

**\* Greeting** Responsive, led by Brett Arnold

Boundless Shaper of all creation,  
**you are beyond our knowing,  
yet closer to us than our every breath.**  
You are before us and behind us,  
**surrounding us with your love, and fashioning all of  
creation in the secret depths of your heart.**  
With every thought, with every song, and with every prayer,  
**shape our community more and more to live as the body  
of Christ. Amen.**

**\* Opening Hymn** “Joyful, Joyful” All  
*(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)*

UMH 89  
Words: Henry Van Dyke, 1907  
Music: Ludwig von Beethoven, arr. Edward Hodges  
*Public domain*

**Morning Prayer** All, led by Brett Arnold

**Gracious God, even when we are lost, all is not lost. You  
are seeking us, ready to turn our lives around. You  
gather us in and transform us by your Spirit. We rejoice  
in your kindness and mercy and we give thanks for your  
abundant love. We are sought and cared for by your  
grace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Children’s Time** Izzy Lopez

*After Children’s Time, children age 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited  
to go to Second Story in Room 103. Older children and youth  
are invited to stay in the sanctuary.*

**Prayers of the People** Rev. Marchbanks

**The Prayer of Jesus** All, led by Rev. Marchbanks  
**Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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.**

**Song for Illumination** “The First Song of Isaiah” All  
*(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)*

TFWS 2030  
Words and Music: © 1976 Alfred Sacred  
Contributor: Jack Noble White  
*Reprinted with permission under One License #A-730944.*

**Words of Life** Jeremiah 18:1-11 Brett Arnold

**Message for Today** Shelley Walters  
“In the Potter’s Hands”

**\* Response** “Spirit of the Living God” All  
*(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)*

UMH 393  
Contributor: Daniel Iverson  
© 1935, 1963 Moody Bible Institute  
*Reprinted with permission under One License #A-730944.*

**Offertory Prayer** All, led by Brett Arnold

**God, as your church, we reflect Jesus' hopes for  
humanity. We offer these gifts and ask you to guide us  
to loving responsibility of all we are given in order to  
further your work in our midst. May our gifts become  
symbols of what you invite us to see: the needs of those  
whom you love. Thank you for gathering us in and  
loving us. Amen.**

**Offertory** “Be Thou My Vision” Chancel Choir

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of heaven my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

Words and Music: © 2001 John Leavitt Music  
Contributor: John Leavitt  
*Reprinted with permission under One License #A930944.*

**\* Song of Thanks** All  
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”  
*(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)*

UMH 94  
Contributors: Thomas Ken, Gilbert H. Vieira  
Music: © 1989 United Methodist Publishing House  
*Reprinted with permission under One License #A-730944.*

**\* We Continue Our Worshipful Work** Rev. Marchbanks

**\* Sending Hymn** “I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” All  
*(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)*

TFWS 2153 vv 1,2,3  
Words and Music: African American Spiritual  
*Public domain*

**\* Benediction** Responsive, led by Rev. Marchbanks

**\* Sharing the Peace of Christ** Rev. Marchbanks

**\* Postlude** Ed Snouffer, piano  
“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Words and Music: African American Spiritual  
*Public domain*



*\* You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*  
*Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from  
One License with license #A-730944 and CCLI Streaming  
license #20104970.*

*UMH denotes “United Methodist Hymnal”.  
TFWS denotes “The Faith We Sing” hymnal.*



**Sanctuary Flowers**  
This week's flowers are given anonymously  
in grateful appreciation of  
the Saint John’s family  
To sign up to provide sanctuary flowers  
for Sundays throughout the year,  
please email Rebecca Witte at  
[rebecca@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:rebecca@stjohnsaustin.org).

# We are creating a community ...

## Access Friendship Book, Guest Form, and More



Scan this QR Code for links to the Friendship Book and Guest Form, prayer requests, giving online, bulletin, newsletter, and website. You can get to the same links by going to [stjohnsaustin.org/connect](http://stjohnsaustin.org/connect).

## Exciting Changes for Children and Youth Sunday School!

### Children's Sunday School Begins Today at 10 a.m.

At Saint John's, we welcome children, wiggles and all! Each Sunday, you will find children's activity kits near the Sanctuary entrance, and children of all ages are invited to come forward for Children's Time and Communion.

Children and Youth Coordinator Izzy Lopez is expanding the Sunday morning faith development offerings for children and youth to include scheduled activities during the middle hour (10 a.m.). Visit the bright pink Children's Ministry table near the office for details about the age-specific opportunities for children's faith development at Saint John's! Contact Izzy at [isabella@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:isabella@stjohnsaustin.org) with any questions.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Presentation, Sunday, September 28

At both worship services on Sunday, September 28, Bibles will be presented to our incoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders and to any 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older students who have yet to receive their Bibles. This tradition encourages the spiritual development of these young disciples. To RSVP if your child will be receiving their Bible this year, please visit [bit.ly/4thgradebibles](http://bit.ly/4thgradebibles). Questions? Email Children and Youth Coordinator Izzy Lopez at [isabella@stjohnsaustin.org](mailto:isabella@stjohnsaustin.org).

