

# Advent

An invitation to *begin again*



*Sunday, December 22, 2024*  
*8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship Celebrations*

All Are Welcome

Today the music ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church present "The Message of Christmas." Our Alleluia Ringers, Chancel Choir, Music Makers, and Praise Team will share seasonal songs, and woven among the beautiful music will be readings of scripture and poetry. Welcome to this worship celebration!

*Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to scan the QR code to register your attendance so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.*



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# Welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church

## GUEST INFORMATION

We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. Restrooms are in the Narthex, located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please take home a copy of our Welcome Brochure located in the Narthex or view it online at: [stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure](http://stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure).

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We fully welcome and love engaging children in worship! We include a special Children's Moment each Sunday.

- **The St. John's Prayground** is located in the front of the sanctuary. This is a place for children and their families to worship together, allowing children to more fully participate in the service. More details about the Prayground may be found on our website.
- A staffed **nursery** for infants through preschool is open every Sunday morning and is located next door in our Education/Administration building.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms in the back of the sanctuary and in our nursery.
- Children are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**, which is served weekly at 8:30 a.m. and on the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free elements are also available.
- **Sunday School** is offered for children starting at age 18 months through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

## St. John's Clergy and Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
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Cheryl Roubique  
*Nursery Coordinator*

# The Celebration of the Gospel

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**Bold** indicates congregational response.

*Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



## Prelude

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*  
Alleluia Ringers, Evie Durham on violin

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Hymn

*People Look East*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 202, vs. 1, 2, & 4

## \*Advent Proclamation

Rev. Larry Norman

What we do in this season is blessed  
in a very special way.  
The carols we sing,  
the prayers we pray,  
the words we say  
are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.  
They are a Gift,  
inspired by the Giver Of All Words,  
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us.  
For in this Season we proclaim, yet again,  
the birth of Christ,  
who comes to show us everything we will  
ever need to know about God.

## \*Hymn

*Love Came Down at Christmas*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 242, vs. 1

## \*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

### Lighting the Advent Candles

8:30 - Maggie & Langston Yancey

11:00 - Madeline Massett Golmon & Christopher Golmon

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**Let us begin with love.**

Something new and important is about to happen.  
We can feel it in the tinsel and excitement of Advent.  
Even through the noise and confusion of people in a rush,  
we can feel it coming and we know what it is.

**It is love beginning again,  
bringing peace to our chaotic world,  
and our crowded lives.**

Everything is falling into place:  
Sing the carols! Light the candles! See the star!  
Here comes hope! Here comes peace! Here comes joy!  
**Here comes love, turning Advent into an adventure  
and Christmas into a new birth for us all! Amen.**

<b>Anthem</b>	<i>Light One Candle for Waiting</i> By Michael Bedford	Music Makers
<b>Children's Moment</b>		Molly Means
<b>Poetic Reflection</b>	"In Search of Our Kneeling Places"	Natalie Cooper
<b>Prayer</b>		Rev. John Gilmore
	The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b> Let us pray. <b>O God,</b> <b>We know that you are constantly speaking to us.</b> <b>Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships,</b> <b>you make yourself known again and again.</b> <b>In gratitude, we long to return the favor.</b> <b>In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway.</b> <b>So in this moment, as we quiet the noise</b> <b>in our heads and lean in,</b> <b>Speak to us through the bustle of this busy season.</b> <b>Speak to us as only you can.</b> <b>With hope in our hearts we listen, we pray, Amen.</b>	
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>Caroling, Caroling</i> , by Alfred Burt <i>Carol of the Bells</i> , by Peter Wilhousky	Chancel Choir
<b>Scripture</b>	Jeremiah 23:5-6	Rev. Barbara Duke
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>King Glockchen</i> Arranged by Vicki Hancock Wright	Music Makers
<b>Poetic Reflection</b>	"The Coming of God"	Natalie Cooper
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>Do You Hear What I Hear?</i>	Alleluia Ringers
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Selected Verses from Isaiah 11 (Isaiah 11:1-3a, 6, 10)	Rev. Larry
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In</i> Arranged by Dolores Hruby	Chancel Choir
<b>Poetic Reflection</b>	"This Year"	Rev. Barbara
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>I Wonder As I Wander &amp;</i> <i>It Came Upon A Midnight Clear</i> Glenn Barbay, bass guitar; Betty Schroeder, concertina; John Toney, guitar	

**Scripture Reading**

Zechariah 9:9-10

Rev. Larry

**Anthem**

*There's a Baby Being Born in Bethlehem*  
Words and music arranged by John Horman

Chancel Choir

**Poetic Reflection**

"Christmas Comes"

Rev. John

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly & Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Betty Schroeder, hammer dulcimer; John Toney, guitar

*We appreciate your generosity.  
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.  
You may give online by scanning the QR Code  
or navigate to [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give).*



**\*Doxology**

**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!**

**Poetic Reflection**

"This Year Will Be Different"  
Readers: Natalie Cooper, Barbara Duke,  
John Gilmore, Larry Norman

**Hymn**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 242, vs. 2 & 3

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Lane

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Anthem**

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*  
Arranged by Dobrinski

Alleluia Ringers

**Call to Action**

*We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John's and invite you  
to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.*

**\*Hymn**

*Star-Child*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2095, vs 1 & 5

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

# Worship Notes

The Advent Proclamation and The Advent Candle Lighting were written by Rev. John Winn.

