

The Week Ahead

Sun., Dec 17	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Treehouse Kids Sunday School
	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Christmas Cantata
	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Christmas Potluck Lunch - everyone is invited
	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Y'ALL - Christmas Party
Wed., Dec 20	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thur., Dec 21	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Brown Bag Lunch Bunch - Christmas Potluck/Bring something to share
Fri., Dec. 22	8:00 am - 9:00 am	Community Garden Work
Sat., Dec. 23	8:30 am - 9:30 am	Men's Breakfast (Rigo's Café 902 6th St. N, Texas City)

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 2023. **If you wish you can mail your donation to the Church Office. Please note that the office will be closed December 25th-January 1st. However, as long as your contribution is mailed and post-marked by the 31st, you will receive credit for 2023.**

Sermon Notes:

1. What are some of the sounds of the holiday that put you in the Christmas spirit? _____
2. What do you imagine the first Christmas sounded like? As you read, Luke 2:1-20, what sounds do you imagine were heard throughout the narrative? _____
3. Spend some time in silence to contemplate what Christmas means to you. Invite God to speak to you and spend quiet time listening for God's still small voice. _____

Lord hear our prayers...

Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Patricia Bones who passed away on December 12. Peggy Blizzard is Pat's sister.

- 11-19 Bruce Austin, Joan Hutchinson
11-26 Tony Aguilar, Jeffery Dettman, Terry Gray, Susan Just, Dan Koster, Jessica Potter, Dale Robertson's sister Vicky and brother Terry, Beth Stinson, Elgin Vyvial, Bill Wurzlów
12-3 Jose Castillo, Debbie Collins, Denise Murff, Marika Simpson, Preston James Trahan, Elizabeth Welch
12-10 Lupe Aguilar, Nezzie Blair, Peggy Blizzard, Doug Fraley and family, Barb Holt, Dean Jones, Melissa Patrick, Sandy Vinardi

Those in Care Facilities: J.T. Agregard (Sodalís), Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Grace Boyd (Heartis Clearlake Senior Living), Mary Jenkins (Sodalís), Carol Spealman (Magnolia Crossing), Pam Syers (La Vita Bella), Barbara Williams (Regal Estates)

Those Who are Homebound: Jim & Dorothy Blankenship, Dolores Boatman, Joy Holder, Mozelle Lubojasky, Mildred McLemore, Louise Ovesny

Our church, nation and those serving in our military. Those recovering from natural disasters. Our schools.



ST. JOHN'S

A United Methodist Congregation

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



Welcome to worship at St. John's! May your worship experience be one of blessing and encouragement! 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 and then they will go to the Treehouse for their own worship time. There are activity bags for your children 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

Address: 8200 25th Ave N, Texas City 77591

(409) 655-5348 · Fax (409) 655-5810

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

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

Church office hours: Monday 9 AM - 4 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

Director of Traditional Worship - Dr. James Heffel

Accompanist - Sophie Chapman

MDO Director - Melissa Patrick

Administrative Assistant - Terri L. Mills

Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM

Prelude *Prelude Medley* (arr. Smith) Sophie Chapman, piano

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting

Lighting the Candle of Love The Brace Family

We lift up our voices in praise and thanksgiving, singing a new song to the Lord!
Sing to the Lord! Bless God's name!
 God is composing a melody of grace for all who have ears to hear.
Sing to the Lord! Bless God's name!
 We light the candle of love, a symbol of harmony with God and neighbor.
Sing to the Lord! Bless God's name!

Children's Moment

*Opening Hymn *There's a Song in the Air* UMH #249

Generosity Moment

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Tithes and Offerings *What Gift Can We Bring* (arr. Austin)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 42:1-4, 9-10
**Please stand as you are able*



The flowers on the altar are placed to the glory of God, and in joyous celebration of Richard & Lucinda Webb's 48th Wedding Anniversary which will be 12/19/23. We wish them many happy years together.

Chancel Choir Cantata
What Sweeter Music
A Festival of Carols
 By: Mark Hayes

Opening Medley
Promise of Peace
Song of Mary
Cradle Medley
Song of the Angels
O Holy Night
We Three Kings of Orient Are
Closing Medley

Dr. James Heffel
 Director

Kathy Dyson
 Narrator

Instrumentalists

Sophie Chapman, Piano Suzi Mitchell, Percussion
 Barbara Wallace, Keyboard Shanna Dement, Flute

Soloists
 Susie Newman

Descants
 Susan Just & Susie Newman

Chancel Choir

Susie Newman	Tom Mills	Hershel Glanz
Susan Just	Joyce Shanks	John Mitchell
Doris Glanz	Dale Robertson	Bill Wurzlow
Kathy Wurzlow		Robert Doss

Children

Kelsey Eikenberry	Mikayla Eikenberry	Weston Wickey
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Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Closing Hymn *Love Came Down at Christmas* UMH # 242

Benediction

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



Convenient ways to give are:
 Give online on our website at <https://stjohnsumctc.org/giving/>
 Text "GIVE" to (409) 226-0450 or Scan the QR CODE
 and then follow prompts. Thank you for your generosity!



Sunday Morning December 24th
Single Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Join us on the fourth Sunday of Advent to worship together on Christmas Eve morning at 10:30 AM. We will have communion.

The kids will have their Christmas party in the Treehouse. Childcare will be provided for babies and toddlers.

Christmas Eve
Evening Worship Services at 5 PM

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will be gathering in person in the sanctuary where we will worship with carols, candlelight, and communion. We will also livestream this worship service on our YouTube channel.

You can also worship with us from the parking lot or the neighborhood by tuning your radio to 95.1 FM. A nursery will be available



Thank you so much for showing your love and appreciation to your St. John's clergy! As we come to the end of the year, let's show the rest of the staff the same love and appreciation. You can drop off cards and gifts for Ingrid, James, Sophie, Melissa, and Terri at the church office. Thank You all in advance for your generosity!!!