

OPPORTUNITIES for SERVICE 2017



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

Our Mission:

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.

As a community, we have covenanted together to use our gifts so that others will know Jesus Christ. This Opportunities of Service booklet is a starting point for you to be in ministry and service over the coming year. Our prayer is that you will prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be in mission and ministry in the coming year.

Steps to Choosing your Areas of Service:

1. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve.
2. Consider your gifts and the things that give you joy.
3. Consider the ways God might be calling you to step out of your comfort zone.
4. Choose to serve.

For more information about any of these ministries, please contact our church office.

Also, please complete the Commitment of Service form so we know exactly how to connect with you as you begin serving with us.

225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org

WORSHIP

Music

Chancel Choir

This all-singing ensemble of adults and young adults provides the musical leadership for the 11 a.m. traditional worship service each week. Childcare is available.

Frequency: Weekly Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7—8:30 p.m.

Early Bird Choir

This small ensemble of three to four singers provides the musical leadership for the 8:30 a.m. worship service and sings a variety of music including traditional and contemporary hymns, spirituals and contemporary praise music. Singers participate on a rotating basis, and adults and young adults with musical experience are welcome.

Frequency: Rehearsals on Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Other rehearsals as needed.

Alleluia Ringers (Intermediate/Advanced Handbell Choir)

All ages are welcome in this ensemble provided they are confident players. Alleluia Ringers play a varied repertoire at both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services throughout the year.

Frequency: Weekly Rehearsals on Sundays, 6—7:15 p.m.

Alpha Bells (Beginner Handbell Choir)

This ensemble consists of adults and young adults who are interested in learning to play handbells but are not comfortable yet with their musical skills. Alpha Bells is an ideal ensemble for those who wish to learn to read music. It is led by Daphne Grady and plays in worship occasionally throughout the year.

Frequency: Weekly Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7—8:30 p.m.

Children's Choir Participant

Children's choir is an opportunity for our young members, ages 4 years-5th grade, to discover their musical and worship interests while having fun and learning! Children are taught rhythm, notes, experiment with different instruments, and learn a variety of songs and beginner choral pieces. They sing in worship and at special events throughout the year.

Frequency: Weekly Rehearsals on Sundays, 5-5:30 p.m.

Children's Choir Volunteer

Provide companionship and encouragement to children during Children's Choir. No musical ability required!

Frequency: Rehearsals on Sundays, 5-5:30 p.m.

Special Music

Soloists and small ensembles, both vocal and instrumental, are called upon throughout the year to provide special music during worship services and special events throughout the year. A variety of ages and musical styles is welcome!

Frequency: As needed.

WORSHIP

Hospitality

Welcome Host

Provides a welcoming presence for first-time and repeat guests by mingling in the congregation before the service. Be available after the service to greet guests and review the sign-in pads to identify first-time guests. Communicate via email with staff regarding guests after the service and write thank-you notes to first-time guests at that service.

Frequency: Once every 6 weeks.

Usher

Passes out worship bulletins, assists worshippers in finding seats, collects the offering and provides general support and a welcoming presence during worship services.

Frequency: One Sunday every 6 weeks and occasional special services at 8:30 a.m. and/or 11 a.m. services.

Newcomer Guide — St. John's "Buddy"

Serve as a guide to a designated newcomer to the St. John's congregation. The guide will provide information about St. John's regarding opportunities to be involved in ministry and study, assist and encourage connection in the areas of service, witness and worship, and introduce newcomers to other members of the congregation.

Frequency: As needed.

Guest Welcome Center Host

During coffee time, be present at the Welcome Center to greet and engage guests who stop by.

Frequency: Once every 6 weeks.

Frequency: Once per quarter.

WORSHIP

Worship Leadership

Reader

Leads in worship through the reading of Scripture. Older elementary children through adults are encouraged to become readers.

Frequency: Once per quarter.

Drama

Children, youth and adults who enjoy participating in solo or group dramatic presentations are encouraged to participate in our drama ministry. Drama is used throughout the year during worship and various special events.

Frequency: As needed.

Communion Server

Assists the pastors in serving Holy Communion to the congregation during worship. Older elementary children through adults are encouraged to become communion servers.

