

*This year's Soup Kitchen Gifts for Guests were sponsored in loving memory and in loving honor of the following:*

**In Memory of:**

Jennifer Singler by Fred, Glenda, & Alison Smith  
 JoAnne Whitehead by Heather Grosvenor  
 Nan Farmer by Phyllis Crockett  
 Carolyn Walker by Russell Walker  
 Eddie Cantler by Jenina Cantler

**In Honor of:**

Nancy Hearn by Nancy Duckworth  
 Steve McLellan by Mary Jo Hinton

Betsy Awsumb by Liz Awsumb  
 John & Stacy Kilzer by Tom & Nina Gourley  
 Sam Braswell by Heath & Sam Houston  
 Lyndall Jones by Berry Jones  
 Sam Michael by Jeff Michael  
 Martha Bowers by Bill Colton  
 Kimberly Moore & Carol Wright  
 by Barb & Jim Lindstrom  
 Becky Smith by Leslie Wilkinson  
 Peggy Wilkinson by Allen Wilkinson

<b>HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS</b>	1207 Peabody Ave. Memphis, TN 8104 (901) 726-4104
<p><b>Monday (12/21/15)– Wednesday (12/23/15)</b>– Regular Hours 9:00am-4:00pm  <b>Thursday (12/24/15)</b>– 9:00am-12:00pm  <b>Friday (12/25/15)</b>– Closed</p> <p><b>Monday (12/28/15)</b>– Closed  <b>Tuesday (12/29/15)– Thursday (12/31/15)</b>- 9:00am-12:00pm  <b>Friday (1/1/2016)</b>- Closed</p>	
	St. John's United Methodist   @stjohnsmidtown

**DECEMBER**

- .....
- 20 SUNDAY**– Church council meeting in room 205 (after service)
- 20 SUNDAY**– The Longest Night Service in the sanctuary (5:00pm)
- 24 THURSDAY**– Christmas Eve Service (5:00pm)
- 26 SATURDAY**– Soup Kitchen (3:30-5:30pm)
- JANUARY**
- .....
- 2 SERVICE SATURDAY**– Soup Kitchen (3:30-5:30pm)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- .....
- The Atrium needs new or used religious-themed (including Christmas) greeting cards for making prayer cards. Place donations in the basket outside Atrium 1.
- Join us during the weekdays at St. John's. Volunteer! Contact Kristen at kberning@stjohnsmidtown.org if you are interested.
  - Serve on the Hospitality Team on Thursdays or Fridays!
  - Sack groceries in the food pantry on Mondays or Fridays!
- Operation: Swaddling Clothes is in great need of diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6. Donations are truly appreciated.

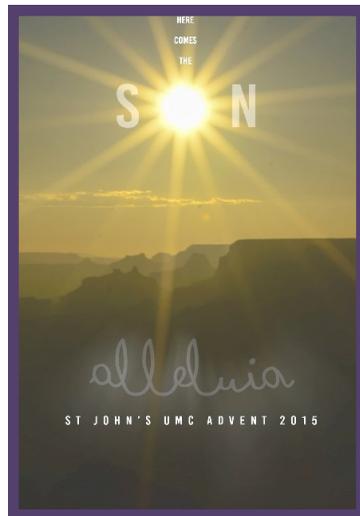


Join us for The Way on Friday, January 1 at 6pm as John Kilzer leads us into the New Year!

**FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS**

**Monday**– Irvine Cherry, Mary Ann Sandidge  
**Wednesday**– Bill Colton, Gary Hall, Patti Smith  
**Friday**– closed

**The monthly schedule is now on our website for volunteer convenience.**  
[stjohnsmidtown.org](http://stjohnsmidtown.org)>Outreach>Volunteer



*Advent graphic by: Collins Dillard*

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:**

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

**TODAY'S ACOLYTES:**

Vincent Levy, Christopher Williams

+ Please stand as you are able.

**St. John's United Methodist Church**

December 20, 2015  
 10:50 a.m.

