

**WE'RE
SO GLAD
YOU JOINED
US TODAY!**

Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome to worship at St. John's United Methodist Church.

You are welcome and celebrated in this faith community!

If you are a first time attendee or a long-time member;
If you are black, brown, white or anything in between;
If you are gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian, or transgender;
If you are a Native American or an immigrant friend;
If you are male or female, young or old, abled or differently-abled, rich or poor;
No matter what you believe or doubt;
No matter where you are on life's journey;
You are a gift of the Creator God. Together, we are family of God,
because we are gathered in the name of the One who makes us one.



St. John's has been affiliated with Reconciling Ministries Network since 1998, when we adopted a statement affirming the sacred worth of all God's children, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. We celebrate our diversity and welcome all people to join us in our journey together toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

We welcome children and enjoy their participation in all aspects of congregational life. For caregivers of small children, a changing table is available in the front bathroom and the library is open if you need a quiet place to tend to your little one. A nursery with certified workers is available for infants through age 5 at the southeast corner of the building if you need respite. Ushers will be glad to direct you to any of these resources.

Meet Our Staff.

To contact a member of our staff please call 806-762-0123, visit us online, or send us an email at openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

Rev. Josh Stueve

Senior Pastor

Rev. Ann Akin

Associate Pastor

Clint Barrick

Organist

David Cranford

Facilities Manager

John Dotts

Assistant Facilities Manager

Rachel Shipley

Director of Youth Ministries

Kyle Collins

Director of

Communications

Trish Hernandez

Director of Childcare Ministries

In 1992 members began discussing the possibility of St. John's moving along the journey of becoming a Reconciling Congregation.

The seed of PFLAG was planted when the mother of a gay son and Tech student wanted to help start a chapter in Lubbock. She was a leader in the national PFLAG organization and they needed a place where this meeting could be held safely and "discreetly."

With its presence, St. John's began listening more and more to the stories of pain, rejection, and longing for acceptance, inclusion, and dignity by the church, particularly THIS church, which had as its motto, Open Hearts, Open Arms, Open Minds. The seeds of unrest that were planted were transplanted into the soil of a committee appointed by the church council to study the possibility of our becoming a Reconciling Congregation.

Finally, after four years of study, discussion, and many more stories shared by people who now risked telling the story of their own struggle for love and acceptance, as well as those stories told by their moms, dads, loved ones and friends, the date was set for an All-Church Conference at which we would vote on whether or not St. John's would become a Reconciling Congregation. The date set for this meeting was October 18, 1998. The meeting was opened to discussion and debate, and those who were in full support, those who were not supportive and those who were uncertain, were given the opportunity to be heard. It was truly a time of grace and gentleness prevailing. All spoke with gentle dignity and love, All were received in the same spirit. A written ballot was distributed to every member in attendance with 85% in favor of St. John's becoming a Reconciling Congregation.

- A Statement from the Chairman, Committee on Reconciling Ministry, 1998

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Homebound
Jane Haynes
Leslie Cox
Dwight Finckbone
Sally Abbe
Pat Cantrell
Gary Pate
Matt Chapman
(A Friend of Allison Richard)
Abby Reimer
Francine Nizigiyimana
(Welcome Corps Sponsor)
Nimo Gessey
(Welcome Corps Sponsor)

WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE

GIVE YOUR GIFT ONLINE
AT
STJOHNSLUBBOCK.ORG



MAIL

MAIL YOUR GIFT TO
1501 UNIVERSITY
LUBBOCK, TX
79401



APP

DOWNLOAD THE FREE
"REALM CONNECT" APP
TODAY!



TEXT

TEXT STJOHNSLUBBOCK
PLUS THE AMOUNT
TO 73256

 **ST. JOHN'S**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 27, 2024

10:30 a.m.

 **ST. JOHN'S**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 1501 University Ave. Lubbock, TX 79401

Phone: 806-762-0123 **Web:** stjohnslubbock.org

Email: openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

The Worship of God - 10:30 A.M. Service

ENTRANCE

**Gathering Revs. Josh Stueve & Ann Akin

Prelude Clint Barrick
Abide With Me J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Call to Worship Jennifer Pierce & Allison Matherly
Listen for the voice of God naming us all: Cherished. Valued. Beloved.
We believe you delight in us!
Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness in unexpected places.
Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.
We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life, of every way of being, of every physical manifestation of your Spirit.
May it be so!

*Hymn No. 660 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
God Is Here ABBOT'S LEIGH

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Act of Praise St. John's Children's Choir
This Little Light of Mine Arr. Mark Patterson

A Time for Young Disciples Sara Yancey
Hymn No. 405 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Seek Ye First SEEK YE

As the children come forward:

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added
unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!*

As the children depart:

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened
unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!*

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer Rev. Ann Akin
God in your graciousness/mercy.
Hear our prayers.

Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Act of Praise Emma Davis, viola
Viola Sonata No. 1: Andante Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

New Testament Reading— Jennifer Pierce & Allison Matherly
2 Corinthians 5: 14-21, p. 181, N.T.
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Introducing our Guest Preacher Alec Cattell

Sermon Rev. Colby Martin

An Affirmation of our Statement of Reconciliation and Lighting the Candle of Reconciliation Rev. Josh Stueve

Today we join to reaffirm the historic statement ratified by members of St. John's United Methodist Church in 1998, and we have Candles of Reconciliation on the altar as a sign of our commitment to continue to be bearers of the light of reconciling love in the present and into the future.
We affirm that through God's redeeming love for all, we are one in Christ. We respect the inherent and valuable contributions each member makes to the Body of Christ. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnicity, gender identity, physical or mental capacity, education, or economic or marital status.
As we journey toward reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church.

We welcome all persons to full participation in the life and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church.

At the same time, we recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us. We do not seek to erase our differences. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us...through Christ, and who gives us the ministry of reconciliation." (from 2 Corinthians 5:18)
—Statement of Reconciliation (1998), St. John's United Methodist Church

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn No. 560 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Help Us Accept Each Other ACCEPTANCE

Anthem St. John's Chancel Choir
O Love Elaine Hagenberg

*Doxology No. 94 and Presentation of Gifts
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SENDING FORTH

Reception of New Members Rev. Josh Stueve

We rejoice to welcome you as members of Christ's Holy Church, and we bid you welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

*Hymn No. 2172 *The Faith We Sing*
We Are Called WE ARE CALLED

Benediction Rev. Josh Stueve

We leave this place of joyful worship to return to the particular circumstances of our own lives.
Let us go forth strong in our faith and hope.
For God our Creator is making all things new in Jesus Christ.
We go to witness God's love and to be signs of the new creation.
May God, who knows our joy, our angst, our doubt, and our faith, guide us.
May we be courageous, stay faithful and live to honor Christ.
God be with you.
And also with you.
Go in reconciling love.
Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude Clint Barrick
All My Hope on God Is Grounded Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Potluck Lunch Today

You're invited to stay after the service for a potluck lunch in the Garden Room.

UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has asked churches to donate cleaning bucket kits for victims of recent hurricanes. Please look at the provided supply list and consider donating a few items. Monetary donations can be made by designating the gift with "UMCOR Cleaning Kit".
On Sunday, November 17 we will meet after the 10:30 a.m. worship service to assemble the kits.

South Plains Food Bank Workday

United Women in Faith is sponsoring a workday at the South Plains food bank on Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Please arrive at the food bank no later than 8:45 a.m.

Bake Sale Next Month

Consider donating a few baked goods and plan to purchase even more at the annual United Women in Faith Bake sale on Sunday, November 24.

**You're invited to stand at moments in this service marked with an asterisk.*

***Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.*