Communion Steward

This ministry, which could also be called “Set the Lord’s Table,” fills a vital role in our worship life by preparing the elements for Holy Communion. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly at the 8:30 a.m. worship service, monthly at the 11 a.m. worship services, and on other special occasions throughout the year.

Frequency: Once every 4-6 weeks.

Acolyte

Children and youth ages 3rd grade– 8th grade assist in worship leadership by lighting and extinguishing the altar candles and serving Holy Communion.

Frequency: One Sunday per month and occasional special services.

WITNESS

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School Teacher (School Year/Summer/Substitute)

Sunday School teachers lead the children in fun, age-appropriate, Biblically-based lessons each Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.). You can teach during the school year, the summer or substitute throughout the year. Many classes have teams of teachers, so you also have the opportunity to attend an adult Sunday School class if desired.

Frequency: Once a week for 2-3 hours (including prep).

Elementary Sunday School Teacher (School Year/Summer/Substitute)

Sunday School teachers lead the children in fun, age-appropriate, biblically-based lessons each Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.). You can teach during the school year, the summer or substitute throughout the year. Many classes have teams of teachers, so you also have the opportunity to attend an adult Sunday School class if desired.

Frequency: Once a week for 2-3 hours (including prep).

Special Event Volunteer

Help plan and/or execute special events in our children's ministry like Date Night, Splash Day, Easter Eggstravaganza, and Trunk or Treat. There are ways for everyone to help from helping children with crafts to buying supplies.

Frequency: 2-3 hours per event as needed.

Host Home for Special Events

If having your home overflowing with laughing, energetic children is your dream come true, then this opportunity is for you! Open your home to host children's events like seasonal parties.

Frequency: 2-3 hours as needed.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer

There is a way for everyone to be involved in Vacation Bible School. VBS takes place the second or third week in June in the mornings. We need help recruiting volunteers, decorating, leading small groups, preparing snacks, making crafts and a whole lot more!

Frequency: Once a year for varying time commitments.

Puppet Ministry

Puppetry is used throughout the year at various church-wide events, in Sunday school classes and as part of the Wildwood Initiative. St. John's Puppeteers prepare programs using shadow puppets and hand puppets. Adults, youth and children are invited to participate.

Frequency: As needed.

WITNESS

Youth Ministry

UMY Volunteer

UMY Volunteers are the heart of the Sunday evening Youth Ministry. If you love teenagers and want to help them grow in their relationships with each other, God, and loving adults through fellowship, games, and small group conversation, then this ministry is for you. You can volunteer weekly, monthly or quarterly.

Frequency: Most Sundays from 5—7 p.m. (as able)

Youth Supper Volunteer

Provide and serve a teenager friendly, semi-healthy meal during UMY on Sunday evening. Youth Supper volunteers serve in teams and have the joy of meeting the wonderful youth of our church.

Frequency: 5 p.m. on Sundays (as able)

Junior High Sunday School Teacher (School Year/Summer/Substitute)

Sunday School teachers lead youth in engaging, biblically-based lessons each Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.). You can teach during the school year, the summer or substitute throughout the year. Many classes have teams of teachers, so you also have the opportunity to attend an adult Sunday School class if desired.

Frequency: Once a week for 2-3 hours (including prep).

Senior High Sunday School Teacher (School Year/Summer/Substitute)

Sunday School teachers lead youth in engaging, biblically-based lessons each Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.). You can teach during the school year, the summer or substitute throughout the year. Many classes have teams of teachers, so you also have the opportunity to attend an adult Sunday School class if desired.

Frequency: Once a week for 2-3 hours (including prep).

Host Home for Special Events

If having your home overflowing with laughing, enthusiastic teenagers is your dream come true, then this opportunity is for you! Open your home to host Youth events such as seasonal parties, dinners and pool parties. Camps and vacation homes are also welcome, especially for overnight events such as the Fall Retreat.

Frequency: As needed.

Driver for Special Events

The youth often engage in off-campus events. If your idea of a good time is chauffeuring some awesome teenagers, then this opportunity was made for you!

Frequency: As needed.

Special Event Volunteer

Help plan and/or execute special events in our youth ministry such as Grub Sunday, Senior Celebration and the Christmas Party. There are ways for everyone to help from planning games to buying supplies.

Frequency: 2-3 hours per event as needed.

