

Disciple I Bible Study begins Jan. 6

Sign up in the foyer today for this 8 week class on the New Testament. Rev. Stephanie Hughes will lead classes on Thursdays: In person at 11 AM & 7 PM / Zoom class at 5 PM Study books are \$13.



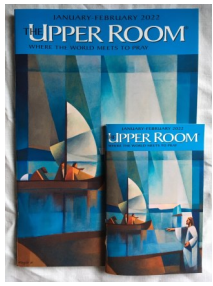
ST. JOHN'S

A United Methodist Congregation

Christmas Eve December 24, 2021



Sunday, December 26th
ONE Worship service only
at 10:30 AM
Childcare will be provided for
babies and toddlers up to age 5.



Begin the new year with a devotional time with God. As a faith community, we make *The Upper Room* devotional available in both regular and large print. Pick up your copy of the January-February issue from the display in the foyer.

Sermon Notes

1. This time of year can be the most joyous and the most sorrowful. What has been the biggest struggle this year? What has been the most joyful surprise?

2. Read John 1:1-14. What gives you hope from this scripture?

3. Read John 1:14 again. What does it mean to you that Jesus is at home with you?

Address: 8200 25th Ave N, Texas City
(409) 655-5348 · Fax (409) 655-5810

- Pastor - Rev. Stephanie Hughes
- Minister of Discipleship & Connections - Rev. Cindy Riddick
- Director of Missions & Administration - Ingrid Clark
- Youth Director - Mae Diaz de Leon
- Director of Traditional Worship - Dr. James Heffel
- Praise Band Leader - Azzie Jerice
- Accompanist - Sophie Chapman
- Bookkeeper - Brittany Rodriguez



Welcome to worship at St. John's on this Christmas Eve! We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us this evening. 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? There will be a children's moment early on in the service. There are activity bags at the Welcome Center to help you keep your children engaged while in 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 Eve Evening Services 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

*Welcome Songs *I'll Be Home for Christmas* Dr. James Heffel
Silver Bells Pat Fletcher

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Liturgy

This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present.

This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love.

Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.

We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling.

Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

It's time to be home.

Children's Moment Rev. Stephanie Hughes

*Christmas Carols *Joy to the World* David McKnight
Away in a Manger Emily Hughes
O Little Town of Bethlehem Dr. James Heffel

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Cindy Riddick

Special Music *White Christmas* Pat Fletcher

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

Sermon Home Again Rev. Stephanie Hughes

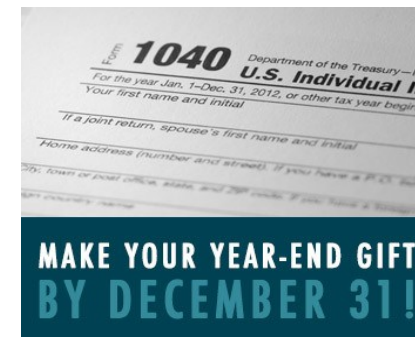
Service Of Holy Communion

*Receiving the Light of Christ

*Closing Song *Silent Night* Emily Hughes

*Benediction

**Please stand as you are able.*



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. You may also place your year end donations in the offering plate on Sunday morning 12-26.**



Church Office Holiday Closure

The church office will be closed Monday, December 27th thru Thursday, December 30, 2021.

The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Have a safe and joyous Christmas & New Years!

In the event of a pastoral emergency only while the church office is closed, please contact the Pastor at 903-805-2534.

We invite you to drop off your offering and prayer requests in the baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary.



Other convenient ways to give are:

Give online on our website at <https://stjohnsumctc.org/giving/> OR

◆ **NEW Text Giving...**Text "GIVE" to (409) 226-0450 and then follow prompts

Thank you for your generosity and blessing!



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas from Your Church Staff.