

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 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 appl.
4. Leave a donation in the offering plates as they are passed or in the offering box located in teh Gallery, or mail a check.

Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks, Senior Pastor
Rev. Randy Knighten, Outreach Ministries Pastor
Cina Crisara, Director of Music
Robert Elder, Connect Team
Mary Foster, Worship Arts Coordinator
Gary James, Sound Technician
Izzy Lopez, Children and Youth Coordinator
Katie McKenna, Director of Communications
Shelley Walters, Director of Faith Development
Rebecca Witte, Director of Connections

Liturgy Notes

"Covenant Renewal Service" © 1992 UMPH.
Wesley Covenant Service abridged by Ole E. Borgen,
adapted for Saint John's by Hilary Marchbanks



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stjohnsaustin.org

**For more information about classes and activities
at Saint John's, see our newsletter at
stjohnsaustin.org/newsletter.**

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.

Church Office Holiday Closure

The church office will remain closed on holiday break now through January 1. We will still provide pastoral support and hold Sunday worship on January 4. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, Jan 5, at 8:30 a.m. If you have a pastoral care concern during the holiday week or need to bring a year-end gift before December 31, contact Pastor Hilary at hilary@stjohnsaustin.org or (512) 735-6217.

Saint John's Pedalers Fun Ride, Sat, Jan 3

Saint John's Pedalers are having a Fun Ride on Sat, Jan 3, beginning at the church at 8:30 a.m. The rides are for adults of all skill and comfort levels. Register at bit.ly/sjpedalers2026 by Wed, Dec 31. Childcare will be provided, if requested when registering. Questions? Email Chris Sparks at cmsparks@gmail.com.

Bread and Belonging Class, Thursdays, Jan 8 - Feb 12

Gather with us on Thursdays, Jan 8 – Feb 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m., online and in person, for Bread & Belonging: Bible Study Together – a time of scripture study, fellowship, and prayer. Following the lectionary readings, we'll explore the Bible alongside reflections from a wide range of theologians and pastors, listening for wisdom from many voices. Register to join us at bit.ly/breadbible4. Questions? Email Shelley Walters at shelley@stjohnsaustin.org.

Hydroponic Lettuce Class, Mon, Jan 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Discover the simplest, most beginner-friendly hydroponic growing method available! In this class, you'll learn the Kratky method, a completely passive, "set-it-and-forget-it" way to grow healthy plants in water without airstones, pumps, or plumbing, using simple containers such as mason jars or storage totes. This class is perfect for anyone wanting fresh greens with minimal effort. No prior experience needed – just curiosity and a desire to grow! Register at bit.ly/hydroponiclettuce. Contact Shelley Walters at shelley@stjohnsaustin.org with questions.

Austin Half Marathon Water Stop, Sun, Jan 18

The Austin International Half Marathon will happen Sun, Jan 18. We need volunteers to staff a water stop along the marathon route on Shoal Creek from 6:30 - 11 a.m. Join us for this fun and energetic service opportunity! To sign up, contact Pastor of Outreach Ministries, Randy Knighten, at randy@stjohnsaustin.org.

Vacation Bible School 2026 - Save the Date!

Save the date for Vacation Bible School 2026! This year's theme, Fruit-Full: Living By the Spirit, will help us explore ways that we can live into the fruits of the spirit we've been given. VBS 2026 will take place July 20-24, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Look for registration to open up in early spring! Questions? Contact isabella@stjohnsaustin.org.

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.



Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service December 28, 2025

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

Gathering Music

Cina Crisara, piano

"Take My Life"

Words: Frances R. Havergal
Music: Louis J. F. Hérold, arr. by George Kingsley
Public domain

Welcome

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks
Cina Crisara

Covenant Service Introduction

Introit

"Covenant Prayer"

Dylan Graves

Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone.
Let your will be done and not my own.
Put me where you will, and let me serve;
in everything I do, let me endure.

Refrain:

This is my prayer, Lord, to you.
My promise and vow, strong and true.
And the covenant I make on earth,
let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Father, Son, and Spirit hear my cry,
forever I am yours and you are mine.
Father, Son, and Spirit hear my cry,
forever I am yours and you are mine.

Refrain

(continued on next page)

Let me be employed for you,
laid aside for you,
lifted high for you or brought low.
Let me be full, let me empty.
Let me have all things or nothing.

Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone.
Let your will be done and not my own.
Put me where you will, and let me serve;
in everything I do, let me endure.

Words: John Wesley
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Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies. O God, our Covenant Friend, ... has filled days and brought us to this time and place.
We praise your holy name, O God.
You have given us life and reason, ... and ministered to us through the hands of our community.
We praise your holy name, O God
You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, ...your Spirit and the witness of your Church.
We praise your holy name, O God.
You have been our light in the shadows ... in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.
We praise your holy name, O God.
You remembered us when we forgot you. ... For all your patience and overflowing grace,
we praise your holy name, O God.
Let us pray.
O God, searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** All

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)

UMH #229
Polish Carol. Words and Music: translated and arranged by Edith M.G. Reed
Public Domain

Children are invited to Second Story Izzy Lopez

Prayers of the People
The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us t his day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass again 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.**

Words of Life Numbers 6:22-26

Message for Today “A New Beginning”

Wesley’s Covenant Renewal Service

Invitation All, led by Rev. Marchbanks

Let us pray.
**Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

...Bow your heads and open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

Prayer of Confession
O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I bow my head before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. O blessed Jesus, I come to you; I do here covenant with you, O Christ. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you. You are holy, just, and good. I therefore take you as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty. O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God. O mighty God, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. Amen.

Offertory Prayer
God, our light and salvation, your presence brings joy and gladness. Thank you for inviting us to follow Jesus as disciples who love you and love our neighbors. Keep us close to you, for in your presence we live. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to you. Let your will be done by your Spirit at work in us — a part of the church of Christ. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.

Offertory Dylan Graves

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow.
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God heav’n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed,
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
What I can give him; give him my heart.

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*We Continue Our Worshipful Work

***Sending Hymn** All

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”
(Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.)

UMH #383, vv 1, 3, 4
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Closing
Today we invite you to take this covenant service not only in your heart, but in word; ... Thanks be to God.
Amen.

*Benediction

***Postlude** Cina Crisara, piano


“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

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**You are invited to rise in body or spirit.
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*UMH denotes “United Methodist Hymnal”.
TFWS denotes “The Faith We Sing” hymnal.*



Sanctuary Flowers

This week's flowers are poinsettias donated
in honor or in memory of loved ones.

To sign up to provide sanctuary flowers for Sundays throughout the year, please email Rebecca Witte at rebecca@stjohnsaustin.org.