

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 9, 2020 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

WORDS of GRACE *Rev. Lane Cotton Winn*

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.

INTROIT *Alleluia Ringers*
Canon

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

This Little Light of Mine

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Shine, Jesus, Shine *FWS 2173, vs. 1 & 3*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

REFRAIN:

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP *Rev. Deirdré Halliburton*

God said, "Let there be light."
And there was light.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
And the light shone in the darkness.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."
And our light shall not be quenched.

✠ SONG OF RESPONSE *UMH 468, vs. 1*

Dear Jesus, In Whose Life I See

**Dear Jesus, in whose life I see
all that I would, but fail to be,
let thy clear light forever shine,
to shame and guide this life of mine.**

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *Heather Durham*

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 READING *Heather Durham*

Matthew 5:13-20

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.**

MESSAGE *Pastor Lane*
"State of the Church"

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH *FWS 2237*
As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.

**You call us to be salt of the earth and light of the world.
We confess that our witness is often bland and dull.
Forgive us when we fail to be an influence for good,
and when we condone or do what is wrong in Your sight.**

**We know we dim Your light within us
with our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control.
Help us to flavor the earth with joy
and to reflect the light of Your love in a dark world;
through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**May we be salt and light to each other and to the world,
giving and receiving forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD *Alleluia Ringers*
Joseph's Lovely Garden

✠ DOXOLOGY *UMH 94*

**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!**

✠ CALL to the TABLE *UMH 620*

One Bread, One Body

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

SHARING in HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER of CONSECRATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

GIVING of 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 of grape juice.*
- ♦ *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.*

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 *FWS 2175*
Together We Serve

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

You call us, O God, to embrace the mission of Jesus as our own.

Our sight is not equal to this vision, and our strength is not equal to this task. But you, O Lord, are a merciful God.

You give light to those who walk in darkness, and you grant strength to those who carry heavy loads.

Even as we go forth, help us see your light before us and feel your strength within us.

As we depart from this place, let us reclaim 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.

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Maxine and Buddy Gossom to honor the birthday of their daughter, Elizabeth.

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.

YOUTH SHARE SALE

The Youth have begun selling shares of stock to help fund their 2020 summer mission trip to Nashville, TN. City Service Mission (CSM) will immerse our youth into a variety of hands-on service opportunities in an urban setting that are unique to that city. Youth will be selling shares before and after both worship services **today** and **February 16**. Each share is \$10.

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

The children, staff, and families of Charlie Thomas Head Start Center are joining us for a special morning of worship and celebration in the sanctuary on **Saturday, February 15** at 10 a.m. There will be lots of singing, dancing and showcasing talents. Please come and welcome our neighbors! Following the service, the UMW will host a simple lunch in the gym where all can gather for food and fellowship. **Help is needed to hand out programs and direct people to seating in the sanctuary and afterwards to the lunch in the FLC.** If you can help, contact Betty Schroeder (939-6981 or drbschroeder@att.net).

FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

Guy Johnson will be teaching The Letters of Paul (Disciple Fast Track), beginning **Monday February 10** at 10 a.m. in the library. The study book costs \$20, scholarships are available. To register, fill out the form in this week's bulletin and put in the offering plate. If paying by check, write Bible Study in the memo line.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The next work day for Days for Girls will be **Saturday February 22**, 9 a.m. – noon. Sewers and non-sewers are needed. We also need a few donations: (1) new girls cotton panties (briefs), solids or flowers, no characters or animals in sizes 10, 12, or 14, (2) new colored washcloths, (3) Gallon Freezer Ziploc Bags, (No sliders), or 4) cash to purchase fabric. For more information contact Joyce Perry at 763-6613 or joyce.perry@cox.net.

REDISCOVERING THE ART OF CONVERSATION

Save the Date: Friday evening, March 6 and Saturday morning, March 7.

How do we have difficult conversations about things that really matter to us in a way that respects the dignity of others and self, even when we do not agree? This question will set the tone for our time in this learning experience, led by Rev. Dr. Craig Gilliam. Registration fee of \$25 includes a light supper Friday night and breakfast pastries Saturday morning (please put conversation in memo line of check). You may register by using the insert in today's bulletin or online at <http://bit.ly/artstjohns>. A nursery will be provided both days.

"THE GOD WE CAN KNOW" LENT WORSHIP AND STUDY SERIES

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives us the "I Am" sayings, meaningful metaphors such as "I am the bread of life" and "I am the light of the world," to reveal his mission and purpose. One by one, the "I Am" sayings of Jesus not only grab our imagination about Jesus' identity, they also help us to experience God, who spoke the first "I am" to Moses.

This Lent our sermon series will be inspired by the "I Am" statements in scripture and a book called *The God We Can Know*, by Rev. Rob Fuquay. Classes and Small Groups are encouraged to use the book and the accompanying DVD and guidebook during Lent to continue the learnings. Join us for this insightful worship and study series as we learn more about the God we can know and as we seek to answer Jesus' question to us, "Who do you say I am?"

ST MARK'S MISSION

The 2020 dates for the St John's Mission to St Mark's UMC and N. Rampart Street Community Center are **April 17-19** and **September 27**. The three day mission to New Orleans in April will include repairs and maintenance of the community center and Church and two overnight stays, as well as serving the homeless meal on Sunday. The September date is one day at which time we will only prepare and serve the meal on Sunday. For more information contact Larry Norman at lduckn@aol.com or 225-933-1881.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 9

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*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, February 10

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. Ladies Lectionary Study, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, February 11

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Circle, *Parlor*
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Wednesday, February 12

10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, *Library*
3:00 p.m. VIPS Everybody Reads, *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, February 13

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

Friday, February 14

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*

Saturday, February 15

10:00 a.m. UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

CONNECT WITH ST. JOHN'S

TEXTING: St. John's sends out timely reminders about church events via text message. Email the office (office@stjohnsbr.org) requesting that you be signed up for the texting service.

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER: Our Friday Newsletter keeps you up to date about all the happenings around St. John's, including worship information, special events, and service opportunities.

INSIDE ST. JOHN'S EMAIL: This new email is in addition to our Friday e-newsletter, and geared towards our active members and friends. It includes prayer requests, birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations, memorial and funeral announcements, and other St. John's family news.

*This email will **not** be sent to you unless you request it.* If you would like to receive this new weekly email, fill out the form that can be found in the Narthex or the hallway of the Admin Building; you may also contact Lynn in the church office at 225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org.

 Like us and check-in on Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnsbr

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

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

Ushers: *Brian and Danielle Blackwood, Paul Ivey, Maureen Robertson*

Host: *Sandra Kuykendall*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



February 9, 2020
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.