

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

MARCH 4, 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

INTROIT Alleluia Ringers
Fantasy on Kingsfold

✠ SONGS of 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.**

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.**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP Margaret Sprunger

Jesus is in us.
The Spirit is moving among us.
God's word gives us direction for how to live together in harmony and peace.

**Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts,
and help us to keep it.**

Rejoice in the goodness of God.

**Praise God for God's complete and steadfast love
for us. Amen.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Praise to the Lord FWS 2029

**Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising of the sun may the Lord be praised.
Praise to the name of the Lord!**

**There is none like our God in the heavens or on earth,
who lifts the poor from the dust, seating them with the mighty,
who stoops to raise the weak and low: may the Lord be praised.
Praise to the name of the Lord!**

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Ben Hartman

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.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Margaret Sprunger

Adapted from Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke from the mountain and said: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me."

**Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts,
and help us to keep it.**

"You shall not make for yourself an idol.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts,
and help us to keep it.**

"Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor."

**Almighty God, write your law upon our hearts,
and help us to keep it.**

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

"Program"

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Trust and Obey

UMH 467

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Julia

As petitions are prayed, we will pray responsively:

And so we pray:

Make us your instruments to make things right.

(a time for silent prayers and confession)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

God has not only intervened to save us, God has shown us how to take part in how God saves. We know the program. We need to work it. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

✠ SHARING the LOVE and PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

I Love You, Lord

Alleluia Ringers

✠ DOXOLOGY

**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.**

UMH 95

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Bless the Lord!

**And also with you.
We are yours, O God.
God's holy name be praised!**

UMH 15

Praised in heaven, praised in earth, praised throughout your creation is your name, Holy Triune God. From generation to generation,
your people rejoice in your Name.

Your give your commandments to make us holy.

You enact and preserve your righteousness as we live them.

So with prophets, leaders, and faithful people, 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. You are the fullness of the image of God, showing what it means to fulfill God's law through perfect love of God and every neighbor, especially those we refuse to treat as neighbor. **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 erring souls and follow where you lead, living your commands. 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!

Dwell in us and teach us to be faithful and to become holy, as we await that day when we shall see Christ as he is at the feast of 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

SHARING 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 your flesh that in our
flesh we may perform your works, and even greater works than
these to the glory of God and the honor of your name. By the
power of the Holy Spirit, continue in us what has begun today
that we may grow in faithful service and holiness all the days of
our lives. 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

O Jesus, I Have Promised

UMH 396

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

✠ 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 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.

WORSHIP SERIES - "REHAB"

Join us during the season of Lent in a journey of restoration from death to new life! Today we encounter the specifics of the kind of program that can keep us moving forward and learning this new normal, if we stick with it. Next Sunday we will read from John 3:14-18.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

We gather every Wednesday during Lent at 7 a.m. for a 30-minute morning service with Communion in the sanctuary. On Wednesday evenings, we hold "Heavenly Hash and Rehash" at which time we "rehash" our Rehab series theme from Sunday. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. During dinner, around 6 p.m., we share in a tableside devotion with scripture, reflection questions, and Communion. All ages are welcome, a nursery is available.

YOUNG ADULT SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

Our next Second Sunday outing will be March 11 at Zoës Kitchen in Perkins Rowe (on the corner down from Barnes & Noble). If you are a young adult we would love for you to join us for this Dutch treat lunch following the 11 a.m. service at 12:30 p.m. Pastor Julia would love to know if you are coming (pastorjulia@stjohnsbr.org). Friends and new faces are always welcome.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The final workshop in this series of Days for Girls will be Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to noon in the FLC. Everyone is welcome; we need sewers and non-sewers.

MISSION TO ST. MARK'S IN NEW ORLEANS

St. John's UMC will travel to New Orleans to carry out its mission of "feeding people" and to help St. Mark's UMC in its ministry to the homeless and hungry, April 6 - April 8. For more information please email Rev. Larry Norman at lduckn@aol.com. This mission is open to all ages and abilities.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Deirdre Halliburton will present a program on "Sacred Spaces." All women are invited.

TRUSTEES' WORK DAY

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 17. The Trustees are coordinating a church-wide work day from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Please make plans to come help make our campus beautiful for Easter.

SUPPLIES FOR EGGSTRAVAGANZA

It's getting close to our EGGSTRAVAGANZA and we need supplies for the Easter Egg Hunt. We appreciate any donation of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy that will help us create a fun time for the children of St. John's and our community. There will be blue tubs in the narthex, the hallway of the Admin Building, and the FLC for you to put the eggs and candy.

EASTER LILIES

Once again, we are planning to beautify our sanctuary with Easter Lilies. If you would like to honor or remember someone with a lily in the sanctuary, please fill out the enclosed form and put it in the collection plate or bring it by the church office. Lilies are \$15; the deadline to order is Monday, March 19.

MEN'S UNITY BREAKFAST

Mark your calendar for the Men's Unity Breakfast that will be held here at St. John's in the FLC on Saturday, March 24 from 7:30 - 9 a.m. For more information, contact Jim Sandifer (jsandifer@bellsouth.net or 938-0866).

COOKIES FOR KAIROS

Shay Chauvin will be participating in the next Kairos for women the weekend of April 13-15. Get your baking sheets out; as with all Kairos weekends, she will need many dozens of cookies! Cookies will be due back at church on Sunday, April 8. Please store/freeze your cookies at home until April 8 as we do not have space here.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, March 4

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
- 12:30 p.m. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, *DeAngelo's (Bluebonnet)*
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class - Adults, *Library*
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class - Youth, *FLC-E*
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
- 7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, March 5

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *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, March 6

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
- 9:00 a.m. UMW Ruth Circle, *Parlor*
- 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, March 7

- 7:00 a.m. Wednesday Lenten Communion 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, March 8

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee, *Library*
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, March 9

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

Saturday, March 10

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Piccadilly*
- 9:00 a.m. Days for Girls Workday, *FLC*
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Jill Slicker, Paul Ivey, Sandra Kuykendall, Grant Schroeck

Host: Rhonda Tucker

CHURCH STAFF

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St. John's United Methodist Church

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



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ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



March 4, 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.