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

Tim Algate
Director of Music Ministries
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

From the Lectionary
Jesus Among the Teachers
Jesus MAFA

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

Jesus sits in front of some religious leaders listening and asking questions as they listen to him, their astonishment evident in their facial expressions. In the background we see Mary and Joseph approaching, undoubtedly relieved to find their child safe and sound. We are reminded of Jesus' humanity in this story. He was a child who did not fully consider the feelings of his parents and the consequences of his actions. He grew not only physically, but intellectually and emotionally as well. Through Jesus' increase in wisdom, we are reminded that we too are called to grow into deeper understanding. And that requires that we ask questions whose answers may challenge our long-held beliefs and theologies.

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Homebound
Jane Haynes
Myrna Shuey
Leslie Cox
Dwight Finckbone
Gary Pate
Abby Reimer
Arthur Cook
(The Brother of Randy Cook)
Roy Peterson
(The Brother of Ken Peterson)

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

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 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 and Ann Akin

Prelude — Clint Barrick

*Call to Worship — Rev. Dave Treat
Wonder of wonders! Christ is born!
The Child of God has come to dwell with us.
The Word is made flesh.
The Divine is with us, and among us.
Earth is blessed.
All life is holy.
We worship in awe, in joy, and in love. Alleluia!

*Hymn No. 238 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Angels We Have Heard on High — GLORIA

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

A Time for Young Disciples — Kelley LaRue
Hymn No. 217 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Away in a Manger — AWAY IN A MANGER

As the children come forward:
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down
where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus,
asleep on the hay.

As the children depart:
Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever,
and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with thee there.

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 — Allison Matherly
Angel's Carol — John Rutter

Listening Prayer — Rev. Dave Treat
Jesus in the temple, what are you seeking?
Grant us your curiosity.
Young boy among elders, confident in your truth,
grant us your trust.
You were not lost; you were exploring.
Are you among us as well?
Give us faith to speak without fear,
and to listen.

**You're invited to stand at moments in this service marked with an asterisk.*
***Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.*

*Gospel Reading - Luke 2: 41-52, p. 59, N.T. — Rev. Dave Treat
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon — Rev. Josh Stueve

Prayer of Response — Rev. Ann Akin
We give our hearts to God, Creator of all that is and all that is to come, Source of Life and eternal Presence, who is our temple and our home.

We follow Jesus, who lived among us as a child, learning and growing, exploring and wondering, questioning and making mistakes. As a teacher and healer he continued to question and wonder, to challenge, and to upset those in authority by his allegiance to the truth. He was crucified, but was raised from the dead. Jesus still lives to guide, to heal and to feed our souls.

We live by the Holy Spirit, who guides us in the ways of peace, who helps us grow as young Jesus did, and who gives us the gift of trust in God's unfailing grace. By the power of that Spirit we devote our lives to justice, beauty and the way of love, for the sake of the mending of the world. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering — Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn No. 240 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing — MENDELSSOHN

*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. Ann Akin
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. 251 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Go, Tell It on the Mountain — GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Benediction — Rev. Josh Stueve
Beloved, may God bless you with transformation, because together we have encountered the incarnate Christ who makes a home among us and sends us home never to be the same again. Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude — Clint Barrick

End of Year Giving

For end-of-year giving, you have several options.

1. You can donate on the church website (stjohnslubbock.org) or on Realm at www.onrealm.org/stjohnslubbock.

2. You may also mail in your donations.

As long as the donation is postmarked by December 31, it will count toward your 2024 contributions, even if the church doesn't receive it until January. (Contribution statements for 2024 will be in the mail in mid-late January.)

Church Office Closed

The church office is currently closed. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, January 6.