

STAFF LOVE OFFERING

As we move into our busy Christmas holiday season we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our staff. They have been very busy working hard as it has been an exciting year for St. John's. Our staff has shown their love and support to our church by their dedication and outstanding performance during the year. As an expression of our appreciation we would like to take up a special offering for our staff. The St. John's SPR Committee invites you to show amazing love to our church staff members. You may put your offering in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it or drop it by the church office and please mark it "Staff Love Offering." **Offerings will be accepted until Monday, December 20th.** Also, please take the time to send a thank you note or card to our staff for all they do during the year for our St. John's Family.

Thank You,
Rachel Champagne, SPRC Chair

Sermon Notes

1. What is your favorite Christmas Carol? Why? What does it mean to you?

2. Sing a song of praise during your devotional time each day.

3. What are you going to give Jesus for his birthday?

Lord hear our prayers...

- 11-21 Kylie Ferrell
- 11-28 Jessica Potter, Aaron White, Michael Cooper, Finn Carmichael
- 12-5 Randy Thomas, Joyce Vyvial, Calvin Treybig, Barbara Williams, Dan Koster, Lane Bailey, Sonja Johnson and family, Paul Bala, Mary Gammell, Joy Holder
- 12-12 Linda Johnson Adams, Debbie Collins, Gina Rosales, Terry Fry, Dorothy Blankenship, Kathy Wurzlow, Cheryl Hadley, Barbara Wallace, Terry and Cheryl Darling, Cheryl Scott, Doris Miley, The Family of Rev Jack Matkin, First UMC Dickinson

Those in Care Facilities: Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Mary Jenkins (Sodalis), Pam Syers (Lillian's Love), Barbara Williams (Regal Estates), Walter Wilson (The Crossings)

Those Who are Homebound: J.T. Agregard, Grace Boyd, Joy Holder, Mozelle Lubojasky, Mildred McLemore, Louise Ovesny, Tommye Pitman

For all those affected by the mid-west tornadoes, Hurricane Ida and Nicholas, for Afghanistan, for students, teachers and staff, for caregivers, for those who are recovering from the aftermath of natural disasters, marriages that are struggling, our nation, for those affected by the pandemic, our church, those in the military.



Address: 8200 25th Ave N, Texas City 77591

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<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUmcTexasCity>

Website: <https://stjohnsumctc.org/>

Church office hours: Monday 10 AM - 2 PM / Tuesdays-Thursdays 9 AM - 4 PM

- Pastor - Rev. Stephanie Hughes
- Minister of Discipleship & Connections - Rev. Cindy Riddick
- Director of Missions and Administration - Ingrid Clark
- Youth Director - Mae Diaz de Leon
- Director of Traditional Worship - Dr. James Heffel
- Praise Band Leader- Azzi Jerice



ST. JOHN'S

A United Methodist Congregation

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021



Welcome to worship at St. John's! May your worship experience be one of blessing and encouragement! While you are here, CDC guidelines are encouraged. Masks are recommended, but not required. And please silence your phone, so that you won't be distracted to hear God's call! Now, take a few slow breaths and relax. You've made it through the hardest part – you walked through the door and found your seat. Make yourself at home. Worship will start in a few minutes.

Got kids? They are invited to join us for our fun filled Christmas party in the Treehouse. If your children choose to stay in the sanctuary there are activity bags at the Welcome Center to help you keep them engaged while in worship. Simply return the bag and supplies after worship. Nursery is also provided for children 5 and under. The ushers & greeters are friendly and will be happy to show you around or answer your questions.

Guest Wi-Fi password is: walnut89

Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM

Prelude	<i>Christmas Prelude</i> Smith	Sophie Chapman
Welcome & Announcements		Rev. Stephanie Hughes
Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle		David & Christie McKnight
Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes.		
We seek a blessing.		
For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence.		
Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.		
Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing.		
We seek a blessing.		
We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.		
Children's Moment		
*Opening Hymn	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	UMH #213
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Stephanie Hughes
Scripture Reading		Luke 2:8-14



The flowers on the Altar are place to the glory of God,
by Mike & Tammy Cook
in memory of their son Jeff.

Chancel Choir Cantata Celebrate the Season A Christmas by Joel Raney

Prologue
Ring in the Good News
Christmas Is Coming
Sing a Song of Christmas
How Quietly
Mary's Baby Finally Here
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Angel's Lullaby
What We All Want for Christmas Is Peace
Silent Night
Celebrate the Season

Dr. James Heffel
Director

Kathy Dyson
Narrator

Instrumentalists

Sophie Chapman, Piano David McKnight, Bass Suzi Mitchell, Percussion

Soloists

Susan Just, Emily Hughes, Susie Newman, Robert Doss

Chancel Choir

Susie Newman
Susan Just
Doris Glanz
Kathy Wurzlou

Emily Hughes
April Drewry
Joyce Shanks
Amanda Pedraza-
Rodriguez

Hershel Glanz
John Mitchell
Bill Wurzlou
Ed Mooberry
Robert Doss

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Closing Hymn

Sing We Now of Christmas

UMH #237

Benediction

Special Thanks To:
The St. John's Media & Audiovisual Team



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

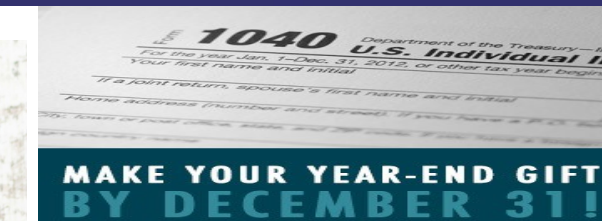
5:00 pm – Family Friendly Service
With Communion & Candlelight

7:00 pm Late service
With Communion & Candlelight
Nursery available for both services



Sunday, December 26th
ONE Worship service only
at 10:30 AM

Childcare will be provided for
babies and toddlers up to age 5.



Year End Tax Deductible Contributions

Thank you all for your generosity through out this year. To help make sure you get credit for your gifting this year all donations must be in by December 31 to receive tax credit for 2021. If you wish you can mail your donation to the Church Office. Please note that the office will be closed December 27th-31st. However, as long as your contribution is mailed and post-marked by the 31st, you will receive credit for 2021.