WITNESS

Adult Discipleship

Sunday School (Participant/Leader)

Sunday School is a great way to deepen your discipleship through small group study. Grow in your relationship with God and others as a leader or participant. Sunday School classes meet every Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Frequency: Every Sunday for 1 hour.

Short-Term Bible Studies (Leader/Participant)

Grow deeper in your discipleship through studies of various kinds. Topics include Biblical studies, Christian practices, social justice issues, and Christian theology and doctrine.

Frequency: Weekly for 1-2 hours; lengths from 4 weeks to 9 months.

Covenant Groups

If you want to experience Christian community in an intentional way with other disciples, consider joining a covenant group. Men's, women's and co-ed groups are available.

Frequency: Weekly for 1 hour.

Spiritual Life Retreats

Are you interested in getting away for a few days of intentional spiritual renewal and engagement? Many opportunities are available including Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus and silent retreats.

Frequency: 2-3 days at various times of the year.

United Methodist Women

Join with other women with focus on spiritual growth, fellowship and mission. Three Circles (groups) meet monthly: Ruth Circle (1st Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.), Mary Martha Circle (2nd Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and the Elizabeth Circle meetings are announced in the bulletin. All circles meet in the church parlor.

Frequency: Monthly meetings and special activities as planned.

Men's Ministry

Join with other men for food and fellowship as we grow together in our Christian discipleship. This group meets monthly on Thursday mornings over breakfast at 6:45 a.m.

Frequency: Monthly on Thursdays.

WITNESS

Congregational Care

Meal Ministry

Prepare meals for families in times of need such as after surgery, illness, birth or death in the family. These volunteers also help prepare food for dinners following funerals and memorial services.

Frequency: As needed.

Flower Ministry

Many times altar flowers are donated the flower ministry so that we can spread a little cheer to those needing a little lift. You can help break the large arrangements into smaller arrangements and deliver them.

Frequency: 1-2 hours per week.

Note Writing Ministry

Write cards of encouragement or celebration to those who have experienced important life events such as a new baby, birthday, anniversary, death or illness.

Frequency: 1 hour per week.

Homebound/ Assisted Living Ministry

Volunteers visit homes and nursing homes to share Christian fellowship with those who are not able to get out and worship.

Frequency: 2-3 hours per month.

Follow-up Care

Following the death of a loved one or the return home after a lengthy hospital stay, caring volunteers offer continued support to those during these difficult transitions in life.

Frequency: As needed.

WITNESS

Congregational Care

Hospital Visitation Ministry

Caring volunteers visit those in the hospital to offer prayer, encouragement and support.

Frequency: As needed.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join our talented knitters, crocheters and sewers in making prayer shawls and prayer squares to bring comfort and cheer to those who are ill, bereaved, hospitalized or celebrating the birth of a new baby.

Frequency: As desired.

Prayer Ministry

Commit to regular prayer for the joys and concerns of the congregation and community. A weekly list is sent out to those who make the commitment.

Frequency: Weekly.

Communion Stewards Ministry

Bring Holy Communion to and share in a brief time of worship and fellowship with those not able to attend worship.

Frequency: Monthly for 1-2 hours.

College and Graduate Student Host

Provide a friendly face to students who attend St. John's but are living away from home. Suggested activities include attending worship together and eating meals together on a regular basis.

Frequency: Monthly

SERVICE

The Shepherd's Market

The Shepherd's Market is a client-choice food pantry serving the hungry and needy in south Baton Rouge. The pantry operates in the Family Life Center at St. John's UMC.

Pantry Shift Volunteer

Assist clients with intake paperwork or with selecting their food in the pantry. Volunteers also prepare simple meals/snacks for clients, re-stock shelves, prepare grocery bags for shopping carts and prepare the Family Life Center for its next event by moving tables and chairs.

Frequency: Mondays, 3-6 p.m. and Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8:30-11 a.m. (1-4 hour commitment per shift).

Computer Room Volunteer

Assist pantry clients and church members with basic computer skills.

Frequency: Mondays, 3-6 p.m. and Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8:30-11 a.m. (1-3 hour commitment per shift).

Food Bank Deliveries Volunteer

Help stock food from deliveries. Help is also needed picking up food from the Food Bank on Monday mornings at 8 a.m.

Frequency: Mondays, 9-10:30 a.m. and 2nd/4th Fridays, 9-11am (1-3 hour commitment per delivery).

