

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

September 22, 2019 at 8:30 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.

WORDS of WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Guests, friends, members, welcome to worship! We are glad you are here. Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led and comfortable or just observe, if you prefer. We welcome your presence among us.

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

As the Deer

FWS 2025

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.**

There's Something About That Name

UMH 171

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's just something about that name!
Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim:
kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
but there's something about that name!**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Ben Hartman

What will God accomplish among us in this *time*?
We come seeking Sabbath rest and renewal.

What will God accomplish among us in this *place*?
Gathered together, we offer our praise and thanksgiving.

What will God accomplish among us in our *hearts*?
**Open our hearts in love to hear Your voice inviting us
into deeper relationship with You and each other,
as You bring healing and wholeness to our lives.**

Confident of God's work among us at all times and in all places,
let us worship God as one people.
**Free from the clamor of the world, may we find renewal
through this time of worship. Amen.**

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Jesus Be Praised

FWS 2079

**Jesus, we worship you; with our voices filled with praises,
Jesus, we worship you; songs of love we raise.
Jesus, Jesus be praised! Jesus, Jesus be praised!**

LISTENING *to* GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ben Hartman

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

Matthew 16:13-17

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER for RENEWAL

**O God, light the dark corners of our minds.
Warm the cold places in our hearts.
Fill the empty chambers of our spirits.
Heal the brokenness in our lives. Amen.**

by John Winn

SERMON

“It's All About Relationship”

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING *to* GOD'S GRACE

✠ HYMN of FAITH

O How I Love Jesus

UMH 170

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Forgive us, O God, when we limit you –
when we remake you in our image,
when we claim our causes as your own,
when we box you in,
and forget who you are.**

**In our attempts at understanding, we whittle away all mystery.
We confess that our relationships are imperfect and we are
incomplete without you.**

**Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us.
Awaken us to your presence in our lives
and confound us by your love.**

**Shower us with grace so that we will be made new,
recreated in your image,
grateful for all that we cannot know.**

**Help us remember that our best relationship is the one
we have with you.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, our Loving Savior, devoted friend,
and Good Shepherd, we pray. Amen.**

GOD'S GIFTS of GRACE and FORGIVENESS

My friends, God is not done with us, not by a long shot.
You are more beloved than you can ever know,
and the Holy Spirit is working in you and in the world
beyond our wildest imagining.
The beginning of all that is forgiveness.
So know that in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

✠ SHARING *the* PEACE and LOVE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Christ Beside Me

Special Music

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

UMH 94

✠ WELCOME AROUND *the* TABLE

Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance and joy,
the table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.
Christ is present, offering you healing and renewal.
By the grace of God, may we be open to receive.

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Our sung communion responses are from
The Faith We Sing Hymnal #2257*

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. (3x)
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING *the* BREAD and CUP

- *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion. Ushers will direct you forward.*
- *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

**We thank you once again for this meal, this day,
and this gift of resurrection.
Renewed by Your Spirit, send us out into Your world
to be the presence of love and hope, to all who despair and fear,
that all may have life, and life abundant.
Alleluia, alleluia, 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

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

UMH 572

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

After the service, all are invited to the Family Life Center for refreshments.

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.

WORSHIP SERIES

Pastor Lane continues her sermon series, "Renewal: Reflections from Pastor Lane's Renewal Leave." She will share some of the insights and blessings she experienced during her renewal leave. The scripture reading next week will be Exodus 20:8-11, "It's All About Relationship."

DINNER THEATER: "A CROWN FOR A KING"

Rehearsals will be held for "A Crown for a King" (same play, new name) **THIS AFTERNOON** at 2 p.m. in the FLC. The play still needs props so if you have any of the following to loan, please contact Guy Johnson at 225-766-7931: 2 small tables, 4 chairs and/or low stools, 2 benches, basket for fruit.

UMW GENERAL MEETING

St. John's United Methodist Women will hold their Fall General Meeting in the parlor **THIS AFTERNOON** at 3 p.m. at which time they will elect and install officers for 2020. At the finish of the business meeting, pictures will be taken for the website and scrapbook.

YOUTH 2019 GRATITUDE DINNER

You are cordially invited to attend the Youth Gratitude Dinner to be held on **THIS EVENING** at 5 p.m. in the FLC. The dinner is being held to say thank you to St. John's for their generosity in helping make it possible for Youth to attend "Love Well" in Kansas City, the national gathering for United Methodist Youth. Come celebrate as the youth share their experiences.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council is meeting on **Thursday, September 26** at 6 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend. At this meeting we will approve documents for the annual Charge Conference of the Baton Rouge District that is being held at Jefferson UMC in October.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The final Days for Girls work day in this series will be **Saturday, September 28**, 9 a.m. - noon. Both sewers and non-sewers are needed to help make kits of reusable feminine hygiene products for girls in third world countries who are missing school because of a lack of these personal items. Contact Joyce Perry (225-978-2206) for more information.

FALL WORK DAY - SEPTEMBER 28

Trustees have scheduled a fall work day for **Saturday, September 28**, 8 - 10:30 a.m. ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED TO MEET AT THE PARSONAGE (11924 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.).

