

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

July 21, 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 *With* GOD

BELL TOLL

The tolling of the bell invites you into a time of centering and stillness.

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL *to* WORSHIP

Barbara Benton

Holy God, light of the world, come to our lives and reveal to us your truth.

Holy God, hope of the despairing, come to our lives and grant us your peace.

Jesus Christ, bread of life, nourish us to true and eternal life.

Jesus Christ, gentle shepherd, come and lead us to springs of living water.

Living Savior, just and gentle judge, come and reveal us to ourselves.

Living Savior, healer of the wounded, came and make us whole. Show us the way to new life.

Holy God we come to worship you this day. May we offer ourselves to you, in Spirit and in truth. Renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your people, through the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

✠ HYMN *of* PRAISE

I Love to Tell the Story

UMH 156, vs. 1-3

LISTENING *to* GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 82

Barbara Benton

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Barbara Benton

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

Mark 12:28-36

²⁸ One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, ³⁰ and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. ³¹ The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

³² The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, "You aren't far from God's kingdom." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "Why do the legal experts say that the Christ is David's son? ³⁶ David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said, The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool.

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

"Loving God"

Pastor Deirdré

RESPONDING *to* GOD'S GRACE

✠ HYMN *of* FAITH

O Church of God, United

UMH 547, vs. 1, 3, 4

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE

We praise you, Oh God, for the blessings of our life together in this congregation - for laughter, for tears, for steadfast friendship, and for the ties that bind us together.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We praise you for the call in our lives, for claiming us through baptism for the ministries of teaching, caring, singing, witness, justice and service.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those in our community who await our witness and service.

Strengthen us for the work for which you equip us.

We pray for those in need-in body, mind or spirit.

Give comfort and hope and loving touch, through those who minister to them.

We lift their names now aloud to you.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all people of this world, for those who suffer violence, oppression and hatred-especially for the detained migrant families and their children.

Guide us in ways of justice and peace that we may walk together in newness of life, even as Christ is New Life.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray by saying ...

**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,
forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS *to* GOD

Evie Durham

Special Music

✠ 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

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

UMH 557

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Carlos and Saroj Welch in celebration of their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary.

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 journey to a deeper faith life can be summed up in three words: Listen, Love, Leap! God is constantly speaking to people, but too often we struggle to hear and discern the message. Our summer series calls us to quiet our thoughts and hearts and listen to what God has to say. Our obedience to this simple discipline opens our hearts to LOVE God and neighbors in deeper and more holy ways. Join us as we continue to open our hearts and minds to God's surprising Word, as we Love (Sundays in July) and Leap (Sundays in August). Our scripture reading for next Sunday is 1 Peter: 2:4-10.

SECOND QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS

The 2019 Second Quarter Giving Report and the second quarter giving statements will be handed out before and after both services today, July 21. Those who are not able to pick up their statement on Sunday; will receive theirs in the mail. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact LeAnn Davis at leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org or 766-4594.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, August 4 is Promotion Sunday and Blessing of Backpacks at both worship services. All students are invited to bring their backpacks to be blessed before starting school - this includes undergrad and graduate students. This is also Promotion Sunday for our children and youth who might be going into a new Sunday School class.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It won't be long before school bells are ringing and this means its time for Opening Doors to begin collecting school supplies for students in the Gardere area. Your donations will be much appreciated. Deadline is **Monday August 12**.

Suggested supplies are loose leaf paper, pencils, pens (black or blue), Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 24-pack of crayons, colored pencils, spiral notebooks (3 subject or more), standard rulers, folders with clasps and pockets, scissors, boxes of Kleenex, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, dry erase markers, kid scissors, construction paper, copy/computer paper. There are blue tubs in the Narthex and in the Admin Building to put your donations.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Opening Doors is sponsoring Dave Ramsey's 9-week course *Financial Peace University*. The class will begin on **Tuesday, August 20** in the library from 6:30 - 8 p.m. If you are interested in participating, you may register by going online to www.fpu.com/1091639. The cost of the course is \$59; checks should be made out to St. John's UMC, with FPU in the memo line. For more information contact Amy Richardson at amyrichardson318@yahoo.com or 225-773-7417. If you will not be participating in the course but would like to donate a scholarship that would allow someone to attend, put FPU scholarship in memo line of your check. Thank you so much.

SOLES 4 SOULS

The Soles 4 Souls mission project (collecting new and gently worn shoes in all sizes) is in full swing! There are blue tubs in the narthex and in the hallway of the Admin Building to place your donations. Please have all donated shoes at the church by August 31, when our shoe drive will end.

ESTATE PLANNING

The United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana is offering a FREE Estate Planning Course, "It's Different in Louisiana." There is no cost or obligation, no meetings to attend. You must register online at <https://umf.org/create-your-legacy> after which the five easy lessons will be mailed to you at weekly intervals.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering a Disciple Fast Track Bible study this fall on "The Prophets." This 12-week study includes sessions on the Old Testament Major and Minor Prophets (except Daniel). The study will begin on **Tuesday, September 10** at 6 p.m., location to be decided. Look for a registration form in future communications.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

- Sunday, July 21**
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
2:00 p.m. Communications Team, Library
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary
- Monday, July 22**
9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E
- Tuesday, July 23**
8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, Library
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
5:30 a.m. RUMCR Meeting, Library
- Wednesday, July 24**
10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, Library
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary
- Thursday, July 25**
8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Depression, Library
6:00 p.m. Bible Study on Depression, Library
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC
- Friday, July 26**
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library
- Saturday, July 27**
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Jane Rassi, Carrie de la Fuente, Will Halliburton, Kathleen Adams

Host: Tommie Reinhardt

CHURCH STAFF

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Lead Pastor
(on renewal leave until September 3)

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Give online: <http://bit.ly/sjumcgive>



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



July 21, 2019

11:00 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.