



St. John's

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION

Good Neighbors, Sharing the Good News

MESSAGE

The Principals of Giving
“Give More Than Necessary”

DATE

Back To School Sunday
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20th, 2026
Liturgical Color - Green

WORSHIP GUIDE

NEW HERE?

WELCOME GUESTS

If you are interested in getting to know us, please provide information you are comfortable sharing via our online sign-in link on our website; stjohnsumc.org/worship, scan the QR code, or fill out the “guest card” located at the end of the pew, and place it in the offering plate.



NURSERY SERVICE | Room 103

Children, newborn through 5, are welcome in the nursery during the 10:45 AM worship service. The nursery staff kindly asks all parents to sign-in each Sunday and leave a cell phone number in case they need to contact you during the service. Also, please clearly label all of your child's important belongings.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kid's Club House

During our 10:45 AM Worship Service, children from kindergarten to 5th Grade will be dismissed to participate in our Deep Blue Sunday School curriculum, led by our Safe Gatherings certified teachers. If your child(ren) is new to class, please feel free to accompany them to our classroom and meet their teacher. Should you decide to have your child(ren) attend Sunday School, you can ask an usher for directions to room 203 (Kid's Club House). **Questions?** Grace Mott; Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministries; grace.mott@stjohnsumc.org

**On the 3rd Sunday of the month, all children and youth are invited to help prep and cook a meal served to our friends at Neighbor2Neighbor of Kansas City (N2N) during Children's Sunday School.*

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

8:30 AM WORSHIP | Chapel

9:30 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL | Sanctuary
PATHWAYS ADULT BIBLE STUDY | 205

10:45 AM WORSHIP | Sanctuary and Virtual
NURSERY CARE | 103
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kid's Clubhouse

JOIN US ONLINE!

Our Sunday 10:45 Worship Service is live-streamed on our website. stjohnsumc.org/worship

MAKE SOME NOISE FOR MISSIONS

Loose change in the offering plate is used to support our local and international missions, service, and justice efforts including the Missouri United Methodist Conference's Mozambique Initiative. For more information on the Mozambique Initiative visit mzinitiative.com.

GIVE

We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in ministry! Scan the QR code to give online or Text BLESS6900 to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483).



SERVING

THIS WEEK | 9.20.2026

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY LEADER | Sharon Curtright

USHERS | Sharon Curtright
Jay Curtright

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY LEADER | Jill Gardner

USHERS | Margaret Smith
Gary Whitmer

NEXT WEEK | 9.27.2026

8:30 AM | CHAPEL

LAY LEADER | John Rasmus

USHERS | John Rasmus

10:45 AM | SANCTUARY

LAY LEADER | Cathy Doyal

USHERS | Barb Henson
Jeff Henson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE | Dale Morehouse, organ

**WE TURN TO THE MUSIC OF OUR FRIEND, JOE MARTIN,
TO CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE, GRACE, AND HEART.**

INTROIT (10:45) | *Our God is God*² | music by Joseph M. Martin, 2006

Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, pianist and conductor

"Our God Is God" is a spirited declaration of faith that celebrates God's majesty, power, and faithfulness through vibrant rhythms and uplifting harmonies. One of the most successful anthems from the writing team of Williams and Martin, this monumental composition is a glorious affirmation of the Living God. Music of scope combines with a message of power in this sacred tone poem which takes its inspiration from the book of Job.

*Who holds the wind in His hands? Have you not heard? Do you not know?
Morning breaks at His command. Have you not heard? Do you not know?*

Who formed the stars? Called them by name?

Who calms the storms? Sends gentle rain?

Who hung the sun and moon in space?

Before all time began, who knew creation's plan?

Who gave the breath of life to man?

Who gave the song its start? Who whispers to the heart?

Who is the one who made the solemn night?

Who knows the dwelling place of light?

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Not a god of clay. Not a silent stone.
Not a graven image of gold. Have you not heard? Do you not know?*

*Our God is God! We are the works of His hands.
God is Creator. Angels serve at His command.
All creation bows before Him and we must do the same,
For God alone is worthy; worthy of our praise.*

(words by J. Paul Williams, 2006)

WELCOME & INVITATIONS | Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

Worship Symbol Notes

* | All are invited to rise in spirit and, as you are able, please stand

BLUE TEXT indicates 10:45 AM Worship Service only.

