

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

AUGUST 12, 2018 at 8:30 A.M.

Welcome to All

All are invited to 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.

UNITING WITH GOD

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

Into My Heart

FWS 2160

**Into my heart, into my heart,
come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
come in today, come in to stay;
come into my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**Out of my heart, out of my heart,
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;
shine out today, shine out always;
shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Trust and Obey

UMH 467, vs. 1

**When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!**

**While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Madeline Massett

Dig deep for the courage that comes from the Lord.

**We will be strong and courageous, for the Lord, our God,
is with us wherever we go.**

Dare to face your brokenness, your anxieties, and your fears.

**We will be strong and courageous, for the Lord, our God,
is with us wherever we go.**

See all your potential and rest in the assurance that you are enough.

**We will be strong and courageous, for the Lord, our God,
is with us wherever we go.**

Come worship the Lord without fear, for you are accepted,
loved, and set free.

**Thanks be to God for the courage that comes to us in
unexpected ways along the journey of faith.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Through It All

UMH 507

**Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God;
through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon God's word.**

GROWING TOGETHER

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rhonda Tucker

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.

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4:12-17

Madeline Massett

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

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

“Choosing Courage Over Comfort”

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING WITH LOVE

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Near to the Heart of God

UMH 472

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Holy God,
we can be so full of fear at times –
afraid of the unknown;
afraid of what is beyond our control;
afraid of what is strange to us.**

**And we know that fear stops us in our tracks,
hinders our action, and gives us an excuse
for not doing what you call us to do
and what you empower us to do.**

**So we pray that you will give us courage, O God.
Give us strong hearts, open minds, and willing hands,
that we might set aside our fear, and walk confidently
into this world you have made and into this time
you have placed us.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(a time for silent prayers and confession)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE & PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ's courage and sacrificial love has set us
free. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

✠ SHARING the LOVE and PEACE of CHRIST

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!**

✠ 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.

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)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING 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

Bless us and lift us up, O Lord.

**We have been nourished by your presence
around your table of grace.**

**As we go from this place, give us courage and strength
to bravely and boldly witness to your love and power.**

For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

BOLDLY WE GO

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

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374, VS 1 & 4

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

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

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.

BRAVE - OUR AUGUST WORSHIP SERIES

For most of us, bravery is not about doing the impossible, but about finding courage to face the everyday pressures and anxieties life throws our way. During the Sundays in August, we will discover how to be brave and what it means to fully rely on God's peace and promises in every situation. *Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.* Joshua 1:9. Scripture for August 19 will be John 4:1-9, 16-26.

DINNER AND DIALOGUE

This evening at 5 p.m. we will host a potluck dinner and dialogue about the Commission on A Way Forward, from 5 to 7 p.m. Our facilitators will be Revs. Jo Ann Cooper (former St. John's Associate Pastor) and Ed Cooper, co-pastors of First UMC, Pineville. We invite you to bring a dish to share and an openness to learn and be in fruitful conversation. After dinner, we will hear an overview about the Commission's proposals to the special session of General Conference about human sexuality, followed by tabletop dialogue, with questions that foster unity, build trust, and deepen our relationships with one another.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Tuesday August 14** at 7 p.m. in the parlor with a birthday party honoring 150 years of UMW. Kathleen Adams will present a program on the history and legacy of the UMW. All women are invited to join the party and come have some ice cream and birthday cake.

HEAVENLY HASH RESUMES

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, September 5**. We'll be serving supper from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. You can arrive as your schedule permits.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE DEADLINE EXTENDED

TODAY is the extended deadline for the Opening Doors' annual school supply drive. There are blue tubs in the narthex and the Admin Building to collect your donations.

FALL BIBLE STUDIES

A survey on interest in fall Bible studies was distributed at both worship services on July 29. If you did not receive one and you are interested in participating in a Bible study, please contact Pastor Deirdre at 939-1425 or pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org to let her know your preference: Disciple I (32 weeks), Fast Track Disciple III (12 weeks), or a short-term study topics, for example, prayer, what it means to be the church, major characters of the Bible, women of the Bible (4, 6, or 8 weeks).

NEW TIME FOR YOUTH GROUP

The school year comes with change - new teachers, new friends, and new classes. In Youth Group, there is change as well. **Beginning Sunday August 19, Youth Group will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m.** Everything else will remain the same: fun and games, supper, time together, and a devotional.

