

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## OCTOBER 8, 2017 at 8:30 A.M.

*Welcome to All*

*All are invited to stay for refreshments after worship, 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

*He Is Exalted* FWS 2070

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;  
I will praise him.**

**He is exalted, forever exalted  
and I will praise his name!**

**He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;  
heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.**

*I Will Enter His Gates* FWS 2270

**I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart,  
I will enter his courts with praise.**

**I will say, “This is the day that the Lord has made.”  
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.**

**He has made me glad, he has made me glad.  
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.**

**He has made me glad, he has made me glad.  
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.**

✝ CALL to WORSHIP Ben Hartman

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.**

✝ SONG of RESPONSE FWS 2049

*God Is Here Today*

**God is here today;**

**as certain as the air I breathe,**

**as certain as the morning sun that rises,**

**as certain when I sing you’ll hear my song.**

## LISTENING

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Guy Johnson

*Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.*

✝ SCRIPTURE Ben Hartman

*Luke 15:11-32*

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*

✝ PRAYER of CONFESSION Pastor Julia

**We want the fullness of life that you offer us.**

**We want to participate in the work**

**of your kingdom.**

**We want to be faithful stewards of the gifts**

**you give us and walk the path of generosity.**

**Yet, merciful God, we feel the pull**

**of financial gravity.**

**We feel drawn to the things of this world.**

**We feel tempted to ground our security**

**in our material wealth.**

**Help us. Increase our faith.**

**Guide us. Free us.**

**Be with us as we walk the path of generosity**

**and share in the life you long for us.**

**In the name of your Holy Son, Jesus. Amen.**

*(A time for silent prayer.)*

✝ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Friends, this Good News is for all the world:

Christ was born, lived and died, and rose again  
that we would be freed from sin and death.

Know that you are indeed forgiven, loved, and free.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

✝ PASSING *the* PEACE of CHRIST

DEFYING GRAVITY STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Bobbi Marino, *Church Council Chairperson*

OFFERING GOD’S TITHES *and* GIFTS

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

✝ 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 380, vs. 1-4  
*There’s Within My Heart A Melody*

✝ 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 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  
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):

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: *Donnie and Susan Lambert, Darren and Chris Stubbs*  
Host: *Sandra Kuykendall*

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

Check in on Facebook:  
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.



8:30 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.

Please place in offering plate  
(See reverse to connect with us.)