

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

APRIL 22, 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 comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

More Like You

FWS 2167

More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Fill my heart with your desire to make me more like you.
More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like you.
Lord, you are my mercy. Lord, you are my grace.
All my deepest sins have forever been erased.
Draw me in your presence. Lead me in your ways.
I long to bring you glory in righteousness and praise.
(REPEAT BOTH VERSES)

All I Need Is You

FWS 2080

All I need is you, Jesus, all I need is you.
You are the source of all I need. All I need is you.
All I want is you, Jesus, all I want is you.
You are the source of all I need. All I want is you.
My only hope is you, Lord, my only hope is you.
You are the source of all I need. My only hope is you.

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Bobbi Marino

Come to the house of the Lord. Come with your prayers,
your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.
**We bring the gift of prayer to this house. We raise
to God our hopes and our fears,
our wounds and our triumphs.**

We bring the gift of our presence, being together in worship
and fellowship, work and witness.

**We bring the gift of our resources, given freely
from our hearts to be used in service to God.**

We bring the gift of service, commitment of our time and
talents to serve God by working in God's world.

**We will go into the world witnessing
about God's love and grace, which we
experience together today.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Open Our Eyes, Lord

FWS 2086

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.**
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.
(REPEAT)

ENGAGING TOGETHER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pam Toney

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

Matthew 25:14-30

Bobbi Marino

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 With Your Gifts"

Pastor Lane

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Julia

**God of mercy and love,
You have given us so many talents and gifts
to be used in your world.**
**You have entrusted us to use them well, and
you promise to be with us in all that we do,
through the Holy Spirit.**
**But we disappoint you when we denigrate the value
of our talents, or become so fearful of failure
that we don't believe we are capable of making a
difference in the world.**
We take for granted how abundant your blessings are.
**Forgive us when we allow fear and greed to guide our life
and decisions.**
**Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us,
and to trust in your guidance in using them.**
**Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic,
or indifferent to the needs around us.**
Give us hearts for serving you all our days.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(a time for silent prayers of confession)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

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

God has placed God's trust and love deep within our hearts.

**As those who are called, gifted, and trusted
to serve God, we will walk this journey together.**

✠ SHARING the LOVE and PEACE of CHRIST

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS - THE WALK

Danielle Blackwood

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Come Thou Fount

✠ 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

God of grace,

**We hear your call to generous living in the way you meet our
needs each day, and in this holy meal, which we shared with
Christ and one another. Having received so much, we offer all
we have, our time, talents, and treasures for your kingdom.**
**Direct our lives as we reach out to our neighbors, sharing our
gifts through worship, witness, and service so that others will
come to know you and become disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

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 399

Take My Life and Let It Be

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

After the service, all are invited to stay for refreshments in the Family Life Center
and to browse items at the Silent Auction for Missions.

The flowers on the altar are given by Marilyn Damberg
in honor of Richard on his upcoming birthday.

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 through our service; our scripture reading will be 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

SILENT AUCTION FOR MISSIONS/CRAWFISH BOIL

Don't forget - the Silent Auction is open for bids from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will reopen at 3 p.m.; bidding continues until 6 p.m. If you are a winning bidder, please have your payment ready and take your item with you. If you have a ticket to the crawfish boil, we start serving at 4 p.m. Rain or Shine!

NEW YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A Sunday School class for young adults is 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.

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONTINUE

Please continue to encourage our youth confirmands on this part of their faith journey by writing them a note and placing it in their mailbox located in the narthex. Confirmands are Olivia Caputo, Devin Dickson, Grace Idikwu, Carissa Murray, Lydia Rahkawi, and Kaylie Williams. REMINDER: Both confirmation classes will meet today at 12:15 p.m. in the parlor. Lunch will be provided and the class should be over by 1:45 p.m.

UMW RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 1** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Judy Koonce and Pat Lively will present a program on "Sacred Spaces of Nurturing." All women are invited to attend.

USHERS NEEDED

There is a need for ushers at both worship services. If you would like to take part in the life of St. John's in this way, please contact the church office or Fran Anderson at frances_anderson11@yahoo.com or 766-5325.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We ended the first quarter financially strong and the Finance Committee is pleased with our current projects. Year-to-date Revenue is \$11,806 above Budget and Expenses are \$1,756 higher than Budget. Thank you for your generosity to the missions and ministries of St. John's. If you have any questions, please contact Troy Prevot, our Finance Committee Chair, at tprevot@bellsouth.net.

THE WALK CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of March 31, 2018, we have received 67% of our \$1.4 million goal. Thank you for your generosity toward The Walk campaign! Our 3-year campaign continues. Please continue supporting the pledge you made to The Walk as we live into this final year of the campaign. If you haven't pledged, but would like to support The Walk going forward, please mark your checks with "The Walk." We celebrate the generosity of St. John's. We walk by faith, not by sight.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, April 22

SILENT AUCTION

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*
12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class-Youth, *Parlor*
12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class-Adults, *Library*
4:00 p.m. Crawfish Boil
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, April 23

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 24

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 25

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 26

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, *Library*
1:45 p.m. Everybody Reads Training, *Library*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, April 27

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*

Saturday, April 28

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Beth Forester, Carol Gordon, Brian and Danielle Blackwood

Host: Kathy King

CHURCH STAFF

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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 22, 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.