

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 26, 2017 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.

THE ADVENT OF WORSHIP

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ ADVENT PROCLAMATION Trey Halliburton

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.

The carols we sing,
the prayers we pray,
the words we say

are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.

They are a Gift,
inspired by the Giver Of All Words,
even that Word made flesh
who welcomes us in
and dwells among us now.

**For in this Season we proclaim, again,
the birth of Christ, who comes to show us
everything we will ever need to know about God.**

✠ HYMN of PRAISE UMH 196

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE Chester and Liz McDonald

Today we light the first candle.
We call this the candle of Hope,
to remind us of God's light in the darkness.

(Lighting of the first Advent Candle)

Now we open the door to God's light and await
the coming of the Christ child.

**May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts,
take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples
the welcome advent of redemption and grace.**

RESPONSE to the LIGHT UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

WELCOME IN THE GOOD NEWS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Lane

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

Ushers will pass out folders during the Children's Moment. Please register your attendance.

✠ SCRIPTURE Trey Halliburton

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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

Welcome Inn Surprise

OUR HOPE-FILLED RESPONSE

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 184

Of the Father's Love Begotten

PROFESSION of FAITH Rebekah Elaine Hill

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include Rebekah in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live
according to the example of Christ. We will surround
Rebekah with a community of love and forgiveness, that
she may grow in her trust of God and be found faithful in
her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a
true disciple, who walks in the way that leads to life.**

SACRAMENT of HOLY BAPTISM

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's
royal priesthood.

**We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving
we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.**

RECEPTION *into the* CHURCH

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care, Rebekah,
whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation.
Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope,
and perfect her in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and
we welcome you in Christian love. As members together
with you in the body of Christ and here at St. John's United
Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to faithfully
participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers,
our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in
everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Singing together:

**Welcome to the family, we're glad that you have come
to share your life with us, as we grow in love,
and may we always be to you what God would have us be,
a family always there, to be strong and to lean on.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 89

OFFERTORY Chancel Choir

Come, Oh Come, Christmas Day

✠ 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.**

DEPARTING IN SERVICE & LOVE

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 206, vs 1 & 3

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

✠ 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.

Restrooms are in the Narthex.

Thank you for being here.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - "WELCOME INN"

The Advent Devotional is now available! Our theme, "Welcome Inn," focuses on preparing to welcome the Christ child yet again and remembering Christmas traditions with the theme of "welcome." We invite you to join us on this journey through Advent. We will have a limited number of hard copies available after worship today. We are asking a love offering donation to cover the cost of printing. If you would like to receive a daily email of the devotionals you may sign up at www.stjohnsbr.org/advent-2017/sign-up. They will also be posted on Facebook each day or you can download a copy of the devotions at the above mentioned link.

YELLOW BAG SUNDAY

Don't forget to pick up a yellow Shepherd's Market grocery bag on your way out of worship. Please bring your bag back next Sunday filled with items such as breakfast foods, soups, canned fruit and juice (especially juice), toilet paper, and paper towels. This is a time of year when we have a greater number of folks needing help with food for the holidays so everything you bring for the pantry is in demand.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON

Once again our sanctuary will be graced with the beauty of poinsettias during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you have someone you would like to honor or remember, fill out the enclosed form and put it in the offering plate.

ADVENT FEST

Everyone is invited to our Advent Fest that is sure to be fun for all ages next **Sunday, December 3** from 4-6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will sing Christmas carols, including some shared by our handbells. There will be a Christmas Cookie Swap, so bring 3 dozen of your homemade Christmas Cookies. Come dressed for the season, and we will vote on the ugliest Christmas Sweater and the Cutest Christmas PJs! There will be a time to share in Holiday Prayers and take photos with Santa.

SINGING, BAKING, AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

The morning of **Sunday, December 10** will be filled with opportunities for members of St. John's to enjoy and, also, help others. In the morning, at both worship services, our wonderful music department will present **Lessons and Carols**, something we look forward to every year. At coffee time the **UMW will hold a sale of home baked goodies** to help fund their mission projects - bring your Christmas gift list. And, our semi-annual **blood drive** will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the large parking lot - donate if you can; this is truly the gift of life.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) YOUTH MISSION

Do you know a teenager in grades 9 - 12 who might be interested in a mission trip that might change their lives? ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families making them warmer, safer, and drier. Last year ASP volunteers provided repairs for 493 families and constructed 26 new homes. Every group of St. John's Youth who have gone on an ASP Mission trip has come home truly amazed at what they saw, what they learned, and what they did to make a difference. Contact Phil LeBlanc at pleblanc@eatel.net if you have any questions.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 26

YELLOW BAG SUNDAY
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
5:00 p.m. Youth, *FLC*
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, November 27

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
10:00 a.m. Let's Geaux Play, *Toddler Nursery*
12:00 p.m. Gulf South Quilt Guild, *FLC-A*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies, *Parlor*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, November 28

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*
5:30 p.m. Cancer Survivors, *Choir Room*
6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, November 29

10:00 a.m. Self-taught 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, November 30

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

Friday, December 1

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
9:00 a.m. Arts & Crafts, *FLC-A*

Saturday, December 2

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Bill and Jane Metcalf, Penny Kemler, Will Halliburton*
Host: *Kathy King*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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Remember to pray for **The Walk**.
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSV)
[#sjthewalk](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr)



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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



11 a.m. Worship Service
NOVEMBER 26, 2017

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.