

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 18, 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

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

As the Deer FWS 2025

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

**You alone are my strength, my sheild;
to you alone may my spirit yield.**

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

Lead Me, Guide Me FWS 2214

Lead me, guide me, along, the way,

for if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

✠ CALL to WORSHIP Jeff Beck

Come all who are lost and in pain. God calls to you.

**Lord, lift us from our fears and sorrows;
bring us close to you.**

Come all who have lost hope, who feel that there is nothing worth living for.

**Lord, clear away our blindness that we may see
the light of your love.**

Come, do not despair. God is calling your name.

**We want to be ready for this journey. Help us, Lord.
Make us ready to trust you. Amen.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE UMH 405

Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Marilyn Damberg

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 Jeff Beck

Mark 1:9-15

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 "Wilderness" Pastor Lane

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 269

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION Pastor Julia

Here, in this wilderness,

Prepare your way, O God.

With all persons kept in poverty or slavery,

all who are in fear from abusers, terrorists,

and oppressors, all who face addiction of any kind,

and all who are targeted for unjust treatment

because of who they are;

Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.

With leaders in religious, political, economic, and social life;

with our families, friends, and neighbors;

and with all who work to sustain and protect

our lives as military, civilian workers, and first responders;

Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.

With all who need your healing power, and

with all who offer healing through their skill and

presence; with all who have harmed us, and all

whom we have harmed by our action or inaction;

Here, in this wilderness, prepare your way, O God.

Receive the prayers of your people, most merciful God.

In your compassion, forgive our sins, and free us for lives

of joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(a time for silent prayers and confession)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen!

✠ SHARING the LOVE *and* PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS to GOD

By the Mark

✠ 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.

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We are yours, O God

Bless the Lord!

God's holy name be praised!

Praised in heaven, praised in earth, praised throughout

your creation is your name, Holy Triune God.

The deserts rejoice in your salvation,

and the wild animals in your deliverance.

The stars above shout out your glory,

and the earth trembles at your presence.

Satan tries us, but your angels support us,

so we, with all creation, cry "Holy!"

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is Christ who comes in your name!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ,

Word made flesh, showing us the way
where we can find no way.

Cast out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit,
you made it your home.

Facing every test from Satan, you trusted

the wild animals as your companions,

and angels as your counsel, and so were made ready

to declare to all the world the great good news

of God's kingdom drawing near.

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ.

Blessed are you for coming among us and for offering

yourself to us in this holy meal to fill our hungry

and wandering souls, and to empower us to

break free from Satan's hold and walk humbly with
our neighbor and with God.

With your first disciples, on the night of your betrayal into death,

you took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it, saying:

Take and eat this, my body given for you.

Then you took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it, saying:

Drink this, my blood of the new covenant for you.

Even so, here and now, come, Holy Spirit. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Come upon these gifts and upon us. Make them be for us

Christ's body and blood, that we who receive them may be

for all the body of Christ enlivened by his blood.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Make us one.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Unite us with you.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Revive us!

Make us whole and holy on this day, as we await that day

when we shall feast with Christ in the new creation.

To Christ, to you, and to the All-Merciful Creator,

One God, living and true, be all praise, and honor,

and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

GIVING the BREAD *and* CUP

♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*

♦ *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.*

Come to the Table

Come to the table of grace, Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of Peace ...

Come to the table of Love ...

PRAYER *after* RECEIVING

Jesus, thank you! You have fed us with yourself and bound us to

you in love, that we may walk with you in the wilderness. In the

power of the Holy Spirit, keep these bonds strong, through the

days ahead so in this wilderness we, too, may make companions

of the wild, and discover the angels at work in our midst. 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 606

Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments.

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 saks 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.

