

## The Week Ahead

Sun., Dec 15	9:00 am - 10:30am	Contemporary Worship Service
	9:30 am - 10:30 am	Treehouse Kids Sunday School
	9:30 am - 10:30 pm	5th - 9th Graders Sunday School
	10:30 am - 11:00 am	Fellowship Time
	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service
	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party at the Bartholomew's house
	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Y'All
Mon., Dec 16	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	MDO
	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Almost Christmas Bible Study - Zoom
Tues., Dec 17	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	MDO
Wed., Dec 18	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	MDO
	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	8th - 12th Grade Bible Study
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Chancel Bells - Sanctuary
	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
Thur., Dec 19	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	MDO
	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Brown Bag: Potluck, Kay & Tom Smith's home - bring a dish to share
Fri., Dec 20	8:00 am - 9:00 am	Community Garden Work
	9:15 pm	Holiday Hoopla drop-off
Sat., Dec 21	6:00 am	Holiday Hoopla pick-up
	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast - The Rigos Café, 902 6th St. N., TC

### Sermon Notes:

1. What comes to mind when you think of love? What does it mean to love someone? How can we show love toward another person? Watch Almost Christmas - Session 3: Almost Love on Amplify. \_\_\_\_\_
2. What barriers in your faith journey have you encountered that seem to keep you at arms length from fully embracing God's love? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Read 1 John 4:7-13. What do these verses have to say about love and where it comes from? \_\_\_\_\_

### Lord hear our prayers...

**Congratulations to Dean and Cheryl Jones on the birth of their great-granddaughter Ivy, born on December 6.**

- 11-17 Lupe Aguilar, Yvette Arrendo, Nezzie Blair, Linda Cooper, Jerry Cooper, Jay Johnson, Dean Jones, Martha Loisey, Billy Jack Rife, Pam Scoggin
- 11-24 Bruce Austin, Bobby Edrozo, Joan Hutchinson, Shawna Novak, Sheri Reznicek, Gary Scoggin, Debbie Vyvial, Elgin & Joyce Vyvial, Janis Wright
- 12-1 Suzanne Bowron, Aaron Doss, Tammy Dawson, Terry & Joquetta Eierdam, Mercedes Harris, Roger Hawkins, Breeze Hunter, Heather Lopez, Linda Masters, Danny Morgan, Tammy Wilson, Sid & Marlene Young
- 12-8 Debbie Collins, Gary and Liz, Teresa Haak-Benigar, Barb & Denny Holt, Dan Koster, Philip Shama, Marika Simpson, Jason Wilson

**Those in Care Facilities:** Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Dorothy Blankenship (Regal Estates), Grace Boyd (The Forum at The Woodlands), Mary Jinkins (Sodalis), Carol Spealman (Magnolia Crossing), Pam Syers (La Vita Bella), Barbara Williams (Regal Estates)

**Those Who are Homebound:** Alice Blanton, Dannie & Edna Day, Mozelle Lubojasky, Mildred McLemore, Marvin Roehl

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



# ST. JOHN'S

## A United Methodist Congregation

"Almost Love"

December 15, 2024



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 -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  
 Praise Band Leader - Natalie Mendez  
 Accompanist - Sophie Chapman  
 MDO Director - Melissa Patrick  
 Administrative Assistant - Terri L. Mills

## 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship

Welcome		Praise Band
Welcome and Announcements		
Lighting the Advent Candle of Love		The Rouleau & Webb Families
*Worship Songs	<i>Joy to the World</i> <i>Praise</i>	Praise Band
Children's Moment		Sharon Rouleau
Ministry Moment		Rev Cindy Riddick
Pastoral Prayer		
Tithes & Offering	<i>Reckless Love</i>	Praise Band
Video	New Room: Love	
*Scripture		Luke 1:39-56
Sermon	"Almost Love"	Rev. Stephanie Hughes
Invitation to Christian Discipleship		
*Reflection Song	<i>Build My Life</i>	Praise Band
*Benediction		<i>*Please stand as you are able</i>

## 11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Prelude	<i>Gesu Bambino</i> (arr. Yon)	James Heffel, Piano
Welcome, Announcements & Greeting		
Congregational Introit	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i> (v.1)	UMH # 211
Lighting the Advent Candle of Love		Jerry & Susie Newman
*Hymn of Praise	<i>People, Look East</i>	UMH # 202
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>(The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version)</i>	UMH # 882

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen. (\*Church Universal)**

*Gloria Patri		
Ministry Moment		Rev Cindy Riddick
Pastoral Prayer		
Offertory Music	<i>I Wonder as I Wander</i> (arr. Niles)	James Heffel, Soloist
*Doxology		
Video	New Room: Love	
Hymn of Preparation	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	UMH # 217
*Scripture		Luke 1:39-56

Sermon	"Almost Love"	Rev. Stephanie Hughes
Invitation to Christian Discipleship		
*Closing Hymn	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	UMH # 242
Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>Sent Forth by God's Blessing</i> (vs. 1 only)	UMH # 664
<b>Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.</b>		
Postlude	<i>Ode to Joy</i> (arr. Schiller)	James Heffel, Piano
		<i>*Please stand as you are able</i>



The flowers on the altar are placed to the glory of God,  
in celebration of the 49th Anniversary of Richard & Lucinda Webb.



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



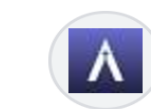
Youth Christmas Party

**Youth Christmas Party, Sunday, 12/15**  
**Youth Holiday Hoopla, Friday, 12/20-Saturday, 12/21**

Youth Christmas Party for 5th-12th grades, Sunday, 12/15 from 4-6pm at Robin and Mike Bartholomew's house. Bring a Christmas ornament & a \$5 gift-card wrapped together. There will be a gift exchange, games and Raising Cane's!

Holiday Hoopla, Saturday, 12/20-12/21 for 6th-12th grades! Meet at the church at 9:15pm and pick up at 6 am. We will worship at Bay Harbour UMC and then off to Jumping World and then Main Event! Cost is \$40 per person and extra spending money for snacks.

Youth Holiday Hoopla



**Follow Along "Almost Christmas" on Amplify Media**

Join Amplify Media for access bible studies and a whole lot more.

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Enter this code: **DHVIJR** to create your free Amplify Media account.

Access Amplify Media from your browser or the Amplify Media app on your phone.



## Sunday, December 22 One Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10:30am  
for the Chancel Choir's presentation of the cantata,  
**"A Thrill of Hope"**

Please bring a dish and plan to stay after service for our  
Christmas Potluck lunch.

Please bring a dish  
to share according  
to the first letter of  
your last name:

**A - H Main Dish**  
**I - Q Dessert**  
**R - Z Salad or Vegetable**