

The CELEBRATION *of the* GOSPEL March 18, 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.

GATHERING

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP Joyce Perry

Each day is a gift from God,
**each moment is an opportunity to reach out
in service to all creation.**

Each day is a reminder of the new covenant,
**not written on stone tablets easily broken,
but inscribed on our hearts filled with joy and hope.**

Each day we draw closer to God,
**who has forgotten more than we ever learn;
who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.**

✠ HYMN *of* PRAISE UMH 507
Through It All

✠ PRAYER *of* INVOCATION
**Hope of the world,
Hope of all hearts,
our hope remains in you
especially when hope seems hard.
Speak to us through your word.
Come to us in the wilderness.
And sustain us in the hope of the covenant
you have written on our hearts. 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.**

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Barbara Benton
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.

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Across the Lands, You're the Word of God

SCRIPTURE Joyce Perry
Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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 Deirdré Halliburton
“Promise”

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN *of* FAITH UMH 189
Fairest Lord Jesus

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE
We are still in the wilderness. We are learning the way, and getting better at following. Yet this is still the wilderness. We are not yet fully renewed. And so we pray:
**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With people still kept in poverty or slavery, some in fear from abusers, terrorists, and oppressors, some facing addiction, and some targeted for unjust treatment because of who they are; and we now see how our own actions or inaction leave things as they are, or make them worse.

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With those among us and those around us who are leaders in religious, political, economic, and social life; with our families, friends, and neighbors; and with all who sustain and protect our lives as military, civilian workers, and first responders;

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With all who need your healing power, and all who offer healing through their skill and presence;
**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With all creatures with whom we share this planet, those who sustain our lives, and those who threaten us, those whose lives we sustain, and those whose lives we threaten:

**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

With Jesus and all of his disciples from generation to generation we pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS *to* GOD

✠ 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.**

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 FWS 2197
Lord of All Hopefulness

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Jim and Kathleen Matthew in celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary and thanks be to God.

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 remember with gratitude and hope the promise of healing and wholeness that awaits us as we continue to persevere, even in the face of challenging circumstances.

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.

Wednesday, March 21 will be our final morning communion service and our final evening "Rehash" in our Rehab series. We hope you will join us for our final session as we discuss "Promise."

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

St. John's United Methodist Women will begin featuring a Mission of the Month at coffee time in the FLC. Take a look at our mission board to learn more about the national and international missions UMW supports!

This month's mission is the North Rampart Community Center in New Orleans where we are sending a mission team from St. John's in April. There is still time to sign up to participate. For more information please email Rev. Larry Norman at lduckn@aol.com. This mission is open to all ages and abilities.

UMW GENERAL MEETING

TODAY the UMW will hold a General Meeting at 3 p.m. in the parlor. Guest speaker is Dolores Giles from First UMC of Baker who will present a program on UMC missionary conferences in Appalachia, Oklahoma, and Alaska.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

TODAY the Congregational Care Team will be meeting in the library at 12:15 p.m. Lunch will be provided. All interested folks are invited to attend.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Our church-wide/community-wide EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA will take place on Saturday March 31 from 9 - 11 a.m. There will be a pancake breakfast, games, crafts, a puppet show AND an Easter egg hunt! Bring your family, tell your neighbors! Come have a fun time with family and friends.

To make this an awesome event for the children, we need plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be blue tubs in the narthex, the hallway of the Admin Building, and the FLC for the eggs and candy.

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 April 27-29. As with all Kairos weekends, home-baked cookies are very popular and Shay will need to bring 35 dozen! Cookies will be due back at church on Sunday, April 15. Please store/freeze your cookies at home until then as we do not have space here.

MEALS FOR THE WESLEY AT LSU

Every Wednesday during the semester, just prior to weekly worship, a meal is provided to the students at the LSU Wesley. If you or a group or a Sunday School class would like to help by providing a meal for 30-40 students, go to TakeThemAMeal.com using the name Wesley Foundation and the password 2907.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Our combined confirmation classes had an enjoyable and informative evening attending the B'Nai Israel Temple Shabbat Service Friday, March 9. The youth class will be traveling to the Wesley Center in Woodworth on Saturday, March 24 to spend the day at Confirmation with the Bishop.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, March 18

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
12:15 p.m. Congregational Care Team, Parlor
3:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting, Parlor
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class - Adult, Library
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class - Youth, Parlor
5:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, March 19

