

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 16, 2020 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

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

✠ CALL to WORSHIP *Joyce Perry*

We come this morning having sensed God's presence throughout the past week. We gather now to worship.
We see God whenever our vision looks beyond the cloudiness of fear to the bright clarity of hope.

We know God when we study scripture or let the ways of Christ flavor our actions.

We hear God when we are deaf to unkindness but attentive to words of love and compassion.

We sense God when we breathe in the freshness of morning and fill our hearts and minds with words of gratitude.

We touch God when we extend or receive a helping hand.
God is with us always in Spirit and in truth - there to be sensed and known. We praise you, O God, for your presence with us and we offer you our praise and worship this day.

✠ HYMN of PRAISE *Be Thou My Vision* UMH 451

PSALTER *Psalms 119:1-8, 137-144* UMH 840
SUNG RESPONSE 3

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

**Blessed are those who keep God's testimonies,
who seek God with their whole heart,**

Who also do no wrong,
but walk in God's ways!

**You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

**Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your
commandments.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Righteous are you, O Lord,
and right are your judgments.

**You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.**

My zeal consumes me,
because my foes forget your words.

**Your promise is well tried,
and your servant loves it.**

I am small and despised,
yet I do not forget your precepts.

**Your righteousness is righteous for ever,
and your law is true.**

Trouble and anguish have come upon me,
but your commandments are my delight.

**Your testimonies are righteous for ever;
give me understanding that I may live.**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

LISTENING

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 *Grace* Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE *Deuteronomy 30:11-20*

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.**

SERMON "God Is Near" *Pastor Deirdre*

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH *Trust and Obey* UMH 467

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

✠ 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.**

PRAYERS of SHARED CONCERNS and JOY *Pastor Lane*

As prayers are offered our response will be:
**Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *UMH 895*

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 *Near to the Heart of God* UMH 472, vs. 1 & 3

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Suzanne and Gray Sexton in loving memory of Valentine Sexton, who was born on Valentine's Day 1911.

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 summer mission trip to Nashville. Shares will be sold before and after both worship services **today**. Each share is \$10.

WRITERS' GROUP MEETING TODAY

The Writers' Group will meet **TODAY** at 3 p.m. in the parlor. If you are a writer of any genre you are invited to come to the meeting. Feel free to bring a short piece of your writing to share at the meeting.

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.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MEETING

There will be a Christian Formation meeting on **Sunday, February 23** following the 11:00 service. We will meet in the parlor and have a working lunch. Everyone is invited to attend.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

On **Wednesday, February 26**, Drive-Thru Ashes will be available from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the circle driveway. **Ash Wednesday worship service** will be at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. **Following worship**, we invite you to join us at California Pizza Kitchen at Perkins Rowe (10001 Perkins Rowe) for dinner and fellowship. 20% of the meal will go to the St. John's Youth for their summer mission trip.

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.

March 1, our Lent 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?"

GARAGE SALE

It's time to clean out those closets, the garage, the attic - the UMW is having a Garage Sale on **Saturday, March 21** from 8 a.m. to noon in the FLC. If you have anything to donate, you may bring your donations to the FLC on Sunday, March 15 between the hours of 8 and 11 a.m. or all day Friday, March 20. Large items can be dropped off beginning Saturday, February 22 by calling Liz McDonald (318-542-9272) or Sherri Artecona (985-320-3018) for a meeting time.

INSIGHTS ON GENERAL CONFERENCE

We will host a two-part information forum about the upcoming United Methodist General Conference on **Sunday March 22** and **Sunday March 29**. Each session will begin with an all-ages potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by insights on General Conference from 6 - 7 p.m. At the first session (March 22), we will have a panel discussion with Rev. Brady Whitton and Rev. Karli Pidgeon, both delegates to the upcoming General Conference. Please plan to attend both sessions, as we will offer follow up from your questions on March 29. A nursery will be provided and youth are encouraged to attend.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 16

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

Monday, February 17

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

Tuesday, February 18

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*
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Wednesday, February 19

