

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

August 18, 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

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Sing a new song to the Lord!

**Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!**

Sing to the Lord; bless God's holy name.

**Each day proclaim the good news that God saves.**

Publish the glorious deeds among the nations.

**Tell everyone about the amazing things God does.**

For great is the Lord!

**Great is the Lord and worthy of our praise! Amen.**

✠ HYMN of PRAISE

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH 140

## LISTENING to GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Carrie Poynot*

*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

*Worship Tapestries*

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

*Hebrews 11:29- 12:3*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received

back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated -- <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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

“Do Not Grow Weary!”

*Pastor Deirdré*

## RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE

✠ HYMN of FAITH

*Softly and Tenderly*

UMH 348, vs. 1, 2, 4

✠ PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Holy and merciful God, we come before you today on behalf of strangers and friends who stand in the need of prayer.

We lift up the need of families separated by arguments, by illness, by prison bars, or by death, and those who we now name aloud.

We pray especially for the children of our church,

our community and our world, the children who find themselves unexpectedly orphaned by violence, disease, accidents or by those in power who have not considered them.

We pray today for people estranged from God, imprisoned by habits, or debilitated by diseases of the body, mind or spirit.

We pray today that God's peace and grace would reach the unreachable, that justice would find its way to those who have been wronged and that we might serve God with loving arms that are willing to embrace a hurting world back to health.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray ...

**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

✠ 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 who wish to become members of St. John's and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.*

✠ HYMN of DISCIPLESHIP

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*

UMH 671

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given by Valerie Burton in memory of her brother, Gregg Burton.*

## 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).

### FALL BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering two sessions of 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 **Monday, September 9**; you may choose to attend at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. Please use the registration form in today's bulletin to register.

### ONE-DAY MISSION TO ST. MARK'S

St. John's next mission to St. Mark's will be a one-day mission on **Sunday, August 25**. For those of you who could not go on the three-day mission this will be an excellent opportunity to participate. The Meal Preparation Team will be leaving St. John's at 5:30 a.m. in order to get the meal ready to serve after the worship service. Others may join the mission at 9 a.m. to help with worship and serve the meal. For more information on the meal prep contact Kathleen Adams at 921-2664. While there is no cost to participate, ALL VOLUNTEERS **must register** with Rev. Larry Norman at 933-1881.

### DINNER THEATER?

**TODAY** at 3 p.m., there will be an organizational meeting in the parlor to evaluate interest in a Dinner Theater at St. John's. Help make it happen! We will need actors, costumes, set constructors, backstage personnel—all are needed. There are twelve acting parts: six women and six men, ranging in age from youth to middle age.

Scripts and descriptions of the characters will be available. If you have an interest in helping with any part of the play, please come to the meeting; no acting experience is necessary. For additional information contact Pastor Deirdré or Guy Johnson (225-766-7931).

### DAYS FOR GIRLS IN SEPTEMBER

The UMW is sponsoring 3 more work days to make 100 additional kits for the Days for Girls project. These kits will contain reusable feminine hygiene products for girls in third world countries who are missing school because of a lack of these personal items. We will meet in the Family Life Center on consecutive Saturdays, **September 14, 21, and 28** from 9 a.m. – noon. Sewers and non-sewers are needed.

Donations needed: hotel or travel-size soap (most needed); new, girls cotton panties size 10, 12, or 14 in dark to medium colors, solids or flowers, no characters or animals; new colored washcloths, gallon freezer Ziploc bags (zipper only), or cash to purchase fabric. Contact Joyce Perry (978-2206) for more information.

### REFRESH!

The Board of Discipleship has planned a Youth and Children's Ministry Conference that will be held **September 6 & 7 (or 8)** at the Wesley Center. Refresh! is a conference that will provide new ideas and renewed energy to those who devote so much to ensure the next generation (our children) is nurtured in the Christian faith. If you are involved in St. John's Children's or Youth Ministries and are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Deirdré.

