



S T. J O H N' S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH
December 31, 2023

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *Al and Aline Hartgraves* in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.**

Christmas Eve Program Artwork

Thank you to the incredibly talented young members who so graciously shared their beautiful renditions of the manger scene for this year's Christmas Eve program covers. Jennings Sexton, Teagan Blair and Parker Burke each donated their artistic gifts to brighten our 2023 Christmas Eve services.

Church Vote on Separation

St. John's will hold it's Churchwide vote on Sunday, January 21, 2024. All professing members must be present to vote, with registration beginning at 2:30pm and the vote taking place at 4pm.

Children's and Foundation Student Ministries

ALL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH EVENING ACTIVITIES ARE IN RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 10

All will resume on Wed., January 10, 2024.

St. John's Missions News

January is the beginning of the school year in Kenya. In 2024, Life for Children Ministry will have the highest number of boys joining high school and college in a single year. Uphold all the children of LCM in prayer - for them to persevere and be good listeners and most of all that they will grow closer to Jesus. Pray for God to provide the tuition funds to keep them all in school.

News of the Family

Welcome to Our Newly Baptized:

Aurora Elizabeth and Brahm Duane Beck

Whitley Reid Brinson

Jayce Floyd Richardson

Our Sympathies:

***Mel Sires* on the death of *Kay Shirley*, who died on December 28, 2023 in Aiken, S.C.**

In Memoriam

Mrs. Catherine "Kay" Cullum Shirley

December 28, 2023

Attendance—12/24/2023

8:30 | 114 9:02 | 214 11:00 | 283

5 pm | 336 7 pm | 733 11 pm | 157

In-Person Total | 1,837

9:02 Online Live | 385 11:00 Online Live | 423 5 pm | 626 7 pm | 432

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

January — Canned Vegetables

Collection bins located in the Narthex and the Faith Center.

Year End Financials

Year End Financials will be available soon. 2024 giving envelopes are available now on the table outside of Ward Hall. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Fairgrieve in the church office.

The Pastors and Staff at St. John's wish you & your family a Happy New Year!

Order of Worship – 10:00 A.M.

December 31, 2022

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space and time this morning, please silence all electronic devices. The prelude is the call to silent meditation and preparation for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Gustav Holst

*OPENING HYMN NO. 246

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI NO. 70

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Can I Give Him?

arr. Howard Helvey

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS NO. 95

Old 100th

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, & CHORAL RESPONSE

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

SERMON

"Leftover Ornaments"

Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER found on pg. 607

*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.*

HOLY SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION found on pg. 12

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 251

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*BENEDICTION

Sing We Now of Christmas

Trad. French Carol

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

SERVING THIS WEEK

Worship Services - Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Will Altman; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Organist - Christopher Nash

Crucifer - Benton Orr **Acolytes** - Chase and Finn Mole

December 11:00 Ushers: Champ & Jeannette Bowden, Donald Leader, Alison & Roger Carpenter, Penny Rue, Jean Geiger, Al Hartgraves, Art & Susie Smith, Commie Peebles, Leah & Joe Lewis, Mick & Connie Pisko, Eric Randall, Dave Felak, Larry Burdette, Allen & Nola Radcliffe, Kent Falb, Jerry Miller, Mitch Rivers & Mary Ann Findley

December Worship Support: Jean Geiger, Sandra Jameson and Millie Winston

You may text your gift to St. John's by texting **stjaiken** to 1-888-364-4483 and following the instructions.

Images and texts used with this service have permission granted under CCLI #2220845.

This service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.