### Discuss Documentary *Common Ground* Sep 29, Oct 6

On Mondays, September 29 and October 6, 6:30 – 8 p.m., join us in-person or online to explore the documentary *Common Ground: Healing Our Soil, Feeding Our Future*. Together we will learn about the connections between agriculture, environment, and community, and consider how these insights might guide our own choices. Register for the class at [bit.ly/sjcommonground](http://bit.ly/sjcommonground). **Prepare before the class** by watching the documentary on Amazon Prime or with the JOY group on Tuesday, September 23, 12 noon. To watch the documentary with JOY, register at [bit.ly/joycommonground](http://bit.ly/joycommonground).

### Pumpkin Patch Returns – Unloading Sunday, Oct 5

The world famous Saint John's Pumpkin Patch returns for its 33rd year! Pumpkins are due to arrive on Sunday, October 5, and we will need many hands to help unload the truck after church that day. We will also have several openings for volunteer sales shifts in the patch from October 6 - 31. Sign up to help with unloading or to volunteer for sales shifts by visiting [bit.ly/sjpumpkinpatch2025](http://bit.ly/sjpumpkinpatch2025).

### Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, October 4

In celebration of The Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint John's will celebrate Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 4, from 10 - 11 a.m. on the Grace Garden playground. Bring your animals, on a leash or in a cage, for a personal blessing from Director of Faith Development, Shelley Walters, as we give thanks for our pets' place in God's world and in our lives.

## Ways to Give

We offer many ways to give to support Saint John's.

1. Text "SJUMC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.
2. Visit [stjohnsaustin.org/giving](http://stjohnsaustin.org/giving) to make an online donation using a credit/debit card, or bank draft.
3. Church members may log on to their mySaintJohn's account via the web or by the Realm Connect app.
4. Leave a donation in an offering plate as it is passed or in the offering box located in the Gallery, or mail a check.

## Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Randy Knighten, Outreach Ministries Pastor  
Brett Arnold, Liturgist  
Cina Crisara, Director of Music  
Mary Foster, Worship Arts Coordinator  
Gary James, Sound Technician  
Izzy Lopez, Children and Youth Coordinator  
Katie McKenna, Director of Communications  
Ed Snouffer, Pianist  
John Thomason, Bulletin Designer  
Shelley Walters, Director of Faith Development  
Rebecca Witte, Director of Connections

## Connect Team

Brooks Barlow (9:00)  
Karen Hale (11:00)

## Liturgy Notes

The Greeting is by *Ministry Matters*.  
The Morning Prayer and Offertory Prayer  
Are by *UCC Worship Ways*.



2140 Allandale Road (512) 452-5737  
Austin, Texas 78756 [stjohnsaustin.org](http://stjohnsaustin.org)

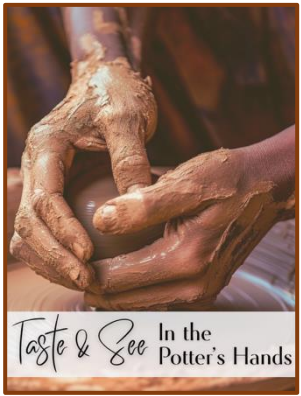
For more information about classes and activities  
at Saint John's, see our newsletter at  
[stjohnsaustin.org/newsletter](http://stjohnsaustin.org/newsletter).

## Our Mission

We are creating a community where God's love  
changes people and God's people change the world.

# Saint John's United Methodist Church

At Saint John's United Methodist Church we affirm that all persons are of sacred worth, and we welcome everyone, without exception, to participate fully in the church's life and ministry.



## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2025

Difficulty hearing in the Sanctuary? Please ask an usher for a listening device or see the pew card for information about using the ListenWIFI phone app.

## Gathering Music

Ed Snouffer, piano

"Spirit of the Living God"

Contributor: Daniel Iverson  
© 1935, 1963 Moody Bible Institute  
Used with permission under One License #A-730944.

## Welcome

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks

## Introit

"Welcome"

Chancel Choir

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin  
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,  
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

### REFRAIN

Singing welcome, welcome to this place.  
You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here;  
all are welcome in this place.

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,  
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,  
where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice,

### REFRAIN

Contributor: Mark A. Miller  
Music: © 2006 Abingdon Press  
Reprinted with permission under One License #A-730944