

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 10, 2019 at 11 A.M.

Welcome to All

All are invited 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 NAME

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP *Rhonda Tucker*

We hear the noise of the world all around us.

Help us to hear your voice.

We hold onto biases and stereotypes.

Help us to hear your truth.

We allow ourselves to be driven by anxiety and self-interest.

Help us to hear your peace.

We think of reasons to remain complacent and still.

Help us to hear your call. Amen.

✠ HYMN *of* PRAISE *UMH 61*

Come, Thou Almighty King

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

PRAYER *of* INVOCATION

Almighty God,

**You are the author of our whole story and
of our whole lives.**

**You have written purpose and meaning
into our existence and into the lives
of all people.**

**At times, fear creeps in and tries to undermine
the beauty you have written.**

We pray for the courage to rise above that fear.

**Tune our hearts to sense your intention
for this world so that we may be ambassadors
of your love and grace. Amen.**

LISTENING *to* GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *Heather Durham*

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Evie Durham*

King of the Fairies

✠ SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:1-11

The Word of the Lord.

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*

“Change the Narrative”

RESPONDING *to* GOD'S MERCY

✠ HYMN *of* FAITH *UMH 398, vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5*

Jesus Calls Us

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE *Pastor Deirdre*

Loving, ever present God, as we bring our prayers before you,
may our hearts be changed by the stories of those for whom we pray.

We pray for those whose stories we think we know, but of whom we
know so little, especially those in leadership whose decisions have
a tremendous impact on those around them. May they consider the
ways their choices affect the lives and stories of those they lead.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose stories are intertwined with ours, for our
families, friends, colleagues, and our church. May we, with your
help, better understand the stories they bring and the ways we can
know you better through our shared narratives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose stories are filled with challenges: illness,
addiction, systemic oppression, racism, violence, and incarceration.
May your comfort and healing sustain them in face of these
difficulties, and may brave individuals come forward to partner with
them in their search for health and wholeness.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May each of us be brave enough to tell the truth about their stories,
even when we must admit we have held onto inaccurate biases or
stereotypes, even when we must admit we have been wrong. May we
be brave enough to tell the truth about their stories, even when it
means admitting our own privilege.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose stories we'll never know: people living on
the street, people in far away villages, and people living right next
door. May they know your love in the midst of their struggles and
fears and in their joys and celebrations.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In particular this morning, we lift up these joys and concerns that are
in our hearts and lives of our congregation. Hear now the prayers of
our church family...

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us the strength and courage to be responsive and
compassionate people. Help us overcome the spirit of resistance that
holds us back from your call to justice. We invite your transformative
power in our lives, as we prayer together the prayer Jesus taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *UMH 895*

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 host. 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 568*

Christ for the World We Sing

✠ 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.

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY - "JUST MERCY"

How are we called to be channels of God's mercy in an all-too-often-unjust world? "Just Mercy," our February sermon series, will engage us in conversations that spark redemption. We will come face to face with some of the most pressing challenges of the day, learn to tell the truth about our fears and shortcomings, and respond in meaningful ways together. This 4-part series is anchored in scripture from the Revised Common Lectionary. Next Sunday's scripture is Luke 6:17-26.

All are invited to read Bryan Stevenson's compelling book of stories, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Our series is loosely based on principles from the book. The book is available from Amazon and other booksellers.

HYMN FEST & STATE OF THE CHURCH POTLUCK

TODAY from 4 - 6 p.m. we hope you will join us for a **Hymn Fest** and **State of the Church Potluck**. We will begin in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Praise Team providing special music, as well as accompanying the congregation in singing some of their favorite hymns. A love offering will be taken in support of the our church's music ministries (Write "Music" on the memo of your check, please).

Music will continue in the FLC at 5:00 during dinner. Don't forget to bring a favorite dish to share at the potluck (you may drop it off in the FLC prior to the Hymn Fest). Our evening will conclude with a State of the Church address by our church leadership.

YOUTH - SHARE SALE FUNDRAISER

St. John's UMY is having a fundraiser for their summer trip to Kansas City, YOUTH 2019! During our Stock Share Sale, we will invite church members, family, and friends to purchases "shares" of stock for \$10. Today and on **February 17, and 24** we will be selling shares in the narthex before and after both worship services and in the FLC during Coffee Time. Please consider purchasing multiple stock shares. Investors will be celebrated with stock certificates and a Shareholder's Thank You dinner! We appreciate your support of the youth ministry at St. John's.

MISSION TO ST. MARK'S, NEW ORLEANS

St. John's annual three-day mission to St. Marks UMC in New Orleans will be April 5-7. The team will do repair and remodeling work at the North Rampart Community Center Friday and Saturday. On Sunday the team will prepare and serve a meal for homeless persons as well as participate in St. Mark's Sunday morning worship. The mission fee of \$135 per person includes your lodging and meals and helps defray the costs of preparing the Sunday meal and materials for the construction projects. Registration forms are available in the narthex, church office, or from Rev. Larry Norman, 225.933.1881.

