

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 24, 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 *In* GOD'S NAME

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

*I Will Arise*

Chancel Choir

✠ PRAYER of INVOCATION

*Latrice Mallard*

**Almighty God,**  
**to whom our hearts are opened and our insecurities**  
**made known, we can hide nothing from you.**  
**At times, we shrink from situations that make**  
**us uncomfortable.**  
**We are apprehensive about engaging in difficult**  
**conversations or encounters in which we are not**  
**in control.**  
**Take away our fear and our false sense of self-reliance.**  
**Grant us wisdom that we may listen and learn, even in**  
**tense circumstances.**  
**Grant us courage, that we may face the challenges**  
**of each day. Amen.**

✠ HYMN of PRAISE

*There's a Spirit in the Air*

UMH 192, vs. 1, 2, 5, 6

✠ PSALTER

*Psalms 37:1-11*

UMH 772

SUNG RESPONSE

**Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.**

Do not be angry because of the wicked,  
do not be envious of wrongdoers!

**For they will soon fade like the grass,**  
**and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security.

**Take delight in the Lord, who will give you**  
**the desires of your heart.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in God, who will act,  
bringing forth your vindication as the light,  
and your right as the noonday.

**Be still and wait patiently before the Lord;**  
**do not be angry because of those who prosper in their**  
**way, because of those who carry out evil devices!**

SUNG RESPONSE

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!  
Do not be angry; it leads only to evil.

**For the wicked shall be cut off;**  
**but those who wait for the Lord**  
**shall possess the land.**

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
Though you look at their place, they will not be there.

**But the meek shall possess the land,**  
**and delight in abundant prosperity.**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

**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.**

## LISTENING *to* 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

*Come Thou Fount*

Chancel Choir

✠ SCRIPTURE

*Luke 6:27-38*

*Ray Halliburton*

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

“When Courage is Uncomfortable”

*Pastor Lane*

PASTORAL PRAYER *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER

## RESPONDING *to* GOD'S MERCY

✠ HYMN of FAITH

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

UMH 560

PRAYER of CONFESSION

***A Prayer During the Special Session of General Conference***

Today we pray for delegates from around the world as the special session of The United Methodist Church General conference begins business. We light this first candle remembering God our Creator works in us and at this moment in our delegates.

**We give thanks for the work of those who spent countless**  
**hours creating plans and proposals for finding our way**  
**forward. Forgive us when we cannot see a way forward. May**  
**we unite as one in Christ, answering the call to go make**  
**disciples for the transformation of the world.**

We light the second candle that calls us to follow the way of Jesus, the way of loving when we don't want to love, the way of loving those difficult to love, the way of loving that glorifies God.

**We give thanks for the greatest gift of Love, Jesus, who**  
**teaches us the best ways to live and love. We confess**  
**that we have not loved our neighbor as ourself. Forgive**  
**us when we fail to see of your children as your beloved.**  
**May we speak with words filled with encouragement and**  
**healing, setting aside our own desires to seek the desires**  
**of Christ Jesus.**

We light the third candle that reminds us you, God, are always with us, in us and around us. You Give us the Holy Spirit to carry on the work of Jesus Christ.

**We give thanks for the power of your Spirit that fills**  
**us, your beloved children. Forgive our narrowness and**  
**stubbornness of mind that blocks our knowing the Spirit**  
**more fully. May we trust the Spirit's guidance by opening**  
**our heart and mind to living love through the heart of**  
**God.**

We light this final candle for ourselves, with the hope and assurance of your forgiveness and grace. Through confession we find our way back to you.

**Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our**  
**enemies. Even when we are shown compassion, we do not**  
**always extend that love to others. Forgive us our selfish**  
**ways and our prideful ambitions. Teach us how to love as**  
**you love, and let your light break forth in our lives.**

God, we come to you individually and in unity praying for The United Methodist Church, our bishops and delegates, and for us, here at St. John's. Thank you for your amazing grace that pours over us all.

*(A time for silent prayers and confession.)*

WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Hear the good news: forgiveness is found in Jesus. In Christ, our hopes are realized; and through Christ, true love is shown.