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 are blue tubs in the narthex and the admin building for your donations. Deadline for items is Sunday, September 29.

THANK YOU FOR SILENT AUCTION

Thanks to everyone who helped make our 2019 Silent Auction for Missions a success! At the present time we have collected approximately \$4,000. After all donations are in, we expect the total to be close to \$5,000.

CREATION CELEBRATION & PET BLESSING

Join us for a Creation Celebration and Pet Blessing on **Sunday October 6** from 4 to 6 p.m. We'll meet near the bell tower to enjoy an outdoor worship experience and fellowship under our beautiful oak trees.

Bring your pets of all types as well as a pet photo for the St. John's Pet Gallery, which will be on display throughout October. We'll have snacks (for people and pets) and activities for kids. Children, those without pets or those who cannot bring their pet, are welcome to bring a stuffed animal. Bring your own lawn chairs if you can. (Animals need to be up to date on shots and on a leash or in a carrier.)

We're still looking for volunteers to help make this community-wide event a success.

Donations Needed: We are in need of donations and have set up a Donation Board in the Narthex. If there is an item you can donate, please take it off of the board and return it by October 6. There will be blue tubs in the Narthex and the Admin Building. We are also in need of picnic-type food covers; if anyone has any we can borrow please contact Pastor Deirdre at 225-939-1425.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, September 22

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. Dinner Theater Rehearsal, FLC
3:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting, Parlor
5:00 p.m. Youth Dinner & Gratitude, FLC
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, September 23

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
10:00 a.m. Fast Track Bible Study, Library
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, Parlor
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, Library
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, September 24

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC
10:00 a.m. VIPS Everybody Reads Training, Library
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, September 25

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, September 26

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, Library
6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Library
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, September 27

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, September 28

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Joyce Robinson, Susan Johnston, Randy Thayer, Maureen Robertson

Host: Kris Renfroe

CHURCH STAFF

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Check in on Facebook:
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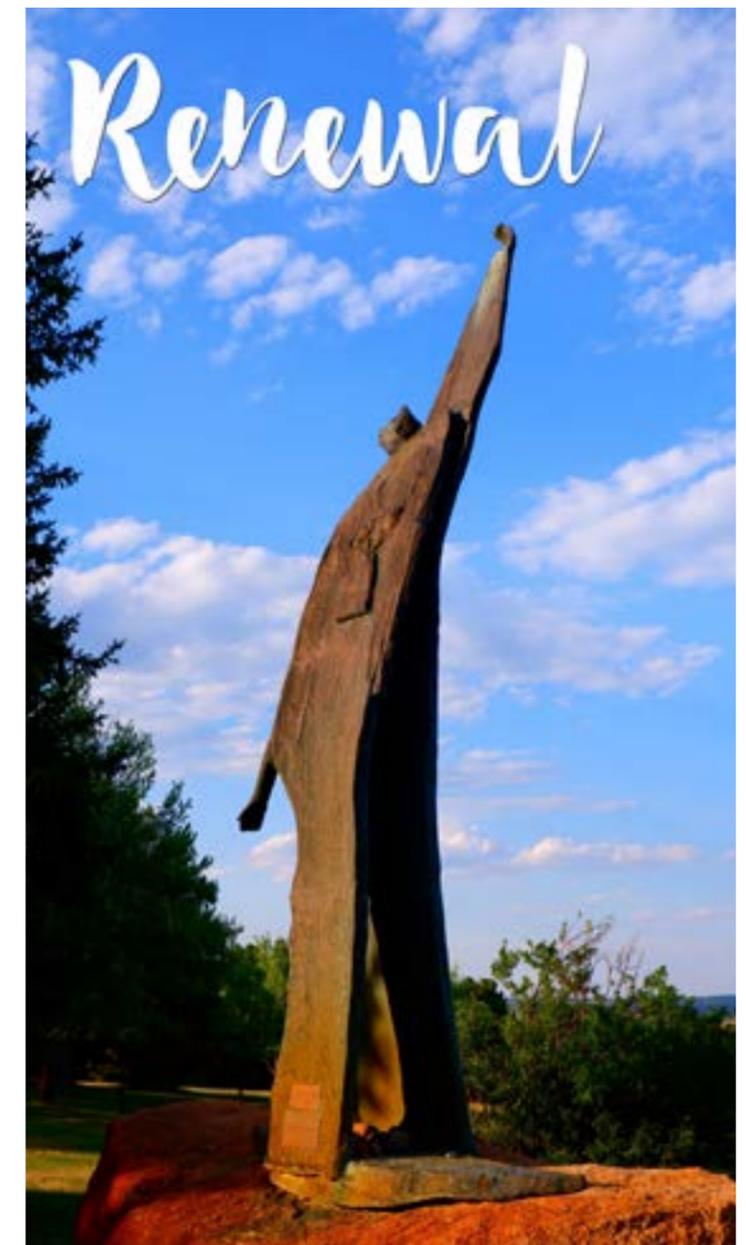
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



September 22, 2019

8:30 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.