

**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](mailto: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*

### Mary & Elizabeth

Lauren Wright Pittman

"Mary and Elizabeth affirm, comfort, and support one another in the unexpected, strange circumstances of their pregnancies. Elizabeth instantly recognizes that Mary is pregnant and is filled to the brim with the Holy Spirit, so much so that she exclaims that Mary is blessed among women and the mother of the Lord. What an amazingly confident and prophetic statement she makes. It is unclear, exactly, of the reason for Mary's visiting Elizabeth. She may have been seeking comfort or community, or she may have been wanting to offer comfort to Elizabeth. Whatever her intentions, it is clear that Mary is emboldened and empowered by Elizabeth's affirmations as she breaks into the Magnificat. It is as though Elizabeth's words, "Blessed is she who believed," creates space in Mary's heart to proclaim the broad implications of what is taking place within her womb. I wanted to depict the creative energy, communication, and power that was taking place in Mary and Elizabeth's wombs in this moment. Mary's womb swirls with the knitting together of the One through whom all things came into being, while Elizabeth's womb radiates joy with the leaping of the one who will spend his life directing attention, awe and reverence to the One in Mary's womb."



### Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Pastors, Staff, Small Council, and Ministries

St. John's Members who are homebound or in assisted care

Angus Scott-Fleming

*(brother of Ian Scott-Fleming)*

The Family of Red (Alan) Hersom

*(brother of Norma Rutherford)*

Dale Bradley

*(brother of Craig Bradley)*

## WAYS TO GIVE



**ONLINE**

GIVE YOUR GIFT ONLINE  
AT  
[STJOHNSLUBBOCK.ORG](http://STJOHNSLUBBOCK.ORG)



**MAIL**

MAIL YOUR GIFT TO  
1501 UNIVERSITY  
LUBBOCK, TX  
79401



**APP**

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TO 73256



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

## The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 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](http://stjohnslubbock.org)

**Email:** [openminds@stjohnslubbock.org](mailto:openminds@stjohnslubbock.org)



The Worship of God - 10:30 A.M. Service		
ENTRANCE		
**Gathering	Revs. Josh Stueve and Ann Akin	
Prelude <i>Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus</i>	Clint Barrick, Jeannie Barrick, soprano David Hurd (b. 1950)	
*Call to Worship - Isaiah 35: 3-4, p. 663 Friends, the Beloved is coming. <b>We are longing. We are looking.</b> The prophet says: “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.” <b>We are hoping. We are praying.</b> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. God will come and save you.’” <b>We trust in your promise. We worship with joy.</b>	Rev. Bobby McMillan	
*Hymn No. 203 <i>Hail to the Lord’s Anointed</i>	<i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i> ELLACOMBE	
Advent Candle Lighting - Joy Rev. Bobby McMillan and Lola Smith-Gentry As we light this candle of joy, we give thanks for the ways God's goodness persists in this world no matter what might go wrong. <b>God of Joy, be with us as we dance through this life. Give us the courage to find joy in every moment, and trust that even when sorrow is casting a shadow over us, there is still sunlight that makes its way through. Amen.</b>		
<i>A moment of quiet as we light candles for hope, peace and joy.</i>		
PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE		
A Time for Young Disciples Hymn No. 217 <i>Away in a Manger</i>	Lola Smith-Gentry <i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i> AWAY IN A MANGER	
<b>As the children come forward:</b> <i>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.</i>	<b>As the children depart:</b> <i>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.</i>	
Prayers of the People   The Lord’s Prayer God in your graciousness/mercy <b>Hear our prayers.</b>	Rev. Ann Akin	

**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.**

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


Act of Praise <i>Little Altar Boy</i>	Jack Hays, tenor arr. The Carpenters
*Gospel Reading - Luke 1: 46-56, p. 57, N.T. The word of God for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	Rev. Bobby McMillan
<i>Following the Gospel reading, children Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to Sunday school for storytelling, arts &amp; crafts &amp; a snack. We will meet at the church nursery.</i>	
Sermon	Rev. Josh Stueve
Prayer of Response Open unto me, light for my darkness. Open unto me, courage for my fear. Open unto me, hope for my despair. Open unto me, peace for my turmoil. Open unto me, joy for my sorrow. Open unto me, strength for my weakness. Open unto me, wisdom for my confession. Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins. Open unto me, love for my hates. Open unto me, thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen. -Howard Thurman	Rev. Ann Akin

THANKSGIVING	
Invitation to an Offering	Rev. Josh Stueve
*Hymn No. 218 <i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	<i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i> CAROL
Anthem <i>The Joy of Mary</i>	St. John’s Chancel Choir Don Neuen

*And Mary said: My soul doth magnify the Lord;  
And my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior.  
For He that is mighty hath done great things.  
And Holy is His Name!  
Amen!*

\*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 <b>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.</b>	Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn No. 213 <i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	<i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i> TRURO
Benediction	Rev. Josh Stueve
<i>Please be seated for the Postlude.</i>	
Postlude <i>Noel in D major</i>	Clint Barrick Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
	
<i>Altar flowers this morning are given by Mary Saathoff in honor of Paul and Janelle Jones who were married on December 14, 1952..</i>	

**Blue Christmas Worship Service**  
As we anticipate the coming of Christ during the season of Advent, we are mindful that for many the holidays are not always merry and bright. Whether dealing with recent tragedy or hardship or scars from previous years, the holidays can bring the blues. Join us in this reflective service as we remember Jesus’ promise “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”  
Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m.

**Workday at the South Plains Food Bank**  
United Women in Faith is sponsoring a workday at the South Plains Food Bank(5605 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.) on Saturday, December 20 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Please contact VelvetLee Elder to register.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services**  
Step into the warmth of the season and immerse yourself in the joyous atmosphere of St. John's on Christmas Eve! Join us in person as we celebrate with two candlelight worship services featuring famous scripture passages and joyful hymns. Service times are 5:30 & 10:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24.



**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 2025 contributions, even if the church doesn't receive it until January. (Contribution statements for 2025 will be in the mail in mid-late January.)