

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015  
8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME**

INTROIT *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord,  
**Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”**

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers,  
**The night is gone, the day is near.**

The crooked shall be made straight, the rough ways made smooth;

**And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

SONG OF PRAISE *Halle, Halle, Halleluja* FWS 2026  
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!  
Halle, Halle, Halleluja !  
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!  
Halleluja! Halleluja!

SONG OF PRAISE *Bless His Holy Name* FWS 2015  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
He has done great things, he has done great things,  
he has done great things, bless his holy name.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Bobbi Marino  
Chip, Michelle, and Chase Marino  
This morning we light again the purple candles of HOPE and  
PREPARATION and light as well the pink candle of JOY.

**With hearts full of joy, we walk on toward Bethlehem  
following in the steps of the shepherds.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* *UMH 204*

PRAYER  
**God of mercy and justice, you sent your messengers the  
prophets to preach repentance and to prepare the way  
for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings  
and help us turn away from our sin. Encourage us to  
greet the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior, with joyful  
and glad hearts. We pray this in the name of Jesus who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**THE WORD**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  
The Apostles’ Creed UMH 881

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Sarah Prevot

SCRIPTURE *Luke 3:1-14* Gage Howell

SERMON *Not If, So That...* Pastor Jay

HYMN *Take My Life, and Let It Be* UMH 399  
vs 1 & 2

PRAYER, CONFESSION, AND PARDON

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us.  
We repent of the evil we have done.  
And we repent of the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive us, we pray. Restore us. And strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may live in your love and serve only your will.  
In the name of your Son, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, we  
pray. Amen.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us of  
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of  
Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to  
God! Amen.**

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

DOXOLOGY UMH 94

**THE TABLE**

CALL TO THE TABLE  
Let us stand well. Let us stand in awe. Let us be attentive, that we may  
offer this holy offering in peace.

**Mercy and peace, our sacrifice of praise.**

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III UMH 15

COMMUNION RESPONSES FWS 2257 b, c, d

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING  
**Jesus, once and for all you poured out your life for us. Again  
and again we thank you and receive your body and blood.  
Send us out to pour ourselves out with such joyous abandon  
that your love is always known, the Spirit’s power always  
felt and the Almighty’s will to save never in doubt. Amen.**

**SENT FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213  
vs 1 & 4

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ...**

are given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

<b>Ushers</b>	Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Jim Matthew, Duane Craig
<b>Host(s)</b>	Rhonda Tucker

**HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

**TODAY, Sunday, December 13**

2:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. ADVENT FESTIVAL

**Monday, December 14**

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor  
3:00 p.m. Men’s Covenant Group, Library  
4:00 p.m. Shepherd’s Market, Gym  
5:00 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor  
6:30 p.m. Puppet Show Team, 206 Admin. Building

**Tuesday, December 15**

8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, Gym  
9:00 a.m. Shepherd’s Market, Gym  
6:30 p.m. Disciple IV, Library

**Wednesday, December 16**

5:00 p.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Gym-A  
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary  
6:00 p.m. Men’s Group, George’s  
6:00 p.m. Week Night Group, Parlor  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

**Thursday, December 17**

6:15 a.m. Men’s Prayer Group, Parlor  
8:00 a.m. Holy Folders, Library  
9:00 a.m. Shepherd’s Market, Gym  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Gym

**Friday, December 18**

8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, Gym

**Saturday, December 19**

9:00 a.m. Great Turkey Giveaway  
12 noon AA Meeting, Gym-C

**ADVENT FESTIVAL TODAY  
3:00 P.M. IN SANCTUARY**

At the Advent Festival we will be collecting new or gently used  
stuffed animals and books to give to children at the Great Turkey  
Giveaway. Just bring these items with you to the Advent Festival.

**FOOD BANK DELIVERY IN GYM  
8:30 A.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**

**THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY**

The FIFTH Great Turkey Giveaway will be on **Saturday,  
December 19**, from 9 - 11 a.m. Mark your calendar to volunteer.

We are asking all volunteers to **please park behind the white  
house** on St. John’s Highland Rd. property so we can have the  
parking lot free for the people coming to get their holiday packages.  
We need some volunteers to be designated parking attendants this  
year. There will be NO PARKING along the neighborhood side of  
Renee Drive.

If you would like to help in another way, you can provide a holiday  
meal for a family for only \$15; consider donating today (put  
Holiday Meal in the memo line).

**PRAYER REQUEST FORM**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Joy  Concern

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please share with the prayer team  
 Please share with Pastors only  
 I desire a call  
 I desire a visit

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also email a prayer request to:  
prayers@stjohnsbr.org

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in  
everything, by prayer and  
petition, with thanksgiving, present your  
requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

## WELCOME

If you would like someone to follow up with you please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate.

- I am just visiting today.
- I am new to the area and am looking for a church home.
- I would like more information about the United Methodist Church and St. John's.
- I am interested in Baptism or Confirmation.
- I am interested in Children's Ministries.
- I am interested in Youth Ministries.
- I am interested in College/Young Adult Ministries.
- I would like to receive email communications about church life.
- I would like a call from a pastor.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Children (Names & Ages): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will once again grace our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season to remember and honor those we care about. You may place your order form in the offering plate or return them to the church office by **Monday, December 14**. Cost is \$10 - checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with "Beautification Fund" in the memo line.

## STAFF APPRECIATION

An annual tradition at St. John's during the Christmas season has always been saying thank you to our Staff for the work they do to make many of the events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking our Staff with a donation, you can place your gift, in an envelope, in the offering plate today. If you chose to make your gift in the form of a check, please mark the memo line "Staff Christmas Appreciation."

## 2016 FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2016 is now up on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Administration Building. Flowers on the altar each Sunday are a wonderful way to remember or honor a special person or persons and/or occasion AND add beauty to our Sanctuary. Now is the time to sign up -- there are many openings; for example, January is wide open! You will be contacted the week prior to the date you select. If you have any questions, contact Lynn in the church office.

## UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL

The Upper Room Daily Devotional magazine for January/February 2016 is now available. Copies may be picked up in the hallway of the Administration Building and in the back of the Sanctuary. If you are able, we are asking for a donation of \$1 per copy.

## FINANCIAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

On **Sunday January 17**, at 12:15 p.m., join us for "I Was Broke But Now I'm Not." Joseph Sangl of INJOY will lead us through budgeting, debt elimination, and the power of compound interest. Participants will receive practical information on giving, saving, getting out of debt, budgeting, retirement, and basic investing. A light lunch and child care will be provided. RSVP by Tuesday, January 12 to [thewalk@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:thewalk@stjohnsbr.org) or 766-4594. THE SEMINAR IS FREE BUT YOU WILL NEED A RESERVATION IN ORDER TO ATTEND. For more information visit the website [iwasbrokenowimnot.com](http://iwasbrokenowimnot.com).

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

**Thursday, December 24**, Christmas Eve Services will be at 4:00 (Family Worship), 7:00 (Traditional Worship), and 11:00 (Contemplative Worship).

On **Sunday, December 27**, we will have only one worship service at 10:30 a.m.; there will be no coffee time and no Sunday school on that day.

## SERMON NOTES

## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Jay Hogewood**  
Senior Pastor  
225-772-3550  
[pastorjay@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorjay@stjohnsbr.org)

**The Rev. Sarah Shoup**  
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 Check in on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr)

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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



**8:30 Worship Service**  
**December 13, 2015**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.