

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

September 9, 2018 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 comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

GATHERING

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP Bill Metcalf

We believe, O Lord,
**that you have not abandoned us to the dim light
of our own reason.**

We believe O Lord,
**that you have revealed in Holy Scripture
what is necessary for us to live and practice.**

We believe, O Lord,
**How noble and excellent are your precepts,
how sublime and enlightening the truth,
how persuasive and strong the motives,
how powerful the assistance of your Holy Spirit.
We believe, O Lord,
Help our unbelief, for our delight shall be in your statutes,
and we shall not forget your Word. Amen.**

✠ HYMN *of* PRAISE UMH 568
Christ for the World We Sing

✠ PSALTER UMH 840
Psalms 119: 1-8, 33-40

SUNG RESPONSE

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!

**Blessed are those who keep God's testimonies,
Who seek God with their whole heart,**

Who also do no wrong, But walk in God's ways!

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

**Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on
all your commandments.**

I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous ordinances.

I will observe your statutes; O forsake me not utterly!

SUNG RESPONSE

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;
And I will keep them to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
And observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in them.

Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to gain!

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in your ways.

**Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those
who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread; for your ordinances are good.

**Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give
me life!**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

GROWING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Lane

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

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.

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Shine, Jesus Shine

SCRIPTURE Bill Metcalf
James 2:1-13

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

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 Pastor Deirdré
"Mercy Triumphs"

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN *of* FAITH UMH 584, vs. 1, 2, 5
Lord, You Give the Great Commission

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE

**Almighty God,
you created us in your own image.**

**Grant us grace to fearlessly contend against all
evil and to make no peace with oppression.**

**We pray now for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit,
and whose names we offer aloud or in the stillness of our
hearts.**

(The congregation may speak aloud their concerns...)

**For the gifts of family, friends and community, and for your
tender love, we give you praise and thanksgiving. Hear now
these joys that we offer.**

(The congregation may speak aloud their joys...)

**May we be reminded each day of your grace and mercy
towards us.**

**And may we reverently use our freedoms to strive for
justice to the glory of your Holy name; through
Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray
by saying:**

**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.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS *to* GOD

✠ 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 539, vs. 1 & 4
O Spirit of the Living God

✠ BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given by Lisa and Rob Westfall
in loving memory of Sadie Bodden DeLee.*

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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

"HOW TO...A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO EVERYDAY LIFE"

The epistle of James is one of the most practical books in the Bible. This short letter takes a no-nonsense approach to life. For James, our faith is to be expressed outwardly and practiced in community. He is straightforward and direct, with a call to put our faith into action. The scripture reading for next week is James 3:2-12.

HEAVENLY HASH

We're revamping Heavenly Hash for the fall, and will be offering a Wednesday night supper **once a month** on the **first Wednesday of the month**. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, October 3**. We'll be serving supper from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. You can arrive as your schedule permits.

DAYS FOR GIRLS WORK DAYS

The UMW is sponsoring work days to make 75 additional kits for the Days for Girls project. These kits will contain reusable feminine hygiene products for girls in developing countries who are missing school because of a lack of available products. We will meet in the FLC from 9 a.m. to noon for the two remaining sessions on **Saturday, September 15, and 22**. We can use YOU! Sewers and non-sewers are needed to cut fabric, iron, sew, serge, apply snaps, insert drawstrings, and assemble kits. **All are welcome**. If you would like more information contact Joyce Perry at 763-6613 or joyce.perry@cox.net or check out their website at www.daysforgirls.org.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION TO CUBA

During the month of September, participants in the VIM-Cuba mission are asking for donations of vitamins (NO gummies, please), over the counter medicines such as ibuprofen, anti-diarrheal, laxatives, ointments, etc., (NO gel caps, please) and band-aids to help supply the traveling nurse at the Havana Methodist Conference Center. These scarce items are distributed throughout the country. There will be a blue tub in the Narthex and in the Admin Building for your donations. For more information contact Susan Johnston at 773-9563.

UMW PRESENTS "A NIGHT OF HUMOR"

St. John's UMW invites everyone to join them on **Sunday, September 16** at 6 p.m. in the FLC as Pastor Connie Saizon presents "A Night of Humor." Rev. Saizon is known to many in the Louisiana Conference through her ministry of "Travelin' Light."

UMW MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

The UMW Mary Martha Circle will meet **Tuesday, September 11**, at 7 p.m. in the parlor. Our program will be presented by Beth Forester. All women are invited to attend.

IMPORTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

On **Thursday, September 20**, 6 p.m. in the library, the Church Council will meet with items of importance to all of St. John's: discussion and approval of paperwork for the Charge Conference and discussion of the future of our rental properties. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

THE WALK CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

A celebratory breakfast, recognizing all of those who have supported The Walk three-year campaign, will be held on **Saturday, October 6** at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Invitations are going out this week. Please RSVP by Monday, September 24 to office@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, September 9

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*
12:15 p.m. Christian Formation, *Parlor*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
2:00 p.m. Reading Connection, *FLC-A*
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*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, September 11

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*
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Choir Room*
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
7:00 p.m. Mary Martha UMW, *Parlor*

Wednesday, September 12

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Cup of Life Study, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, *Choir Room*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, September 13

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

Friday, September 14

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*

Saturday, September 15

9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, *FLC*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Scott Durham, Liz McDonald, Fred and Kathleen Adams*
Hosts: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg*

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

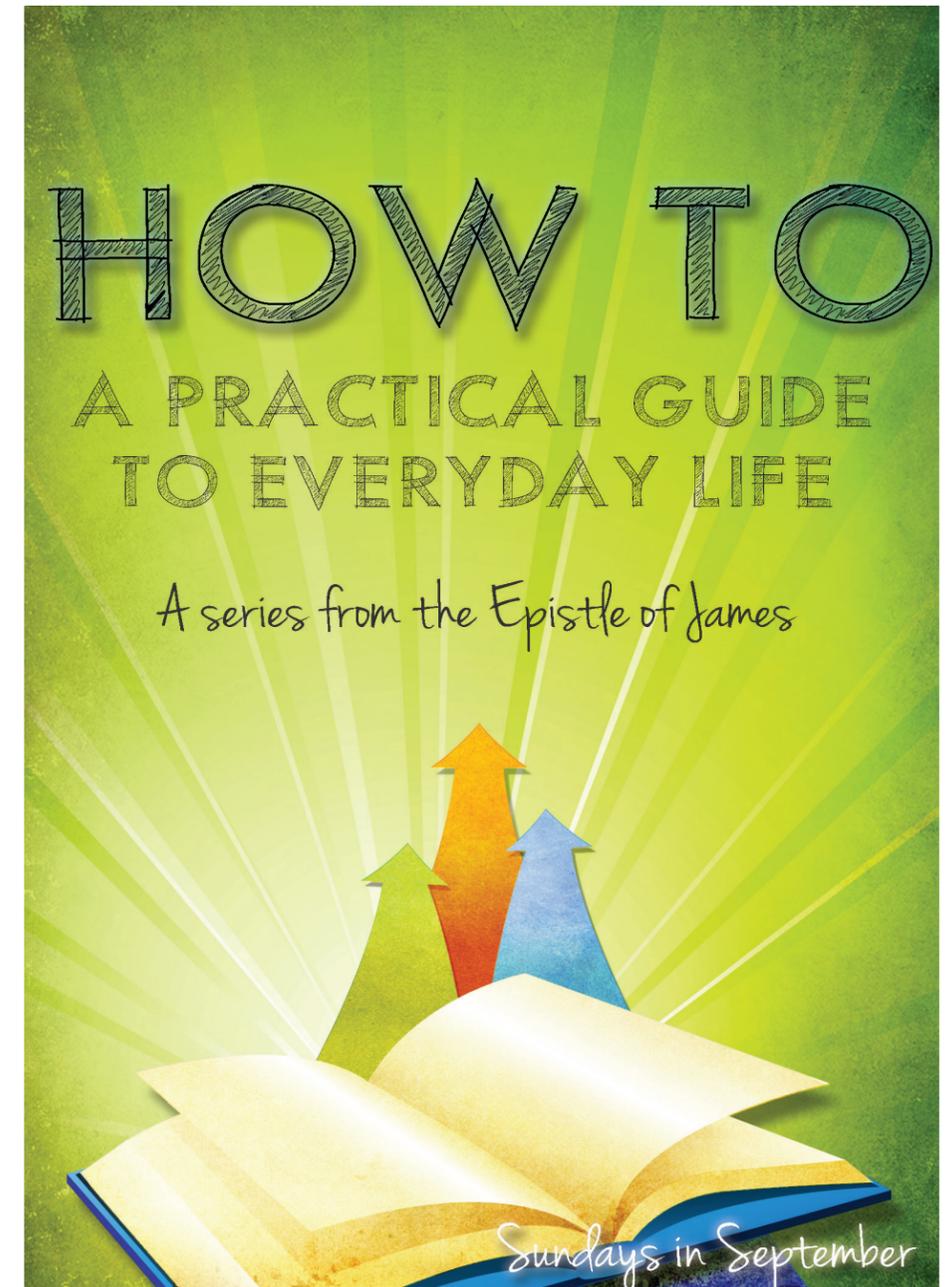
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



September 9, 2018

11 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.