

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

APRIL 15, 2018 at 8:30 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 able. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

## GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

*We Gather Together*

UMH 131

**We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!**

**We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

UMH 334

**There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,  
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.**

✠ 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.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

UMH 328

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.**

**I can hear the brush of angel’s wings, I see glory on each face;  
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

## 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.*

SCRIPTURE

*Acts 2:42-47*

Jeff Beck

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

“Engaging Through Your Presence”

Pastor Lane

✠ HYMN of FAITH

*Blessed Assurance*

UMH 369

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Julia

New every day is God’s love for us, and so new every day is our opportunity to come to the Creator, who loves us, with the truth of our lives. Trusting in God, in God’s grace and mercy, in God’s desire for wholeness and healing, let us make our confession together:

**Holy God, we know that you created us in love, to enjoy this  
world and You, to serve your creation and your children.  
And we know that we do not do your will.**

**With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive.**

**With lives too busy, we can never be fully present  
or fully alive.**

**With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty.**

**With feet of clay, we cannot dance with joy or run to help.**

**We seek your guidance and your power to change us. Open  
our hands and eyes, change the focus of our lives, and  
move our feet toward grace, hope, and trust in You. This  
we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*(A time of silence is observed for personal prayers and confession)*

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us proclaim the Good News:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

We are not only forgiven, we are also set free.

**With our hearts, hands, and eyes wide open,  
we will walk the way of peace together.**

✠ SHARING *the* LOVE *and* PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS to GOD

*God, Your Word*

✠ DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God,  
all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## SHARING IN THANKS

✠ CALL *to the* TABLE

Gather us in, Lord.

Gather us with bread that tells of our community.

Gather us with wine that tells of our salvation.

And by your Spirit make us one in purpose, mind, and heart.

**Gather us in, Lord, for we are better together.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 15

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord’s Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING *the* BREAD *and* CUP

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*
- ♦ *Communion will be served using the ancient means of “intinction.” When broken bread is placed in your hand you may dip it lightly into the cup and thereby receive both elements at the same time.*
- ♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it; when you come up to the altar, let the server know you would like the gluten-free elements.*
- ♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

PRAYER *after* RECEIVING

Pastor Lane

## DEPARTING TO SERVE

RENEWING OUR SHARED COVENANT

Insert

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 395

*Take Time to Be Holy*

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*After the service, all are invited to stay for refreshments in the Family Life Center.*

## 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: *Jill Slicker, Paul Ivey, Sandra Kuykendall, Betsy Adams*

Host: *Chris Stubbs*

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Lane Cotton Winn**  
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### St. John's United Methodist Church

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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

8:30 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.*