

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

OCTOBER 22, 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

INTROIT *Alba* Alleluia Ringers

✝ SONGS of PRAISE

Great Is The Lord FWS 2022

**Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
by his mercy he proves he is love.**

**Great is the Lord and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord;**

**now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me FWS 2153

**I'm gonna live so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so
God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so ...
I'm gonna pray so ...
I'm gonna sing so ...**

✝ CALL to WORSHIP Phil Sprunger

Life and Breath...
a gift from God.
A passionate heart and humble mind...
possible with God.
Loving deeply, forgiving often...
enabled by God.
Glorifying God and sharing gifts.
our offering to God.

✝ SONG of RESPONSE UMH 473

Lead Me, Lord
**Lead me, Lord,
lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.**

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Ben Hartman
Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

✝ SCRIPTURE Phil Sprunger
Matthew 6:19-21

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 Defying Gravity Series: Pastor Lane
“When We Get It Right”

RESPONDING

✝ HYMN of FAITH *A Charge to Keep I Have* UMH 413

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS Debbie Nolan, *Stewardship Co-chair*

OFFERING GOD'S TITHES *and* GIFTS Alleluia Ringers
Sweet Hour of Prayer

✝ 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!**

✝ PRAYER of CONFESSION Pastor Julia

**O God,
Forgive us when we answer your grace upon grace
with grumble after grumble about cutbacks,
shortfalls and limited resources.
Forgive us when we answer your grace upon grace
with grim predictions and grudge giving.
Forgive us when we grip reality so tightly,
we cannot loosen up to receive your surprises
and possibilities.
Forgive us, we pray, when we do not realize
that your grace is enough – more than
enough – to sustain us and inspire us
to live as grace-filled people.**

(A time for silent prayer and confession.)

✝ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON
Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us proclaim
the Good News:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
And we are not only forgiven, we are also set free
by God's grace upon grace!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✝ 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.
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.

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.*

DEDICATING OUR LIVES

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 COMMITMENT UMH 87
What Gift Can We Bring

This morning is Commitment Sunday, the day our congregation brings forward its financial pledges for the coming year. As we sing, you are invited to place your pledge card in the designated basket near the altar.

✝ PRAYER of DEDICATION
**God, we have received grace upon grace.
It is grace to experience the joy of giving.
And it is grace to participate in the ministries
and missions of this community of faith.
As we dedicate these financial commitments,
we also recommit our support of Your work
through our prayers, presence, gifts,
service and witness.
Truly, Your grace is amazing grace – for as we give,
we are not less, but blessed. Amen.**

✝ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✝ POSTLUDE

*All are invited to stay for refreshments in the Family Life Center.
Don't forget to come back for the potluck at noon.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in
memory of Marilyn's mother, Olivia Williams.*

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 22, 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
Returning guest
Regular attender
St. John's member

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 conclude our Stewardship Worship Series, "Defying Gravity," as we hear how generosity can be a launchpad for other people. There will be a time today during the service when we will offer our Commitment Cards for 2018 as an act of worship.

EVERYONE IS INVITED to a potluck in the FLC after the 11:00 a.m. service; bring a dish to share and enjoy this time of fellowship.

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, food and fellowship are FREE. 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.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES STARTS NEXT SUNDAY

The prefix "re-" invites us "to go back to something again." In this worship series, "The Gift of Re-," we look back to the Gift of the Reformation, which celebrates its 500th anniversary this year, the Gift of Remembering on All Saints Day, the Gift of Reviving our Mission and Vision, and the Gift of Joy that comes when we Give Thanks and Rejoice in the Lord! These two small letters: "RE" bring great meaning to our language - and more importantly, to our lives. Join us October 29 to November 19 for this series.

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 afternoon. All members of St. John's are invited to attend.

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. Host homes (2 students per home) are needed for Thursday night. Please contact Pastor Julia at pastorjulia@stjohnsbr.org or Julie LeBlanc at 1-225-252-2262 for more information or if you are willing to be a host home.

SING WITH THE CHOIR DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON!

