

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

October 28, 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 *with* GOD

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP Ben Hartman

Come, let us enter this space of hope and community – with all our sorrows, our joys, our passion and compassion.

We come into this space with the stories of our ancestors, for their strength and wisdom beats in our hearts.

We gather to sing praises, offer prayers, share gifts, and receive blessings.

We come into this space, present to the beloved companions who walk beside us.

God calls us to keep our vision growing and equips us to journey onward.

We come into this space, mindful that together we are providing a future for generations to come.

Come into this space and let us worship.
Amen.

✠ HYMN of PRAISE UMH 87
What Gift Can We Bring

✠ MORNING PRAYER

We praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Lord, you gave us your most precious and holy gift, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your Son and his Church.

Thank you for your enduring love, your limitless mercy, and your amazing grace.

Help us to move forward in faith, so that we may grow in love and generosity.

Open our hearts and minds as we seek your will for our church, our community, and ourselves.

Challenge and inspire us to use the gifts we have received to serve others.

In your holy name we humbly pray. Amen.

✠ 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 in FAITH

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.

ANTHEM Special Music

✠ SCRIPTURE Ben Hartman
Matthew 14:13-21

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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
“Keep Our Vision Growing”

RESPONDING *with* THANKS

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 581
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS Russ Nolan,
Stewardship Co-Chair

✠ KEEP OUR VISION GROWING COMMITMENT
Today is Commitment Sunday, when the congregation makes financial pledges for the coming year. At this time you are invited to bring your pledge card forward and place it in the basket near the altar.

LITANY *of* DEDICATION

We dedicate our gifts to you, O God.

Help us to use them to glorify you; to be vessels of your work in this world.

We offer our pledges to you, O God.

Guide our leaders as they prepare us spiritually and financially for the upcoming year.

Use us, O God, to do Your work in this world.

Encourage us to see that we are all ministers called into the Body of Christ. Use us in your service.

We dedicate these commitments along with our resolve to keep Your vision growing.

We recommit ourselves to faithfully participate in the ministries of St. John’s through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. 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 413
A Charge to Keep Have I

✠ BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

After the service, all are invited to the Family Life Center for a Celebration Luncheon.

The flowers on the altar are celebrating the birthday of Trey Halliburton given by Ray, Deirdre, Andrea, and Will Halliburton.

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.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY / CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

As part of worship this morning, after the Stewardship Witness we will bring forward our pledges for the Keep Our Vision Growing Stewardship and Second-Mile Giving Campaign. If you forgot to bring your card with you this morning one can be found in the bulletin. Join us as we respond to God's abundance in our lives with acts of generosity that will help St. John's keep our vision growing in 2019 and beyond. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Please join us for a Celebration Luncheon, provided by the church, after the 11 a.m. service. Everyone is welcome for this lasagna dinner and time of fellowship.

THE GRATITUDE TREE - DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you would like to have a leaf on The Gratitude Tree, order forms are in the Narthex and the hallway of the Admin Building. The deadline for orders has been extended to Thursday, November 1. PLEASE NOTE: You must include a space between each word; each space counts as a character.

Your gift to the Gratitude Tree is a one time donation towards debt-reduction. Your pledge to debt-reduction through the Keep Our Vision Growing campaign begins in January and continues throughout 2019.

PICK UP YELLOW SHOPPING BAG

Don't forget to get your grocery shopping bag on your way out of worship! The Shepherd's Market is thankful for everything we receive on Grocery Bag Sunday (November 4). Specific items we are in need of are canned vegetables, mac and cheese and other side dishes, and breakfast foods.

BOY SCOUT CHICKEN DINNER & CHRISTMAS GREENERY

Boy Scout Troop 505 will be selling tickets today and Sunday, November 4 for their Take-Out Only Chicken Dinner on Sunday, November 11. Tickets are \$10 for barbeque chicken, potato salad, baked beans, bread, and dessert. They will also be taking pre-orders for Christmas greenery.

MY JOB TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Will you be serving on a committee here at St. John's next year? The UMC Baton Rouge District will offer help for new and experienced church leaders on a variety of topics on **Sunday, November 4** from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at University UMC, 3350 Dalrymple Drive. The training is free but registration is required and can be done online at <https://louisiana-reg.brapp.com/MyJobTraining>.

UMW RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Norma Thomason will present the 2019 UMW Pledge Program and the World Thank Offering. All women are invited to attend.

ADVENT STUDY

Our Advent Study this year is going to be *All Earth Is Waiting* by Katie Z. Dawson. If your Sunday School class is interested in having an Advent study, please let Pastor Deirdre know by **Sunday, November 18**. Books cost \$15 (checks made out to St. John's UMC with Advent Book in memo line).

CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP HARVEY ON THE WAY FORWARD

If you are interested in learning more about the report released by The Commission on the Way Forward and the plans that will be considered at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, there will be a Listening Session on **Sunday, December 2** from 2-4 p.m. at Broadmoor UMC.

Given the purpose of the Listening Session, the primary focus will be centered on information and clarification of the process rather than discussions of biblical interpretations or theological debates on homosexuality. For more information go to the Louisiana Conference website www.la-umc.org.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, October 28

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*
12:00 p.m. CELEBRATION LUNCHEON, *FLC*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, October 29

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*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, October 30

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. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, October 31

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, November 1

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

Friday, November 2

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

Saturday, November 3

8:00 a.m. UMW District Meeting, *Sanctuary*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Fred and Kathleen Adams, Penny Kemler, Will Halliburton
Host: Joyce Perry

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



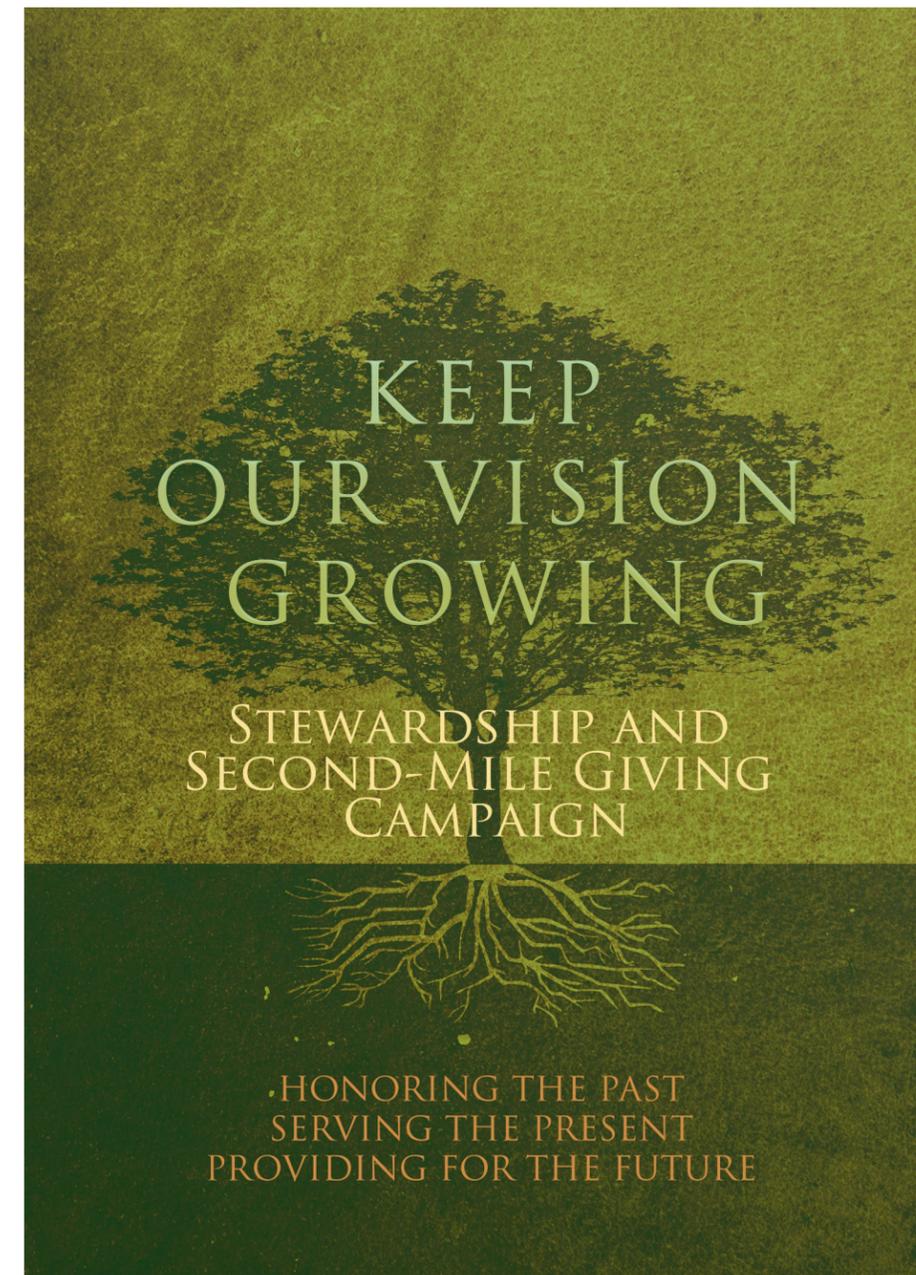
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



October 28, 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.