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

✠ DOXOLOGY

**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.**

UMH 95

## 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

*Freely, Freely*

UMH 389

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

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

*The flowers on the altar are from Marilyn and Richard Damberg in honor of Wanda Vanover's birthday.*

## 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.*

### YOUTH FUNDRAISER AT MOOYAH TOMORROW

Come support our youth at a give-back meal at Mooyah (6555 Siegen Lane), **Monday February 25**, 11 a.m. till 10 p.m. This fundraiser will be a little different as our percentage of earnings depends on how much we spend! Up to \$999 will earn us 15%, \$1000-1,999 will earn us 20%, and \$1999+ will earn us a whopping 25%! We're excited to see how much business we can bring to Mooyah to help our Youth! Funds raised will support YOUTH 2019.

### NEW LENT WORSHIP SERIES - "BE STILL"

Lent, the 40-day season before Easter, is about taking time to "Be Still," to pray, read the Bible, think, reflect, listen, and to be given hope and power to move in the direction that God intends. Join us each week, beginning March 10, for "Be Still," our Lent Worship Series, focused simply on slowing down so there can be lasting change. Pick up your daily devotion booklet next Sunday.

### YOUTH - SHARE SALE FUNDRAISER

St. John's UMY is having a fundraiser for their summer trip to Kansas City, YOUTH 2019! During their Stock Share Sale, they invite church members, family, and friends to purchase "shares" of stock for \$10. Today they will be selling shares in the narthex before and after both worship services and in the FLC during Coffee Time. Please consider purchasing multiple stock shares. Investors will be celebrated with stock certificates and a Shareholder's Thank You dinner! We appreciate your support of the youth ministry at St. John's.

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

On **Ash Wednesday, March 6** there will be worship opportunities both morning and evening which include imposition of ashes and holy communion. We will begin at 7 a.m. with a short worship service followed by Drive-thru Ashes in our driveway. At 6 p.m. we will have a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary.

### LENTEN RETREAT

Enter the season of Lent with St. John's at our March 8-9 on-campus Lenten Retreat: "Listening in Stillness, Serving in Joy," facilitated by Rev. Dr. William Thiele, founding director of the School for Contemplative Living. See insert in today's bulletin for information and registration. Please register by March 4.

### MISSION TO ST. MARK'S, NEW ORLEANS

St. John's annual three-day mission to St. Marks UMC in New Orleans will be **April 5-7**. The team will do repair and remodeling work at the North Rampart Community Center Friday and Saturday. On Sunday the team will prepare and serve a meal for homeless persons as well as participate in St. Mark's Sunday morning worship. The mission fee of \$135 per person includes your lodging and meals and helps defray the costs of preparing the Sunday meal and materials for the construction projects. Registration forms are available in the narthex, church office, or from Rev. Larry Norman, 225.933.1881.

### NEW FAMILY MINISTRY

Join us as we discuss family devotions at our first Faith, Family & Formation gathering on **Sunday March 24** at 3 p.m. While our kids have fun with a spring-themed craft and playing together, let's talk about real ways to stay connected to God and each other as family. Pastor Deirdre will facilitate our discussion. RSVP with number of kids to [pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org).

### DAYS FOR GIRLS

The UMW is announcing a series of spring work days for Days for Girls. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 16, 23, and 30** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Family Life Center. Remember you do not need to know how to sew in order to participate in this very worthwhile ministry.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, February 24

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  
**6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary**  
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

### Monday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor  
**11:00 a.m. MOOYAH FOR YOUTH (until 10 p.m.)**  
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, Parlor  
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library  
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC  
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor  
**6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary**  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

### Tuesday, February 26

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. Prayer Vigil, Sanctuary**  
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, Library

### Wednesday, February 27

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher Class, Library  
3:30 p.m. Everybody Reads Training, Library  
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A  
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary

### Thursday, February 28

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

### Friday, March 1

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

### Saturday, March 2

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

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Kathleen Adams, Deidra Matthews, Scott Durham, Liz McDonald*

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Lane Cotton Winn**  
Lead Pastor  
[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

**Lynn Cooper**  
Administrative Assistant  
[office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)

**Amy Fine**  
Director of Youth Ministries  
[amyfine@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:amyfine@stjohnsbr.org)

**Latrice Mallard**  
Ministry Intern  
[latricemallard@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:latricemallard@stjohnsbr.org)

**Bill Putzig**  
Custodian  
[billputzig@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:billputzig@stjohnsbr.org)