*OPENING HYMN | *God of Grace and God of Glory* | UMH 577 (1, 3, 4)

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

ORDER OF WORSHIP



bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.87

Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader | When we stumble and our faith falters, God's faithfulness bears us along.

People | **When our spirits soar and our faith grows strong, god's faithfulness lifts us to new heights of devotion.**

Leader | When our daily duties distract, and our visions grow fuzzy, God's faithfulness pierces the fog to beckon us.

People | **God's faithfulness endures forever! We lift our hearts in praise to the One who is our God this day and forever more!**

ALL | **Let us worship the Lord. Amen.**

(McClanahan, Peggy. *Flames of the Spirit* (Ruth C. Duck, ed.) pg. 59)

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*HYMN OF PRAISE (10:45) | *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*² | TFWS 2171

1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, _____ in

there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
 there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____ and in

where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____ 1 2, 4 *Fine*
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. _____

3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, _____ to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, _____ to be

loved as to love with all my soul. _____ *D.C.*

WORDS: *Prayer of St. Francis*; adapt. by Sebastian Temple (Matt. 6:12-15)

MUSIC: Sebastian Temple

CHANNEL OF PEACE

Irregular

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

BACK TO SCHOOL CHILDREN'S MOMENT | Grace Mott, Coordinator of Family & Children's Ministry

DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL | Kids Cooking for Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City in the Brookside Hall Kitchen

ST. JOHN'S PDO / PRESCHOOL UPDATE | Jill Gardner, Director of PDO/Preschool

PRAYER JOYS

Join the St. John's UMC "*Back to School*" prayer challenge:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Brett Blackwelder | Son of Diane Blackwelder
Dr. Bruce Whisler | Friend of Dale Morehouse
Jack Tinnel
Paula Rector
Jan Etherton | Friend of John Rasmus
Chris Mueller
Tammy Oskvig | Friend of John & Paula Rector
Carolyn Jeter
Dennis Young
Bailey Andrus | Husband of Beth Andrus
Marci Allen | Sister of Laura Jones
Darren Wallace and his family | Uncle of Grace Mott, and Brother of David Wallace
Rosa Maria Luque | Mother of PDO Teacher Blanca Quinto
Mark McMillen | Cousin of Jill Gardner and Nephew of Max Miller
Marilyn McMillen | Aunt of Jill Gardner and Sister of Max Miller
Linda Edwards | Friend of Ginny Miller
Those Dealing with Dementia, their families & caregivers
Those in Hospice Care, their families, and caregivers
UMC Hospice Program in Mongolia
Our Pastors & Other Church Leaders
Missouri Conference Bishop, Bob Farr
Northwest District Superintendent, Curtis Olsen
Lionzuane UMC in Mozambique and Pastor Moises Jeremias Manhique
Worldwide Unrest and Persecution
Those who live on the margins of society
Those serving in the Military and all First Responders
Those impacted by natural disasters
Those suffering at the hands of others

Let Us Pray for . . .

Mondays ▶ **Teachers**
Tuesdays ▶ **Students**
Wednesdays ▶ **Parents**
Thursdays ▶ **Building Staff**
Fridays ▶ **Bus Drivers**

St. John's

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PASTORAL PRAYER

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SOLO (8:30) | *Jesus is My Song of Grace*² | words and music by Joseph Martin, 2003
Samantha Georgiana, soprano; Aaron Bunnell, tenor; Dale Morehouse, piano

Joseph Martin's "*Jesus Is My Song of Grace*" is a warm, expressive duet centered on gratitude for Christ's redeeming love. Its flowing melodic lines and rich harmonies create an atmosphere of tenderness and devotion, building naturally toward an affirming declaration of faith. This beautiful song of faith and love tells how God sang to us through His son, and of our deep love and commitment to life with Him. "*This shall be my alleluia...this shall be my benediction...Jesus is my song of grace.*" We pray that Joe's lush harmonies and gorgeous poetic text will enhance your worship today.

