

FROM THE CORNER

Learn more about
Reconciling Ministries Network:
www.rmnetwork.org 

MARCH

4 WEDNESDAY– Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day in Nashville

7 SATURDAY– Soup kitchen volunteers needed (3:30-5:30pm); sign up with Annie (ahunter@stjohnsmidtown.org)

13 FRIDAY – Musical Celebration of Rev Dr. John Kilzer (6:00pm)

15 SUNDAY – UMM Breakfast (8:30am)

22 SUNDAY – UMW Potluck at Susan McKnight’s home (5:00pm)

25 WEDNESDAY – Parents Night Out (6:00-7:30pm)

29 SUNDAY – FX: Bingo Night & Potluck (5:00pm)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kilzer The Way Family will gather to celebrate the music and ministry legacy of our beloved John Kilzer on **Friday, March 13, 6:00pm**. We want to be intentional about honoring the gift of John’s music as we live into the legacy of his ministry. We have some special friends planned; there will be no better music in Memphis that evening than what will come from St. John’s sanctuary!

UMW Potluck The United Methodist Women will gather at Susan McKnight’s home for a potluck on **Sunday, March 22 at 5:00pm**. Bring your favorite childhood comfort food! Contact Janet to receive UMW emails (jhall38118@yahoo.com).

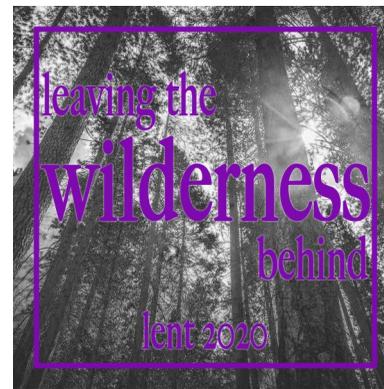
Bingo! Our next Family eXperience will be Bingo Night! Grab your crockpot and your game face for a fun evening and potluck dinner on **Sunday, March 29**. The fun starts at **5:00pm** in the fellowship hall; bring a friend! Or two!

New Pastor’s Study During the season of Lent the Pastor’s Study will focus on the Bible as part of our Wilderness journey with a film series led by Peter Enns, author of *The Bible Tells Me So... Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It*. The Pastor’s Study meets **Sundays at 9:30am** in the fellowship hall.

Lenten Study Join Young Adults (ROTC) or In Medias Res (Room 307) during the Lenten season for Kristen Vincent’s *We Are Beloved: A Lenten Journey with Protestant Prayer Beads*. We will journey through Lent, claiming our true identity as beloved. We will make Protestant Prayer Beads as a part of the study to help quiet our minds and increase our awareness of God’s presence. Study books and bead kits will be provided. This class will run **Sundays at 9:30am, March 1-April 5**, (no class March 15). Visitors are always welcome!



This Friday at 6:00pm Johnny Jeffords leads us with Steve Potts, Steve Selvidge, & Dave Smith.



St. John’s

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1207 Peabody Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
Office—(901) 726-4104
www.stjohnsmidtown.org
A Reconciling Congregation

St. John’s welcomes everyone. Our hearts, minds, and doors are open to people of all ages, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, theological identities, economic status, disabilities, and people who sojourn on the way to recovery and wholeness. We are a diverse community whose discipleship to Jesus Christ is demonstrated through our deep commitment to servant ministry. Welcome Home!

TODAY’S USHERS:

Don Tyson, Bill Denton,
John Buxton, Carla Shirley,
Gary Hall

TODAY’S COUNTERS:

Counters needed

+ Please stand as you are able.

Children’s worship materials are available at the front right of the sanctuary.

Service of Word & Table

The First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020 + 10:50 a.m.

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Trust and Obey” arr. Charles Callahan
Matthew Bogart, Organ

+ *Call to Worship*

Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more: **More food, more money, more power, more life!** “What could it hurt?” we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger. So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of “more”: **And to celebrate that we do not need “more” when we have everything in Christ.**

Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God’s Spirit, which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

Thanks be to God!

