

# FROM THE CORNER

The news of our life, growth, and discipleship

## DECEMBER

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**6 SUNDAY-** Youth Christmas Party: dinner and Starry Nights at Shelby Farms, meet at St. John's (5:00pm)

**9 WEDNESDAY-** St.Johns@Crosstown at 420 S. Cleveland (7:00pm)

**13 SUNDAY-** Honduras mission trip informational meeting in the Hospitality Room (after service)

**13 SUNDAY-** Candlelight prayer vigil for Insure Tennessee— gather on the front steps of St. John's to pray for those in the coverage gap (5:00pm)

**16 WEDNESDAY-** Family Pajama Party in the Fellowship Hall (6:00-7:30pm)

**20 SUNDAY-** Longest Night service in the chapel (5:00pm)

**24 THURSDAY-** Christmas Eve Service (5:00pm)

**26 SERVICE SATURDAY-** Soup Kitchen (3:30-5:30pm)

## JANUARY

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**2 SERVICE SATURDAY-** Soup Kitchen (3:30-5:30pm)

### FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

**Monday-** Mary Ann Sandidge  
**Wednesday-** Bill Colton & Gary Hall  
**Friday-** Fred Smith & Sara Holmes

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www.stjohnsmidtown.org

St. John's United Methodist  
Church - Midtown Memphis



@stjohnsmidtown



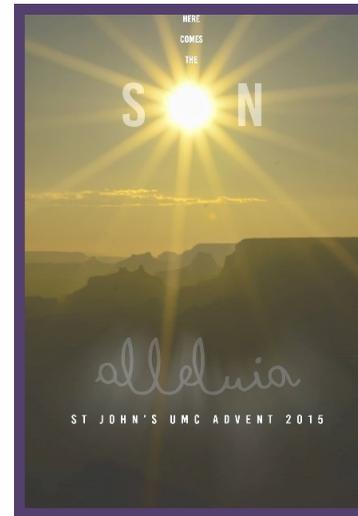
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Join us during the weekdays at St. Johns! Be a much-needed and very appreciated volunteer! Contact Kristen at kberning@stjohnsmidtown.org if you are interested in or have questions about these positions:
  - Serve on the Hospitality Team on Thursdays or Fridays!
  - Sack groceries in the food pantry on Mondays!
- If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, refer to the insert in today's bulletin.
- Donations are needed for periodicals and magazines for our food pantry and soup kitchen guests. Thank you!
- Operation: Swaddling Clothes is in great need of diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6. Donations are truly appreciated.
- Give to the Food Pantry Christmas Store! New or gently used items (toys, household gadgets, un-opened toiletries, etc.) are needed. Food pantry guests will be able to choose three items each to be gifted to a family member or loved one.



**This Friday at 6pm John Kilzer leads us with Carolyn Griffey, Tom Lonardo, Steve Selvidge, & Dave Smith.**



*Seasonal banner 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:

Holden Gienapp,  
Joseph Keeler

+ Please stand as  
you are able.

## St. John's United Methodist Church

December 6, 2015

10:50 a.m.

*"HERE COMES THE SON"*

**ADVENT 2 - Peace**

*THE ENTRANCE*

*Words of Welcome*

*Prelude*

Paul Manz

*"Jesu, meine Freude"  
Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

+ *Call to Worship* (Philippians 1:3-11)

Come together children and thank the Lord your God.

The one who began a good work in you.

The one who will bring its completion through Jesus Christ.

**We hold one another in our hearts.**

**God is our witness and source of compassion.**

May your love overflow with knowledge and insight.

**We seek to be like Christ, pure and blameless.**

All things are done through Christ our Lord.

**Glory and Praise to the savior, Jesus Christ.**

+ *Processional Hymn—UMH 203*

ELLACOMBE

*"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

*(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

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

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

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody features several triplet markings over the words 'that we may' and 'Hal - le - lu - jah'.

*Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope & Love*

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

**Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.**

On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

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

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**WORSHIP & MINISTRY STAFF**

**Rev'd Johnny Jeffords**  
**Rev'd Renee Dillard**  
**Rev'd G. Scott Morris**  
**Rev'd John Kilzer**  
**Matthew Bogart**  
**Zachary Ferguson**  
**Lyn Stewart**  
**Emma Martin**  
**Kristen Berning**  
**Bill Dozier**  
**Robert Phillips**  
**Rose Holmes**

*Senior Minister*  
*Discipleship Ministries*  
*Associate Minister*  
*Recovery Ministries*  
*Music/Worship Ministries*  
*Youth/Young Adult Ministries*  
*Church Administrator*  
*Office Manager*  
*Office/Communications*  
*Building & Maintenance*  
*Custodian*  
*Housekeeper*

*For staff and contact information visit:*  
[WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG)



THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Taking the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing Holy Sacrament

Prayer After Receiving

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
May we be ever ready.  
For the time of the Lord is at hand. Hallelujah!  
Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Journey

+ Hymn of Response—UMH 200

“Tell Out, My Soul”

+ Sending Forth to Serve

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

Toccata on “Veni, Redemptor gentium”  
Savior of the Nations, Come

WOODLANDS

Paul Manz

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!

E'en So Lord  
Quickly Come

*Peace be to you and  
grace from Him who  
freed us from our sin,  
who loved us all, and  
shed his blood that  
we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our  
Lord, the Lord  
almighty God who  
was and is, and is to  
come. Sing holy,  
holy Lord. Rejoice in  
heaven, all ye that  
dwell there in rejoice  
on earth, ye saints  
below, for Christ is  
coming, is coming  
soon. For Christ is  
coming soon. E'en so  
Lord Jesus quickly  
come and night shall  
be no more. They  
need no light, no  
lamp, nor sun for  
Christ will be  
their all!*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Joys and Concerns

Congregational Call to Prayer

Love shall be our to - ken; love beyours and love bemine;  
love to God and neigh bor love for plea and gift and sign.

Prayers of the People

Anthem

“E'en So Lord Quickly Come”  
Chancel Choir

Paul Manz

+ *From the Gospels*: Luke 3:2b-6—NRSV

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

*Sermon*

Rev’d Johnny Jeffords

“The Shortest Distance”

*Time of Reflection*

“Here Comes the Son”

*Invitation to Table*

*Prayer of Confession and Pardon*

**We need you to speak to us, O God, because we have, each in our own way, forgotten your Law, forgotten your love for us. We are in need of your deliverance, because we have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy us. We are lost, in need of rescue.**

(Silent Prayers)

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.  
Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.  
Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.  
Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.  
**God cleansed us, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.**

God’s gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives.

**And there’s more life to come—an eternity of life!**

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

+ *The Peace*

*Offertory*

Genevan Psalter

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”  
Diego Froget, Bass

+ *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.*