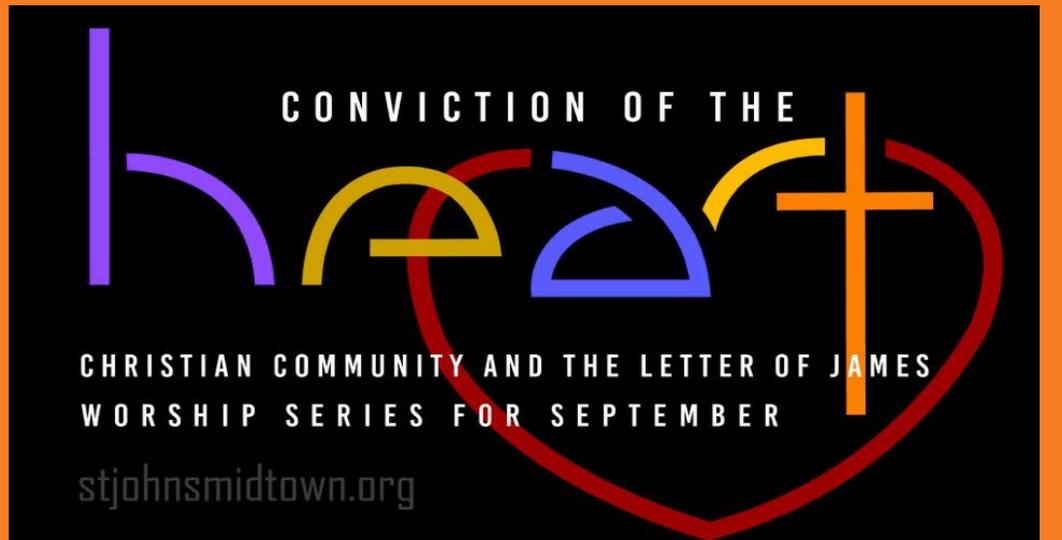




September 6
10:50 a.m.

**FAITH
CONDUCTIVITY**



*We welcome you to this
service of worship!*

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 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:

Lloyd Hearn, Mike Coop,
Charles Garrison, Herb Levy

TODAY'S ACOLYTE:

Bradly Thomas

**TODAY'S COMMUNION
OFFERING:**

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

ALTER FLOWERS:

Given by Ann Langston in honor of
Dudley Langston on their 35th
wedding anniversary.

The Entrance

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Prayer" Sonata in G minor

René L. Becker

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

God of all Creation,

What do you require of us?

To do justice,

**seeking peace and reconciliation,
standing with the marginalized and forgotten.**

To love kindness,

**showing compassion and unconditional caring
for those in need.**

To walk humbly,

**following in the steps of Jesus,
lifting up the work of our hands and the
power that sustains our service.**

With conviction of the heart

we are servants of your will.

Now and forever. Amen.

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: UMH No. 427

GERMANY

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways"

- vs. 1-2 All voices
- vs. 3 Women alone
- vs. 4 Organ alone
- vs. 5 Men alone
- vs. 6 All voices

Spiritual Reading

From Eugene Peterson's introduction to the Letter of James in **The Message**:

When Christian believers gather in churches, everything that can go wrong sooner or later does. Outsiders, on observing this, conclude that there is nothing to the religion business except, perhaps, business – and dishonest business at that. Insiders see it differently. Just as a hospital collects the sick under one roof and labels them as such, the church collects sinners. Many of the people outside the hospital are every bit as sick as the ones inside, but their illnesses are either undiagnosed or disguised. It's similar with sinners outside the church.

So Christian churches are not, as a rule, model communities of good behavior. They are, rather, places where human misbehavior is brought out in the open, faced, and dealt with.

[In the letter of James] deep and living wisdom is on display... wisdom both rare and essential.

Wisdom is not primarily knowing the truth, although it certainly includes that; it is skill in living. For, what good is a truth if we don't know how to live it? What good is an intention if we can't sustain it? ...Prayer is foundational to wisdom.

+ CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is good and forgiving.

God is love and is gracious to all who call upon him.

Let us trust in God as we make the confessions of our hearts.

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of compassion and understanding, keep us from turning our self-worth into self-centeredness. We seek to live in the world with courage and confidence, and yet remain humble before you. We want to be resourceful, yet recognize our dependence upon you.

Help us to hold on to all that you have taught us, and rejoice in the good you have given us. Fill our hearts and minds with the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear what the Lord proclaims:

“I shall give you a new heart;

a new spirit I will put within you.