+ *Prayer for the Day*

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions.

Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the bread of the world and the nourishment of your word, strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you. Amen.

+ *Kyrie eleison*



Ky-ri - e e - lei-son. Ky-ri - e e - lei-son. Ky-ri - e e - le - - i - son.
Chri - ste e - lei-son. Chri - ste e - lei-son. Chri - ste e - le - - i - son.
Ky-ri - e e - lei-son. Ky-ri - e e - lei-son. Ky-ri - e e - le - - i - son.

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Josh Shaw, Director of Children's Ministries

Prayers of the People

Call to Prayer TFWS 2216

"Cares Chorus"
Two Times

CARES CHORUS

***I cast all my cares upon you,
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,
and anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.***

The Morning Prayer

Anthem

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me"
Chancel Choir

K. Lee Scott

+ *The Holy Gospel - Matthew 4:1-11* (NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"



WORSHIP & MINISTRY STAFF

Rev'd Johnny Jeffords

Senior Pastor

Rev'd Mimi White

Associate Pastor

Matthew Bogart

Music Ministries

Carol Craig

Organist

Alan Butler

Youth Ministries

Josh Shaw

Children's Ministries

Heather Ragland

Office Manager

Annie Hunter

Communication

Cynthia Green

Reception

Bill Dozier

Building & Maintenance

Robert Phillips

Custodian

Rose Holmes

Housekeeper

+ *Choral Response*

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
Choir & Congregation

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,
and give you peace, (and give you peace)
and give you peace. (and give your peace)
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious (and be gracious),
unto you and be gracious;
the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

- *There will be no postludes during the season of lent.* -

Peter Lutkin

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of
the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall
down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”
Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Homily

Rev'd Dr. Jonathan L. Jeffords

“Wondering About Wandering in the Wilderness”

The Invitation to Table

Jesus invites all who believe in his reign of justice and love to gather around this table
and be fed in body and spirit for strength on the journey. As we prepare to share in this
holy meal together, may we confess before God and one another our need for grace.

Prayer of Confession

Creative, passionate God,
you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony.
You invite us to participate in the balance of creation.
We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds;
we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also
find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences.
Too often we give in to temptation
that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe.
We cannot undo all our mistakes,
but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus
and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth.
**Do not let our hearts be fearful,
but let us in silence acknowledge our sin
and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.**

Assurance of Grace

Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin,
our God prepared a way for them still to be connected to the earth
and to the living presence of God.
So it is with all of us:
in Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection,

we are made able to persist, upright and strong,
for our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

+ *The Peace*

Let us greet one another with signs of restoration and forgiveness.

Sharing of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

"Renaissance Dance"
Matthew Bogart, Organ

Anonymous

+ *Doxology*

*Praise God the Source of Life and Birth
Praise God the Word who came to earth
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Flame
All Honor, Glory to God's Name. Amen.*

OLD 100TH

Thanksgiving & Communion

+ *The Great Thanksgiving - Heart-shaped Bread*

by Rev. Dr. John T. Kilzer

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

What? With our hearts?

We lift them up to the Lord.

Why?

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

What else can we do now other than join your company
of heaven in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of Faith

So: Remember, give thanks always, praise, and pray,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

+ *The Great Amen.*

We all, with one heart, one voice, one spirit, and one love, say:

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power,

and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

"Abide With Me"

Matthew Bogart, Organ

arr. Janice Everlly

Prayer After Receiving

God, through this meal,

**we pray that your grace would empower us to do justice,
to offer mercy, and to do so with humility.**

You have given us your Son as an example,

and your Holy Spirit as Advocate.

Give us the courage to do your work in the world. Amen.

Sending Forth

Invitation to Take the Journey

+ *Hymn 534*

"Be Still My Soul"

FINLANDIA

+ *Benediction*