

**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.

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

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



From the Lectionary

They Said No

Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Pharaoh's plan is a clever one. In an attempt to obliterate the Hebrews, he enlists midwives to pull a quick-handed maneuver by smothering any Hebrew baby boys seconds after birth so that their mothers will believe they are stillborn. The more this happens, the more the Hebrew people will believe that their fertility—their life-force—is diminished. Progeny was everything, for the ability to procreate determined the survival, legacy, and strength of a tribe. Pharaoh doesn't just want them dead, he wants to eradicate their identity, their resilience.

But, instead, two gutsy women throw a wrench in his plans. Shiprah and Puah are the only women in this story to be named, which we know is a rarity in scripture, so when it happens, it's as if the author is flashing blinking lights on the page that say, "Pay attention to them!" What we see is the first known instance of civil disobedience in recorded history. They say no.

These midwives, these lowest-of-the-low-status-women who likely had no husbands, who were simply glorified servants, who, themselves, may have been deemed infertile and therefore useless to a family system, risk everything to say no.

Through this simple but mighty act, they change the course of history so that, many, many years later, another baby boy born into a dark world of genocide might also survive and flourish and grow up to redeem the world.

Please Remember in Prayer:

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

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

Jonathan Krebs

Donna Echols

Sally Abbe

The Family of Glenn Stueve

The Family of Calder Thomas

The Family of Abby Reimer

The Family of Rick Nelson

WAYS TO GIVE



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ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Phone: 806-762-0123 **Web:** stjohnslubbock.org

Email: openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:30 a.m.

The Worship of God - 10:30 A.M. Service	
ENTRANCE	
**Gathering	Revs. Josh Stueve and Ann Akin
Prelude	Clint Barrick
Ballade	Richard the Lionheart (1157-1199)
*Call to Worship	Craig Rutherford
Creator God, you have made us in your image. Your living image in each of us inspires hope and peace. Christ, you offer God's presence; you open a way to God. And so we draw near. We come into your Presence. Holy Spirit, you live and breathe in us. Stir up your wonder, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!	
*Hymn No. 578	The United Methodist Hymnal
God of Love and God of Power	UNSER HERRSCHER
A Time for Young Disciples	Lola Smith-Gentry
Hymn No. 277	The United Methodist Hymnal
Tell Me the Stories of Jesus	STORIES OF JESUS
As the children arrive	As the children depart
Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.	First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.
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.	
Act of Praise	Allison Matherly, sporano
Lord, Make Me a Channel of your Peace	arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE	
Hebrew Bible Lesson - Exodus 1:8 - 2:10, p. 49	Rev. Ann Akin
*Gospel Lesson - Matthew 16:13-20, p. 18, N.T.	Craig Rutherford
The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	Rev. Josh Stueve
*You're invited to stand at moments in this service marked with an asterisk. **Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.	

Prayer of Response Craig Rutherford
In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up
and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?
**God teaches us to protect the vulnerable,
resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.**
In a world where power means might,
how does God show us what power means?
**God shows us through the midwives' daring,
Peter's truth-telling, and Jesus' humility.**
In a world where power is held over people's heads, how does God
exercise power?
**God exercises power with—with the oppressed, with the outcasts,
with the poor and downtrodden.**
Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples
and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?
**We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and
love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing
love of Christ. Amen.**
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn, No. 168 The United Methodist Hymnal
At the Name of Jesus KING'S WESTON

Anthem St. John's Chancel Choir
You Are the Christ Pepper Choplin

You are the Christ, the Holy One.
The Holy Son of God, the Lord of my life.
“Some say I am a prophet, but who do you say I am?”
Some say I am Elijah, some say I'm a figure from the past, a part of history,
but now I come to you to ask: “Who do you say I am?”

Upon this rock, I'll build my church.
I'll build my church upon your faith in the Son.
All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the
royal diadem and crown him Lord of all. You are the Christ!

*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. 413 The United Methodist Hymnal
A Charge to Keep I Have BOYLSTON

Benediction Rev. Josh Stueve

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude Clint Barrick
Abide With Me arr. Dan Miller



Altar flowers this morning are given by Mike & Mary Hamilton
in celebration of their 66th wedding anniversary.

Bee Here Ministry Fair This Morning
Visit ministry booths in the hallway and find new opportunities for
getting involved at St. John's.

After the 10:30 a.m. worship service, all are invited to a sandwich
lunch in the Garden Room.

Supporting Raider Red's Food Pantry
From August 30 through September 20 we are collecting supplies to
stock their pantry. They request the following items:

- Peanut butter (creamy or crunchy)
- Canned proteins (salmon, chicken, tuna, spam)
- Pasta, Ramen Noodles, Canned Beans
- Hygiene products (toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc.)

Donations can be dropped off starting August 30 in the hallway.

Confirmation Begins Sunday, August 30
Confirmation covers the basic tenets of a Christian life as practiced
in the United Methodist Church. Students will explore more deeply
what it means to follow in Jesus' way of compassion, to be part of a
church community, & about spiritual practices like prayer, worship,
scripture study, acts of mercy and justice. We are excited for the
group and are grateful for all who are leading and participating.

Disciple Bible Study IV
A one-hour informational meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on
Monday, August 31, 2026, in the Shepherd's Room. You can also learn
more at the Disciple Bible Study table in the hallway.

The study begins Monday, September 14, 2026, and will meet from
6:00–8:00 p.m. each Monday.