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, February 20

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
5:30 p.m. Good Grief Support Group, *Parlor*
5:00 p.m. Trustees Campus Walk Around
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, *Library*
7:15 p.m. Finance Committee, *Library*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 22

9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, *FLC*
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>

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Jane Rassi, Carrie de la Fuente, Scott Durham, Harriet Walters*

Host: *Barbara Lively*

CHURCH STAFF

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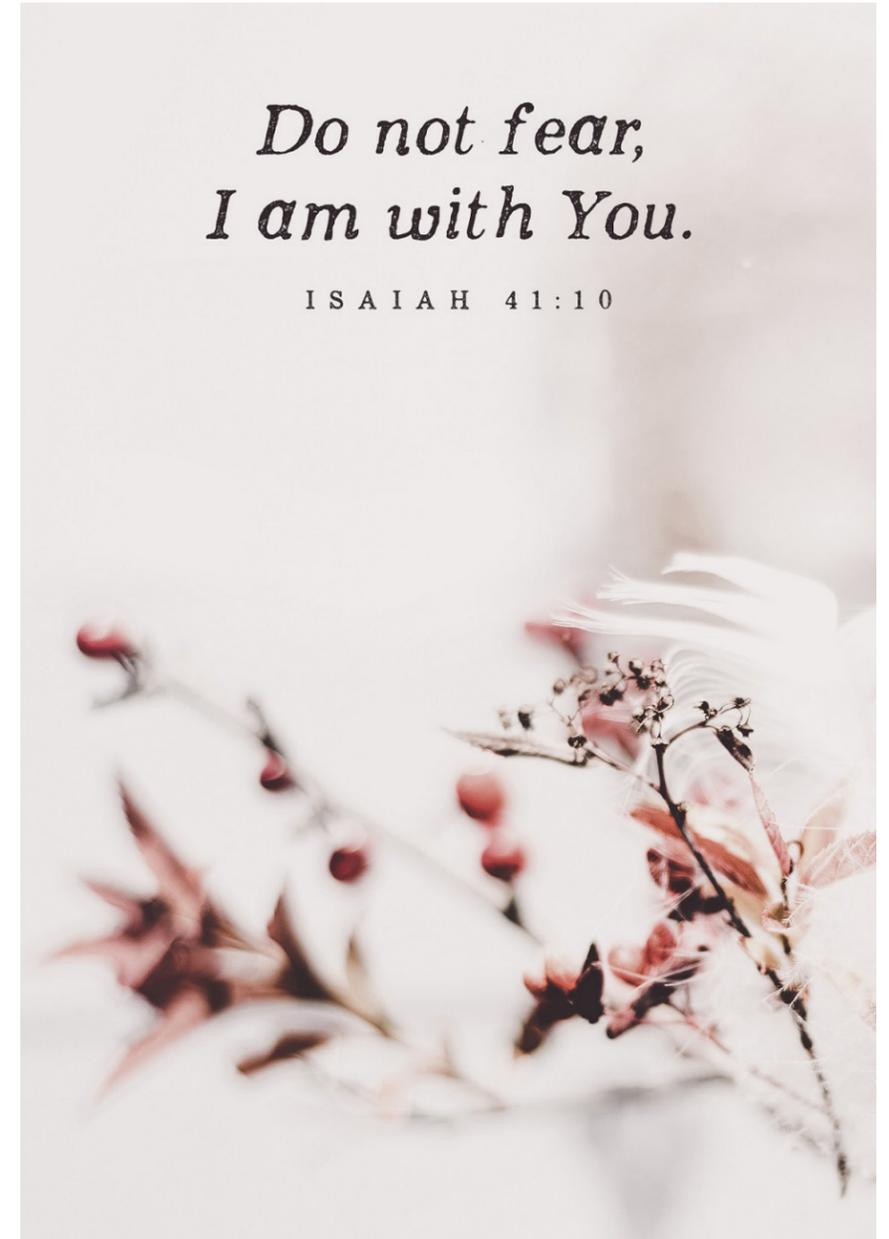


ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

*Do not fear,
I am with You.*

I S A I A H 4 1 : 1 0



February 16, 2020

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.