

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

January 6, 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.

LOOKING UPWARD

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP *Bruce Bannerman*

A new day has dawned, a new year begun.

Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice.

We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

Lord, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.

We enter this new year with hope and excitement.

Lord, remind us that You lead us.

Be with us as we worship and make Yourself real to us each day.

Lord, make us mindful of Your presence and walk with us on this journey. Amen.

✠ HYMN *of* PRAISE *Wonderful Words of Life* UMH 600

GROWING UPWARD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *Sarah Prevot*

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 *Bruce Bannerman*
Acts 17:26-28
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 Lane*
“Relationship with God - An Upward Focus”

HYMN *of* FAITH *Near to the Heart of God* UMH 472

✠ PRAYER *of* CONFESSION
For all the things we have done wrong in the past against God and against people, we now ask the Lord and one another to forgive us.
(a time for silent prayers of confession)

Lord Jesus, yours are the seasons and the ages.
Give us a new heart and a new spirit:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus Christ, you are the beginning and the end of all that is, including our lives.
Make a new beginning with all of us:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you breathe your Spirit on all creation.
Make our old world new again:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Have mercy on us, Lord,
and let your forgiveness and love come down on us day after day.
Lead us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

✠ WORDS *of* ASSURANCE *and* PARDON
Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
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 *Chancel Choir*
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

✠ 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 host. Amen.**

✠ CALL TO THE TABLE
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (refrain)
**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

✠ 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.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

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.

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 at the station on the right.*
♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER
**I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it also be made in heaven. Amen.**

REACHING OUTWARD

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 I Have
During the hymn, we invite you to bring forward
The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE
The flowers on the altar are given by Jane and Bill Metcalf in memory of their son, Hans.

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.

THE WESLEY CHALLENGE - SERIES AND STUDY

Make your New Years Resolution to develop a more authentic faith and join us for The Wesley Challenge built around 21 questions that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, encouraged the first Methodists to ask one another.

Through this sermon series that begins today and the Tuesday night study that begins on January 8 at 6:30 p.m., we will explore how we can develop the spiritual habits, practices and actions that can lead to a thriving Christian life. For additional information, to reserve a book, and to register for the class, please use the form in today's bulletin or call the office, 225-766-4594.

ONLINE GIVING

Now it's even easier to make a contribution to St. John's or one of our missions. We now accept credit and debit card contributions online through our secure website. If you are new to Online Giving or have been waiting for these options, go to www.stjohnsbr.org and click on Give Now.

CENTENARY CHOIR CONCERT - JANUARY 26

Mark your calendar! The Centenary Choir will be performing at St. John's on **Saturday, January 26** at 7 p.m.

We will be needing folks to host the students in their home for that Saturday night after the concert. Please contact the church office if you are willing to act as a host home phone (766-4594) or email (office@stjohnsbr.org).

FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

Spring 2019 Fast Track Bible Study will begin on **Tuesday, February 5** at 6 p.m. in the library. If you want to know more about the Bible, want to study in a relaxed, small group atmosphere, want to study with others on their journey through the Bible join us for this 12-week study of **Luke and Acts**. Please use the form in today's bulletin to register for the class. Study books are \$20.

2019 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2019 is now up on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Admin/Education Building. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, flowers on the altar to glorify God is a beautiful way to do so. For your convenience, Heroman's on Staring (769-9898) has a key to the sanctuary and will deliver to the church on Saturday afternoon.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The first meeting of the Ruth Circle for 2019 will be held on **Tuesday, January 8** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Liz McDonald will present the program, "The Sisterhood of Human Flourishing." All women are invited to attend.

The first meeting of the Mary Martha Circle for 2019 will be held on **Tuesday, January 8** at 7 p.m. in the parlor. All women are invited to attend.

