

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

September 1, 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

Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

Earth's children, high and low, take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

We feast on the abundance of your house; you give us drink from the river of delights.

For you are the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Glory be to you, O God, our life and our light! Amen.

✠ HYMN of PRAISE

UMH 369, vs. 1 & 3

Blessed Assurance

LISTENING to GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Deirdré

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

Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

”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 Deirdré

“A Servant Heart”

RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE

✠ HYMN of FAITH

UMH 339

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord God,

we have found a home in You; we have found a family in You; we have found a place to belong; to know and be known, to love and be loved.

And we are so grateful for this awesome gift.

But, too easily, we forget the benefits it brings;

we have forgotten our place, and doubted Your love;

remind us, and all who feel neglected by You, that we are engraved on Your hands.

We have forgotten who we are, and have failed to care for ourselves;

remind us, and all who feel worthless, that You have called us by name.

We have forgotten our connectedness, and have divided ourselves;

remind us, and all who would exclude, oppress and condemn others, that we are all made in Your image, and we are all one body.

We open our hearts to a time of silent prayer.

For the sake of Jesus, who loved us to the death, and whose love conquered the grave,

Forgive us, hear our prayer,

And teach us to be one again. Amen.

WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

✠ SHARING the PEACE and LOVE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Penny Kemler, Evie Durham

Special Music

✠ 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.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING the BREAD and CUP

♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*

♦ *Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction." When broken bread is placed in your hand you may dip it lightly into the cup.*

♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it at the station in front of the pulpit.*

♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

UMH 593, vs. 1 & 3

Here I Am, Lord

During the singing of the hymn, we invite you to bring forward The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Marie Williams and Richard Hoibraten in honor of their third 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.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

St. John's office will be closed **Monday, September 2** in observance of Labor Day. We will be open on Tuesday, September 3 for regular hours (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.). The Shepherd's Market will also be closed Monday and will be open at 8 a.m. for regular shopping hours on Tuesday.

UMW RUTH CIRCLE

The UMW Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday September 3** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. A program titled "In the beginning there was light" will be presented. All women are invited to attend.

2019 SILENT AUCTION AND PULLED PORK LUNCH

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.

Tickets will go on sale **Sunday, September 1** for a pulled pork lunch that will be held in conjunction with the Silent Auction. Tickets are \$8 for a BBQ pulled pork sandwich, cole slaw, potato chips, brownie, and a drink. Make checks to St. John's with pork lunch in memo.

FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Our fall Blood Drive will take place **Sunday, September 15** from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Please consider participating in this very worthy cause. If you are planning to donate blood, it is recommended that you eat first. You will also need to bring a picture I.D. (and reading glasses, if you need them). Any healthy person over the age of 17 is eligible (16 with a parent's consent.)

HOLY LAND 2020

Join Bishop Harvey and other travelers from the Louisiana Conference on a trip to the Holy Land, January 21-30, 2020. Pastor Deirdre is leading our St. John's group going on this journey following in the footsteps of Jesus. Contact Pastor Deirdre (225-939-1425) for more information.

MANNA BAGS

Our youth will be putting together manna bags and are asking for donations of the following: toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, small waters, adult socks, trail mix or nuts, small boxes of raisins, band-aids, face cloths, napkin & plastic silverware, granola bars, fruit cups, little boxes of cereal, small packs of crackers or cookies, etc. There will be blue tubs in the narthex and the admin building for your donations.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

We are 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). There is still time to register for the study. It will begin on **Monday, September 9**; you may choose to attend at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. There are registration forms in the narthex or Admin Building.

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.

DINNER THEATER: "THE KING OF MERITORIA"

Rehearsals begin for "The King of Meritoria" on **Sunday, September 8** at 2:30 p.m. in the FLC. There are "parts" for everyone in this exciting endeavor: set constructors, backstage personnel, costumes. If you are interested in being a part of "The King of Meritoria," please come to rehearsal and speak to Guy Johnson or phone him at 225-766-7931.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, August 25

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 Group, *Library*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, August 26

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

Tuesday, August 27

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 28

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 29

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

Friday, August 30

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*

Saturday, August 31

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Jane Rassi, Harriet Walters, Carrie de la Fuente, Scott Durham
Host: Kathy King

CHURCH STAFF

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

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Check in on Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnsbr

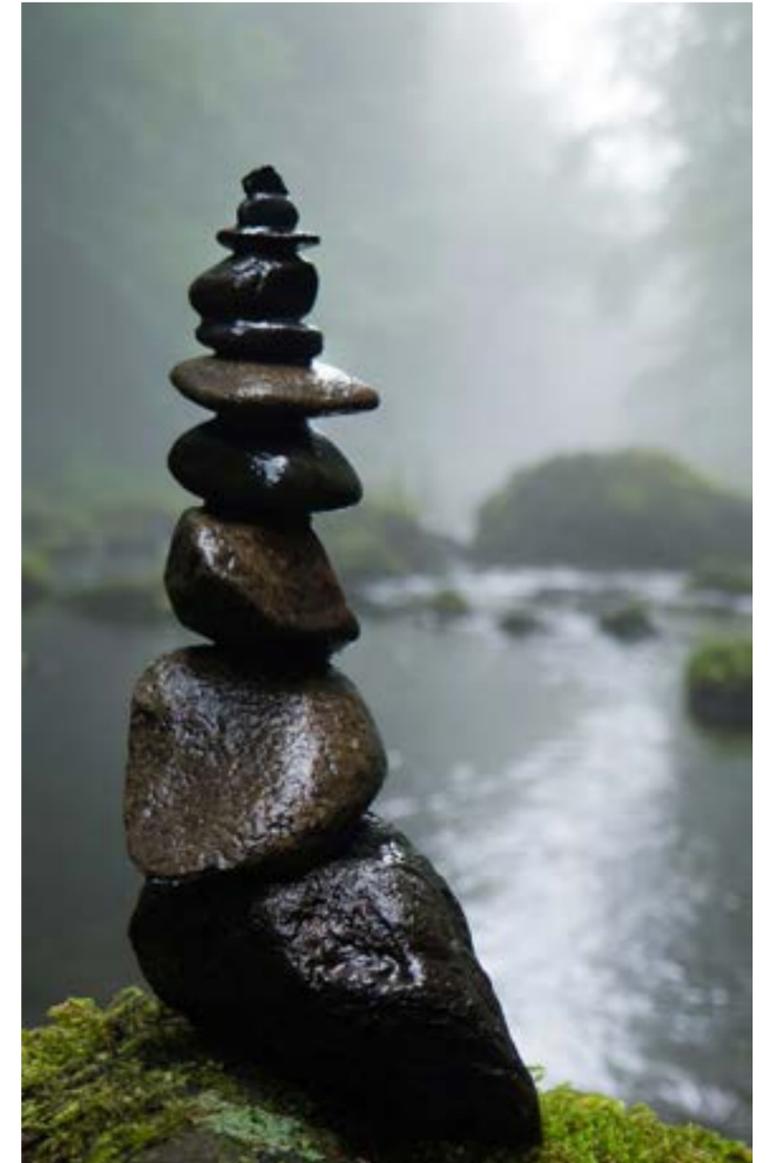
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



September 1, 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.