

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

OCTOBER 28, 2018 at 8:30 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.

Ushers will pass out folders during the Children's Moment. Please register your attendance. If you have any joys or concerns please fill out a prayer card found in the left pocket of the folder and place it in the offering plate.

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

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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

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

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

✠ Please stand as you are comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

GATHERING with GOD

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

Jesus, Name Above All Names

FWS 2071

**Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH 87, vs. 1 & 4

**What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?
This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Natalie Cooper

Come, let us enter this space of hope and community – with all our sorrows, our joys, our passion and compassion.

**We come into this space with the stories of our ancestors,
for their strength and wisdom beats in our hearts.**

We gather to sing praises, offer prayers, share gifts, and receive blessings.

**We come into this space, present to the beloved
companions who walk beside us.**

God calls us to keep our vision growing and equips us to journey onward.

**We come into this space, mindful that together we are
providing a future for generations to come.**

Come into this space and let us worship. **Amen.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Seek Ye First

UMH 405, vs. 1

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

LISTENING in FAITH

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rhonda Tucker

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

✠ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21

Natalie Cooper

The Word of the Lord.
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

“Keep Our Vision Growing”

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING with THANKS

✠ HYMN of FAITH

UMH 581

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Russ Nolan,
Stewardship Co-Chair

✠ KEEP OUR VISION GROWING COMMITMENT

Today is Commitment Sunday, when the congregation makes financial pledges for the coming year. At this time you are invited to bring your pledge card forward and place it in the basket near the altar.

LITANY of DEDICATION

We dedicate our gifts to you, O God.

**Help us to use them to glorify you;
to be vessels of your work in this world.**

We offer our pledges to you, O God.

**Guide our leaders as they prepare us spiritually
and financially for the upcoming year.**

Use us, O God, to do Your work in this world.

**Encourage us to see that we are all ministers
called into the Body of Christ. Use us in your service.**

We dedicate these commitments along with our resolve to keep Your vision growing.

**We recommit ourselves to faithfully participate in the
ministries of St. John's through our prayers, presence, gifts,
service and witness. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS to GOD

Special Music

✠ 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!**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 15

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING the BREAD & 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 of DEDICATION

Gracious God,

**You have gathered us together, from generation to
generation, and across all nations, cultures and
languages to feast at your table.**

**Here the past, the present, and the future are caught up
in the Spirit of your love, incarnate in Jesus Christ.**

**Having fed us by your uniting Spirit, you now send us out
to prepare the way for your future. We give you thanks
and glorify your name. 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 413

A Charge to Keep Have I

✠ BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

After the service, all are invited to the Family Life Center for refreshments.

We invite you too return at noon for a Celebration Luncheon in the FLC.

The flowers on the altar are celebrating the birthday of Trey Halliburton given by Ray, Deirdre, Andrea, and Will Halliburton.

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.

Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

Thank you for being here.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY / CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

As part of worship this morning, after the Stewardship Witness we will bring forward our pledges for the Keep Our Vision Growing Stewardship and Second-Mile Giving Campaign. If you forgot to bring your card with you this morning one can be found in the bulletin. Join us as we respond to God's abundance in our lives with acts of generosity that will help St. John's keep our vision growing in 2019 and beyond. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Please join us for a Celebration Luncheon, provided by the church, after the 11 a.m. service. Everyone is welcome for this lasagna dinner and time of fellowship.

THE GRATITUDE TREE - DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you would like to have a leaf on The Gratitude Tree, order forms are in the Narthex and the hallway of the Admin Building. The deadline for orders has been extended to Thursday, November 1. PLEASE NOTE: You must include a space between each word; each space counts as a character.

Your gift to the Gratitude Tree is a one time donation towards debt-reduction. Your pledge to debt-reduction through the Keep Our Vision Growing campaign begins in January and continues throughout 2019.

PICK UP YELLOW SHOPPING BAG

Don't forget to get your grocery shopping bag on your way out of worship! The Shepherd's Market is thankful for everything we receive on Grocery Bag Sunday (November 4). Specific items we are in need of are canned vegetables, mac and cheese and other side dishes, and breakfast foods.

BOY SCOUT CHICKEN DINNER & CHRISTMAS GREENERY

Boy Scout Troop 505 will be selling tickets today and Sunday, November 4 for their Take-Out Only Chicken Dinner on Sunday, November 11. Tickets are \$10 for barbeque chicken, potato salad, baked beans, bread, and dessert. They will also be taking pre-orders for Christmas greenery.

MY JOB TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Will you be serving on a committee here at St. John's next year? The UMC Baton Rouge District will offer help for new and experienced church leaders on a variety of topics on **Sunday, November 4** from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at University UMC, 3350 Dalrymple Drive. The training is free but registration is required and can be done online at <https://louisiana-reg.brtapp.com/MyJobTraining>.

UMW RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Norma Thomason will present the 2019 UMW Pledge Program and the World Thank Offering. All women are invited to attend.

