

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 24, 2019 at 8:30 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

† SONGS of PRAISE

Honor and Praise

FWS 2018, vs. 1

**Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.
Here to adore you for all of our days,
we come before you with honor and praise.
Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.
Shine down upon us, O bright Morning Star.
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.**

Change My Heart, O God

FWS 2152

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

† OPENING PRAYER

Danielle Blackwood

**Almighty God,
to whom our hearts are opened and our insecurities
made known, we can hide nothing from you.
At times, we shrink from situations that make
us uncomfortable.
We are apprehensive about engaging in difficult
conversations or encounters in which we are not
in control.
Take away our fear and our false sense of self-reliance.
Grant us wisdom that we may listen and learn, even in
tense circumstances.
Grant us courage, that we may face the challenges
of each day. Amen.**

† SONG of RESPONSE

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.**

LISTENING *to* GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Lane

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

Luke 6:27-38

Danielle Blackwood

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

“When Courage Is Uncomfortable”

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING *to* GOD'S MERCY

† HYMN of FAITH

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

FWS 2171

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

A Prayer During the Special Session of General Conference

Today we pray for delegates from around the world as the special session of The United Methodist Church General conference begins business. We light this first candle remembering that God our Creator works in us and at this moment in our delegates.

**We give thanks for the work of those who spent countless hours
creating plans and proposals for finding a way forward for the
church. Forgive us when we cannot see our way forward. May we
unite as one in Christ, answering the call to go make disciples for
the transformation of the world.**

We light the second candle that calls us to follow the way of Jesus, the way of loving when we don't want to love, the way of loving those difficult to love, the way of loving that glorifies God.

**We give thanks for the greatest gift of Love, Jesus, who teaches us
the best ways to live and love. We confess that we have not loved
our neighbor as ourself. Forgive us when we fail to see people
as your beloved children. May we speak with words filled with
encouragement and healing, setting aside our own desires to
seek the desires of Christ Jesus.**

We light the third candle that reminds us you, God, are always with us, in us and around us. You Give us the Holy Spirit to carry on the work of Jesus Christ.

**We give thanks for the power of your Spirit that fills us, your
beloved children. Forgive our narrowness and stubbornness of
mind that blocks our knowing the Spirit more fully. May we trust
the Spirit's guidance by opening our heart and mind to living life
through the heart of God.**

We light this final candle for ourselves, with the hope and assurance of your forgiveness and grace. Through confession we find our way back to you.

**Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our enemies.
Even when we are shown compassion, we do not always extend
that love to others. Forgive us our selfish ways and our prideful
ambitions. Teach us how to love as you love, and let your light
break forth in our lives.**

God, we come to you individually and in unity praying for The United Methodist Church, our bishops and delegates, and for us, here at St. John's. Thank you for your amazing grace that pours over us all.

(A time for silent prayers and confession.)

WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Hear the good news: forgiveness is found in Jesus. In Christ, our hopes are realized; and through Christ, true love is shown.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS to GOD

You Will Shine Like Stars

by Betty Schroeder

† DOXOLOGY

**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!**

UMH 94

† 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.

The pastor give thanks and remembers God's gift of salvation.

It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give praise and honor to our All-loving God, who breathes life into the universe and into each of us. So we celebrate, joining our voices with all the company of Creation, who forever sing their unending hymn to proclaim the glory of God's name:

**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.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and juice, that the story of hope may continue in us and through us. May this meal be for us a renewal of our call to bring new life to others.

**Generous God, whose story and song are now and always the hope
of the world, we praise you for the stories of creation and carnation,
redemption and reconciliation - your unending words of love. We
rejoice in your song of yearning and calling, waiting and welcoming
- your eternal music of hope.**

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest. (3x)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING *the* LORD'S SUPPER

- ♦ *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.*
- ♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it at the station on the right.*
- ♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Gracious God, as we depart from your table and go into the world, let
us be completely humble and gentle. Let us be patient, bearing with
one another in love. Lead us to make every effort to keep the unity of
the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to one hope. We rejoice in one Lord, one faith,
one baptism; one God and Lord of all, who is over all and through all
and in all. 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 389

Freely, Freely

† BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE

*Don't forget to pick up a grocery bag on your way out
and bring it back next week for Grocery Bag Sunday.*

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

*The flowers on the altar are from Marilyn and Richard Damberg
in honor of Wanda Vanover's 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.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER AT MOOYAH

Come support our youth at a new give-back meal at Mooyah (6555 Siegen Lane), **Monday February 25**, 11 a.m. till 10 p.m. This fundraiser will be a little different as our percentage of earnings depends on how much we spend! Up to \$999 will earn us 15%, \$1000-1,999 will earn us 20%, and \$1999+ will earn us a whopping 25%! We're excited to see how much business we can bring to Mooyah to help our Youth! Funds raised will support YOUTH 2019.

NEW LENT WORSHIP SERIES - "BE STILL"

Lent, the 40-day season before Easter, is about taking time to "Be Still," to pray, read the Bible, think, reflect, listen, and to be given hope and power to move in the direction that God intends. Join us each week, beginning March 10, for "Be Still," our Lent Worship Series, focused simply on slowing down so there can be lasting change. Pick up your daily devotion booklet next Sunday.

YOUTH - SHARE SALE FUNDRAISER

St. John's UMY is having a fundraiser for their summer trip to Kansas City, YOUTH 2019! During their Stock Share Sale, they invite church members, family, and friends to purchase "shares" of stock for \$10. Today they 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

On **Ash Wednesday, March 6** there will be worship opportunities both morning and evening which include imposition of ashes and holy communion. We will begin at 7 a.m. with a short worship service followed by Drive-thru Ashes in our driveway. At 6 p.m. we will have a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary.

