

The Week Ahead

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| Sun., Dec 29 | 10:00 am - 10:30 am | Christmas Brunch, everyone invited |
| | 10:30 am - 11:30 am | One Worship Service - <i>Hymn Sing</i> |
| Mon., Dec 30 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Church Office & MDO - Closed |
| Tues., Dec 31 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Church Office & MDO - Closed |
| Wed., Jan 1 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Church Office & MDO - Closed |
| | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Youth Bible Study & Service Project (8th—12th) |
| Thurs., Jan 2 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm | Brown Bag Bunch |
| Fri., Jan 3 | 8:00 am - 9:00 am | Community Garden work |
| Sat., Jan 4 | 8:30 am | Men's Breakfast - Rigo's Café, 902 6th St. N., Texas City |



ST. JOHN'S

A United Methodist Congregation

"A Covenant Renewal & Hymn Sing"

December 29, 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 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

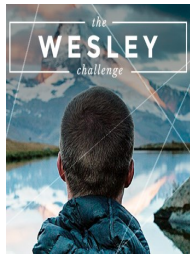
Director of Traditional Worship - Dr. James Heffel

Accompanist - Sophie Chapman

MDO Director - Melissa Patrick

Administrative Assistant - Terri L. Mills

The Wesley Challenge: Begins Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025



Join the Wesley Challenge - 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith. We will spend three weeks working through twenty-one questions that will engage our physical, spiritual, and emotional lives toward a renewed commitment to God and others. If you are interested in being part of small group, sign up in the foyer, do the challenge on your own, or gather your own group to do the challenge together. Contact Pastor Stephanie



Watch the Wesley Challenge videos on Amplify Media.

- Scan the QR Code.
- Enter the code: **DHVVJR**
- Create your free account.
- Access Amplify Media from your browser or phone app.

Dinner With Friends - Groups Are Forming for 2025

Enjoy lunch/dinner with a small group of 8-10 people once a month. The meal can be held in a home or restaurant. When at a restaurant, everyone pays for their own meal. When 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 Jan. 12th.



Lord hear our prayers...

- 12-1 Suzanne Bowron, Aaron Doss, Tammy Dawson, Terry & Joquetta Eierdam, Mercedes Harris, 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
- 12-15 Lupe Aguilar, Yvette Arrendo, Nezzie Blair, Linda Cooper, Jerry Cooper, Lela Hill, Jay Johnson, Dean Jones, Martha Loisey, Billy Jack Rife, Pam Scoggin, Betty Wilson
- 12-22 Bruce Austin, Bobby Edrozo, Joan Hutchinson, Shawna Novak, Sheri Reznicek, Gary Scoggin, Elgin & Joyce Vyvial, Janis Wright

Those in Care Facilities: Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Dorothy Blankenship (Regal Estates), Grace Boyd (The Forum at The Woodlands), Mary Jenkins (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.

Worship Service - 10:30 am

Prelude *Wonderful Words of Life* (arr. Cota) Chancel Bells

Welcome, Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

O Most Holy God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to you as prodigals at your doorstep. We have fallen short because of our sins, and are prone to the wickedness and evil in the world. But you have promised mercy to us in Christ, and you call us to turn to you with all of our hearts. Therefore, by the call of your gospel, we come now, without reluctance, to submit ourselves to your mercy.

*Opening Hymn *A Charge to Keep I Have* UMH # 413

We Confide in God and Compose our Spirits

Having a full, life-giving relationship with God means putting away our idols, and being against that which God is against. Therefore, renounce those things from the bottom of your hearts, and in full covenant, use all the means that you know to refuse sin and corruption in your lives.

O God, though we once were of the world, we now resign our hearts to you, humbly bowing before your majesty, with firm resolution in our hearts. We wholeheartedly desire your grace, so that we might follow your call with resolve, forsake the world, turn away from sin, and turn to you. We will guard against all temptation, in good times and bad, lest they draw us away from you. We acknowledge our own powerlessness against such forces, and rely on your righteousness and strength.

Silent Prayer of Confession

God is boundless in mercy and great grace and offers to us again to be our God through Christ. Therefore, we solemnly pledge ourselves to God, bowing to God, bowing before God's majesty.

We take you as our Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We yield our whole selves, body and soul, for your service, promising and vowing to serve you in holiness and righteousness every day of our lives.

We Sing Our Faith

Tithes and Offerings *We Gather Together* (arr. Wissinger) Chancel Bells

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

We Claim the Covenant

*Scripture Luke 2:22-32

Devotional from *Altogether Christmas*

Since God has given Jesus as the only way to God, solemnly accept Jesus as the only new and living way, by which sinners may come to God. I call you to join in covenant with God. Let us pray this covenant prayer in the Wesleyan tradition,

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion *Fairest Lord Jesus* (arr. Eithun) Chancel Bells

We Choose Faithfulness

Prayer of Commitment

O God, Because you have been pleased to give your holy law as the rule of my life and the way I should walk in your kingdom, I willingly submit myself to you, set my shoulder to your burden, and subscribe in all your laws as holy, just and good. I solemnly take them, as the rule of my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that though my flesh might contradict and rebel, I will try to order and govern my whole life according to your direction, and will not allow myself to neglect any of my duties to you. Now, Almighty God, searcher of hearts, you know that I make covenant with you today without deceit of reservation, asking you, that if you see any flaw or falsehood in me, that you would reveal it to me and help me to get right with you.

*Closing Hymn *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* UMH # 240

We Commit to God in Prayer

And now, glory be to you, O God the Father,

From this day forward I look upon you as my God and Father, knowing that you are always looking for ways to recover sinners like me.

Glory be to you, O God the Son.

You have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and you are my Savior and Redeemer.

Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit. By the power of your hand, you have turned my heart away from sin and back to you.

O holy and powerful God, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are now my Covenant-Friend, and through your infinite grace, I am your Covenant-Servant. Amen. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Benediction

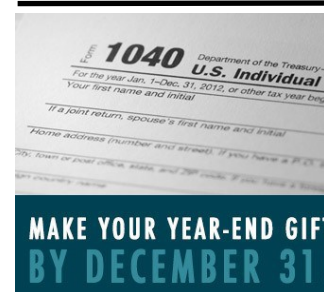
Depart in Peace

***Please stand as you are able**



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 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 2024. **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 2024.**



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!

