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.

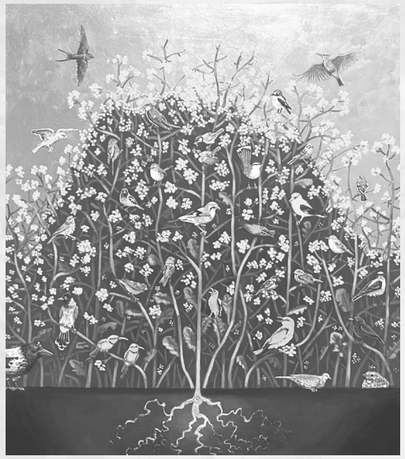
To contact a member of our staff please call 806-762-0123, visit us online, or send us an email at openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

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 Blackwell
Director of Youth Ministries
Kyle Collins
Director of Communications
Trish Hernandez
Director of Childcare Ministries

From the Lectionary
The Parable of the Mustard Seed
Kelly Latimore



The original audience may have been perplexed by this story. They would have known that no one would intentionally plant a mustard shrub. In fact, the Jewish Mishnah forbade the growing of mustard seeds in the garden because they were 'useless annoying weeds'. In the Hebrew Scriptures the "birds of the air" can be a reference to Gentiles/Non-Jews, the foreigner. This parable suggests that the kingdom of heaven is available to everyone. Even those who may be considered outsiders or not "Worthy". Jesus is calling us to see the significance in the insignificant. The parables of the kingdom of heaven make clear that the kingdom of heaven is not "up there". Through the parables Jesus is teaching us to "be for the world the material reality of the kingdom of heaven brought down to earth." As Jesus is himself the parable of the father so the church is meant to be the parable of Christ. A people in space and time welcoming the outcast, the foreigner, and the stranger. These kinds of communities will look like unwanted weeds to the world, or even to other Christians. However, this may be exactly the church Jesus is asking us to embody.

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Pastors, Staff, Small Council, and Ministries
St. John's Members who are homebound or in assisted care
Glenn Stueve
Jonathan Krebbs
Marion Denson
(Mother of Debra Denson-Whitehead)
The Family of Roxie Hughes
(Sister-in-Law of Justin Hughes)
The Family of David Robert Ralston
(Father of Allison Matherly-Pierce)

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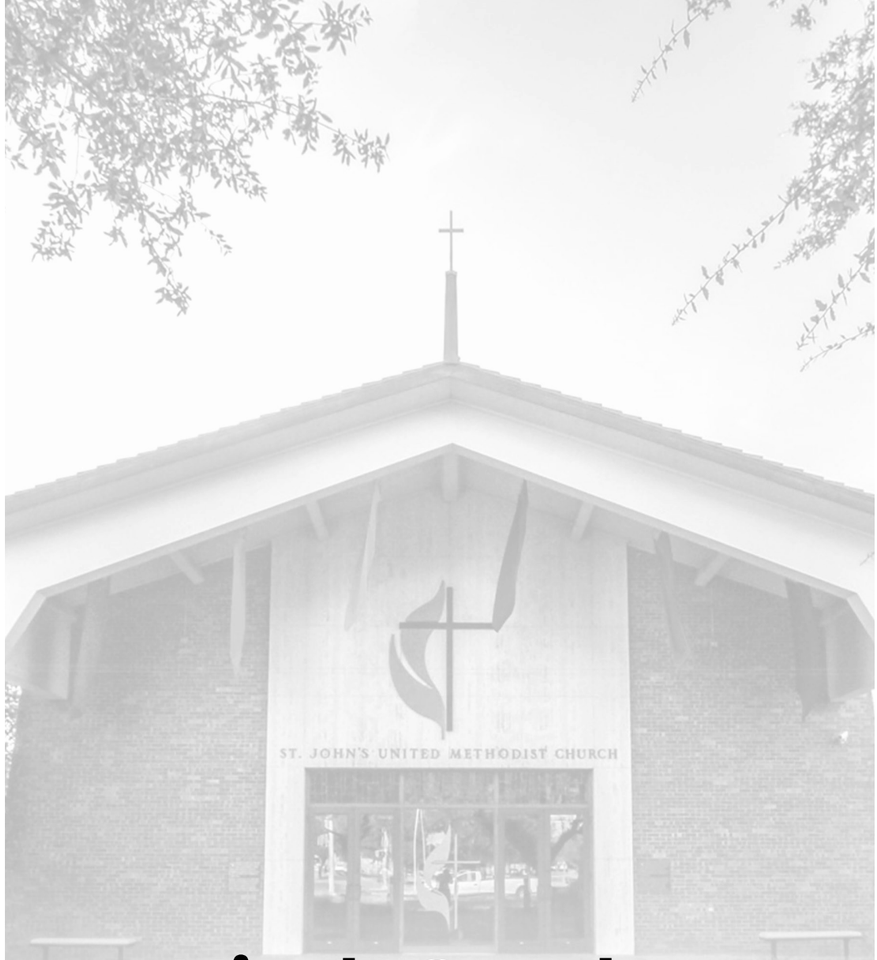
ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2026