Today's prayers were adapted using words and phrases from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed's *Liturgy for Words for the Beginning* | Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Poetic Reflections are from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Sandra Kuykendall & Chris Stubbs.

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Zach Isenhower and Dianne Stillely.

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments.

## Announcements

### THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE IS TONIGHT

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. With the busyness of this season, it's hard to find time to slow down and reflect on what matters most in life. If this resonates with you, we invite you to attend our Longest Night worship service, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance. Rev. Larry Norman will offer a meditation. Join us **tonight at 5 p.m.** for this quiet, reflective service.

#### **For families with children who wish to attend the Longest Night Worship service,**

Connor & Betsy will be leading an alternate activity upstairs in Mrs. Marilyn's classroom. We will do some crafts, play some Christmas games, and watch Christmas movies. If you feel you need designated time and space to feel the emotions that have been weighing heavy on your heart this season, please take this opportunity to do so.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Both of our Christmas Eve worship experiences will be uplifting, celebratory, and meaningful in their own unique way. Join us for one or both!

**Nativity Service at 4 p.m.** - This year, our family-oriented Christmas Eve service will feature our children creating a live nativity with scripture readings by our youth. We will also sing carols, celebrate Holy Communion, and experience the Christmas story through the eyes of our young people.

**Candlelight Service at 6 p.m.** - This traditional service will feature carols, beautiful music, a Christmas message from Pastor Lane, Holy Communion, and *Silent Night* by candlelight. Join us at 6 p.m. for a time of worship, community, and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

### HOLIDAY HOURS

During Christmas Week and New Year's Week we will have limited office hours. Both weeks the office will **only be open** on Thursday, December 26 and January 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, December 27 and January 3 from 9 a.m. to noon. The regular office week will resume on Monday, January 6 at 9 a.m.

The Shepherd's Market is closed for the holidays and will reopen Monday, January 6 at 3:30 p.m. for regular shopping.

### ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

We will come together for one combined worship service on **Sunday, December 29 at 10 a.m.** to sing Christmas carols, take "hymn requests," from those in attendance, hear a brief message by Natalie Cooper, a certified lay servant, and celebrate Holy Communion. Children are invited to bring a new Christmas Toy or Gift for a special blessing during the Children's Moment. *There will be no Coffee Time or Sunday School on December 29.*

## **THANK YOU FROM OUR STAFF**

On behalf of the staff, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions to the staff appreciation love offering. Your kindness and support mean so much to us, and we are truly blessed to be part of such a caring community. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and encouragement!

## **COFFEE TIME SNACKS**

**We will not have Coffee Time (or Sunday School) next Sunday as we are having only one worship service at 10 a.m.**

HOWEVER, if your last name begins with **T - Z**, you don't have to bring snacks until next year! "Your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is **January 5, 2025**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

## **EPIPHANY LESSONS & LAUGHTER SERVICES ON JANUARY 5**

To close out the Christmas season and celebrate Epiphany, these services of joy and connection on **Sunday, January 5** will amplify the good news of this holy season through song and laughter! We will also receive our 2025 Star Words, a spiritual practice that provides a word for guidance and reflection for the year ahead. We will resume our regular worship times of 8:30 and 11 a.m. as well as Coffee Time and Sunday School on January 5.

## **SPRING YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN**

St. John's is excited to announce applications are now being accepted for our Spring Youth Ministry Intern position. This 15-week internship spans February 2 - May 19 and is designed for young adults who have a passion for working with youth (6th-12th grades) and/or may be exploring a call to ministry. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable leadership and ministry experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 10 hours per week. Each intern will receive \$1,500 throughout the spring semester, to be paid semi-monthly (15th & 30th of each month) during the 15-week internship.

We are looking for someone who has a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome. **Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to [jobs@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:jobs@stjohnsbr.org) by January 12, 2025.**

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Beginning Sunday, January 26, we are asking members to spend some time with the youngest blessings of St. John's. This will help us meet our budget and best stretch your contributions! If no children arrive within the first 15 minutes of the worship service and/or Sunday School, volunteers are free to leave the nursery. You will remain "on call" until your time has ended and will receive a text if a child shows up and you are needed. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the rotation with others! Keep an eye out for Safe Sanctuary Training sign-up, coming soon! **Middle school and high school students are welcome to sign up!**

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM**

The UWF books in the 2025 Reading Program are now available in the church library.

# *This Week at St. John's*

Sunday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary  
8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC\*  
9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, 202 Admin Bldg.  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, December 23

THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 24

THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED  
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, December 25

THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED  
6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, December 26

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED  
(will reopen Monday, January 6, 2025)

Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center

## *Advent & Christmas at a Glance*

12/22 The Longest Night Service, 5 p.m.  
12/24 Family-friendly Service with Live Nativity by children and youth, 4 p.m.  
Service of Candlelight & Communion, 6 p.m.  
12/29 Only one worship service, 10 a.m. (No coffee time, no Sunday School)

**2025**

1/5 Epiphany Lessons & Laughter Service (Star Words), 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
(We resume regular Sunday morning schedule.)  
1/6 Shepherd's Market reopens

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S FLYER**

Flyers are available in the narthex and office with information inviting you to join us for special programs, mission opportunities, and worship services during the Advent and Christmas season. We encourage you to take the flyer home with you today so that you can mark your calendar. We look forward to journeying through these sacred seasons with you. Additional flyers are available if you would like to pass one along to someone else.



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

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*