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### The Week Ahead

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Sun., Dec 31	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Treehouse Kids Sunday School
<b>Mon., Jan 1</b>		<b>Church Office Closed</b>
Thurs., Jan 4	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Disciple III Bible Study - Adult Classroom &/or Zoom (Meeting ID: 95337857528, Passcode: study)
	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Brown Bag Bunch
	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Disciple III Bible Study - Adult Classroom &/or Zoom (Meeting ID: 95337857528, Passcode: study)
Fri., Jan 5	8:00 am - 9:00 am	Community Garden work
Sat., Jan 6	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast - Rigo's Café, 902 6th St. N., Texas City

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### Sermon Notes:

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1. What are some of your favorite memories from last year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do you want this coming year to be different? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When will you make time to strengthen your relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Lord hear our prayers...

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11-26 Tony Aguilar, Jeffry Dettman, Terry Gray, Susan Just, Dan Koster, Jessica Potter, Dale Robertson's sister Vicky and brother Terry, Beth Stinson, Elgin Vyvial, Bill Wurzlow  
12-3 Jose Castillo, Debbie Collins, Fraley, Denise Murff, Marika Simpson, Preston James Trahan  
12-10 Lupe Aguilar, Nezzie Blair, Peggy Blizzard, Barb Holt, Dean Jones, Sandy Vinardi  
12-17 Bruce Austin, Heather Gamblin, Joan Hutchinson, Mozelle Lubojasky, Gary Scoggin, Rex and Barb Walker, David Welch

**Those in Care Facilities:** J.T. Agregard (Sodalis), Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Grace Boyd (Heartis Clearlake Senior Living), Mary Jenkins (Sodalis), 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

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## A United Methodist Congregation

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### Epiphany Sunday

### December 31, 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*

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**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

## Worship Service - 10:30 am

Prelude	Angels We Have Heard on High (arr. Eithun)	Chancel Bells
Welcome, Announcements & Greeting		
Congregational Introit	Sing We Now of Christmas (v.1)	UMH # 237
*Hymn of Praise	Joy to the World	UMH # 246
Children's Moment		Rev. Stephanie Hughes

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God has come to us; that God brought us into being, that this God gave us breath and purpose, that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others, that we have fallen short of this commandment but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness. We believe that God is coming to us; that God is not happy to leave us alone, that this God will come to us as a particular human being, that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours, that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy, that Jesus Christ has come and our salvation will be made complete. We believe that God will come to us; that God will have the final word and that Word will be good, that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work, that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth, that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more, and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

\*Gloria Patri

Special Music	Deck the Halls (arr. Smoke)	Chancel Bells
Generosity Moment		Rev. Cindy Riddick

Pastoral Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Offertory Anthem	The Holly and The Ivy (arr. Eithun)	Chancel Bells
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\*Doxology

*Hymn of Preparation	We Three Kings	UMH # 254
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Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon	Sensing God is Near	Rev. Stephanie Hughes
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Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Closing Hymn	Go, Tell It on the Mountain	UMH # 251
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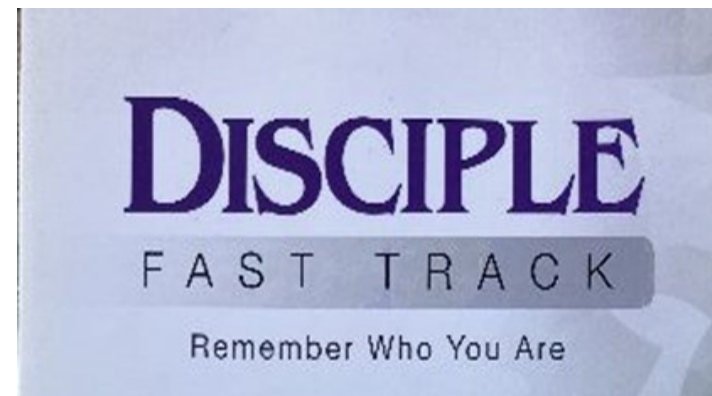
Benediction

*Benediction Response	Gloria in Excelsis (arr. Deo)	UMH # 238 (refrain only)
<b>Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</b>		

Postlude	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (arr. Austin)	Sophie Chapman, piano
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*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Please plan to stay after service today to help us "un-decorate" the church - Thank you!**



### Disciple III Bible Study Thursday, January 4 at 11 am & 7 pm

We will begin a 12-week study of the Letters of the Apostle Paul. There are group discussions and individual reading assignments of 3-5 chapters each day. Study guides are \$15. Rev. Cindy Riddick will lead at 11AM and 7PM. These classes will be in-person and Zoom. If you need a Zoom invitation, contact the church office. For more information, contact Rev. Cindy Riddick at: [CRiddick@stjohnsumctc.org](mailto:CRiddick@stjohnsumctc.org).



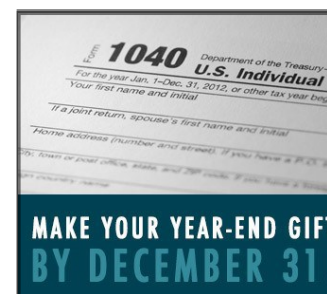
### Dinner With Friends Groups Are Forming for 2024

Enjoy lunch or dinner with a small group of 8-10 people once a month. The meal can be held in a home or a restaurant. When the meal is at a restaurant, everyone pays for their own meal. When the meal is in a home, the hosts provide the main dish and the rest of the group provide the sides. Sign up at church or contact Cindy Riddick to participate. New groups will be announced on January 7.



### The Upper Room Devotionals for January – February

As a faith community, we make **The Upper Room** devotionals available in both regular and large print. You can pick up your copy of **The Upper Room** at church or email Cindy Riddick at [CRiddick@stjohnsumctc.org](mailto:CRiddick@stjohnsumctc.org) if you would like your copy delivered.



### 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.**



### 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!

