

# *The* CELEBRATION *of the* GOSPEL

April 15, 2018 at 11 A.M.

*Welcome to All*

*All are invited to to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.*

✠ Please stand as you are comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

## GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

*Surely the Presence*

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP

Jeff Beck

We are God’s church.

**We come together to worship.**

Christ has given us our calling.

**We come together in his presence.**

He has freed us from our past.

**We come together to move forward.**

God has given us the Spirit.

**We come together to celebrate.**

God has called us into this family.

**We come together to share our lives.**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 131

*We Gather Together*

✠ PSALTER

UMH 850

*Psalm 133*

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

**It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**

It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion!

**For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

## ENGAGING TOGETHER

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Darlene Dickson

*Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.*

*Ushers will pass out folders during the Children’s Moment. Please register your attendance. If you have any joys or concerns please fill out a prayer card found in the left pocket of the folder and place it in the offering plate.*

ANTHEM

*Come Just As You Are*

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

*Acts 2:42-47*

Jeff Beck

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

<sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

<sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

*Based on Psalm 19:14*

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, thou who are my strength and my redeemer. Amen.**

SERMON

Pastor Lane

“Engaging Through Your Presence”

✠ HYMN *of* FAITH

UMH 395

*Take Time to Be Holy*

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE

Deirdré Halliburton

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS *to* GOD

✠ DOXOLOGY

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.**

## DEPARTING TO SERVE

RENEWING OUR SHARED COVENANT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as faithful members of Christ’s holy church, will you renew your covenant to engage in the ministries of St. John’s by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

**I commit to pray for myself, my family and friends, and I will pray for my church and my pastors, that we will continue to be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.**

**I commit to remain present to my soul and to the Maker of my Soul.**

**I commit to be present to people of faith around the world, and the needs of my family, my community, and my church.**

**I commit to become present to other people of faith along the way, and to support them on their journeys.**

**I will be present to God’s still, small voice, and the everyday miracles of life.**

**I commit to understanding myself as abundantly gifted in this world: in faith, in curiosity, and in humanity; to understand that I have been endowed with gifts that make a difference.**

**I commit to being generous with my finances, my faith, and my friendship, so that I can make a difference for the Kingdom of God.**

**I commit to giving myself away in service.**

**As a follower of Jesus, I commit myself in service to the forgotten, the hurting, the hungry, the “other”.**

**I seek the way of peace, without losing myself in people-pleasing.**

**I seek the way of love, even when it calls for tough love.**

**I seek the way of justice, without being vengeful.**

**I commit to a life of witness and living a life worth emulating; to let my light shine and not hide it under a bushel basket; to live in such a way that others want to know Jesus.**

We recommit ourselves this day to the mission of St. John’s:

**We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.**

INVITATION *to* CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*We joyfully welcome all those whose wish to become members of St. John’s and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.*

✠ HYMN *of* DISCIPLESHIP

UMH 152

*I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

## Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship. However, if you or your child would prefer, nursery care is available in the Administration Building next door; an usher can escort you. Children's bulletins and sermon sacks are available from an usher.

Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

Thank you for being here.

### OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES

#### "Engage: Walking the Discipleship Pathway"

This sermon series focuses on the five membership "vows" in The United Methodist Church: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. Our Confirmation Classes are preparing to take these vows (or renew these vows) on Confirmation Sunday, May 20. As followers of Jesus we have been made new, but we are not a finished product. God's grace is constantly working within us to help us grow more and more like Jesus. We play a role in that, too. We must Engage in order to connect and grow with the body of Christ. Next Sunday we will Engage with our gifts; our scripture reading will be Matthew 25:14-30.

### CHURCH COUNCIL TO MEET

The Church Council will meet on **Thursday, April 19** at 6 p.m. in the library. All members of St. John's are invited to attend.

### 2018 SILENT AUCTION FOR MISSIONS

The Silent Auction will be on **Sunday, April 22** and will be open from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and again from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Bidding will end at 6 p.m. SHARP.) All money collected will help support mission projects of the church.

Please think about what you might be able to donate. Some suggested items are specialty food items, dinners for 6-8, services you can provide, new items, and plants. In order to have everything categorized and set up in time for the auction, we must have your donations by **Monday April 16**. They may be brought to church on Sunday or to the church office during regular office hours.

### CRAWFISH BOIL

There will be a crawfish boil held on **Sunday, April 22** at 4 p.m. during the Silent Auction. Cost of tickets is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children. Tickets are available from the church office, on Wednesday at Heavenly Hash, and on Sundays.

### UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Come enjoy worship and fellowship with the children and families of the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center, **Saturday, April 21** at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Unity in the Community is a wonderful opportunity to connect with these families we support with educational programs and assistance offered by Opening Doors volunteers. The worship service will be lively and touching, with abundant music and joy. This is what St. John's is all about! We hope you can come.

After the program, the ladies of UMW invite everyone to come to the FLC and join our friends in the community for a simple sandwich lunch. **HELP IS NEEDED in making the sandwiches - if you can help, please come to the FLC at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. If you are able we would appreciate donations of brownies, cookies, or fruit. Please contact Joyce Perry (763-6613) if you can help.**

### NEW YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A Sunday School class for young adults will be forming soon. There will be a "Meet and Greet" on **Sunday, May 6** at 10 a.m. in Room 202 (Youth Office) of the Admin Building. If you would like more information on the class, please contact Molly Means at mollygilmore16@gmail.com, otherwise just meet us on May 6 in Room 202!

### BAKE SALE TO SUPPORT THE WESLEY AT LSU

There will be a bake sale during the Wesley Foundation's annual Alumni and Friends Crawfish Boil on **Saturday, April 21**. If you would like to support the Wesley Foundation at LSU by donating cakes, pies, bownies, or cookies, please contact Kathy at 281-0314 or brcking10@gmail.com. She is willing to pick up any donation on either Thursday, April 19 or Friday, April 20.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates for Vacation Bible School have been set - **Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29** from 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m. VBS is for ages 4 through those children who finished 5th grade this school year. Registration information and forms will be available soon, but mark your calendars for this special time in the lives of our children.



## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, April 15

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, *Sanctuary*  
8:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class-Youth, *Parlor*  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class-Adults, *Library*  
5:00 p.m. Youth, *FLC*  
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

### Monday, April 16

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

### Tuesday, April 17

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*  
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
4:45 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*  
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

### Wednesday, April 18

5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*  
5:30 p.m. Heavenly Hash, *FLC*  
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*  
6:30 a.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*

### Thursday, April 19

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*  
10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, *Library*  
6:00 p.m. Church Council, *Library*  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

### Friday, April 20

OFFICE CLOSED  
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*

### Saturday, April 21

10:00 a.m. Unity in the Community, *Sanctuary*  
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Maureen Robertson, Jane Rassi, Carrie de la Fuente, Nico de la Fuente*  
Host: *Kathleen Adams*

### CHURCH STAFF

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 Remember to pray for **The Walk**.  
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSV)  
#sjthewalk

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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



Walking the  
**Discipleship**  
Pathway

**APRIL 15, 2018**

*11 a.m. Worship Service*

*We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.*