

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 16, 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.

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise FWS 2031

**We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving;
and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.**

What a Mighty God We Serve FWS 2021, vs. 1 & 2

**What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve,
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!
Let us sing and praise the Lord, let us sing and praise the Lord,
let us sing and praise the Lord, let us sing and praise the Lord!**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP *Barbara Benton*

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.**

✠ SONG OF RESPONSE *UMH 473*

Lead Me, Lord

**Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.**

✠ AFFIRMATION of FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**the third day he arose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

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.**

MESSAGE

"God Is Near"

Pastor Deirdre

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH *UMH 408*

The Gift of Love

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**O God, we do not have to invite you to join with us in our time
together, for you are already among us.**

**Your presence is constant and sure. Yet sometimes we neglect or
deny your steadfastness. We fail to recognize your presence in our
lives and think that you have abandoned us. We do not know the
dimness of our own vision.**

Forgive us we pray.

**Help us to understand that although your wisdom may be
unsearchable, your grace illumines the way of the faithful seeker.
We confess, O God, to be hesitant and timid in our seeking, and
ask that you grant us courage and strength.**

**We thank you for being present and accessible.
Fill our spirits with an ever growing gratitude that extends from
this moment into all our lives.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

When we reach out in faith, God draws near in love. When we seek to serve in Christ's name, God consecrates our efforts. When we trust in the presence of the Holy Spirit, God floods our lives with blessings and peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

✠ 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!**

✠ 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

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.*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**O God, you seek to know us and to be known by us. You reveal
yourself in dramatic moments that affect our vision of things
and cause us to change our course. You reveal yourself in quiet acts
of service that open our eyes to see your ways and to recognize the
restorative power of compassion.**

We ask that you use us as instruments of love.

**Strengthen us when we operate from places of our own spiritual
darkness. Help us bear witness to your light in a world of dim hope,
pain and suffering. Grant us courage to seek reconciliation rather
than revenge and may all people come to know your love.**

Let your kingdom of peace reign this day and forever more. 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 472*

Near to the Heart of God

✠ 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.*

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 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*
5:00 p.m. Trustees Campus Walk Around
5:30 p.m. Good Grief Support Group, *Parlor*
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](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr)

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

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

Ushers: *Beth Forester, Carol Gordon, Phil and Jill Slicker*
Host: *Chris Stubbs*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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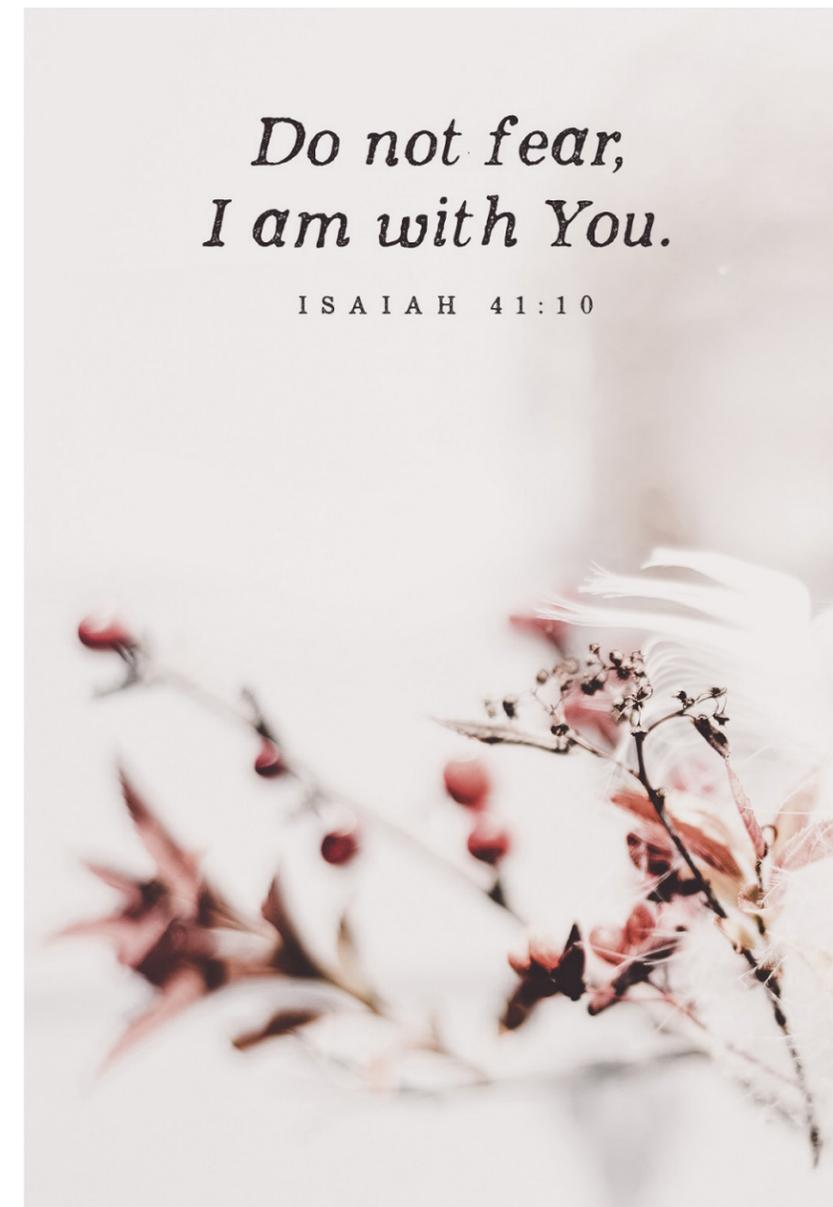


ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

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
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.