PRIME TIMERS

Christmas and New Year's are behind us, but do you still need some down time? Come join the Prime Timers at their monthly Dutch-treat buffet breakfast on **Saturday, January 12** at 8:30 a.m. at the Piccadilly on Essen Lane. It's a relaxing hour or so, no dishes to do, no pans to clean - you'll know where to find us, we'll be at the fun table.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, January 6

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, January 7

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*
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, January 8

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
9:30 a.m. UMW Ruth Circle, *Parlor*
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
2:00 p.m. Reading Connection, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Wesley Challenge Study, *Library*
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Circle, *Parlor*

Wednesday, January 9

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, *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, January 10

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

Friday, January 11

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*

Saturday, January 12

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Lane Piccadilly*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Rhonda Tucker, Guy Johnson, Harriet Walters, Deidra Matthews

CHURCH STAFF

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 Check in on Facebook:
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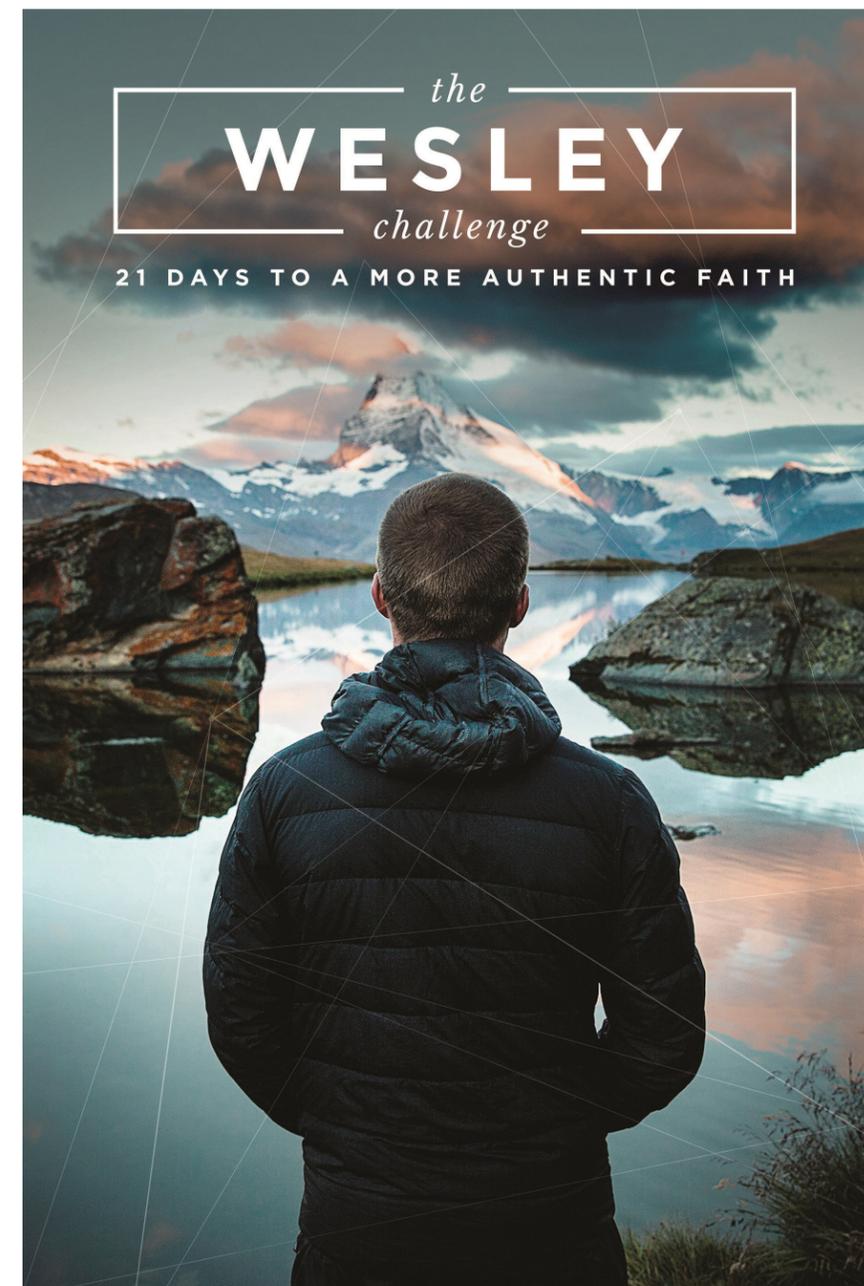
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



January 6, 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.