

**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.

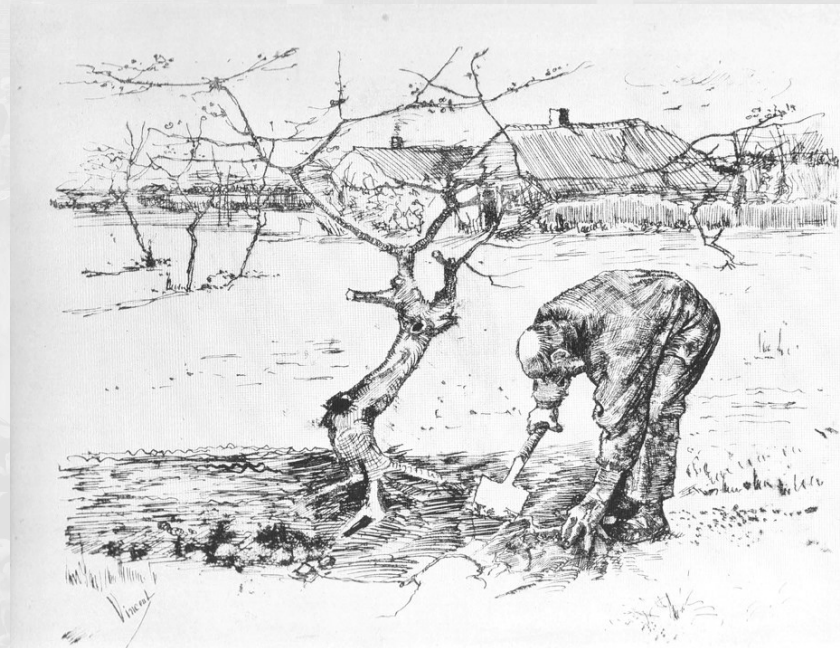
Meet Our Staff.

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
Choral Conductor
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

In the Orchard, or, Gardener near a Gnarled Apple Tree
Vincent van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch painter, generally considered the greatest after Rembrandt van Rijn, and one of the greatest of the Post-Impressionists. The striking color, emphatic brushwork, and contoured forms of his work powerfully influenced the current of Expressionism in modern art. Van Gogh's art became astoundingly popular after his death, especially in the late 20th century, when his work sold for record-breaking sums at auctions around the world and was featured in blockbuster touring exhibitions. In part because of his extensive published letters, van Gogh has also been mythologized in the popular imagination as the quintessential tortured artist.

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Homebound
Jane Haynes
Dwight Finckbone
Gary Pate
Glenn Stueve
Jowannah Ellis
Rick Nelson

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

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025

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
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling Will Thompson (1847-1909)

*Call to Worship Leslie Cranford
Creator God, we come before you in humility and awe.
You receive us with love; you bless us with grace.
Loving Christ, you invite us to your table. We come with hunger and gratitude.
You welcome us gently; you feed us abundantly.
Holy Spirit, you work in us to re-shape us according to your will.
We open our hearts to your gracious work.

*Hymn No. 573 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
O Zion, Haste TIDINGS

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

A Time for Young Disciples Frank Goode
Hymn No. 707 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Hymn of Promise PROMISE

As the children arrive:
*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

As the children depart:
*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

Prayers of the People | Lord's Prayer Rev. Josh Stueve
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
Fairest Lord Jesus ST. ELIZABETH
Words can be found in The United Methodist Hymnal No. 189

Praying the Psalms (based on Psalm 63) Leslie Cranford
O God, you are my God. I seek you. My soul thirsts for you.
My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land without water.
So I gaze at your glory, your presence in every moment.
Your steadfast love is better than life. This is what I hunger for.
My soul feasts on you as on a rich banquet, a divine dessert.
I meditate on you all day, and in the dark hours of night.

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

I will bless you as long as I live.
Your strong hand upholds me.
My soul clings to you, and my lips will praise you.
In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
Because your steadfast love is better than life
I will sing for joy.

*Gospel Lesson - Luke 13: 1-9, p. 76, N.T. Leslie Cranford
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Ann Akin

Prayer of Response Rev. Josh Stueve
Our souls are rooted in you, O God. Dig as you will; expose what you must, prune what you must. Feed the soil of our souls. Let the power of your grace flow up through our roots and bear fruit in our love.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn No. 413 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
A Charge to Keep I Have BOYLSTON

Anthem St. John's Chancel Choir
Give Me Jesus Traditional Spiritual

*In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
I heard my mother say: give me Jesus.
Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.*

*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts No. 95
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

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. 671 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing SICILIAN MARINERS

Benediction Rev. Ann Akin

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude Clint Barrick
Psalm 18 Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Bishop's Prayer Meeting

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. will hold a bilingual prayer meeting in Lubbock on Sunday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m. at Aldersgate Church located at 10306 Indiana Ave.



Women's Razors for Family Promise

We're helping Family Promise provide women's razors to their clients. Donations of razors can be made to the donation box in the hallway through Sunday, March 30.

United Women in Faith Sunday

United Women in Faith Sunday will be March 30. Rev. Karen Kidd Lovett will be our guest pastor.



Food Bank Work Day

United Women in Faith is sponsoring a work day at the South Plains Food Bank(5605 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.) on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Use this link to register <https://cerv.is/0308rStJohns>

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies are now available for purchase!
Lilies are \$20 and can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday, April 20.
The deadline to place an order is Sunday, April 13.