

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

May 26, 2019 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 With GOD

BELL TOLL

The tolling of the bell invites you into a time of centering and stillness.

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Lift Thine Eyes

Women's Choir

† CALL to WORSHIP

Ray Halliburton

Welcome to all who have come in search of something;
we have come to seek the living God.

Happy are those who find a way and follow that path;
we do not make this journey by ourselves.

Blessed are those who give their lives over to their Creator.
**In faith, in trust, with hope, let us worship God
who has given us this day.**

God made this day so we can rest, reflect, and worship.
God made this day so we can open our eyes to see beauty,
pain, opportunity, and hope.

**So let us gather this day with our eyes, hearts, and minds
wide open, and let us worship God.**

† HYMN of PRAISE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

† PSALTER

UMH 791

Psalm 67

SUNG RESPONSE

**O people, be glad and sing for joy!
Declare God's glory in every land!**

O God, be gracious to us and bless us
and make your face to shine upon us,

**that your way be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**

God has blessed us;

let all the ends of the earth fear God!

† 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**

ENGAGING GOD'S WORD

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

Sun of My Soul

Chancel Choir

† SCRIPTURE

John 14:15-29

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. ¹⁷This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

¹⁸“I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. ¹⁹Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

²²Judas (not Judas Iscariot) asked, “Lord, why are you about to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus answered, “Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever doesn't love me doesn't keep my words. The word that you hear isn't mine. It is the word of the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. ²⁶The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.

²⁷“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid. ²⁸You have heard me tell you, ‘I'm going away and returning to you.’ If you loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me. ²⁹I have told you before it happens so that when it happens you will believe.

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

“Following the Way”

Pastor Deirdre

RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE

† HYMN of FAITH

Because He Lives

UMH 364

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Holy and merciful Lord,
we come rejoicing in your mighty acts which have delivered your people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray.

Risen Lord,
Hear our Prayer.

Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings showered upon us:
for our lives and for those whom we love,
for the beauty of this church God has created for us,
for our families and our friendships,
let us give thanks to the God of Life for these blessings we name aloud.

(You may lift up blessings silently or aloud.)

Risen Lord,

Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for the Church, that in unity it may carry forward the redemptive works of God:

for our clergy and our bishops,
for the many lay people who serve the church,
and serve the world through the church, and
for those who gather here in worship and prayer.

Risen Lord,

Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray that the joy of Easter may ever grow within us and the church, and that your Holy Spirit may guide us in lives of active faith.

Risen Lord,

Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may decline, and that justice, peace, and prosperity be lifted up.

Risen Lord,

Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, those who struggle and those who have died:
that the hope born of Easter give them peace, acceptance and renewal, and that through their struggles they may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores.

For those we now name silently or aloud.

(You may lift up prayer requests silently or aloud.)

Risen Lord,

Hear our Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS of WITNESS

Mari Walker

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

† 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!**

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 714, vs. 1 - 3

I Know Whom I Have Believed

† BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE

Don't forget to pick up a yellow grocery bag on your way out and bring it back next week for Grocery Bag Sunday.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Jim and Claudia Fowler and in recognition of the extraordinary mission work done by St. John's United Methodist Women (UMW).

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 in the Narthex.

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

Thank you for being here.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day and will resume regular office hours on Tuesday. The Shepherd's Market will also be closed Monday and will reopen on Tuesday at 8 a.m.

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS

Forms are available in the narthex for you to sign up to be a volunteer during Vacation Bible School, **Monday, June 24 - Friday, June 28**, 9 a.m. - noon. You might want to volunteer to help with decorating and set up, be a group leader (two adults per group), our photographer, kitchen helper (making snacks for the kids), or to bring snacks for the volunteer break room, "Stop 'n Go." Please contact Pastor Deirdre if you have any questions.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

In June and July our children who have completed K - 5th grade will combine into one class. **We are still in need of teacher volunteers for those two months.** Each Sunday requires 3 volunteers. This is an excellent way to "get your feet wet" by testing the waters as a Sunday school teacher, so to speak. You may sign up for one Sunday or multiple Sundays. Bring a friend to join you! The materials we use are very helpful in spelling out just how the lesson is taught. For more information, contact Pastor Deirdre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Movie Night, Friday June 7, 5 - 7 p.m. Faith, Family, and Formation presents a night of fellowship, hamburgers on the grill, and a movie! Come see Pixar's "Inside Out," said to be creative, clever, heartfelt, and beautifully animated. Good fun for the whole family.

Louisiana Annual Conference, June 9 - 12. Pastor Lane, Pastor Deirdre, John Toney, and Bobbi Marino will represent St. John's at the Annual Conference in Shreveport. Pastor Deirdre will be commissioned during the Celebration of Ministry service on June 10.

VBS - Power Up, Raise Your Game - June 24 - 28, 9 a.m. - noon. Registration for VBS has begun. Forms are available on our website (www.stjohnsbr.org), in the narthex, and in the hallway of the Admin Building. Children aged 4 years through those completing 5th grade are eligible to attend. Tell your friends and neighbors also.

PILLOW CASES FOR GRACE CAMP

Each year folks from St. John's sew pillowcases for the youth who attend Grace Camp, a summer camp for youth who have an incarcerated family member. The pillowcases are very easy to construct and come in a kit with the needed materials and easy to follow instructions. Joyce Perry will have some ready-to-sew kits during coffee time. For more information contact Joyce at 763-6613 or joyce.perry@cox.net.

PICK UP YELLOW GROCERY BAG

Don't forget to pick up a yellow grocery bag and bring it back next week for Grocery Bag Sunday. Some needed items are breakfast items, soup, juice, household and baby products.

LECTIONARY LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Lectionary Ladies Bible Study is taking the summer off; they will resume meeting on **Monday, September 9** at 3 p.m. in the parlor. The ladies study the Bible by reading and discussing the weekly scripture. If you would be interested in joining the group there is no need to register, just come to the parlor on Mondays at 3 p.m.

"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL" FROM LOVE IS LOVE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

After a month of conversations with other Sunday school classes, Love is Love Sunday School presented its revised "God's Doors Are Open to All" temporary, self-financed, welcoming art project proposal to the Church Council on Thursday. The council approved the proposal, and the project - six doors painted red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple, each with one of the words in the sentence "God's Doors Are Open to All!" painted in white, plus blank black and brown doors, for a total of eight doors - is on display in the Family Life Center this morning. This afternoon the doors will be moved to Highland Road near where the white house stood and will remain on display until June 16. Love is Love members are available to answer questions this morning.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, May 26
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
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, May 27
OFFICE CLOSED
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, May 28
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. Wellness Covenant Group, Library
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor

Wednesday, May 29
10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, Library
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary

Thursday, May 30
8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Board, Library
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, May 31
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library

Saturday, June 1
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
5:30 p.m. Walk to Emmaus Gathering, FLC

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg, Penny Kemler, Will Halliburton*

Host: *Joyce Perry*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Morgan Dynes
Summer Ministry Intern
morgandynes@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Poynot
Director of Music Ministries
carriepoynot@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Rev. Deirdre Halliburton
Associate Pastor
pastordeirdra@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Amy Fine
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
amyfine@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

St. John's United Methodist Church
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



May 26, 2019

11:00 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.