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMUNION & PRAYER VIGIL

You are invited to a Pre-conference Communion Prayer Vigil **Friday, February 22** at 6 p.m. here at St. John's. We will gather in prayer for the special session of the General Conference, all of the delegates, for the unity of the church, and that we seek to fulfill the mission Christ has given to us.

LENTEN RETREAT

Enter the season of Lent with St. John's at our March 8-9 on-campus Lenten Retreat: "Listening in Stillness, Serving in Joy," facilitated by Rev. Dr. William Thiele, founding director of the School for Contemplative Living. See insert in today's bulletin for information and registration.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 10

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, *Sanctuary*
8:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, *FLC*
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
4:00 p.m. **Hymn Fest, Sanctuary**
5:00 p.m. **State of the Church Potluck, FLC**

Monday, February 11

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
2:00 p.m. UMW Executive Committee, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, February 12

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
2:00 p.m. Reading Connection, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Circle, *Parlor*

Wednesday, February 13

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, *Choir Room*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, February 14

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
10:30 a.m. FIT Meeting, *Library*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, February 15

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*

Saturday, February 16

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Zack and Kristine Isenhower, Bill and Jane Metcalf

Host: Rhonda Tucker

CHURCH STAFF

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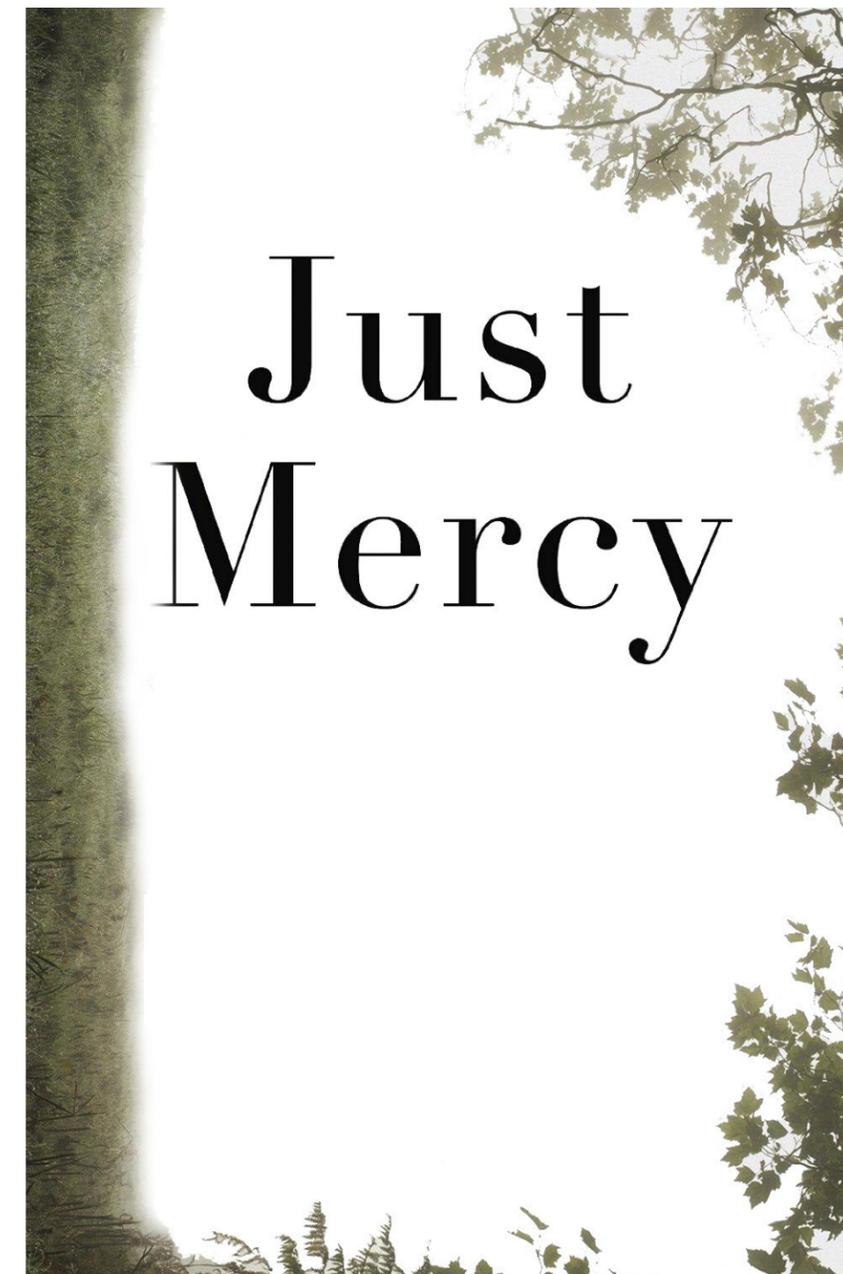
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



Just Mercy

February 10, 2019

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.