

**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

*Interim 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

The Chrismon Tree Written by Sally Abbe

The St. John's Chrismon tree is displayed during Advent. Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms" are white and gold designs that represent Jesus. Symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.



The St. John's Chrismon group has met since 2008, beginning our efforts with the repair of the 1970s Chrismons, which were built on Styrofoam that deteriorated after years of use. Building on the legacy and memory of the earlier group, our new group created the current ornaments, which are made with wool felt and glass beads so that they will last for many years. We are grateful for the women who started this tradition and for those who continue to join in the effort.

Dozens of the gleaming gold and sparkling white ornaments decorate the sanctuary tree each Advent season, along with the beautiful blue velvet advent banner graced by a beaded Natal Star. In addition, the group creates stars for high school graduates and baptismal shells for christenings as remembrances of St. John's.

Fifteen years is a long time for a group that assembled for a specific project to exist, but Chrismons mean more to this group of women than just making ornaments. Our group is united in love—love for each other, love for the congregation that enjoys our creations, and love for God.

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Homebound

Jane Haynes

Myrna Shuey

Jowannah Ellis

Leslie Cox

Sarah Nuckolls

Dwight Finckbone

Gary Pate

Abby Reimer

Jennifer Shirey

Barbara Pedroza

(The Sister of Beatrice Pedroza)

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

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, 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
Now Come, Savior of the Gentiles J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Call to Worship Rev. Ken Peterson
A new world is coming, according to the promises of God.
The time is coming.
Today, we light a candle to begin our Advent journey.
We cannot hasten the future. But we wait with intention.
Deepen our longing, God, and bless our waiting.

*Hymn No. 196 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Invitation to Advent and Candle Lighting Revs. Josh Stueve & Ann Akin

The Lord's Prayer
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 Sara Yancey, Lauren Ziegenhorn,
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind Jan Davis, Ethan Fasnacht

Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 33: 14-16, p. 738 Rev. Ken Peterson
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn No. 70 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Gloria Patri MEINEKE

Sermon Rev. Josh Stueve

Prayer of Response Rev. Ann Akin
A Blessing for Beginning Again in Advent Kate Bowler

God, could this be the year when we see it?
The goodness that is coming,
like starlight from a distant time?
Could this be the Advent when we sense it?
That the springtime of the soul
will one day last forever?
Could this be the Advent when we notice
the inbreaking of your coming promises?
Promises full of blessing:
of truth so clear, so bright
that every shadowy lie must flee away.
of compassion so deep, so strong
that everyone is encircled in its embrace.
of restoration so complete, so beautiful

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

that there is gladness everywhere.
and of justice so satisfying and so right,
that all will be well.
May this Advent be the new beginning,
as we learn to live by the light
of your coming promises.
Glimpsing the world through tears,
while also seeing something
sacred shining through too.
Our Truth. Our Light.
Our Promise incarnate.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Please approach the altar using the center aisle.
You may make a financial offering in the basket as you come forward.

You may kneel or stand at the communion rail. Please speak your name to the servers so that you may receive the bread and cup by name. We receive by intinction. (As you receive the bread, hold it until the cup is offered. Dip the bread into the cup and then eat.)

When you are ready, you may return to your seat using the side aisles. If you are unable to come to the altar, please tell an usher so that we may serve you in your seat. Our communion bread is vegan, free of dairy, egg, and gluten. All people gathered to worship God are invited to receive the bread and the cup.
Communion Stewards: Wesley Orr & Isaac Ramirez

Anthem St. John's Chancel Choir
He Comes to Us Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

Invitation to the Table Rev. Josh Stueve & Rev. Ann Akin
The Great Thanksgiving, Musical Setting A, p. 17
Sharing the Bread and Cup
Invitation to an Offering

Music for Communion St. John's Choral Scholars
There Is No Rose Of Such Virtue John Joubert (b. 1927)

Hymn No. 623 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Here, O My Lord, I See Thee PENITENTIA

Hymn No. 624 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Bread of the World EUCHARISTIC HYMN

*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. 206 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light HOUSTON

Benediction Rev. Josh Stueve
You have come to this Table in faith; go in peace. Know the God of peace goes with you.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude Clint Barrick
Swiss Noel Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Advent At St. John's

Advent begins today and there are many ways to experience the beauty of the season at St. John's!
Sunday, 12/8 at 10:30 a.m. —Lessons & Carols Worship Service
Friday, 12/13 at 6:00 p.m.—Christmas Movie Night
Saturday, 12/14 at 9:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast
Wednesday, 12/18 at 6:00 p.m.—Blue Christmas Service
Saturday, 12/21 at 10:00 a.m.—Service Project at the South Plains Food Bank
Tuesday, 12/24 at 5:30 & 10:45 p.m.—Christmas Eve Services

PFLAG Christmas Party

You're invited to PFLAG's Christmas party in the Garden Room at St. John's on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols Service

Through scripture and song, join St. John's as we reflect on the promise of joy and peace that shines even in the weariness of life. Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Movie Night

It's time for a holiday movie night! Come dressed in your favorite ugly Christmas sweater or comfy holiday pajamas and settle in for an evening of festive fun on Friday, December 13 from 6:00—8:00 p.m.