*This is my story. This is my song.
From the depths of heaven's glory, to the depths of earth's despair,
Came a love song in the darkness; came a song beyond compare;
And from a humble stable, God sang His lullabye,
A song of peace, a song of joy, the music of the skies.*

*REFRAIN: This shall be my alleluia. This shall be my highest praise.
Let every word and deed proclaim it. Let me sing it all my days.
This shall be my benediction. This shall be my dying praise.
This shall be my alleluia. Jesus is my song of grace.*

*From the golden streets of heaven, to the shores of Galilee,
Came a love song for all people, the music of eternity;
And from a wooden cross, God sang His song of grace,
And filled the world with the sound of hope, and everlasting praise. REFRAIN*

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SCRIPTURE | Exodus 36:2-7¹ | NRSVUE

Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.”

Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

READER | The Word of God for the people of God

PEOPLE | Thanks be to God

¹“Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

MESSAGE | The Principals of Giving “Give More Than Necessary”

Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman

GENEROSITY MOMENT | Mark Smith, Member of St. John’s UMC since 2024

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OFFERTORY (10:45) | *The Heart Sings On*² | words and music by Joseph M. Martin, 2020 | Chancel Choir; Dale Morehouse, pianist and conductor

Joseph Martin's "*The Heart Sings On*" is a tender, uplifting choral anthem celebrating the enduring power of music, faith, and hope. With its lyrical melody and expressive harmonies, the piece reflects on life's challenges while affirming that the human spirit continues to sing. This anthem sings into the emptiness we sometimes face, declaring a hopeful message of faith and commitment. The music unfolds gradually in a unison theme, and a memorable refrain confidently delivers the promise of eternal joy. This ballad is a song for our time, affirming the power of praise.

*When the voice of song is stilled, and the words of hope are silenced,
When music falls like teardrops, and peace seems far away,
When our hymns of faith seem fragile, and our harps of gold are broken,
Remember you're God's instrument, and you were made for praise!*

*REFRAIN: The heart sings on. The heart sings on through the night,
Reaching past the silence with music clear and bright.
The heart sings on, forever sure and strong,
Rising from the worship to the Giver of the song!*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*When a symphony of sorrows leaves our broken hearts to grieve,
When our wounded alleluias seem to struggle just to breathe;
Oh, we can claim the promise that death has lost its sting,
And the music of forever is now our song to sing! REFRAIN*

Praise God, the heart sings on! The heart sings on!

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***DOXOLOGY** | *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* | UMH 95

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.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100th
LM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

***HYMN OF SENDING FORTH | *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*² | TFWS 2223**



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love. —

WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)
MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S
76.76.86 with Refrain

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***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE | Dale Morehouse, organ**

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2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Ever played UNO with a six-year old? I have and I lost to said six-year old, multiple times. Our granddaughter, Chloe, started playing the game and has mastered it. I did not realize that a six-year old could master the skill of strategy but evidently, she has and I was one of her victims. Much of life is navigating a series of events. We are constantly bombarded by changing tides personally, professionally, in our neighborhoods, and even in our churches. We cannot stem the tide of change, we have to figure out a strategy to find our way through it. Living a generous life does not happen by chance. It is choice that we make backed up by a strategy. You are invited to join us as we consider the principles that undergird the strategic choice to live a generous life. ~Rev. Dr. Jim Hoffman



STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY LUNCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH | 12:00 PM | BROOKSIDE HALL

To wrap up our Stewardship Campaign we would like to invite you to lunch! It's just one thing we can do to thank you for your continued generosity. Please RSVP on your attendance pads or through the church office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org

ST. JOHN'S TESTIMONIALS WHY PLEDGING MATTERS TO US . . .



"I believe it is an important decision and a personal priority to make a financial commitment during the Stewardship Drive to the church. In order for our church leaders to plan and prepare for programs we offer - pledges from our members are critical to develop a secure path in our worship."
-Diane Blackwelder

"My pledge is a way of putting my faith into action. It allows me to give back to a church that gives so much to me and to our community. Through worship, fellowship, service, and outreach, our church creates a place where people can find hope, encouragement, and a sense of belonging."
-Bethany Trogstad



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September 21st to September 26th

Scripture Reading(s) for the week: Exodus 36:2-7, 12:33-36; Deuteronomy 30:8-10; I Chronicles 29:2-22; Micah 6:6-8; Malachi 3:10

After my second semester at Baptist Bible College, I ran out of money and I was not eligible to borrow more to return to school. So, I went over to see my paternal grandparents, Iris and Junior. I explained to them my plight and asked them if they would give me the two thousand dollars needed to return to school. Without any thought or debate they both replied, “No.” Simple and straight forward, “No.” I’ve always wondered what their reasons were for their answer or if my dad had told them to say no. I will never know and frankly, it does not matter now. But it was a lesson for me about generosity amongst family members.