Great Turkey Give-away

Help prepare and pass out turkeys and fixings to more than 400 families in the community.

Frequency: Yearly on the Saturday before Christmas for 4 hours.

The Shepherd's Garden

If you love digging in the dirt and getting your hands dirty, then this is for you. Volunteer gardeners work occasionally throughout the year: weeding, planting and harvesting.

Frequency: As needed.

SERVICE

Opening Doors

Opening Doors, a non-profit organization formed in March 2001 by members of St. John's UMC, is a ministry providing programs and services to families in the Gardere community and surrounding areas.

Public School Activities

Work to help provide school supplies and uniforms to students who need them.

Frequency: As needed.

Book Programs

Provide help with one of two book programs that provide children and adults with books.

Frequency: As needed.

VITA (Free Income Tax Preparation)

Volunteer to help facilitate this program that offers free income tax preparation to those who need it.

Frequency: Yearly during tax season.

Christmas Holiday Superstore Shopper

Shop for gifts for children attending the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center. Parents earn points to buy gifts for their children through parental involvement at the school.

Frequency: Yearly, around Thanksgiving for 2-3 hours.

Summer Day Camps Volunteer

Volunteer at a Day Camps for Children and Youth of the Gardere area. All type of help is needed!

Frequency: Yearly, times are flexible.

Family Circle

Work with a family to help prepare children and parents for public school.

Frequency: As needed.

SERVICE

Wildwood Initiative

Wildwood Elementary School is located behind St. John's UMC. In collaboration with Opening Doors you can help support these programs:

Reading Friends

Volunteer to partner with a child to read with them throughout the school year. Initial training is an hour and a half at St. John's.

Frequency: One half-hour per week during school hours. Times are flexible.

Math Counts

Partner with a child to work with them on math skills. A brief training is required.

Frequency: One half-hour per week during school hours. Times are flexible.

Faculty Birthday Cakes

Provide a monthly cake to celebrate all faculty members having birthdays that month. The cost to purchase the cake is approximately \$30.

Frequency: As often as you like! Typically, 1-2 times per year.

Coupon and Label Collection

Collect and cut out coupons and labels to raise money for the school. Schools are able to buy computer equipment and playground equipment through these coupon programs. Turn in coupons to the boxes near the church office.

Frequency: Ongoing.

Muffins for Moms & Donuts for Dads

Provide help with food prep, set-up, take-down and serving. These separate breakfasts will be held in the spring this year.

Frequency: Twice a year, 2-3 hours per breakfast.

Field Day

Help lead games, distribute water and play with the kids one day in the spring.

Frequency: Yearly for 1-6 hours.

ADMINISTRATIVE & SPECIAL EVENTS

Office Help

Money Counter

Count offering from Sunday worship services. Training provided.

Frequency: Mondays 1-2 hours.

Volunteer Receptionist

Answer the phones, greet church guests and occasionally make copies.

Frequency: Mondays-Thursdays 3-4 hours per shift. Times are flexible.

Data Entry Volunteer

Help enter and maintain data on the church membership database. Training provided.

Frequency: As desired. Times are flexible.

Bulletin Folder

Help fold the church bulletin during and enjoy great fellowship with other volunteers.

Frequency: Thursday mornings for 1 hour.

Facilities

Gardening Group

Help maintain flowerbeds throughout church campus on a regular basis and help coordinate projects for work days that pertain to landscaping.

Frequency: As needed. Times are flexible.

Handy Helper

Assist in light maintenance duties as needed around the church buildings including changing light bulbs, light carpentry and electrical work, small repair projects, painting, toilet repairs, and pressure washing buildings, walkways and sidewalks on a quarterly basis. Help coordinate work days for bigger projects.

Frequency: As needed. Times are flexible.

Special Events

Set-up/Take-Down Crew

Help set-up and take down tables and chairs for various church events throughout the year.

Frequency: As needed. 30 minutes to 1.5 hours per event.

Decorations

Help provide and set up decorations for special events throughout the year.

Frequency: As needed 3-4 hours per event.

Kitchen Help

Help serve food and drinks for special events. Help clean the kitchen after special events.

Frequency: As needed. 2-3 hours per event.

Event Cook

Prepare food for large groups (50+) during special events.

Frequency: As needed.

St. John's United Methodist Church

9375 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, La 70810
225-766-4594
www.stjohnsbr.org