ADVENT STUDY

Our Advent Study this year is going to be *All Earth Is Waiting* by Katie Z. Dawson. If your Sunday School class is interested in having an Advent study, please let Pastor Deirdre know by **Sunday, November 18**. Books cost \$15 (checks made out to St. John's UMC with Advent Book in memo line).

CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP HARVEY ON THE WAY FORWARD

If you are interested in learning more about the report released by The Commission on the Way Forward and the plans that will be considered at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, there will be a Listening Session on **Sunday, December 2** from 2-4 p.m. at Broadmoor UMC.

Given the purpose of the Listening Session, the primary focus will be centered on information and clarification of the process rather than discussions of biblical interpretations or theological debates on homosexuality. For more information go to the Louisiana Conference website www.la-umc.org.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, October 28

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, *Sanctuary*
8:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, *FLC*
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
12:00 p.m. CELEBRATION LUNCHEON, *FLC*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, October 29

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, October 30

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, October 31

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, November 1

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

Friday, November 2

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*

Saturday, November 3

8:00 a.m. UMW District Meeting, *Sanctuary*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *Brian and Danielle Blackwood, Darren and Chris Stubbs*
Host: *Chris Stubbs*

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

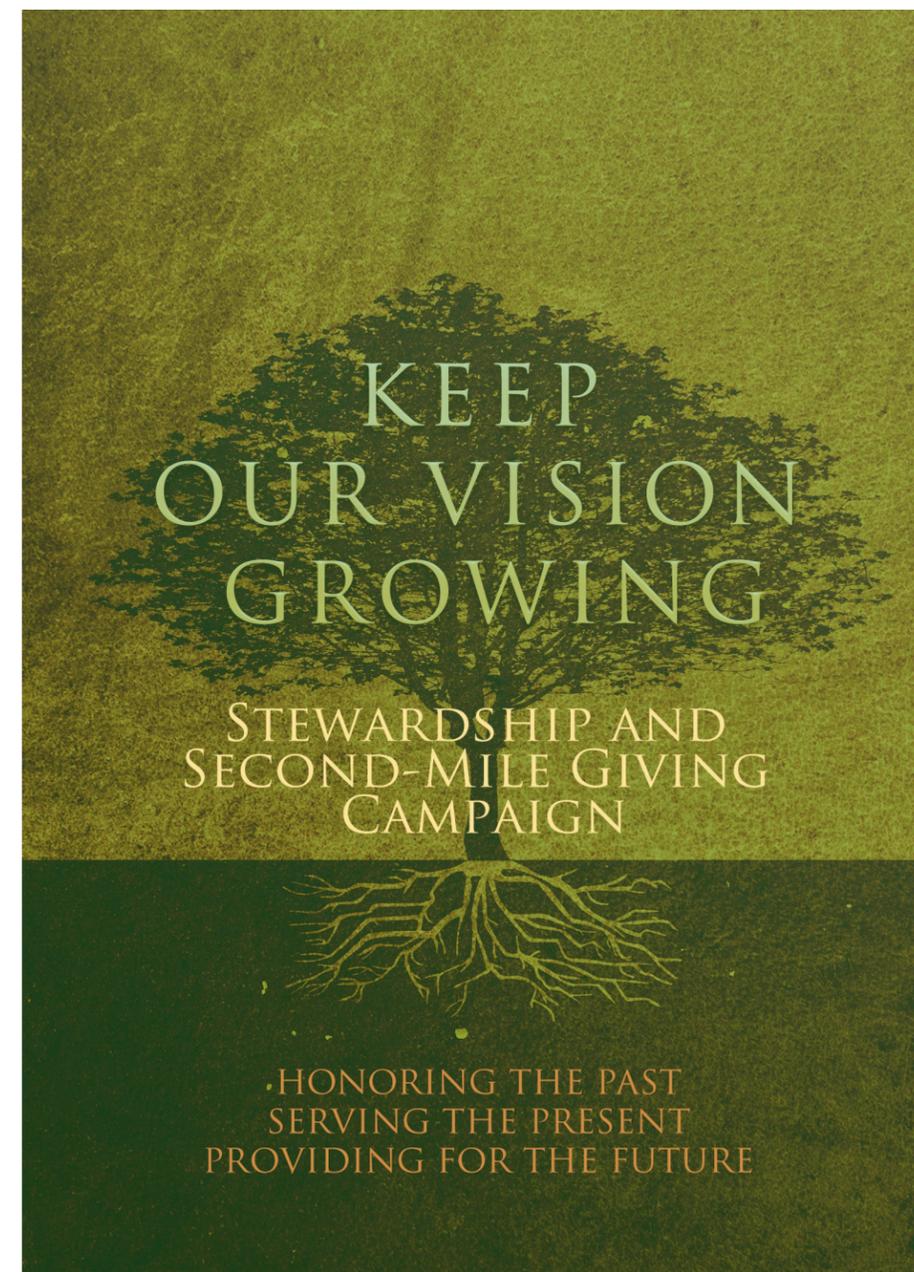
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



October 28, 2018

8:30 a.m. *Worship Service*

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.