*"HERE COMES THE SON"*

**ADVENT 4**

*THE ENTRANCE*

*Words of Welcome*

*Prelude*

George Frederic Handel

"Pastoral" from Messiah  
 Erin Kaste, Violin

+ *Call to Worship*

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
 The Lord is with thee;  
**blessed art thou amongst women,  
 And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.**  
 Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
 pray for us sinners,  
 now and at the hour of our death.  
**We wait in peace for the salvation and peace delivered  
 through your son Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

+ *Processional Hymn*—UMH 215 ANNUNCIATION

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

vs 1: All, vs 2: Solo, vs 3: All, vs 4: Men, vs 5: Women, vs 6: All

*(During the final stanza children may come to the crèche.)*

*Time at the Crèche*

*Singing of God's Love*

He came down that we may have hope! He  
He came down that we may have love! He  
He came down that we may have joy! He  
He came down that we may have peace! He

came down that we may have hope! He came down that we may  
came down that we may have love! He came down that we may  
came down that we may have joy! He came down that we may  
came down that we may have peace! He came down that we may

have hope! Hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er more.  
have love!  
have joy!  
have peace!

*Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love*

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David” (Luke 2:1, 3-4).

Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

**Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kingdom of God.**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

*(Light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath.)*

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

***The Poinsettias which adorn our sanctuary this Christmas season  
have been lovingly dedicated to the following:***

Ashley & Ryan Baker  
*In honor of Louis Baker*

Bennett & Kristen Berning  
*In memory of Harriett Horn*

Lila Beth Burke  
*Rose Holmes*

Woody & Blaire Burton  
*In honor of our grandchildren: Michael, Naomi, & Sarah*

Jenina Cantler  
*In memory of Edwin D. Cantler, Sr.  
In memory of Edwin D. Cantler, Jr.*

Duke Clement  
*In honor of Mary Jack McCord  
In honor of Brooke Clement*

Bill Colton  
*In honor of Nancy Hearn*

Nancy Duckworth  
*In honor of St. John's Staff  
In honor of St. John's Volunteers  
In memory of Susan Clark*

Anne Emmerth  
*Fall 2015 Welcome Class Participants*

Nancy & Lloyd Hearn  
*In honor of our grandchildren: Joseph & Wallace Keeler, & Katherine & Evelyn Morgan*

Sara Holmes  
*In memory of Elmore Holmes*

Mark Jones & Jill Chamberlain Brookoff  
*In memory of Allan Chamberlain  
In memory of Bishop Roy Clark  
In memory of Susan M. Clark*

Robert & Barbara Keeler  
*In honor of Lloyd Hearn  
In honor of Nancy Hearn  
In honor of George Keeler  
In honor of Joseph Keeler  
In honor of Louise Keeler  
In honor of Wallace Keeler*

Dudley, Ann, Frank, & Katy Langston  
*In memory of Rudy & Kay Langston, & Frank Wooten  
In honor of Lois Wooten  
In honor of Celeste Wray  
In honor of St. John's Staff*

Herb, Marjorie, & Vincent Levy  
*In memory of Stella Steib & Diana Diggs Russell*

Chesney McAfee  
*In honor of Rachel McAfee  
In honor of Nick McAfee*

Becky Ross McRae  
*In memory of Frank L. McRae  
In memory of Nina P. Ross (mother)*

Scott & Mary Morris  
*In honor of Bennett & Kristen Berning*

The Richardson Family  
*In honor of the Gieselmann Family*

Sylvia Shepherd  
*In memory of James Shepherd*

Bill Spicer & Amy McDaniel  
*In memory of Bob & Freddie Lou McDaniel  
In memory of William A. & Laverne Spicer*

Amy & Bradford Sterling  
*In honor of Evelyn Sterling*

Bill & Lyn Stewart  
*In memory of our parents & Gerry Severns*

Alvin Swiney  
*In memory of Roy & Matilda Fitch  
In memory of Albert & Ida Swiney*