If you are interested in singing with the Chancel Choir for our Lessons and Carols, which will be on Sunday, December 10 during both services, please join us on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:10 for rehearsal in the choir room. This is a wonderful time to try out the choir if you are considering being a part of our music ministries. If you just love the songs of the Christmas season, this cantata "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Hal Hopson, has many of our favorites celebrating the coming of our Savior. I hope you will join us!

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 22

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
12:00 p.m. Celebration Potluck, FLC
5:00 p.m. Youth, FLC

Monday, October 23

- 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 24

- 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. Disciple Bible Study, Library

Wednesday, October 25

- 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. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, October 26

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library
5:00 p.m. Opening Doors, Library
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, October 27

- OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
9:00 a.m. Arts & Crafts, FLC-A

Saturday, October 28

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
3:00 p.m. FALL FEST, St. John's Grounds

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Jill Slicker, Karen Traylor, Sandra Kuykendall, Grant Schroeck
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

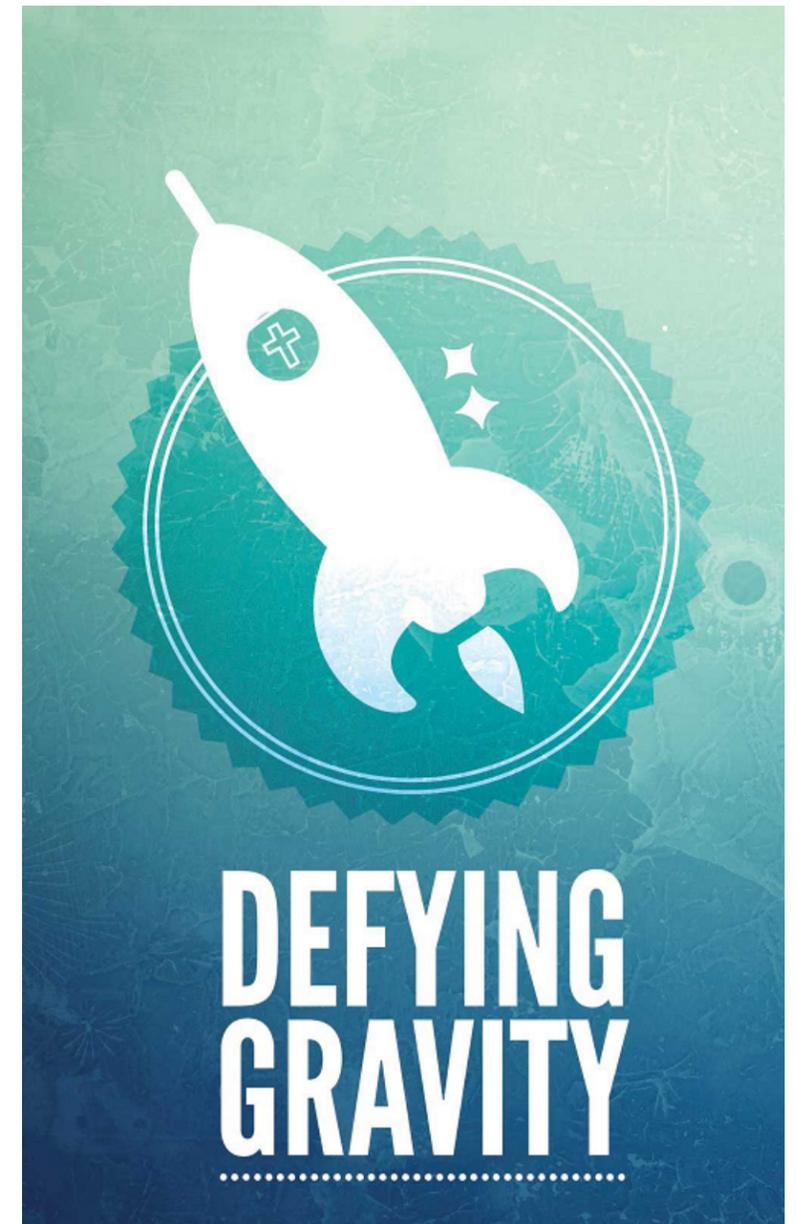
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Follow us on Twitter: @stjohnsbr

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 22, 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.