WORSHIP SERIES - "REHAB"

Do you ever feel stuck? Are you longing for a "do over"? Do you need a "new normal"? When we're really honest, all of us do... Join us during the season of Lent in a journey of restoration from death to new life! Next **Sunday, February 25**, our theme will be "Intervention" and our scripture reading will be Mark 8:31-38.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

We will gather every Wednesday morning during Lent at 7 a.m. for a 30-minute morning service with Communion in the sanctuary.

On Wednesday evenings, we will hold "Heavenly Hash and Rehash" at which time we will rehash our Rehab Lent theme from Sunday. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. During dinner, around 6 p.m., we will read scripture, have table discussion, and share in Communion. All ages are welcome, and a nursery is available.

WELCOME NEW YOUTH COORDINATOR

Stop and say hello to our new Youth Coordinator, Jeff Beck; he will be at both worship services today. Jeff is a graduate of LSU in Art Education and holds teacher certifications (K-12) in Louisiana and Tennessee. He dhas extensive youth experience and a calling to youth ministry. Be sure to look for his bio and family picture in the Friday Newsletter.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

Saturday, February 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, will be workshop #2. We need sewers and non-sewers to help. Days for Girls needs the following donations: (1) cash to purchase fabric, (2) new girls cotton panties (briefs only) sizes 10, 12, or, 14 in dark to medium colors, solids or flowers, no character or animal prints (3) new colored washcloths, (4) Ziploc brand Gallon sized Freezer bags, (NO slide closures) (5) "hotel" soap. You can bring them to the office during the week or to the FLC on Saturday.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN TODAY

Confirmation classes start **THIS AFTERNOON** at 3:30 p.m. for orientation. Anyone can participate in Confirmation and can confirm more than once in a lifetime. Sessions will continue on Sundays at 4 p.m. Confirmation Sunday will be May 20. If you have a child in 6th grade or higher and are interested in them participating, please contact Deirdré Halliburton at deidrehalliburton@stjohnsbr.org.

GRACE & ADDICTION: BREAK EVERY CHAIN

TODAY, First United Methodist Church, in cooperation with Dr. Terry Ellis and Chrysalis Interventions, is hosting "Grace & Addiction: Break Every Chain." For a detailed schedule go to the FUMC website: <https://firstmethodist.org>. This event is free and open to the public.

YOUTH GUMBO SALE

If you have a ticket, don't forget to pick up your chicken and andouille gumbo after either worship service. This hasn't been verified, but there might be some extra for sale, \$15 a quart. This gumbo sale is to help our senior high youth going on their summer Appalachia Service Project (ASP) mission trip.

MISSION TO ST. MARKS' IN NEW ORLEANS

St. John's UMC will travel to the New Orleans French Quarter to carry out its mission of "feeding people" and to participate with St. Mark's UMC in its ministry to the homeless and hungry, April 6 - April 8. We are asking volunteers to register by mid-March.. For more information please email Rev. Larry Norman at lduckn@aol.com. This mission is open to all ages.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 18

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
- 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Orientation, *Library*
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, *FLC-E*
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group - Welcome, Jeff, *FLC*
- 7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, February 19

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

Tuesday, February 20

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 5:00 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Choir Room*
- 6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, February 21

- 7:00 a.m. Wednesday Lenten Service
- 5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
- 5:30 p.m. Heavenly Hash and Rehash, *FLC*
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*
- 6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, February 22

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
- 5:00 p.m. Opening Doors, *Library*
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, February 23

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

Saturday, February 24

- 9:00 a.m. Days for Girls #2, *FLC*
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by George Schneider in memory of the life of Bryan King.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *Donnie and Susan Lambert, Darren and Chris Stubbs*

Host: *Chris Stubbs*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Deirdré Halliburton
Director of Discipleship & Connection
deidrehalliburton@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Pastor Julia Puac-Romero
Associate Pastor
pastorjulia@stjohnsbr.org

Jeff Beck
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
jeffreybeck@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Stephens
Director of Music Ministries
carriestephens@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

St. John's United Methodist Church
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594



