

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

September 16, 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

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP Ray Halliburton

The voice of God gathers us this day;

The warmth of God brings us together as one people.

So we come, with both joy and sorrow in our hearts,

With both words that love and words that hurt,

With kindness and with selfishness,

With doubt and with faith.

So may we bring the fullness of our lives to God,
who accepts us all.

**May we worship well this day in our hearts, with
our words, and through our actions. Amen.**

✠ HYMN of PRAISE UMH 475

Come Down, O Love Divine

PRAYER Pastor Deirdré

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Gracious God,
in your wisdom you created a world in which there are
always choices to be made.**

Then you gifted us with sight and sense to freely decide.

**When I am faced with good and evil, give me the wisdom
to choose good.**

**When I am faced with life and death, give me the courage
to choose life.**

**When I am faced with difficult decisions, sharpen my sight,
strengthen my will, soften my heart.**

**And in those times when I suffer guilt, bearing the
consequences for my actions, remind me that you are the
God of the Resurrection – You have the power to bring
forth good from evil, and life out of death.**

Calm us now with a quietness that listens.

Bridle our tongues that we might speak only truth and love.

Put your hand upon us that we might feel a sense of direction.

**In the name of the One who has shown us the Way, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE FWS 2150, vs. 3

In Our Lives, Lord

In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

GROWING

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Heather Durham

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 Chancel Choir

I Then Shall Live

SCRIPTURE Ray Halliburton

James 3:2-12

²We all make mistakes often, but those who don’t make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. ³When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies. ⁴Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder.

⁵In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly. Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. ⁶The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

⁷People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. ⁸No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn’t be this way!

¹¹Both fresh water and salt water don’t come from the same spring, do they? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn’t flow from a saltwater spring either.

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

“The Power of Our Words”

RESPONDING

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 408

The Gift of Love

✠ AFFIRMING OUR FAITH UMH 887

Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 8:37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?

**No! In all things we are more than conquerors through
the One who loved us.**

**We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities, nor things present, nor things
to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI UMH 95

**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.**

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 572

Pass It On

✠ BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by J. R. Madden and Daphne Grady.

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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

"HOW TO...A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO EVERYDAY LIFE"

The epistle of James is one of the most practical books in the Bible. This short letter takes a no-nonsense approach to life. For James, our faith is to be expressed outwardly and practiced in community. He is straightforward and direct, with a call to put our faith into action. The scripture reading for next week is James 3:13-4:3, 7-10.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Congregational Care Team at 12:15 p.m. **TODAY** in the parlor. We invite everyone who might be interested in supporting our families and individuals who are homebound no matter the cause. Our Congregational Care Team provides care for the congregation, by the congregation. Come see what this is all about, no commitment necessary, and have lunch with us.

A NIGHT OF HUMOR

TONIGHT at 6 p.m. in the FLC, the UMW invites you to come enjoy "A Night of Humor" with Rev. Connie Saizon as she presents her comedic ministry that is well known through out the Louisiana Conference.

FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

The Fast Track Disciple Bible Study for fall 2018 will begin **Tuesday, September 18** in the library from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Mike Allen is the facilitator for this 12-week study of Genesis and Exodus. The study manual is \$20. Contact the office if you would like to participate in the study.

IMPORTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

On **Thursday, September 20**, 6 p.m. in the FLC, the Church Council will meet with items of importance to all of St. John's: discussion and approval of paperwork for the Charge Conference and discussion of the future of our rental properties. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

DAYS FOR GIRLS WORK DAYS

The remaining session in this series of Days for Girls workdays will be on **Saturday, September 22** in the Family Life Center from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. We can use YOU! Sewers and non-sewers are needed to cut fabric, iron, sew, serge, apply snaps, insert drawstrings, and assemble kits. **All are welcome.**

JOINING DAY IS COMING SEPTEMBER 29

If you've been thinking about joining the church, we'd love to welcome you officially to St. John's on Joining Day - September 29th! The invitation to join will be given before the final hymn and we invite everyone forward to join together.

We also will host a "Sharing St. John's" reception for newcomers in Pastor Lane's office at 10 a.m. that morning for those interested in learning more about the church.

