

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015**  
**11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME**

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

You know what time it is.

**How it is now the moment for us to wake from sleep.**

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

**The night is far gone, the day is near.**

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness

**And put on the armor of light.**

HYMN *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* UMH 89  
 vs 1-3

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Phil and Jill Slicker  
 Each Sunday during this season of waiting, we have lighted a new candle in our Advent Wreath. The first was the candle of HOPE. Next we lighted the candle of PREPARATION. Third came the candle of JOY. Today all the candles will be lighted. The fourth candle is the candle of LOVE.

**With hearts filled with love, led by the light of the star, we walk on toward Bethlehem.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

PRAYER

**Almighty God, you inspired Mary, mother of your Son, to visit Elizabeth and assist her in her need. Keep us open to the working of your Holy Spirit. And with Elizabeth may we bless your mysterious work in the world. Help us give praise for your grace and mercy. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE WORD**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation UMH 885

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Lorri McGuire

ANTHEM *From A Distant Home* Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE *Luke 1:39-45* Heather Durham

SERMON *The Best Gift Before Christmas: Blessedness* Pastor Jay

HYMN *Bless His Holy Name* FWS 2015

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY UMH 95

**SENT FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

<b>Ushers</b>	Bill and Jane Metcalf, Bob Ayres, Will Halliburton
<b>Host(s)</b>	Joyce Perry

**HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

**TODAY, Sunday, December 20**

3:00 p.m. Youth and Children Caroling

**Monday, December 21**

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor

3:00 p.m. Men’s Covenant Group, Library

**Wednesday, December 23**

8:00 a.m. Holy Folders

**Thursday, December 24**

OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON

**4:00 p.m. Family Worship**

**7:00 p.m. Traditional Worship**

**11:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship**

**Friday, December 25**

OFFICE CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Saturday, December 26**

12 noon AA Meeting, Gym-C

**WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 27**

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.

**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.

**RUTH CIRCLE UMW**

The Ruth Circle UMW will meet **Tuesday, January 5** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. The 2016 pledge program and a program about hymns will be presented. All women are invited to attend.

**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. If you chose to make your gift in the form of a check, please mark the memo line “Staff Christmas Appreciation.” Deadline is today.

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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** in an email to [thewalk@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:thewalk@stjohnsbr.org) or phone 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).

## THANKS, ST. JOHN'S

From Beth Forester: Thanks to all of the congregation for your generous participation in the Angel Tree Project this year. We served sixty children by purchasing gifts, wrapping gifts, blessing the children and their families, and delivering the gifts while sharing the Word. This year we had the largest number of church members involved. Thank you for being so generous with your time and finances. You certainly helped bring a smile to a child this Christmas.

From Boy Scout Troop 505: Special thanks to St. John's United Methodist Church and all of it's parishioners who so generously purchased our Gumbo dinners and were the primary reason why we were so successful. Special mention should be given to Mrs. Brenda Green who has acted as our liaison with the church on this and many other events. Thanks, Brenda.

From Rev. Cathy Carlson daughter of May Fox (former member of St. John's): Before my mother's death, she asked me to write to each church that nurtured her in the faith and thank them. Thank you for providing a place where she could grow in faith and contribute to the healing of the world. You blessed her -- and our family, too, is grateful to you.

## LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line screening will be held at St. John's on **Monday, January 11** in the Administration Building. Ultrasounds for stroke, peripheral arterial disease, abdominal aortic aneurysm and osteoporosis as well as an EKG for atrial fibrillation are offered for only \$149 (\$139 without the osteoporosis test). Pre-registration is required. To register for your appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, call 1-888-653-6450 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).

Life Line Community Healthcare will also offer the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. For eligible Medicare beneficiaries with traditional Part B, there is no cost/no co-pay. This is not a physical, but a personal wellness consultation performed by a certified Nurse Practitioner designed to help you and your doctor keep you healthy, safe and independent for a long time. This wellness consultation is an entitlement! Medicare is billed for this visit. Pre-registration is required; call 1-866-579-5069.

## SERMON NOTES

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## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Jay Hogewood**  
Senior Pastor  
225-772-3550  
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 Check in on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr)

 Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/stjohnsbr](http://www.twitter.com/stjohnsbr)



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

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



**11:00 Worship Service**  
**December 20, 2015**  
**Fourth 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.