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. Please register by March 4.

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.

NEW FAMILY MINISTRY

Join us as we discuss family devotions at our first Faith, Family & Formation gathering on **Sunday March 24** at 3 p.m. While our kids have fun with a spring-themed craft and playing together, let's talk about real ways to stay connected to God and each other as family. Pastor Deirdre' will facilitate our discussion. RSVP with number of kids to pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The UMW is announcing a series of spring work days for Days for Girls. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 16, 23, and 30** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Family Life Center. Remember you do not need to know how to sew in order to participate in this very worthwhile ministry.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 24

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. Youth Group, *FLC*
6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
11:00 a.m. MOOYAH FOR YOUTH (until 10 p.m.)
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*
6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, February 26

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*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, February 27

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher Class, *Library*
3:30 p.m. Everybody Reads Training, *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 28

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
6:00 p.m. Church Council, *Library*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, March 1

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

Saturday, March 2

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *Chris Stubbs, Barbara Benton, Joyce Robinson, Randy Thayer*

CHURCH STAFF

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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Amy Fine
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
amyfine@stjohnsbr.org

Latrice Mallard
Ministry Intern
latricemallard@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Rev. Deirdre Halliburton
Associate Pastor
pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org


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

Carrie Poynt
Director of Music Ministries
carriepoynt@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

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

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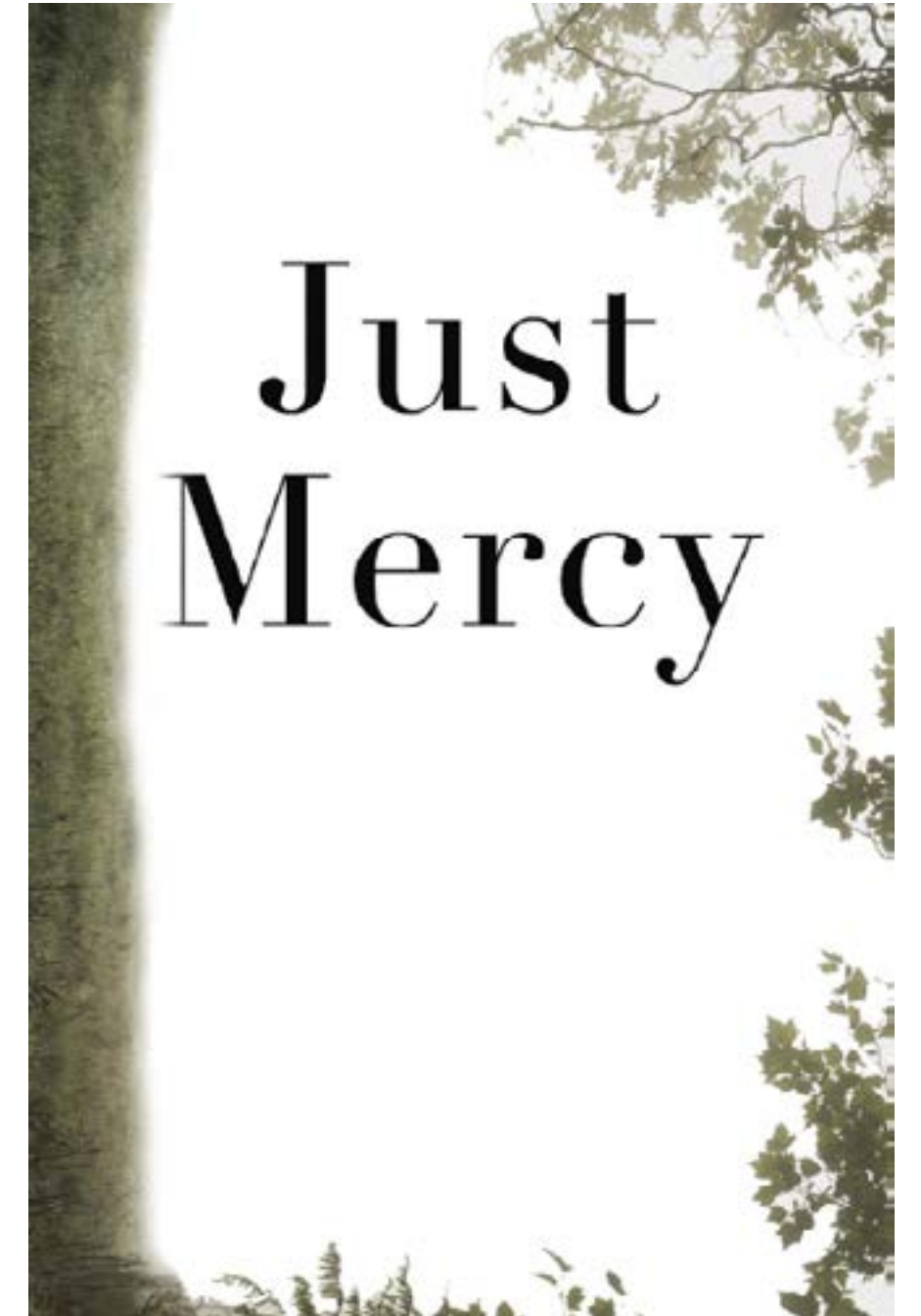
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



Just Mercy

February 24, 2019

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.