Questions?** Church Office; [stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org](mailto:stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org)



## **OFFICE HELP NEEDED**

Your church office manager is going on Spring Break! We still need help in the office from **9 AM - Noon** from **March 16th - 18th**. We need help answering the phone and the door, with time to catch up on a good book or your unfinished crochet project. The office is dog friendly so feel free to bring your furry friend for companionship too! If you can help, please contact the Pastor Jim; [jimh@stjohnsumc.org](mailto:jimh@stjohnsumc.org) or 816.679.1070.

# YOUTH/KIDS

## **YOUTH DONUT SALE**

**TODAY, MARCH 15TH | AFTER THE 10:45 AM SERVICE | ROTUNDA**

Help support St. John's Youth by purchasing a donut after worship. Proceeds from the sale will go towards meals prepared by the children/youth of St. John's UMC to benefit Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City. THANK YOU to **Barb Mueller** for donating donuts for the month of March. If you would like to donate donuts contact the church office; [stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org](mailto:stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org).

## **YOUTH/CHILDREN SERVICE SUNDAY**

**TODAY, MARCH 15TH | DURING OUR 10:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE  
BROOKSIDE HALL KITCHEN**

St. John's Youth and Children will be dismissed from worship to gather and prepare/assemble meals for Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City. Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City provide meals and meet other daily needs to homeless and near-homeless persons in the Kansas City area. If you have kids that would like to help please contact the church office; [stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org](mailto:stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org) or just show up!

# MISSIONS, SERVICE, & JUSTICE

## BABY GRACE OF KANSAS CITY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH | 6:30-7:30 PM | TRINITY UMC**

Baby Grace, a Diaper Pantry and Clothes closet, provides necessities to families who are living at or below the poverty level. These items are not available through any government assistance program. In addition, we provide connections for resources, education, and other programs that can give them needed assistance. **Questions?** Ruth Gerald; [ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com) or 847.650.1141

### HOW TO HELP:

- Please consider donating to help us purchase our diapers and wipes. We are now a Happy Bottoms distributor and can buy more diapers for each family at a savings; but still must fund a portion of the diapers and all of the wipes. Our savings in diapers will be used to provide new added programs.
- Work our monthly distributions on the second Saturday of each month 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM and/or the Thursday following the second Saturday from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.
- Donate Clothing sizes Newborn through size 6, childcare items, toys & books. Drop off times at St. John's UMC are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Tuesdays & Thursdays. You may also drop off donations at Trinity UMC during our Distribution hours there.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2026 VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

### SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE - JULY 20TH - JULY 23RD

Spring is just around the corner, but don't put away those winter clothes yet! St. John's UMC is hosting another year of Vacation Bible School, Monday, July 20th - Thursday, July 23rd from 9AM - 4PM. We will also celebrate VBS Sunday, on Sunday, July 26th at the 10:45 AM worship service.



We also need **YOU** to volunteer to guide our children through 4 days of activities, Bible stories, crafts, snacks, missions, and FUN! Take the Challenge with us!

**Questions?** Marilyn Senter; 913.221.7733 or [marilynsenter@gmail.com](mailto:marilynsenter@gmail.com)



### REGISTRATION LINK

<https://tinyurl.com/2026SJUMCVBS>



### VOLUNTEER LINK

<https://tinyurl.com/2026VBSVOLUNTEER>



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**



**Blood Drive  
St. John's  
United Methodist Church**

Brookside Hall  
6900 Ward Pkwy  
Kansas City, MO 64113

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SJUMC to schedule an appointment.



**Help hope bloom! Give blood 4/13-30  
for \$15 e-gift card to merchant of  
choice. See [rcblood.org/hope](http://rcblood.org/hope)**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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