

The CELEBRATION *of the* GOSPEL

OCTOBER 8, 2017 at 11 A.M.

Welcome to All

All are invited 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

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP Sandra Kuykendall

God calls to the lost, the least,
and all who long for home.

God calls when we wander from the path
chosen for us and waste the gifts
we have been given.

God calls and welcomes us back
home this day.

**Let us celebrate and rejoice in God's
presence forever.**

Let us worship God together now.

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE UMH 331

Holy Spirit, Come Confirm Us

✠ INVOCATION Deirdre Halliburton

Quiet down before God,
be prayerful before him.

Don't bother with those who climb the ladder,
who elbow their way to the top.

(Psalm 37:7, The Message Translation)

Lord, help me to relax.

Take from me the tension

that makes peace impossible.

Take from me the fears

that do not allow me

to venture out for you.

Take from me the grasping

that inhibits my giving.

Take from me the distress

that hides your joy.

Free me and help me to know

that I am with you,

that I am in your love,

that I am able to follow,

that you are marking my way.

Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;**

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Guy Johnson

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

✠ SCRIPTURE Sandra Kuykendall

Luke 15:11-32

¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons.

²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'"

²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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
"Breaking Free"

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN *of* FAITH UMH 389

Freely, Freely

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Julia

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

DEFYING GRAVITY STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Bobbi Marino, *Church Council Chairperson*

OFFERING GOD'S TITHES *and* GIFTS

✠ 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.**

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 380, vs. 1-4

There's Within My Heart a Melody

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given by Geri King in loving memory
of her husband, Bob King, who passed away on October 12, 2016.*

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 8, 2017
11 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...

11 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!

NEW WORSHIP SERIES STARTS TODAY
"DEFYING GRAVITY"

We all want to be generous, but it can be challenging to break free from the demands of our time and resources. When we follow Jesus, we develop a spirit of generosity that enables us to soar to new heights through God's vision. Join us as we learn to Defy Gravity during our Stewardship Series and Campaign, which concludes with Commitment Sunday, October 22 when we invite you to make a financial commitment to God's work in 2018. A celebration potluck will be shared after the 11 a.m. service.

October 15th – Defying Gravity: Tethered to God, 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 October 22nd – Defying Gravity: When We Get it Right, Luke 16:10-13 & Matthew 6:19-21

OLD FASHIONED HYMN FESTIVAL

Join us this afternoon at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary for our Hymn Festival! The Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Praise Team will provide special music, as well as accompany the congregation in singing some of their favorite hymns. There will also be some stories of how these hymns came to be. We hope you will join us as we lift our voices in praise of the one true living and loving God! A love offering will be taken to support our Music Ministry.

UMW MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Tuesday, October 10** at 7 p.m. in the parlor. Achilla Idikwu will present the program. All women are invited to attend.

OPEN MINDS CLASS BEGINNING NEW STUDY

Starting today and for the next 3 weeks, the Open Minds Sunday School class is beginning a study by Adam Hamilton titled "Forgiveness - Finding Peace and Letting Go." If you are interested in participating, join them in the FLC classroom C during the Sunday School hour.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Teams from St. John's are going to be volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Methodist Build for 2017 on Saturday, October 21 and Saturday, November 18. The work is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch provided. You can volunteer for any length of time you are able. For more information email Phil Sprunger at phils@lsu.edu.

GEAUX PLAY GOES TO THE PUMPKIN PATCH!

All children and those that are children at heart are invited to join our morning of adventure as we caravan to Mrs. Heather's Pumpkin Patch in Hammond. We are meeting at St. John's at 9 a.m. on **Monday October 9**. The cost is \$7 per child and adults are free. Bring a bag lunch. Call Deirdre (939-1425) for more information.

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.**

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 8

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
 4:00 p.m. Old Fashioned Hymn Fest, *Sanctuary*

Monday, October 9

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
 10:00 a.m. Let's Geaux Play, *Toddler Nursery*
 11:00 a.m. Good Grief, St. John's, *Parlor*
 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 10

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*
 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
 6:00 p.m. Disciple Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*
 6:00 p.m. Volleyball, *FLC*
 7:00 p.m. Mary Martha UMW Circle, *Parlor*

Wednesday, October 11

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 12

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

Friday, October 13

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

Saturday, October 14

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg, Mary Wilder, Will Halliburton*
 Host: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg*

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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 facebook.com/stjohnsbr

Follow us on Twitter:
 @stjohnsbr

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



ST. JOHN'S
 United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



11 a.m. Worship Service
OCTOBER 8, 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.