### 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.

### 2019 SILENT AUCTION

The 2019 Silent Auction will be held **Sunday, September 15** in the Family Life Center. And it is time for everyone to start bringing their items to the church office during the week or to Room B in the FLC on Sundays. It takes the support of the whole church to make this a successful event; please think about what you might be able to donate. Check out the Friday Newsletter for more information or contact Beth Forester at 225-405-9324.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, August 18

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*  
3:00 p.m. Dinner Theater Organizational Meeting, *Parlor*  
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*  
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

### Monday, August 19

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

### Tuesday, August 20

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*  
6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University, *Library*

### Wednesday, August 21

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

### Thursday, August 22

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

### Friday, August 23

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, August 24

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *Richard and Marilyn Dambert, Will Halliburton, Penny Kemler*  
Host: *Rhonda Tucker*

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Lane Cotton Winn**  
*Lead Pastor*  
(on renewal leave until September 3)

**Lynn Cooper**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
office@stjohnsbr.org

**Amy Fine**  
*Coordinator of Youth Ministries*  
amyfine@stjohnsbr.org

**Bill Putzig**  
*Custodian*  
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

**Rev. Deirdré Halliburton**  
*Associate Pastor*  
pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org

**LeAnn Davis**  
*Manager of Finance & Facilities*  
leann@davis@stjohnsbr.org

**Carrie Poynot**  
*Director of Music Ministries*  
carriepoynot@stjohnsbr.org

**Terry Byars**  
*Accompanist*  
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

**St. John's United Methodist Church**  
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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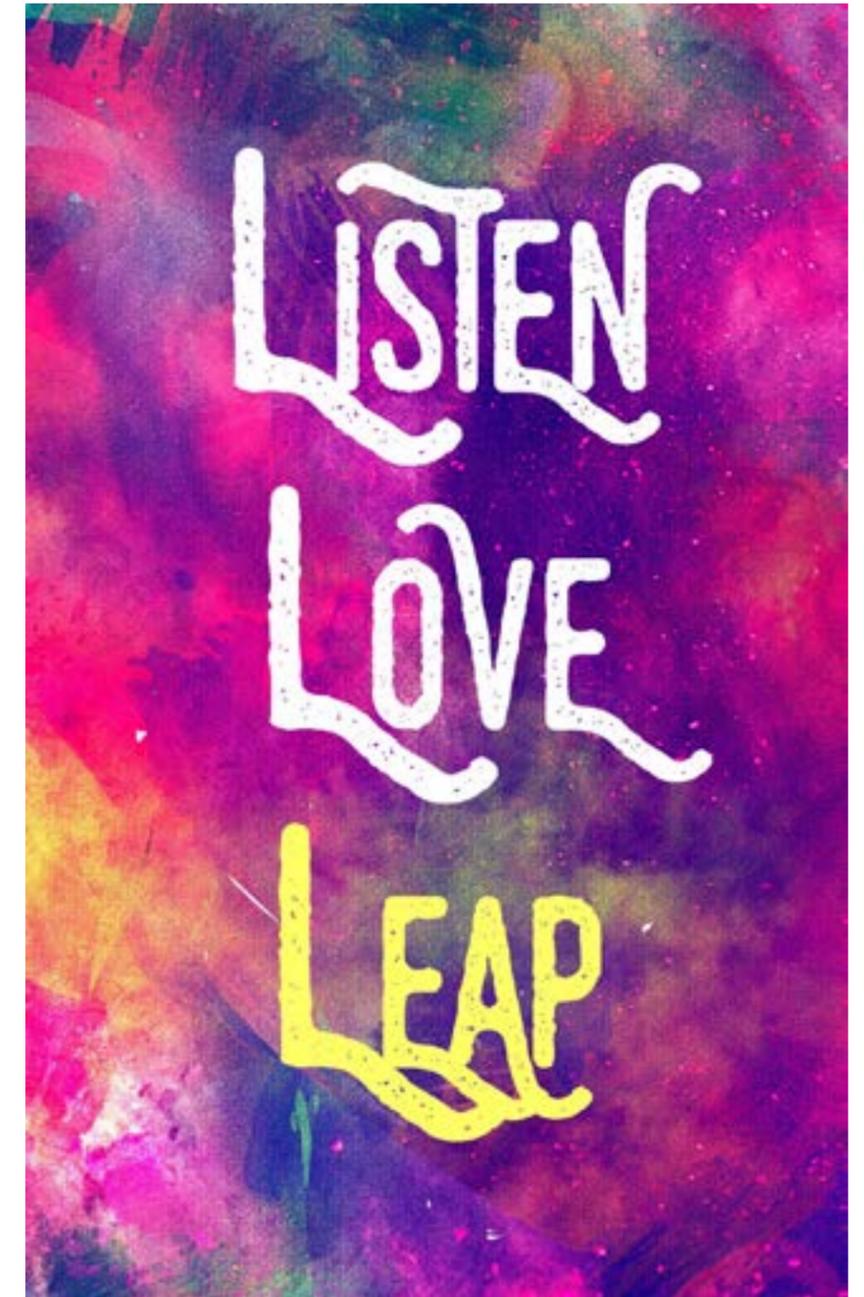
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



August 18, 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.*