

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

MARCH 18, 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

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise FWS 2031

**We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving;
and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.**

My Life Is in You, Lord FWS 2032

**My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you. (REPEAT)**

**I will praise you with all of my life,
I will praise you with all of my strength; with all of my life,
with all of my strength. All of my hope is in you.**

**My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP Beth Forester

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.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Through It All UMH 507

**Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God; through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon God's word.**

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.

SCRIPTURE READING Beth Forester

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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 370, vs. 1 & 2

Victory In Jesus

PRAYER of CONFESSION

As petitions are prayed, we will pray responsively:

And so we pray:
**Joy of every longing heart,
make our hearts beat with yours.**

(a time for silent prayers and confession)

WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

The Lord comes to us with a new covenant, saying: “I will write my law on your hearts; I will forgive your wrongdoing and remember your sins no more.”

Sisters and Brothers, 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

Agnus Dei

✠ 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.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 15

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We are yours, O God.**
Bless the Lord! **God's holy name be praised!**

Praised in heaven, praised in earth, praised throughout your creation is your name, Holy Triune God. From generation to generation,
you have been true to your promises.

You transform us from the inside out,
and claim us as your people.

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 new covenant, God with us, and within us you are making all things new.
Blessed are you, Jesus Christ.

Merciful 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, loving God and our neighbor fully as ourselves.

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 our hearts, O Christ, and make us fully your people, this day and every day until that day when we shall feast with you in new creation. To you, All-Merciful Creator, through Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit we raise our cry of thanks:

All praise, and honor, and glory are yours, blessed Triune God, 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 offered us yourself in these gifts of bread and wine. By the power of the Holy Spirit, continue to write your ways into our hearts, that we may know you as you are. 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 374, vs. 1 & 2

Standing on the Promises

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments.

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: Brian and Danielle Blackwood, Aileen Pine, Billie Bourgeois

Host: Beth Forester

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

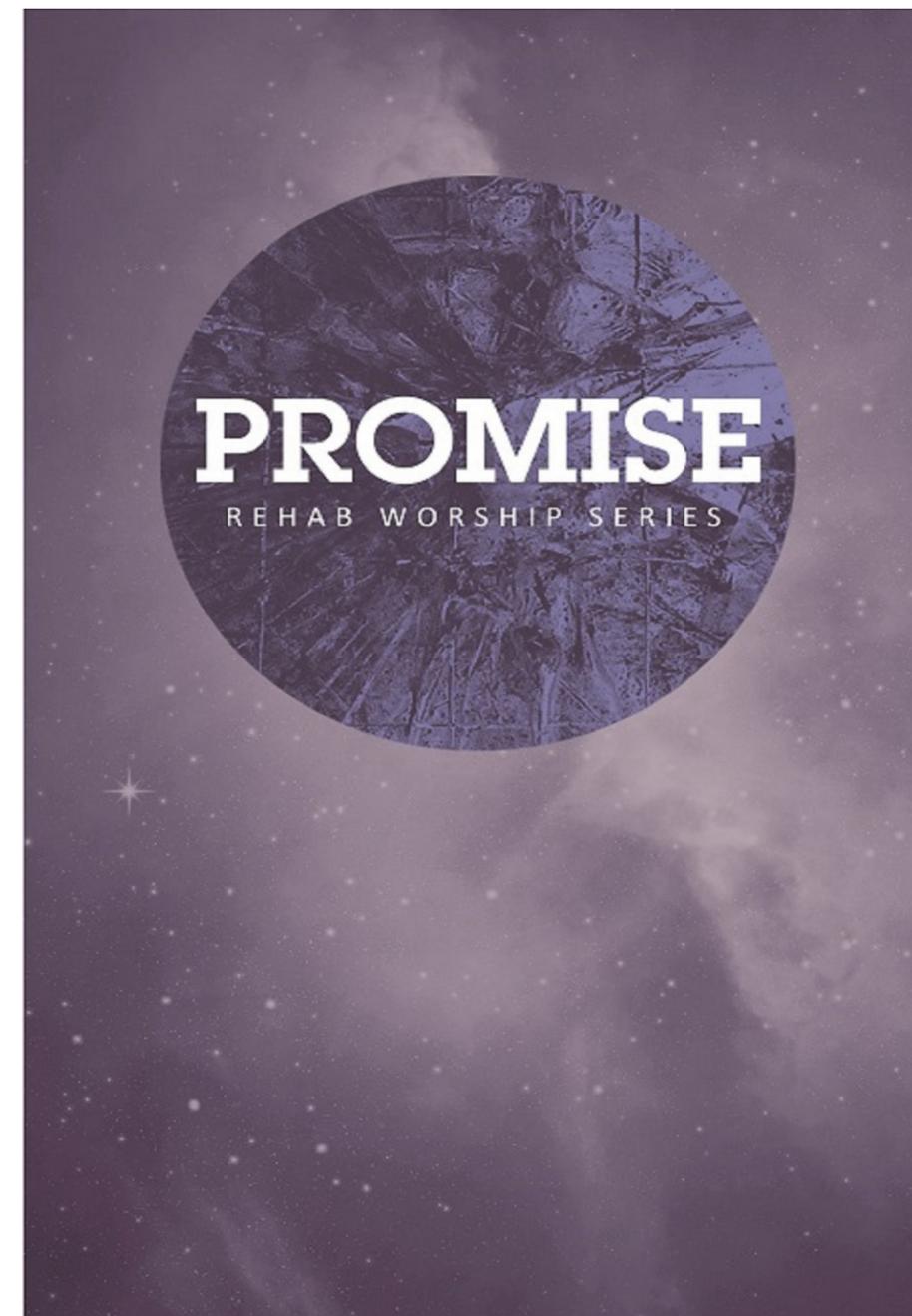
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ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



March 18, 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.