

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

OCTOBER 15, 2017 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

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.**

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart FWS 2036
**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks
to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given
Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say,
“I am strong”; let the poor say, “I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us.”**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to
the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ
his Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”;
let the poor say, “I am rich because of what
the Lord has done for us.” Give thanks!**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP Daphne Grady

Generous God,
we thank you for the abundant and
amazing gifts you give to us.
**We have gathered here because we, too,
want to be generous.
Be present with us as we journey through
this worship experience together.**
Open our hearts that we may be more generous.
**Open our minds to the possibilities
generosity creates.**
Open our eyes and ears so that we may be
aware of the needs around us.
**Grant us wisdom as we learn how to
defy the pull of financial gravity and
tether our lives to You. Amen.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE UMH 405

Seek Ye First
**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia!**
**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

LISTENING

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Darlene Dickson

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

SCRIPTURE Daphne Grady

1 Timothy 6:17-19

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

PRAYER of 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 Defying Gravity Series: Pastor Lane

“Tethered to God”

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 400

Come Thou Fount

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Sometimes we fear that when we confess all
that is wrong, we will be exposed and condemned.
Our hope in Christ tells us a different thing – that when we
confess, we open up the way to mercy and forgiveness.
Trusting in that hope, let us make our confession.

**We are so scattered, O God:
we flit from cause to cause;
we are easily distracted by
the next important thing;
we think about yesterday and tomorrow,
but not today.**

**Help us to be mindful of the grace and
beauty that surround us right now.**

**Empower us commit to the needs
that are before us today.**

**Inspire us to think deeply, and
respond generously, as you have loved
us deeply and forgiven us generously.**

Ease the way for us to tether our lives to you.

(A time for silent prayer.)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us proclaim
the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

✠ PASSING *the* PEACE of CHRIST

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS *and* VIDEO

Russ Nolan, *Stewardship Co-chair*

OFFERING GOD’S TITHES *and* GIFTS John McWilliams

I’m a Generous Man

✠ DOXOLOGY UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

✠ CALL to *the* TABLE:

Let us stand well. Let us stand in awe. Let us be attentive,
that we may offer this holy offering in peace.

Mercy and peace, our sacrifice of praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

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

Singing together:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the
highest. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
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:

Singing together:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

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

Singing together:

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Jesus, once and for all you poured out your life for us. Again
and again we thank you and receive your body and blood.**

**Send us out to pour ourselves out with such joyous abandon
that your love is always known, the Spirit’s power always felt and
the Almighty’s will to save never in doubt. 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 399

Take My Life and Let It Be

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

All are invited to stay for refreshments in the Family Life Center.

*The flowers on the altar are given by Pam and John Toney in celebration of
their 30th wedding anniversary and thanking God for friends and family.*

CONNECT WITH US

Name

Email

Phone

Service Opportunities

I am interested in ...

(check all that apply)

- serving as a Reader during worship
- serving as a Communion server
- serving as an Usher during worship
- serving as Welcome Host before and after worship

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

Joy Concern

Please share with the prayer team

Please share with pastors only

I desire a call

I desire a visit

You may also email a prayer request to:
prayers@stjohnsbr.org.

October 15, 2017
8:30 a.m.
Connections Card

Welcome...

Guests and members, please let us know you are here by filling out this card and placing it in the offering plate. We want to match your face with your name. Thanks for helping us be a better church.

(Please print)

Attended...

8:30 a.m. Worship

I am a:

First time guest

We are glad you're here! Pick up your Welcome Bag from a Host in the Narthex.

Returning guest

Regular attender

Interested in becoming a member of St. John's

St. John's member

Updated information below

Name(s)

Address

City, State & ZIP

Phone

Home Cell Add to text messaging list

Email

Other Email

Other Cell

Children living at home (names, ages/grades):

Please place in offering plate

(See reverse to connect with us.)

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. ALL are welcome!

DEFYING GRAVITY STEWARDSHIP SERIES

This morning we step into our second week of our Stewardship Worship Series, "Defying Gravity," as we hear an invitation to tether our lives to God and God's work in the world. Our series, based loosely on United Methodist pastor, Rev. Tom Berlin's book, *Defying Gravity*, concludes next Sunday, October 22. There will be a time during our services when we will offer our Commitment Cards for 2018 as an act of worship. Completing and returning a Commitment Card expresses your intent and affirms your desire to honor God with your financial generosity.

Commitment Cards will be mailed this week and will be available in the bulletin next Sunday. Your financial generosity enables our missions and ministries to answer God's call effectively. Sharing with the church your prayerful decision to be generous makes it possible for us to confidently make and implement plans for effective ministry and outreach in the future.

We will conclude our morning of worship next week with a potluck after the 11:00 a.m. service. We invite you to bring a dish to share and enjoy this time of fellowship.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - "WELCOME INN"

This year, we are once again publishing a book of daily devotions written by our church family for use during the Advent season. We encourage submissions from all ages! Our theme, *Welcome Inn*, focuses on preparing to welcome the Christ child yet again and remembering our Christmas traditions with the theme of "welcome." For details, please refer to the flier in the Narthex, our website, or weekly newsletter. For more information or to submit your devotion, contact mariwalker7@gmail.com. **Deadline: November 5.**

DISTRICT-WIDE CHARGE CONFERENCE

Bold Imagination is the theme of the special day of "worshipful work" planned for United Methodist Churches in the Baton Rouge District on **Sunday, October 29** at 2:30 p.m. at Broadmoor UMC. Bishop Harvey will be preacher for the day. Prior to the Charge Conference, our Church Council will vote on all Charge Conference items such as our 2018 nominations and clergy compensation. All members of St. John's are welcome to attend this important meeting to be held in the library on **Thursday, October 19** at 6 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL

Please join us on **Saturday, October 28** from 3-6 p.m. on the church grounds. Come and enjoy a gathering of family, friends and fun as we celebrate St. John's 2018 Fall Fest. Admission, games and fellowship are FREE. A hamburger or hot dog meal (including chips, drink and dessert) are included. There will be games and entertainment for all ages. Invite your neighbors - all are welcome. We will also be collecting canned goods for The Shepherd's Market.

CENTENARY COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT

The Centenary College Choir will be at St. John's in concert on **Thursday, November 2** at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. (Catherine LeBlanc, who has grown up at St. John's, is a member of the choir!) Host homes (2 students per home) are needed for Thursday night. Please contact Julie LeBlanc 1-225-252-2262 or pleblanc@eatel.net for more information or if you are willing to be a host home.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 15

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
5:00 p.m. Youth, FLC
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, October 16

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
10:00 a.m. Let's Geaux Play, Toddler Nursery
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, October 17

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, Parlor
6:00 p.m. Congregational Care, FLC-A
6:00 p.m. Disciple Fast Track Bible Study, Library

Wednesday, October 18

10:00 a.m. Self-taught Spanish Class, Library
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A
6:00 p.m. Heavenly Hash, FLC
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, October 19

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library
6:00 p.m. Church Council, Library
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, October 20

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

Saturday, October 21

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Guy Johnson, Harriet Walters
Host: Chris Stubbs

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
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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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@stjohnsbr

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



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



8:30 a.m. Worship Service
OCTOBER 15, 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.