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 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, March 21

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 22

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

Friday, March 23

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

Saturday, March 24

7 a.m. Confirmation with the Bishop, Wesley Center
7 a.m. Men's Unity Breakfast, FLC
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Zach and Kristine Isenhower, Bill and Jane Metcalf
Host: Barbara Lively

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



Check in on Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnsbr

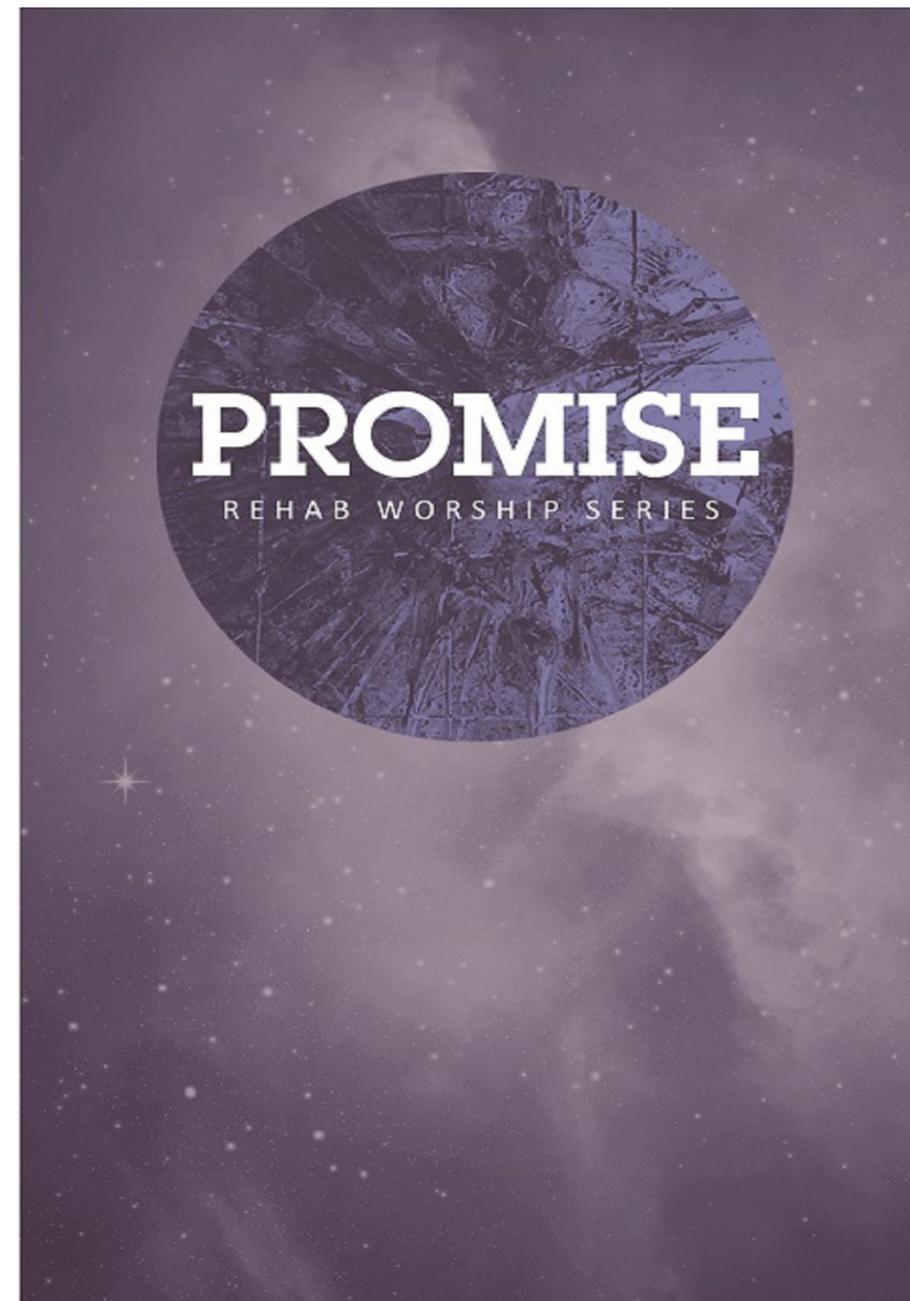


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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



MARCH 18, 2018

11 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.