

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

JANUARY 7, 2018 at 11 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.

LED BY THE LIGHT

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

† CALL *to* WORSHIP

O Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

The Star in the dark sky heralded His Coming.

Led by the light of the Star, the Wise Ones came to pay homage.

We, too, come seeking the infant King.

God's Light of love is shining upon us.

Thanks be to God, for the most precious gift of Light.

Let us live as people of new Light and renewed Hope.

Amen.

† HYMN of PRAISE

UMH 188

Christ is the World's Light

† INVOCATION

Loving God,

who breaks through the darkness of doubt and despair,

be with us this day as we hear of the visit

of the Wise Ones, who risked everything

to follow a Star.

Let us open our hearts and be willing to risk receiving

the gift of gracious Love that you have to offer us

in the form of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

† GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

LET US BE OPEN

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rhonda Tucker

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 blue prayer card found in the left pocket of the folder and place it in the offering plate.

† SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Star Words

Pastor Lane

LET US BE OPEN

† HYMN of FAITH

UMH 206, vs. 1 & 2

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

† PRAYER of CONFESSION

O God, our guide,

who once used a star to lead people to Christ,

we confess our poor sense of direction.

We let ourselves become confused,

easily distracted, and lose our way.

We fail to follow the signs you provide.

Forgive our waywardness, O God.

Lead us to the Christ,

so that we may follow his way to you.

Amen.

(A time for silent prayers of confession.)

† WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Based on John 1

As surely as the Light follows the Darkness,

the light of God's love, given to the world so long ago,

is given for you – grace upon grace - for healing and hope.

You are God's beloved.

In Jesus' name, receive the Light.

The Light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness does not overcome it.

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

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

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.

† INVITATION *to the* TABLE

We have come asking for the child,

Wondering where that love might be born.

We have come seeking a renewed sense of joy and purpose in life,

Wandering through the darkness of so many mistakes.

We have come to this place called Bethlehem...

The invitation continues as pastors give thanks, remember

God's gift of salvation, and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

GIVING *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.*

We will sing "We Three Kings" together during Communion:

We three kings of Orient are;

bearing gifts we traverse afar,

field and fountain, moor and mountain,

following yonder star.

REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of light,

star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding,

guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,

gold I bring to crown him again,

King forever, ceasing never,

over us all to reign. Refrain.

Frankincense to offer have I;

incense owns a Deity nigh;

prayer and praising, voices raising,

worshiping God on high. Refrain.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume

breathes a life of gathering gloom;

sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,

sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain.

Glorious now behold him arise;

King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia,

sounds through the earth and skies. Refrain.

PRAYER *after* RECEIVING

Eternal God,

your light called us to the table, and we responded,

"Yes, Lord, yes." We feasted with you and we are satisfied

in your love. Now in that same love, which called us here,

send us out to shine forth for all the world.

Guide us to Thy perfect Light. Amen.

LEAD US ON OUR WAY

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 223, vs. 1 & 3

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

During the hymn, we invite you to bring forward The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.

† 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.

GOOD GRIEF, ST. JOHNS!

The Grief Sharing group will meet on **Monday, January 8** at 11 a.m. in the parlor. All who feel the need to share in community with others are welcome.

UMW MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

The Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 9** at 7 p.m. in the parlor. The program will be presented by Dawn Staves. All women are invited to attend.

BAPTISM RENEWAL NEXT SUNDAY

On **Sunday January 14** we will experience a Baptismal Renewal during our worship services. This is a special time to recommit your life to God and to Christ's Church by reaffirming your Baptismal vows. If you have not ever received the sacrament of Baptism and would like to do so, this might be the day in which to take that step. Also, if you have children who have not received the sacrament, you may wish to consider this day to initiate them into the family of God. Please contact Pastor Lane at pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org if you would like to pursue this.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP JANUARY 20

All St. John's UMC members, especially those new and returning members of committees, boards, and ministry teams, are invited to our Church Leadership Workshop on **Saturday January 20**, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the FLC. The workshop will place an emphasis on your call to Christian Leadership as well as provide detailed information about serving on church committees. Please RSVP to Lynn in the church office by January 16 so we can prepare enough materials and lunch.

NEW TESTAMENT FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

On **Tuesday, January 23**, we will begin the 12-week New Testament Fast Track Bible Study. If you are interested in participating in this new version of the Disciple Bible Study series, please fill out a registration form and return it with your payment to the church office. Registration forms can be found in the narthex and in the Admin Building. Cost of the student book is \$20. (If you pay by check, please put Bible Study in the memo line.)

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth will be putting together **Manna Bags** in the near future and we need your help. The items we need for the bags are packs of peanut butter or cheese crackers, fruit cups, Vienna sausage, small packs of cookies, adult socks, and bottled water. There will be a blue tub in the Admin Building for you to put your donations.

We are also asking for volunteers to **provide a meal** on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m., once a quarter, for the youth (approx. 20 people) just prior to their fellowship. You will have a partner and the two of you can decide on the menu (entree, side, and dessert); drinks and paper goods are provided. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Deirdre at 939-1425.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

We are pleased to officially welcome LeAnn Davis to our staff as Manager of Finance and Facilities. Stop by and say "hello." LeAnn is part-time and will be in the office all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and until about 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. She can be reached at leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org or by calling the church office.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 7

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
5:00 p.m. Youth Go to the Movies

Monday, January 8

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
11:00 a.m. Good Grief, St. John's, *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*
6:00 p.m. UMW Executive Committee, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, January 9

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*
3:30 p.m. Everybody Reads Training, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
5:30 p.m. Cancer Survivors, *Choir Room*
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Circle, *Parlor*

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, *Library*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*

Thursday, January 11

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

Friday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 13

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Piccadilly*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg, Penny Kemler, Will Halliburton*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
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 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.



11 a.m. Worship Service

JANUARY 7, 2018

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.