**Rev. Deirdre Halliburton**  
Associate Pastor  
[pastordeirdra@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastordeirdra@stjohnsbr.org)

**LeAnn Davis**  
Manager of Finance & Facilities  
[leannadavis@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:leannadavis@stjohnsbr.org)

**Carrie Poynot**  
Director of Music Ministries  
[carriepoynot@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:carriepoynot@stjohnsbr.org)

**Terry Byars**  
Accompanist  
[terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org)

St. John's United Methodist Church  
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
[www.stjohnsbr.org](http://www.stjohnsbr.org) | 225-766-4594

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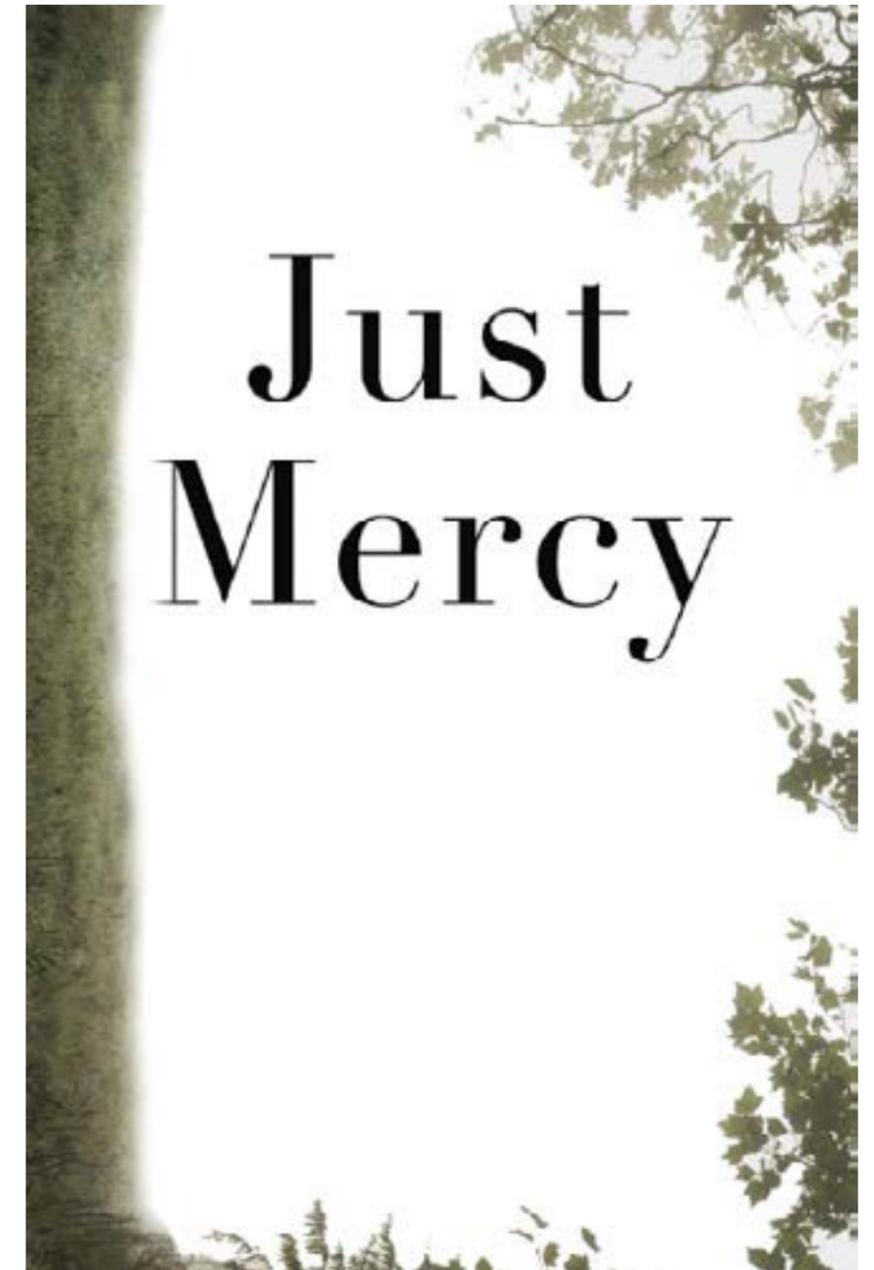
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



February 24, 2019  
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.*