A few years later I was in the Air Force and had just arrived at my first duty station, Iraklion Air Station on the island of Crete. Since I was not eligible for base housing I had to live “on the economy.” I rented an apartment about three miles from base but because of my work schedule, the bus line was not a viable option for transportation. So, I bought an “island” car. It was a BMW that had been resold multiple times to different military people. I paid the last owners three thousand dollars for the car, but I did not have the cash. I took out a loan through the credit union on base. A family member heard about this and before I knew it, they mailed me a check for the full price. They told me to pay off the loan because they did not want me to start my career in debt. They also told me to not worry about paying it back – it was a gift. In one instance I had a different experience of generosity. Although this was new to me in practice, I will admit that it had been a long-held belief that stemmed from my religious background. The practice of generosity was embedded in me, but I had few lived experiences of it.

The story of God liberating the Hebrews from Egypt has some interesting elements in it. One of those is recorded in Exodus 12:33-36. It is apparent that the Egyptians are so exasperated by the plagues that they could not wait for the Hebrews to leave. As a matter of fact, they were willing to give them anything they asked so long as they left quickly. It says that they gave them jewelry made of silver and gold, and clothing. Then verse 36 closes with “they plundered the Egyptians.” The poor and oppressed evidently left their former masters poor.

After the 40 days at the base of Mount Sinai where Moses was given the decalogue and the people committed idolatry with the golden calf, they continued their journey into the wilderness. Once again God called them to worship God and God gives to Moses the instructions for building the Sanctuary or the tent of meeting. It is precise in its measurements, materials list, and the artisans needed to supervise the project. Once some of the materials start to flow in, the artisans get to work. But something got into the spirit of the people. They kept giving and giving and giving. It gets to the point that the artisans have more material than what is

ORDER OF WORSHIP

needed for the construction of the tent and the worship space. The people gave more than was necessary. Finally, Moses tells the people to stop giving. Yes, you read that right – the people were told to stop giving materials for the building of the tabernacle. Their giving would later be converted into other tithes and offerings to the Lord.

The covenant that we make when we join a United Methodist Church is that we will support the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our faithful witness. We usually shorten that to say we give of our time, talent, and treasure. We consider this an essential practice of a growing Christian committed to the transformation of the world. What intrigues me is the level at which we give. The covenant does not stipulate any numerical minimums for these. It does not quantify time, talent, or treasure and so we are left to individually discern what generosity looks like in our lives. I wonder what it would look like if we saw generosity as a response to the gift of life rather than one more thing to put in our budget.

Conception and birth are not things we chose or had control over. Therefore, life is really a gift. All that we have obtained and possess are gifts. We are stewards of these gifts and as stewards are expected by the Giver to be generous with them. I have never served a community that had to be told that enough was enough – they could stop giving. For me it would be interesting to be put to the test. But this would only be possible if we each let the Spirit do something extraordinary in us – move us to give more than what was necessary.

I invite you to take time and read each of the scriptures above followed by reflection on the questions below. Wrestle with your understanding of practicing extravagant generosity. Lastly, I pray that God bless the reading of God's Word and the meditations of your heart.

Questions to Consider this week:

Monday: How much time do you give each week in Christian mission, service, or justice?

Tuesday: What talents do you have and how are you lending those to mission, service, or justice ministries?

Wednesday: What percentage of your treasure do you give to God's mission in the church and the world?

Thursday: What demonstrates that you see life as a gift and all that you have as a gift from God?

Friday: Have you ever given someone a gift that was more than what was necessary?

Saturday: How is God's Spirit speaking to you shaping your practice of extravagant generosity?

Actions for the Week:

Head: Examine your understanding of extravagant generosity.

Heart: Assess the depth of your love for this world against your depth of love for God.

Hand: Commit to give more time, talent, and treasure to God's kingdom work.

