

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

May 6, 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 comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP

By faith, we trust that we were created in the image of God.
By faith, we hope and dream and make plans.

By faith, we face our fears and insecurities.
By faith, we till the soil of our lives and plant seeds of love.

By faith, we follow where God leads.
By faith, we trust that God is present in our midst.
By faith, we gather in this place to worship God together.

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE UMH 133

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

ENGAGING TOGETHER

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

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.

GRADUATION BLESSING

St. John’s United Methodist Women will present a gift to our high school graduates. Following the presentation, all those graduating or celebrating an educational milestone are invited forward for a blessing.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:1-18

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

A “YOUTHFUL” WITNESS

RESPONSIVE READING

The Staircase of Discipleship

Faith is like taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.

Prayer keeps us connected to God and others on the staircase of faith.

Presence lets others know that we are on the staircase together.

Gifts allow us to build a handrail on the staircase that we can all hold on to.

Service allows us to reach down and help others up the staircase.

Witness shows others where the first step of the staircase can be found.

*Written by St. John’s Senior High Sunday School Class
(First line by Dr. Martin Luther King)*

✠ HYMN of FAITH FWS 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

✠ PRAYER of Confession

Good and gracious God,
we bow our heads before you and confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours.

Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness to You.

For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength.

Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may witness to You in our world.

Remind us to be who You would have us be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with.

Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.

Forgive us we pray. Amen.

(a time for silent prayers and confession)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

SHARING OUR THANKS

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.

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH 15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord’s Supper is recalled.

And so,

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

As a holy and living sacrifice,

In union with Christ’s offering for us,

As we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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.*

PRAYER *after* RECEIVING

God of grace,

We hear your call to generous living in the way you meet our needs each day, and in this holy meal, which we shared with Christ and one another. Having received so much, we offer all we have, our time, talents, and treasures for your kingdom. Direct our lives as we reach out to our neighbors, sharing our gifts through worship, witness, and service so that others will come to know you and become disciples of Jesus Christ. 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 438

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

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

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Liz and Chester McDonald in memory of their mothers.

Thank you to all of our youth, who helped lead and participate in today’s services.

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.

OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES CONCLUDES

"Engage: Walking the Discipleship Pathway"

Our Engage sermon series has focused on the five membership "vows" in The United Methodist Church: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. Our Confirmation Classes are preparing to take these vows (or renew these vows) on Confirmation Sunday, May 20. We must Engage in order to connect and grow with the body of Christ. Today concludes with a "Witness" by our youth, as they lead our services.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates for Vacation Bible School have been set - **Monday, June 25 through Friday, June 29** from 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m. VBS is for ages 4 through those children who finished 5th grade this school year (with a nursery available for the infants and toddlers of VBS volunteers). Registration information and forms will be available soon, but mark your calendars for this special time in the lives of our children.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES DRAW TO A CLOSE

Please continue to encourage our youth confirmands on this part of their faith journey by writing them a note and placing it in their mailbox located in the narthex. Confirmands are Olivia Caputo, Devin Dickson, Grace Idikwu, Carissa Murray, Lydia Rahkawi, Kaylie Williams, and adult helper and confirmand, Christina Sasse. This afternoon will be the final class for both adult and youth. Confirmation Sunday will be **Sunday, May 20**.

UMW MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

The UMW Mary Martha Circle will enjoy their annual potluck supper on **Tuesday, May 8** at 7 p.m. at the home of Mary May, 537 Rue de la Place. All women of the church are welcome. Bring your favorite dish, enjoy delicious food, and wonderful fellowship. Please plan to attend!

YOUTH MISSION SPONSOR BOARD

The sponsor board for the youth and adults who will be participating in the ASP Mission trip will be available TODAY, **Sunday, May 6** in the narthex prior to the 8:30 a.m. service and before and after the 11 a.m. service and in the FLC during coffee time. Sponsorships are \$10 per slot, each participant having 2 slots per day. Checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with ASP in the memo line. Each sponsor will receive a note from the person they sponsor. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lively at 225-229-6675.

SUMMER MINISTRY INTERN

St. John's is pleased to announce a part time, 13-week summer ministry internship designed for young adults who are exploring a vocation in ministry. The internship seeks to prepare young people to hear God's call to ordained ministry by placing them in the context of a ministry setting and allowing them to shadow a clergyperson. Deadline to apply is May 7, 2018. All who might be interested in the position should send an inquiry cover letter, resume, and references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org. For more information go to our website, www.stjohnsbr.org/announced.

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

TODAY, **Sunday, May 6**, is Grocery Bag Sunday when we "fill the bags to fill the shelves" in The Shepherd's Market. We hope you were able to bring your yellow grocery bag back today. However, if you were unable to bring your grocery bag today, we accept donations during the week, Monday - Thursday. Many, many thanks for your generosity.

PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

The Prime Timers are meeting at the Essen Lane Piccadilly on **Saturday, May 12** at 8:15 a.m. Every one is invited (in your prime or not) to join us for this Dutch-treat buffet or short-order grill.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

We will have our annual Mother's Day Special Offering in support of Louisiana Methodist Children and Family Services on **Sunday, May 13**. Checks should be made payable to LUMCFS and placed in the offering plate. Once we have all checks, we will mail them to Family Services in Ruston.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, *Sanctuary*
8:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class-Youth, *Parlor*
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class-Adults, *Library*
5:00 p.m. Youth, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, May 7

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, May 8

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Circle, *Mary May's Home*

Wednesday, May 9

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

Thursday, May 10

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, *Library*
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, *Library*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, May 11

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

Saturday, May 12

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *St. John's Youth*
Host: *Joyce Perry*

CHURCH STAFF

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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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@stjohnsbr

Give online: <http://bit.ly/sjumcgive>



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

Engage
through your
Witness

Walking the
Discipleship
Pathway

Youth Sunday

May 6, 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.