**I will cause you to walk according to my ways
so you shall be my people and I will be your God.”**

Friends, believe the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice!
O come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,
and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done!

+SHARING THE PEACE

Proclamation and Response

FIRST ACT OF PROCLAMATION—Spiritual Reading

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

CENTERING HYMN: TFWs No. 2175

SAN ANSELMO

“Together We Serve”

James 2: 1-17

2¹⁻⁴ My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted?

5-7 Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms?

8-11 You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder." If you don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, do you think your non-adultery will cancel out your murder? No, you're a murderer, period.

12-13 Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

14-17 Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UMC Book of Worship

MUSICAL OFFERING

arr. Richard Walters

"How Can I Keep from Singing"
Micah Pound & Matthew Bogart, Tenors

SCRIPTURE READING - James 2:1-17

HOMILY

Rev'd Johnny Jeffords

"Faith Conductivity "

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERTORY

+ DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*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!*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: UMH No. 9

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**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery, in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Sending Forth

+ RECESSIONAL HYMN: UMH No. 590

HIGH STREET

"Christ Loves The Church"

+ SENDING FORTH TO SERVE

+ BENEDICTION

+ POSTLUDE



1207 Peabody Ave.
 Memphis, TN 38104
 (901) 726-4104
 www.stjohnsmidtown.org

FROM THE CORNER

The news of our life, growth, and discipleship

September 6, 2015

Join the St. John's Hospitality Team!

The church office is looking for volunteers to serve on our new Hospitality Team! Volunteers will be welcoming and helpful to church visitors from 10:30am-12:30pm Monday-Friday. You have the opportunity to give two hours of your time to serve coffee to our neighborhood guests, hand out street ministry bags, and aid in office tasks that help the St. John's community and the Memphis community! Contact Kristen at the church office if you are interested at kberning@stjohnsmidtown.org.

Welcome Class

Anne Emmerth is leading our Welcome Class on Sunday mornings from Sunday, *September 20*– Sunday, *October 18*. Class begins at 9:30am in the Hospitality Room. New members and regular visitors can learn about Methodism, the history of St. John's, and ways to get involved in our ministries. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Kristen at the church office at kberning@stjohnsmidtown.org.

Body & Soul Group Resumes

The Body & Soul group will begin meeting on *September 9* from 5-6pm in the Hospitality Room. Discussion will revolve around Church Health Center's Model for Healthy Living, and passages from Dr. Morris' book *God, Health, and Happiness*.

Have a Great and Safe Labor Day Weekend!

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, *September 5* in observance of Labor Day. Have a wonderful holiday weekend!

WORSHIP & MINISTRY STAFF

Rev'd Johnny Jeffords	<i>Senior Minister</i>
Rev'd Renee Dillard	<i>Discipleship Ministries</i>
Rev'd G. Scott Morris	<i>Associate Minister</i>
Rev'd John Kilzer	<i>Recovery Ministries</i>
Matthew Bogart	<i>Music/Worship Ministries</i>
Scott Elsholz	<i>Organist</i>
Zachary Ferguson	<i>Youth/Young Adult Ministries</i>
Lyn Stewart	<i>Church Administrator/Finance</i>
Emma Martin	<i>Office Manager</i>
Kristen Berning	<i>Office Assistant/Communications</i>
Bill Dozier	<i>Building & Maintenance</i>
Robert Phillips	<i>Custodian</i>
Rose Holmes	<i>Housekeeper</i>

For further staff information and contact information visit:
WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG

Communion Table Update

The table is under construction! We've received an initial measure of financial support for which we are thankful. It is time to help complete the funding now that the effort is underway. Please indicate "Table Project" on any checks. You may also contribute online. We are anticipating consecration of the table in worship on October 4, World Communion Sunday. It is exciting!



Chancel Choir Resumes

Look forward to Sunday, *September 13* when the choir is back in worship. Choir warm-up is at 10:15am in the choir room.

WIN Picnic Tickets

Workers Interfaith Network will be holding its Faith and Labor Picnic on Labor Day, *September 7* from 11am - 2pm. The picnic is a fun, family-friendly event filled with food, music, and activities for kids. Proceeds from the picnic will help WIN uphold the rights of workers facing wage theft and unsafe working conditions.



This Friday at 6pm
 John Kilzer leads us with
 Jim Spake, Scott Bomar,
 Joe Restivo, and
 Steve Potts.

Get Connected Online

St. John's United Methodist
 Church - Midtown Memphis
 @stjohnsmidtown

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Monday– Food Pantry & Church Office Closed
Wednesday– Matthew Bowles
Friday– Sara Holmes