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.

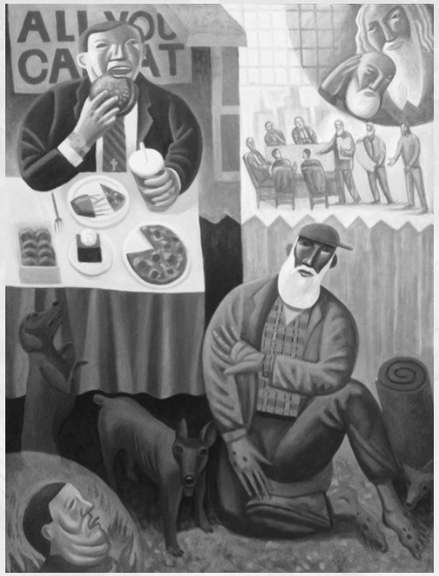
To contact a member of our staff please call 806-762-0123, visit us online, or send us an email at openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

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
The Rich Man and Lazarus
James Janknegt



Painting the parables is a special calling for James Janknegt. At the start of the new millennium, the Texas artist took up his brush to create 40 images of the teachings of Christ in what he calls "modern day American vernacular," one for each day in the season of Lent. He published them in a book of meditations on the parables in 2017. These contemporary variations in paint on the oft-told New Testament tales turn the first-century Middle East into suburban America. A stock character like the builder of bigger barns becomes a real-estate developer. Flashlights in need of batteries take the place of empty oil lamps.

In this painting of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Janknegt depicts the former as an all-you-can-eat glutton wolfing down large portions of takeout food. The sore-plagued beggar is a man of the streets with a bedroll and companion dogs. In the great reversal of fortunes at the heart of the story, the gluttonous foodie burns in the flames of Hades, while the poor man is comforted at the bosom of Abraham. Three prophets give warnings that will go unheard by the rich man's brothers in a corporate boardroom.

The white-bearded Lazarus is a portrait of the artist. "I am both the poor man and the rich man," says Janknegt. "You can have material wealth by the world's standards and be spiritually starving. I hope, by the mercy of God, we all arrive at Abraham's bosom."

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Pastors, Staff, Small Council, and Ministries
St. John's Members who are homebound or in assisted care
St. John's Sojourner's ministry and the Anwari Family
Nathan Holland
(brother of Nick & Joey Holland-Garcia)
The Family of Hannah Wertzberger

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ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 28, 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
Sheep May Safely Graze — J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Call to Worship — Greg & Stacey Carley
God of abundant generosity, you bless us.
We are rich in your grace.
Loving Christ, you bless the broken and the needy, and you come to us.
We are poor in spirit.
Holy Spirit, you rouse us, you open our eyes, you stir us to compassion.
We open the gates of our hearts to you. Come in, and be our love.

*Hymn No. 110 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God — EIN' FESTE BURG

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

A Time for Young Disciples — Kelley LaRue
Hymn No. 191 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Jesus Loves Me — JESUS LOVES ME

As the children arrive
Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
they are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

As the children arrive
Jesus loves me! This I know
as He loved so long ago,
taking children on His knee,
saying "Let them come to Me."

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

Prayers of the People | Lord's Prayer — Rev. Ann Akin
God, in your graciousness/mercy
Hear our 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 — Emma Davis & Alyzia Vallejo, sopranos
Laudamus Te — Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

*Gospel Lesson - Luke 16:19-31, p. 79-80, N.T. — Greg & Stacey Carley
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

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

Poetry Reading — Greg & Stacey Carley
Chasm — Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

It's only a gate
but enough to hide,
to divide.
If he lets it
(how easily he might not notice)
it can come between
him and all life
(even Lazarus, with Father Abraham, is his brother)
and that thin gate become
a great chasm.
Only when
our gates are open
can they become
the gates of heaven.

Sermon — Rev. Josh Stueve

Affirmation of Faith No. 886 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
The World Methodist Social Affirmation — Rev. Ann Akin

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering — Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn — Insert
Outside My Gate, Outside My Door

Lord, make me an
instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Lord, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
For it is by faith that we believe.
For in forgiving, we are forgiven.
It is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.

Anthem — St. John's Chancel Choir
Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace — Mary McDonald
*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts No. 94
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. 117 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
O God, Our Help in Ages Past — ST. ANNE

Benediction — Rev. Josh Stueve
May you know that God loves you with an everlasting love. Don't listen to anything different. May you go now with the grace, peace, and love of God. Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude — Clint Barrick
Prelude in C minor — J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Visit the Ministry Fair
Over the next several weeks, you're invited to learn more about the various ministries and fellowship groups at St. John's. Come visit with the worship ministries to learn more about Lay Readers, Communion Stewards, Ushers, A Time for Young Disciple Leaders, Acolytes, Choir, & Tech/Livestreaming.

Peace Pole Dedication on World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m. St. John's will dedicate a new Peace Pole in the Butterfly Garden across from the Sanctuary.

Peace Poles serve as reminders to cultivate peace in thought, word, and action while symbolizing humanity's shared desire for a world at peace and in harmony with all of creation.

Do You Get Our Weekly Email?

Do you get our weekly email?
We send out a weekly email on Friday mornings filled with announcements, happenings around our church community, helpful links, and more. You can subscribe using the QR code or by visiting www.bit.ly/ emailSJUMC