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



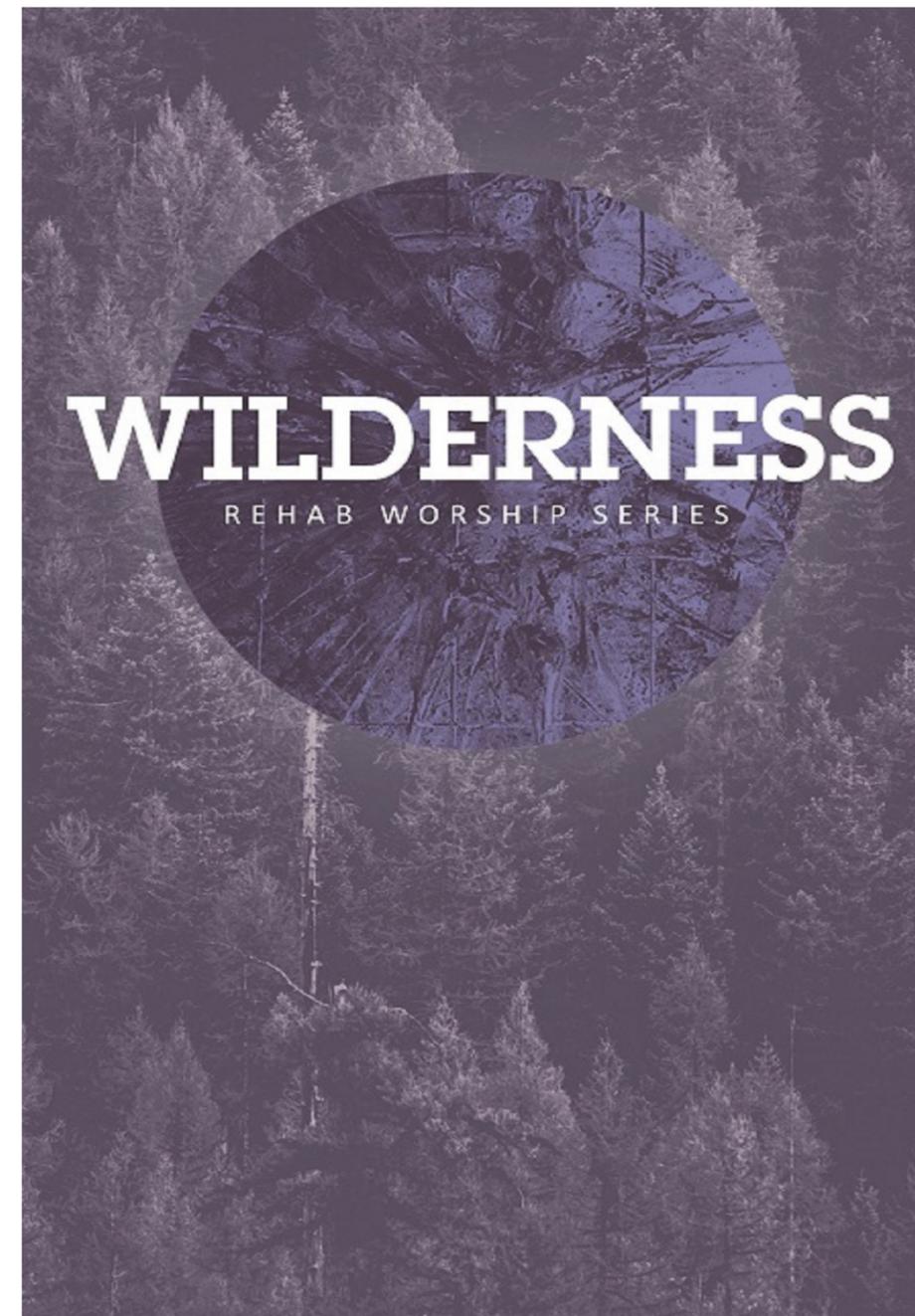
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ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



February 18, 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.