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 — Rev. Ann Akin

Prelude — Clint Barrick
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind — Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

*Call to Worship — James Peabody
God of love, your grace is the mustard seed
that grows in us, that gives life and beauty.
Your love is the net that gathers us in all our diversity.
Christ, you are the treasure hidden in the field of our lives.
You are the fine pearl we seek.
Holy Spirit, you are the yeast that leavens us with love.
You are new and old, eternal and always coming anew. In awe, in gratitude, in joy, we worship you.

*Hymn, No. 715 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Rejoice, the Lord is King — DARWELL'S 148th

A Time for Young Disciples — Rev. Janie Noble
Hymn No. 405 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Seek Ye First — SEEK YE

As the children arrive
Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things
shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

As the children depart
Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

Following the message, children Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to Sunday School for storytelling, arts & crafts & a snack.
We will meet at the church nursery.

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.

**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 — Lory Powers, Leslie Cranford, Dan Powers, Alan Winner
Every Time I Feel the Spirit — arr. William L. Dawson

Refrain:
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in
my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving
in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain,
my Lord spoke,
Out of his mouth
came fire and smoke;
Looked all around me,
it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

(Refrain)

Jordan River is chilly an' cold,
It chills the body but not the soul.
There ain't but one train
upon this track -
It runs to heaven an' right back.

(Refrain)
(Rerfrain repeat)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*Gospel Lesson -Matthew 13:31-33, p. 14, N.T. — James Peabody
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon — Rev. Ann Akin

Prayer of Response — James Peabody
On the Parables of the Mustard Seed — Denise Levertov

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering — Rev. Ann Akin

*Hymn, No. 144 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
This Is My Father's World — TERRA BEATA

*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. 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. 540 — *The United Methodist Hymnal*
I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord — ST. THOMAS

Benediction — Rev. Ann Akin

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude — Clint Barrick
Rondeau — Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

Altar flowers this morning are given in celebration
of the 90th birthday of Mary Vines.

Ice Cream Social
The Ice Cream Social, scheduled for this Sunday, July 26 at 4:30 p.m. has been postponed to a later date.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate and honor the Stueve family and their appointment at St. John's. As many of you know, Josh's father, Glenn Stueve, has transitioned to palliative care at Covenant.

Please continue to keep Glenn and the Stueve family in your prayers.

Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, August 9 St. John's will honor and recognize those in the education field at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks worship service. All are invited to join and receive a free backpack tag. Backpack tags will also be available in the hallway for the rest of August.

Bee Here Ministry Fair
Save the date for this year's Bee Here Ministry Fair! On Sunday, August 23, you're invited to explore various ministry booths and discover the areas that align with your passions, talents, and interests. Whether it's nurturing the youth, supporting outreach programs, or lending your creative skills to worship, you'll find your perfect fit.