Prayer: Lord, take from my hands the gifts that you have provided and use them for the transformation of the world. Take more than what is necessary. Amen.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY | 9.20

- 8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
- 10:45 AM "Back To School" Worship Service | Sanctuary
- 10:45 AM Kids/Youth Service Sunday | Brookside Hall Kitchen
- 12:00 PM Youth Donut Sale | Rotunda
- 5:00 PM Stage Right Rehearsal | Susanna Wesley Hall



**SUBSCRIBE TO
OUR FRIDAY
E-NEWSLETTER**

MONDAY | 9.21

- 8:30 AM Advent Planning Meeting | First Watch
- 9:00 AM PDO/PS Fall Session
- 9:00 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Prep | Brookside Hall Kitchen
- 10:45 AM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Lunch Served | St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
- 12:30 PM Quilting Group | 205

TUESDAY | 9.22

- 9:00 AM PDO/PS Fall Session
- 9:30 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study | 205
- 9:30 AM Mystic Misfits; Contemplative Prayer Group | Brookside Hall
- 7:00 PM Mandolin Orchestra of Kansas City | Brookside Hall

WEDNESDAY | 9.23

- 9:00 AM PDO/PS Fall Session
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting | Library
- 5:00 PM KC Sinfonettia Rehearsal | Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study | 205

**CONNECT
WITH US!**



stjohnsumckc

THURSDAY | 9.24

- 9:00 AM PDO/PS Fall Session
- 6:00 PM Neighbor 2 Neighbor Board Meeting | Library

FRIDAY | 9.25

- 1:00 PM Living Streams | Zoom
- 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal | Sanctuary



stjohnsumc.org

SATURDAY | 9.26

- 4:00 PM Wedding | Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM KC Sinfonettia Concert | Sanctuary

SUNDAY | 9.27

- 8:30 AM Worship Service | Chapel
- 10:45 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary
- 5:00 PM Stage Right Rehearsal | Susanna Wesley Hall
- 7:30 PM KC Sinfonettia Concert | Sanctuary

MISSIONS, SERVICE, & JUSTICE

N2N (Neighbor 2 Neighbor of Kansas City)

St. John's UMC is a long time partner with Neighbor to Neighbor of Kansas City. N2N is a local ministry that serves the homeless and near homeless in the Kansas City area. We are always collecting monetary donations for N2N.



Scan the QR code to donate. Any material donations can be dropped off at St. John's UMC on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM. **Questions?** Ruth Gerald; ruth.a.gerald@gmail.com.

JOIN THE BACKSNACK TEAM

Harvesters' Back Snack Program provides a pack of nutritious, kid-friendly food each week to children in area schools who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend. St. John's is the community partner for two schools: Academie Lafayette and Hope Leadership Academy. We serve a total of 50 kids each week.

We have a team of people who work on this. People typically help about **once a month**. We work out a calendar depending on who is available when. There are always two people assigned to help each delivery day. It takes about **60 minutes** to pack up and deliver the kits. Deliveries are usually done on **Monday** and **Wednesday mornings**, but schedule sometimes flexes to another day based on the school calendars (or inclement weather).

If you are willing to help or would like more information, please contact **Julie Salmon** at julie.r.salmon@gmail.com or 816.547.6906

COATS FOR BABY GRACE FAMILIES

DONATIONS NEEDED BY OCTOBER 5TH

We are now collecting coats to keep our Baby Grace Families warm this winter. On Oct. 10th & 15th we will distribute coats so that they are ready for when the cold weather hits. We will concentrate on providing coats for our Babies and especially our Toddlers (Newborn through size 5T & 6). However we would love to have coats for older siblings and the moms and dads. New coats are wonderful,; and now many stores are offering specials. However used coats in good condition are also very much appreciated. Children grow fast and even your size may have changed from last year. So clean out your closets to help those who really need them. **Please deliver them to the Church by October. 5th.** Thank you for your generosity. **Questions?** Ruth Gerald; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org or 816.523.6788

INVITATIONS

KC SINFONIETTA PERFORMANCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH | 7:30 PM | SANCTUARY

Kansas City Sinfonietta opens its second season with (un)settling, an immersive, interdisciplinary concert that challenges the mythology of American identity through a bold reexamination of Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring. Copland's iconic score is placed in provocative dialogue with music by Gabriela Lena Frank and new commissions by Julia Moss and Artistic Director Nicholas Perry Clark, creating a layered exploration of nationalism, memory, and cultural identity. By the time the concert arrives at Copland's radiant finale, audiences are invited to confront a deeper question: what does it mean to feel nostalgia for America with a modern, pluralistic lens? And what might it take to imagine something more honest in its place? Visit: kansascitysinfonietta.org for more information!