Rebecca Thomas  
*In honor of Ken & Virginia Burnette*

Don & Jennifer Tyson  
*In memory of Edward Tyson  
In memory of Courtney Fletcher & Enid Fletcher*

Russell H. Walker  
*In memory of Catherine Guthrie Walker  
In memory of Carolyn Tate Walker  
In memory of John R. Walker, III  
In memory of Mary Hewes Mulherin*

Carol Wright  
*In memory of Doug & Mae Rice*

A Blessing Called Sanctuary

You hardly knew  
how hungry you were  
to be gathered in,  
to receive the welcome  
that invited you to enter  
entirely—  
nothing of you  
found foreign or strange,  
nothing of your life  
that you were asked  
to leave behind  
or to carry in silence  
or in shame.

Tentative steps  
became settling in,  
leaning into the blessing  
that enfolded you,  
taking your place  
in the circle  
that stunned you  
with its unimagined grace.

You began to breathe again,  
to move without fear,  
to speak with abandon  
the words you carried  
in your bones,  
that echoed in your being.

You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing  
is that it will not leave you alone,  
will not let you linger  
in safety,  
in stasis.

The time will come  
when this blessing  
will ask you to leave,  
not because it has tired of you  
but because it desires for you  
to become the sanctuary  
that you have found—  
to speak your word  
into the world,  
to tell what you have heard  
with your own ears,  
seen with your own eyes,  
known in your own heart:

that you are beloved,  
precious child of God,  
beautiful to behold,  
and you are welcome  
and more than welcome  
here.

—Jan Richardson  
from Circle of Grace

*THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*Taking the Bread and Cup*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Sharing Holy Sacrament*

*Music for Communion*

Charles Gounod

“Ave Maria”

Erin Kaste, Violin

*Prayer After Receiving*

**God of life, as you pour your grace into my heart, open it to receive the message of the birth of Christ without forgetting his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Let us use these final days of Advent to reflect on Christ's birth and life beyond birth. The time is near and we wait peacefully with our whole hearts. Amen.**

*SENDING FORTH*

*Invitation to Journey*

+ *Hymn of Response*—UMH 234

ADESTE FIDELES

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

vs 1, 2 & 4

+ *Sending Forth to Serve*

+ *Benediction*

+ *Postlude*

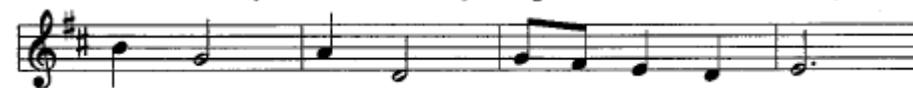
arr. Matthew Bogart

The Sussex Carol

*Congregational Response*



1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be-tween of God,



love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod,

*Refrain*



This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when



Christ-mas comes for ev-ery-one, ev-ery-one a - live!

*PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE*

*Moment for Missions:* Jaime Winton

*Joys and Concerns*

*Call to Prayer*



Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for -



ev - er, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear chil-dren in



thy ten-der care, and fit us for heav-en to live with thee there.

*Prayers of the People*

Anthem Text:

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady,"*  
Gloria!

*"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favored lady,"*  
Gloria!

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."*  
Most highly favored lady,  
Gloria!

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored lady,"*  
Gloria!"

*Anthem*

arr. Anthony Prower

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

*The Basque Carol*

Chancel Choir

+ *From the Gospels*: Luke 3:7-18—NRSV

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

*Sermon*

Rev’d Dr. Johnny Jeffords

“Yes, Mary Knew”

*Time of Reflection*

“Here Comes the Son”

*Invitation to Table*

*Prayer of Serenity*

**God, give me grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.  
Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.**

Reinhold Niebuhr

*Assurance of Pardon*

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Christ was born to save! God forgives you every sin. What a present; Amen! Again I say, Amen!

+ *The Peace*

*Offertory*

arr. Richard Walters

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Athena Hobbs, Soprano

Erin Kaste, Violin

+ *Doxology*

ADESTE FIEDELES

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*