TUTORS NEEDED

The Gardere Initiative is in need of tutors for their After-School Tutoring Program for the 2018-19 school year. If you are interested, there will be a training session for volunteers on **Tuesday, August 14** from 4 - 6 p.m. at The Gardere Initiative offices, 8435 Ned Ave., Apt. A (just off Gardere Lane).

LECTIONARY LADIES RESUME

Lectionary Ladies, who study the Bible by reading and discussing the weekly scripture, will resume meeting on **Monday, August 13** at 3 p.m. in the parlor. There is no need to sign up, if you are interested just meet us in the parlor at 3 p.m. on Mondays.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, August 12

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*
5:00 p.m. DINNER & DIALOGUE, *FLC*

Monday, August 13

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
11:00 a.m. Good Grief, St. John's, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, August 14

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

Wednesday, August 15

5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, *Choir Room*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, August 16

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

Friday, August 17

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

Saturday, August 18

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *David and Tina Henson, Phil and Jill Slicker*
Host: *Sandra Kuykendall*

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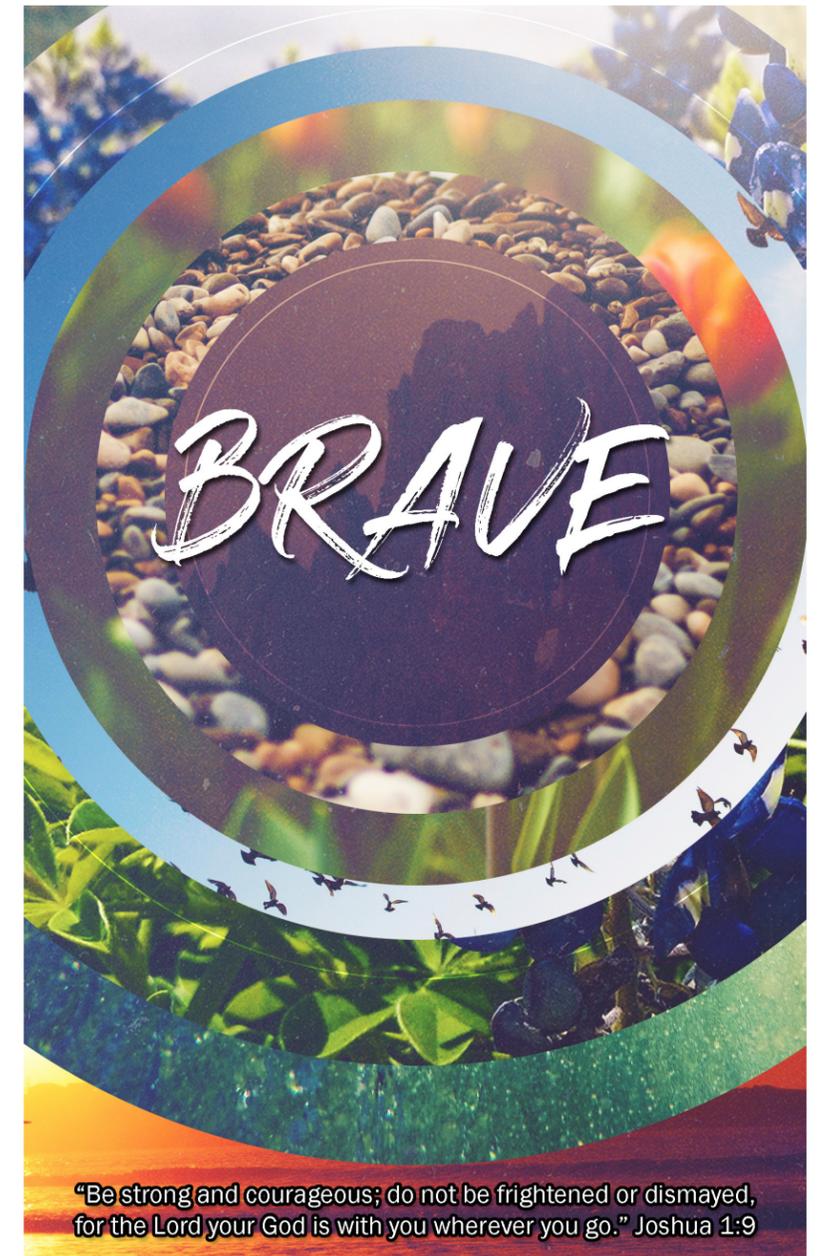
Give online: <http://bit.ly/sjumcgive>



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



*"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

August 12, 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.