MYSTIC MISFITS; CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND | 9:30 AM | BROOKSIDE HALL

The Mystic Misfits meets the **1st & 3rd Tuesday** from September through May with a few weeks off around Christmas/New Year's.

The group begins with a twenty-minute sit beginning at 10:00 am. Centering Prayer is usually followed with a video featuring a prominent leader in the Contemplative movement such as Fr. Richard Rohr, Dr. James Finley, Fr. Thomas Keating, Sr. Ilia Delio, Rob Bell etc., and the remaining time is spent in small group discussion, finishing about noon.

The group is open to all faiths and to anyone who is seeking a deeper meaning to their spiritual life along the Contemplative Path. If you have any questions regarding this group, contact mysticmisfitksc@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND | 9:30 AM | ROOM 205

A group of strong women of faith who want to challenge our perceptions of what faith is and learn to grow in Christ. The group decides as a whole what biblical, faith or social issues we will study to achieve this goal. The group meets every Tuesday, September through May. We invite anyone who wishes to grow their faith in a loving, accepting environment with lots of joyous fun to check us out! **Questions?** stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org or 816.523.6788

INVITATIONS

FOUNDATIONS FOR FAITH BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH | 8:00 AM | BROOKSIDE HALL

Foundations for Faith is a group based on 4 forms of faith: Believing, Trusting, Faithfulness and Vision. There will be reading, sharing, and praying. **Questions?** Church Office; stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org.

MEN'S PIZZA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH | 6:30 PM | WALDO PIZZA

Join our St. John's men for a night of fun and fellowship. **Questions?** stjohnsumc@stjohnsumc.org or 816.523.6788

"TABLE N' TOWN" UPDATE!

Sign up now for St. John's Table 'n Town ("TNT") events for October and December!

- **Lee's Summit "Magical History Tour" – Sat., Oct 10, 2026 hosted by Dena Mezger:** Starts at 5:00 PM at the Lee's Summit History Museum (220 SW Main St., Lee's Summit) for a private tour of the museum followed by a short walk (about 3 blocks). Ends at 3rd Street Social for dinner around 6:15. (Anyone interested can continue the evening at Dena's house for conversation and beverages.) There is no admission fee to the museum, but donations are always appreciated.
- **Drinks/Apps at Smith/Whitmers followed by performance of "Working" – musical at UMKC Conservatory featuring Dale Morehouse. Fri. Oct. 16th.** Dale will be featured playing the cameo role of Joe who is dealing with retirement after a life of working. This will be his final stage performance at UMKC, as he is retiring from full-time university teaching in Spring '27 after 36 years as a full-time university professor and 49 years as university instructor. Drinks/apps at 5:00 PM and show at 7:30 PM. Tickets for the show are \$25 for the General Public, \$10 for Senior Citizens. Visit umkcconservatory.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=1654 or scan the QR code to purchase tickets
- **Dinner at Sue's – Sunday, Oct. 25th at 5:00 PM.** Join friends – old and new – for dinner. Guests will provide side dishes and dessert. Get to know others while enjoying a gathering around the table.
- **Dinner and Rezound Concert – Friday, Dec. 11th at 5:00 PM.** Hosted by Sue Young. Rezound is recognized as an outstanding bell choir – this is their Christmas concert. Come to Sue's house first for a light supper and then join your friends for the 7:00 PM concert after, held at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall.



Please sign up on the clipboard in the Rotunda or contact **Gary Whitmer** to sign up – or to offer your TNT activity idea – at 816.501.8671 or gtwhitmer@gmail.com.



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**ORGANIST AND
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PARENTS DAY OUT | PRESCHOOL

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Register
Attendance

BE OUR GUEST



Network Home: [SJUMCWireless_Guest](#)
Network Password: [sjumcguest](#)

