

FROM THE CORNER

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



JANUARY

5 SUNDAY– Epiphany (10:50am)

12 SUNDAY– New Sunday School season launch (9:30am)

12 SUNDAY– Baptism of Our Lord (10:50am)

14 TUESDAY– Tuesday Bible Study resumes (10:00am)

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

19 SUNDAY– United Methodist Men's Breakfast (8:30am)

20 MONDAY– UMC Next Memphis Chapter Gathering (10:00am-4:30pm)

20 MONDAY– Church office closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

26 SUNDAY– Rev Dr. Mark Matheny preaches (10:50am)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMC Next The Memphis Chapter of UMC Next will meet at St. John's on **Monday, January 20, 10:00am-4:30pm** to plan for the year. Special guests include JJ Warren, Helen Ryde, and Herbert Lester! Links to register and volunteer are included in the Friday e-blast!



Johnny leads The Way this Friday at 6:00pm with Dave Smith, Steve Selvidge, Kurt Clayton, and Steve Potts.

Sunday School New Year, new Sunday School offerings! More classes will be available for all ages **beginning January 12 at 9:30am**. *Young Adults* (ROTC) ranges from college age to 50s and fosters community through spiritual formation and service. *In Media Res* (Room 307) has a similar focus for folks 50+. *Sojos* (Room 305) will continue as a book study centered on social justice. *Covenant* (Room 205) utilizes the Cokesbury Adult Bible Studies. *The Pastor's Study* (fellowship hall) will continue its rotation of special topics.

Soup Kitchen St. John's leads soup kitchen again on **Saturday, Feb. 1**. Volunteers are needed from **3:30-5:30pm**. Contact Annie if you're able to help (ahunter@stjohnsmidtown.org).

Food Pantry Volunteer The food pantry team is looking for a volunteer to help sack groceries once or twice a week. Contact Bruce to learn more (901-530-7910).

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 5, 2020 + 10:50 AM



ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1207 PEABODY AVENUE

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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!

The Entrance

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”
Matthew Bogart, Organist

Paul Manz

Call to Worship

Arise, shine!

The Christ Child is the light of the world!

You were once people in darkness,

He has come to illuminate our paths!

Let us celebrate the Light of the world,

Christ is King, Alleluia!

+ *Carol - 254*

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

+ *Litany of Thanksgiving*

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,

you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.

We thank you for your loving care,

which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have given us life and reason,

and set us in a world filled with your glory.

You have comforted us with family and friends,

and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

We praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,

and have given us your peace.

You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.

You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit

and the witness of your Church.

We praise your holy name, O God.

+ *Doxology - 234 vs. 3*

ADESTE FIDELES

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.

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving - 13 (Responses)

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

+ *Invitation to Journey*

+ *Recessional Carol - 237*

NOEL NOUVELET

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

+ *Benediction*

+ *Postlude*

“Celebration”

Robert Hebble

Matthew Bogart, Organist

others are more difficult and disgraceful.
 Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,
 others are contrary to both.
 In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.
 But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ
 except by denying ourselves.
 It is necessary, therefore,
 that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.
 Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

+*The Peace*

Sharing God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory

"My Gift, My Offering"
 Teresa Phillips, Soloist

Sally DeFord

You have been our light in darkness
 and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.

You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys
 and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

We praise your holy name, O God.

+ *Congregational Response - 224*

IN DULCI JUBILO

***Good Christian friends, rejoice,
 With heart and soul and voice;
 Give ye heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today;
 Ox and ass before Him bow;
 And He is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today! Christ is born today!***

Time with the Children

Children's Carol - 228

"He Is Born"

IL EST NÉ

He is born, the ho-ly Child, play the o - boe and bag-pipes
 merri-ly! He is born, the ho-ly Child, sing we all of the
 Sav-ior mild. Thru long a - ges of the past, proph-ets
 have fore - told his com-ing; thru long a - ges of the past,
 now the time has come at last!

Proclamation and Response

Joys and Concerns

Centering Carol - 217 v. 1 & 3

“Away in a Manger”

AWAY IN A MANGER

*Away in a manger No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus Lay down His sweet
head. The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

Prayers of the People

Spiritual Reading

Blessing of the Magi

There is no reversing this road.
The path that bore you here
goes in one direction only,
every step drawing you down a way
by which you will not return.
You thought arrival was everything,
that your entire journey
ended with kneeling in the place
you had spent all to find.
When you laid down your gift,
release came with such ease,
your treasure tumbling from your hands
in awe and benediction.
Now the knowledge of your leaving
comes like a stone laid over your heart,
the familiar path closed

and not even the solace of a star
to guide your way.
You will set out in fear.
You will set out in dream.
But you will set out by that other road
that lies in shadow and in dark.
We cannot show you the route that will
take you home;
that way is yours and will be found
in the walking.
But we tell you, you will wonder
at how the light you thought
you had left behind goes with you,
spilling from your empty hands,
shimmering beneath your homeward feet,
illuminating the road with
every step you take.

—Jan Richardson

Choral Anthem

Healey Willan

“Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come”

Chancel Choir

+*Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12* (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Homily

Stephanie Powers

“The Dreamer's Road Home.”

Invitation to Covenant

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.
Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,