

**COVENANT RENEWAL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017
10:30 A.M.**

GREETING

CHRISTMAS CAROL *There's A Song in the Air* UMH 249
There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry! And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth, for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth. Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie the ages impearled; and that song from afar has swept over the world. Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

OPENING PRAYER
O God, who searches all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. We come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you. Please reveal any reluctance or blemish of sin within us. Let your Holy Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in your mercy, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROL *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* UMH 251
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING
Let us give thanks for all God's mercies.
O God, our Covenant Maker, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We than you for your loving care that fills our days and brings us to this time and place.
We praise your Holy Name, O God.
You have given us life and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with friends and family and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.
We praise your Holy Name, O God.
You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Jesus Christ. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit and the witness of your Church.

We praise your Holy Name, O God.

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. you have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.
We praise your Holy Name, O God.
You remember us when we forget you. You follow us even when we try to flee from you. You meet us with forgiveness when we return to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace,
We praise your Holy Name, O God.

GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lorri McGuire

SCRIPTURE *1 John 4:7-19*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Came Down at Christmas*

PROCLAMATION

COVENANT SERVICE AND PRAYER See Insert

HYMN *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*
Jesus! what a friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my victory wins. (Refrain)

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows over me roll, even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul. (Refrain)

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high, storms about me, night overtakes me, He, my pilot, hears my cry. (Refrain)

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and He is mine. (Refrain)

OFFERTORY *Special Music*

DOXOLOGY

HOLY COMMUNION AND ANOINTING WITH OIL
Call to the Table

Invitation, Confession and Pardon UMH 12, Service II

The Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

*Giving the Bread and Cup

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* UMH 117
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come; be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH

*Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it; when you come up to the altar, let the server know you would like to receive the gluten-free elements.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ...
are given by Bill and Jane Metcalf
in memory of their son, Hans Metcalf.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Monday, January 2
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 3
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, Gym
9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Market, Gym
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Library
9:30 a.m. Ruth Circle UMW, Parlor

Wednesday, January 4
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A
5:45 p.m. Praise Team, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary
7:17 p.m. 717 Group, George's Southside

Thursday, January 5
6:15 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library
9:00 a.m. Shepherd's Market, Gym
6:00 p.m. Trustees, Library
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Gym

Friday, January 6
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 7
8:00 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Paint Crew
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, Gym-C

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

January 7 Habitat for Humanity Methodist Build Painting crew

January 13-14 Mental Health First Aid

January 14 Days for Girls!
(also January 28 and February 11)

January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Office Closed

January 22 UMW Sunday

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

Date _____

Joy Concern

- Please share with the prayer team
- Please share with Pastors only
- I desire a call
- I desire a visit

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

You may also email a prayer request to: prayers@stjohnsbr.org

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

WELCOME

If you would like someone to follow up with you please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate.

- I am just visiting today.
- I am new to the area and am looking for a church home.
- I would like more information about the United Methodist Church and St. John's.
- I am interested in Baptism or Confirmation.
- I am interested in Children's Ministries.
- I am interested in Youth Ministries.
- I am interested in College/ Young Adult Ministries.
- I would like to receive email communications about church life.
- I would like a call from a pastor.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Children (Names & Ages): _____

GROCERY BAG JANUARY!

Due to the fact that the yellow grocery bags weren't passed out last Sunday, you will have the whole month of January to bring in groceries to The Shepherd's Market! Use any type of bag you have on hand (plastic bags are especially needed) and bring them to church on any Sunday this month! Items we are especially in need of are pasta, dried beans, crackers, and condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup, etc.)

POINSETTIAS ON ALTAR

If you have a poinsettia on the altar in honor of someone or in memory of someone, you may pick them up after today's service.

RUTH CIRCLE UMW

The Ruth Circle UMW will meet **Tuesday, January 3** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Judy Koonce will present a program about the twelve disciples. At this meeting the 2017 pledge cards will be distributed. All women are invited to attend.

SHORT SLEEVED T-SHIRTS

The short sleeved t-shirt will be on sale during coffee time after the first of the year. They cost \$10 and will be sold on a first-come, first served basis. They are also available in the church office Monday - Thursday.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

St. John's is being asked to put together a painting crew on **Saturday, January 7** from 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. to complete the painting on the house being built with the help of United Methodist Churches. For more information, or if you can help, contact Kathy King at 281-0314.

WANT TO RECEIVE TEXT REMINDERS?

Members of St. John's congregation are now able to receive text message reminders on their smart phones. This service will send you a short text message to remind you of an upcoming event at St. Johns. If you haven't signed up, all you need to do is text @stjohnsumc to 81010. If you would like help signing up, please contact Carrie Stephens at carriestephens@stjohnsbr.org or 318-751-1985.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Daphne Grady will be leading an 8-hour training class on **Friday, January 13**, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and **Saturday, January 14**, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. to teach participants how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Class is limited to 15. The registration fee is \$30, checks made out to *NAMI Baton Rouge*, and mailed to Daphne Grady, 7515 Sheringham Ave., Baton Rouge 70808. For more information contact Daphne at 266-7266.

DAYS FOR GIRLS 2017!

On **Saturday, January 14**, the UMW is sponsoring the first of three work days to make 50 additional kits for the Days for Girls project. These kits will contain reusable feminine hygiene projects for girls in developing countries who are missing school because of a lack of available products. Other work days are January 28 and February 11. We will meet in the Family Life Center from 9 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Sewers and non-sewers are needed to cut fabric, iron, sew, serge, apply snaps, insert drawstrings, and assemble kits. We need the following donations: (1) cash to purchase fabric, (2) new girls cotton panties 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. For more information contact Joyce Perry, 763-6613 or joyce.perry@cox.net. Check out their website at www.daysforgirls.org

SERMON NOTES

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Jay Hogewood
Senior Pastor
225-772-3550
pastorjay@stjohnsbr.org

Deirdré Halliburton
Associate Pastor
deidrehalliburton@stjohnsbr.org

Lorri McGuire
Director of Ministries for
Children and Youth
lorrimcguire@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Stephens
Director of Communications
and Music Ministries
carriestephens@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Brenda Green
Business & Facility Administrator
brendagreen@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Alex Martin
Youth Intern
alexmartin@stjohnsbr.org



Remember to pray for **The Walk**.
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight."
- 2 Corinthians 5:7
#sjthewalk | www.stjohnsbr.org/the-walk



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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



COVENANT RENEWAL

Sunday, January 1, 2017
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Mission Statement

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.