

**Hearing enhancement devices are available at the back of the sanctuary in the lobby.*

Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

Spirit of the Living God
arranged by John Carter

Call to worship

Call: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

Response: Praise him in his firmament!

Call: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

Response: Praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Call: Praise God, who is the Alpha and the Omega

Response: Let us worship the one who is and who was and who is to come.

~By Wendy Russel

Opening Hymn (please stand as you are comfortable)

Easter People Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

Morning Prayer

**We will conclude this prayer by reciting "The Lord's Prayer." If you are unfamiliar with this prayer, you are invited to follow along up on the screens.*

First Scripture Reading

Revelation 1: 4-8

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Revelation Song

Doxology (please stand as you are comfortable)

UMH 95

Final Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

Message

Embodied Believing
Rev. Matt Bridges

Closing Hymn (please stand as you are comfortable)

Oh Happy Day, That Fixed My Voice Vs 1-3

UMH 391

Benediction

Postlude

Oh, By an' By
Douglas E. Wagner

Upcoming in May

Faithful Conversations:

An Interfaith Bible Study with Temple Beth Shalom

On the last Saturday morning in May (right now we're thinking 11:30 will be a good time), Temple Beth Shalom and St. John's will begin a monthly Bible Study led by Rabbi Neil Amswch and Pastor Matt Bridges that will cover a variety of sacred texts and topics. We will celebrate our traditions, our communities, and grow together in faith from perspectives that we don't always encounter. Our first faithful conversation will be on the topic of creation from a Jewish and Christian perspective. Please let Pastor Matt know if you are interested.

In The Life of St. John's

The Bag 'n Hand Needs to Restock the Shelves!

The Bag 'n Hand Food Pantry needs your help with donations of the food items below. We are also looking for volunteers for our evening distribution. The hours of volunteering are 4:40pm to 7:00pm. Below are the most needed items. Canned Fruit, Mac and Cheese, Any dry Pasta, Rice and Beans,, Spices, Condiments, Baking Supplies

Looking Forward: The Future of Renting Space

It has been so nice to see our church building used in so many different ways. Not only do we have the building for various ministries, but numerous groups are able to use the space when we aren't—the Craft Bazaar, musical presentations, a variety of meetings, Renesan offices and the May School. Since 2019, The May School has leased a significant amount of classroom space for their school. Having this space has allowed The May School to get more established and grow. They're ready for the next stage in their journey. They will be moving to a permanent location south off of Old Pecos Trail in July. We're excited to have been part of their development and to see them grow.

As of August, St. John's will have a significant amount of space that will be empty. We don't currently need many of the spaces for Church activities and hope to lease it out. The revenue from The May School leasing space has been instrumental in paying off the church mortgage which will be paid off this year. Future revenues from leasing the space will offer St. John's more opportunities to continue our development. Here's how you can help. We are establishing an ad hoc committee to assess the space The May School is vacating and to determine the best manner in which to use it. And more importantly how best to get new tenants. We anticipate the committee will be composed of 5 to 7 of you and will meet regularly to develop an approach to leasing the space and once the space is leased will ride off into the sunset. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let Pastor Matt know. We hope to have the committee up and running by asap.

Upcoming Series: *Believing Into Christ*

In the Sundays after Easter and taking us to Pentecost, we will explore themes from Revelation and the Gospel of John about what is possible when we believe. Belief is not only an intellectual endeavor and assent to the power of God to transform, but also a process that helps us use our hands and feet in ways similar to how Jesus used his hands and feet to seek out and address the hurting ones, including our planet and its most vulnerable people and beyond-human creatures.

Week 1: Embodied Believing: Our beliefs connect us to Christ, in whom we believe and into whom we grow, by embodying the assents we make.

Week 2: Circling Toward Food Justice: Food justice is a recognition that not everyone has access to the same kinds of nutritious foods that are available in some places, depending on geography, infrastructure, and economics. Unjust systems are in place. Part of our call as Christians is to interrupt those unjust systems and provide for all.

Week 3: Springs of Living Water: An old song, "Spring, up O Well!" reminds us that the river of life flows into us and out of us into the world. We celebrate the living water nourishing us and the world when we share it with those around us.

Week 4: A New World: God is creating a new world out of this one. God is making all things possible, starting here and now. God is renewing life, love, and connection for the benefit of what is and will be for this world.

Week 5: The Tree of Life: The imagery of trees is centered in this week's texts and our worship experience because trees are sources of life. They provide oxygen we breathe, food that nourishes us, and shade that protects us.

Week 6: Becoming One: On this final week in the series, we recognize how interdependent we are with creation, and we celebrate that when we benefit, we also benefit others.

This Week In The Life of St. John's

Mon. Apr. 27, 2025

6:00 pm Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

Tues. Apr. 28, 2025

12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor
6:00 pm Alcoholics' Anonymous, Men and Women Group, Parlor
6:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics, Bell Room
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall

Wed. Apr. 29, 2025

12:00 Soul Break
1:00 pm Women's Book Study
6:00 Pickleball, Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Bell Choir, Bell Room
7:00 pm Choir, Choir Room

Thurs. Apr. 30, 2025

12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor

Fri. May 1, 2025

9:00 am AA Parlor
12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor

Sat. May 2, 2025

Sun. May 3, 2025

9:30 am Morning Worship:
10:30 am Morning Fellowship Time, Gathering Room

5:00 pm Youth Group: Our location Changes from week to week. To be a part of the youth group, reach out to Pastor Matt at 936-661-2843 to be added to the youth list.

April 27, 2025

Believing Into Christ: Week 1