THE WALK CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

A celebratory breakfast, recognizing all of those who have supported The Walk three-year campaign, will be held on **Saturday, October 6** at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Invitations went out this past week. Please RSVP by Monday, September 24 to office@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our annual Missions Fair will be **Sunday, October 7**. If you or a group have a mission or outreach that you would like to highlight, please call Susan Johnston at 773-9563.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION TO CUBA

During the month of September, participants in the VIM-Cuba mission are asking for donations of vitamins (NO gummies, please), over the counter medicines such as ibuprofen, anti-diarrheal, laxatives, ointments, etc., (NO gel caps, please) and band-aids. There will be a blue tub in the Narthex and in the Admin Building for your donations. For more information contact Susan Johnston at 773-9563.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, September 16

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*
12:15 p.m. Congregational Care Team, *Parlor*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *Jefferson UMC*
6:00 p.m. UMW Presents "A Night of Humor," *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, September 17

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

Tuesday, September 18

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*
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, September 19

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Cup of Our Life Prayer Study, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, *Choir Room*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, September 20

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
6:00 p.m. **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, FLC**
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, September 21

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

Saturday, September 22

9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, *FLC*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

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

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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St. John's United Methodist Church

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 Remember to pray for **The Walk**.
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSV)
#sjthewalk

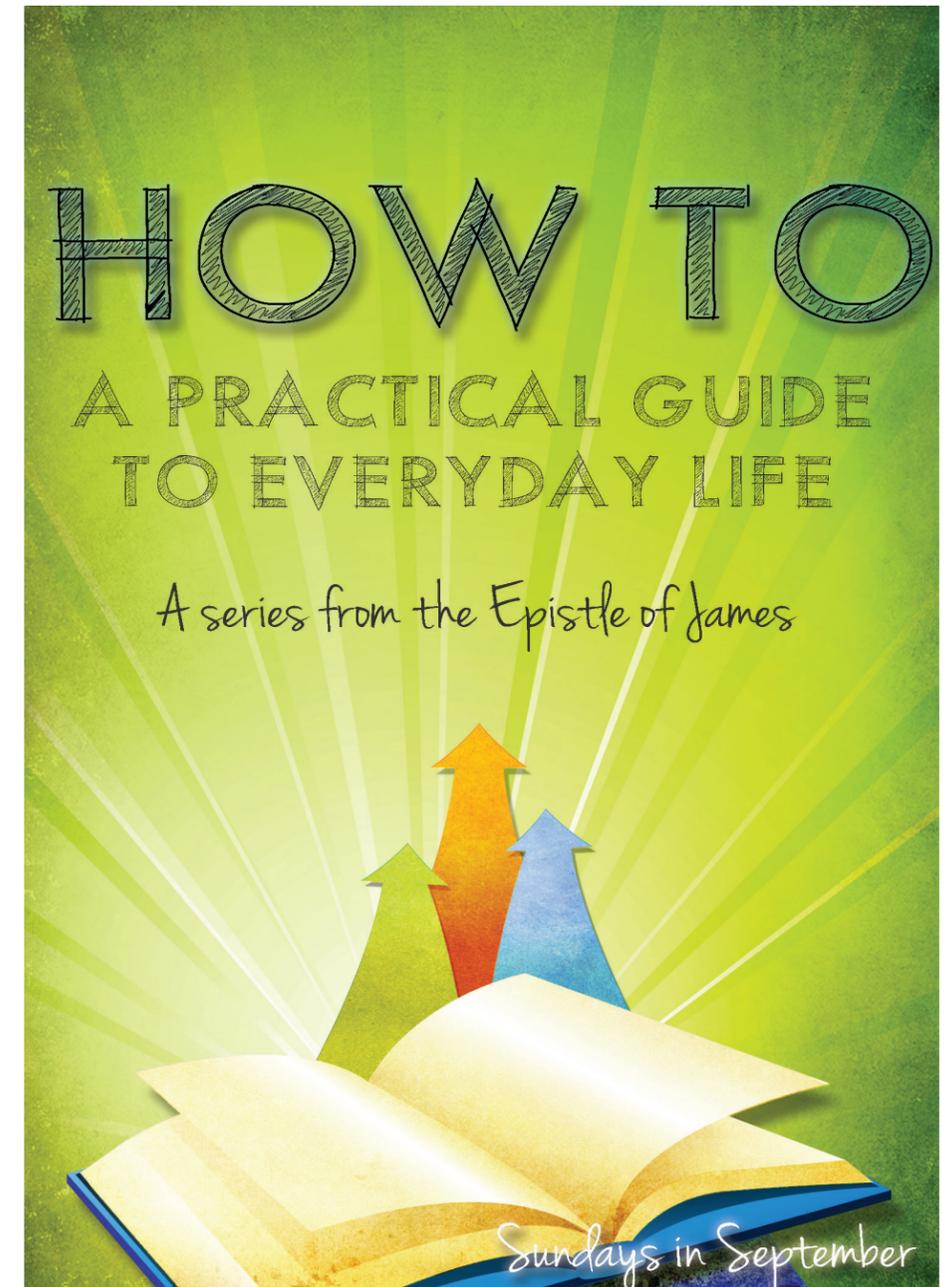
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



September 16, 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.