

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

January 12, 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 *In* GOD'S NAME

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.

INTROIT

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Zach Isenhower

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty seas.
O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord,
the blessings of peace.

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

✠ HYMN of PRAISE

UMH 604, vs. 1-3

Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God

LISTENING *to* GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Darlene Dickson

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

Chancel Choir

✠ SCRIPTURE

Zach Isenhower

Matthew 3:13-17

RESPONSE *to the* WORD

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING *to* GOD'S MERCY

✠ HYMN of FAITH

UMH 605

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

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 host. Amen.**

REAFFIRMING OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

We renounce and reject the forces of wickedness that run rampant in our world, have a realm even within our church, and too often reside within ourselves. From these we turn away.

Do you know that Christ has freed you, and that the Holy Spirit has empowered and is empowering you even now?

We claim our God-given power to resist and to reconcile. We ask God to open our hearts to recognize evil, injustice, and oppression, and to strengthen our work to end them through our insistence and persistence.

Celebrating the fullness of Jesus' witness, flowing from the baptismal waters at the river Jordan, and the stories of bread broken and shared, do you confess the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ?

Believing what Jesus says about God and trusting Jesus' example, we accept the cost and the joy of following the Way. We will live in union with the church, which Christ has opened to people of all ages, races, abilities, ethnicities, and identities.

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you do all in your power to strengthen the ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church?

We will work as agents of love so that our church may live out its vision to feed people spiritually and physically.

Will you uphold The United Methodist Church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Ours is an imperfect and incomplete church, but by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, we are moving together toward perfection in love. May God's grace shape us in all that we do!

And honoring the Spirit which prods and delights, will you live the questions of our faith, remaining open to the continuing revelation of our ever-living God?

We will!

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe 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, died, and was buried; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

Members of the household of God, let us renew our covenant to God and to one another to faithfully participate in transforming our community that in everything God may be glorified in Jesus Christ.

The pastor pours and blesses the water.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING *in a* BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

- All baptized Christians, young or old, are invited to remember and celebrate your baptisms by coming forward and pulling a stone out of the baptismal waters.*
- You may desire to repeat to yourself, "I am a beloved child of God," or "Going forward, I will resist harm." This act of remembrance and reaffirmation is not a rebaptism; what God does once is good for all time.*
- For our guests who are not baptized, we invite you to listen and pray about whether God is calling you to follow Christ through baptism. Please speak to Pastor Lane if you would like to be baptized and/or join the church. You may pull a stone from the water in anticipation of your future baptism.*

PRAYER AFTER BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE *and* RECEIVING

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

UMH 347

Spirit Song

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

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.

UMW MARY MARTHA

The UMW Mary Martha Circle will meet **Tuesday, January 14** at 7 p.m. in the parlor. All women are invited to attend.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The first Church Council meeting of 2020 will be held in the FLC on **Thursday, January 16**. They will gather at 5 p.m. for dinner with the meeting beginning by 5:30. They will be looking back at 2019 and looking forward to 2020 by setting goals. Everyone is welcome.

EXERCISE CLASS NOT STARTING UNTIL FEBRUARY

The pilates/yoga exercise class scheduled to resume in January has been postponed and will begin in February. The new start date will be forthcoming.

GOOD GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Good Grief! Support Group will be gathering on **Thursday, January 16** at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Everyone is invited to attend, especially those who are grieving.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, January 20** in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The office will open at 9 a.m. for regular hours on Tuesday and The Shepherd's Market will open at 8 a.m. for regular shopping hours on Tuesday, also.

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Save the Date: Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m.

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. 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.

GODLY PLAY

A team of 5 (Pastor Deirdre, Natalie Cooper, Marilyn Damberg, and Ron and Susie Newton) are attending a Godly Play training this weekend in Hattiesburg to learn more about this innovative spiritual formation program for children that we hope to introduce to the children of St. John's. Please pray for this Christian education opportunity and their safe travels home this afternoon.

ST. JOHN'S 2020 LEADERS

The insert in today's bulletin is a list of St. John's leaders for 2020. We encourage you to take it home for future reference. We will be recognizing them at both services. We pray that they will lead us wisely and faithfully this year.

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.

We invite you to come join us. Your contribution will help all of us to learn and grow. More information and registration will be available on our web site soon.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, January 12

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, January 13

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
2:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. Ladies Lectionary Study, *Parlor*
4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, January 14

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*
6:00 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, January 15

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, January 16

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, *Library*
5:00 p.m. Church Council, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, January 17

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

Saturday, January 18

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: *Zack and Kristine Isenhower, Bill and Jane Metcalf*

Host: *Kathleen Adams*

CHURCH STAFF

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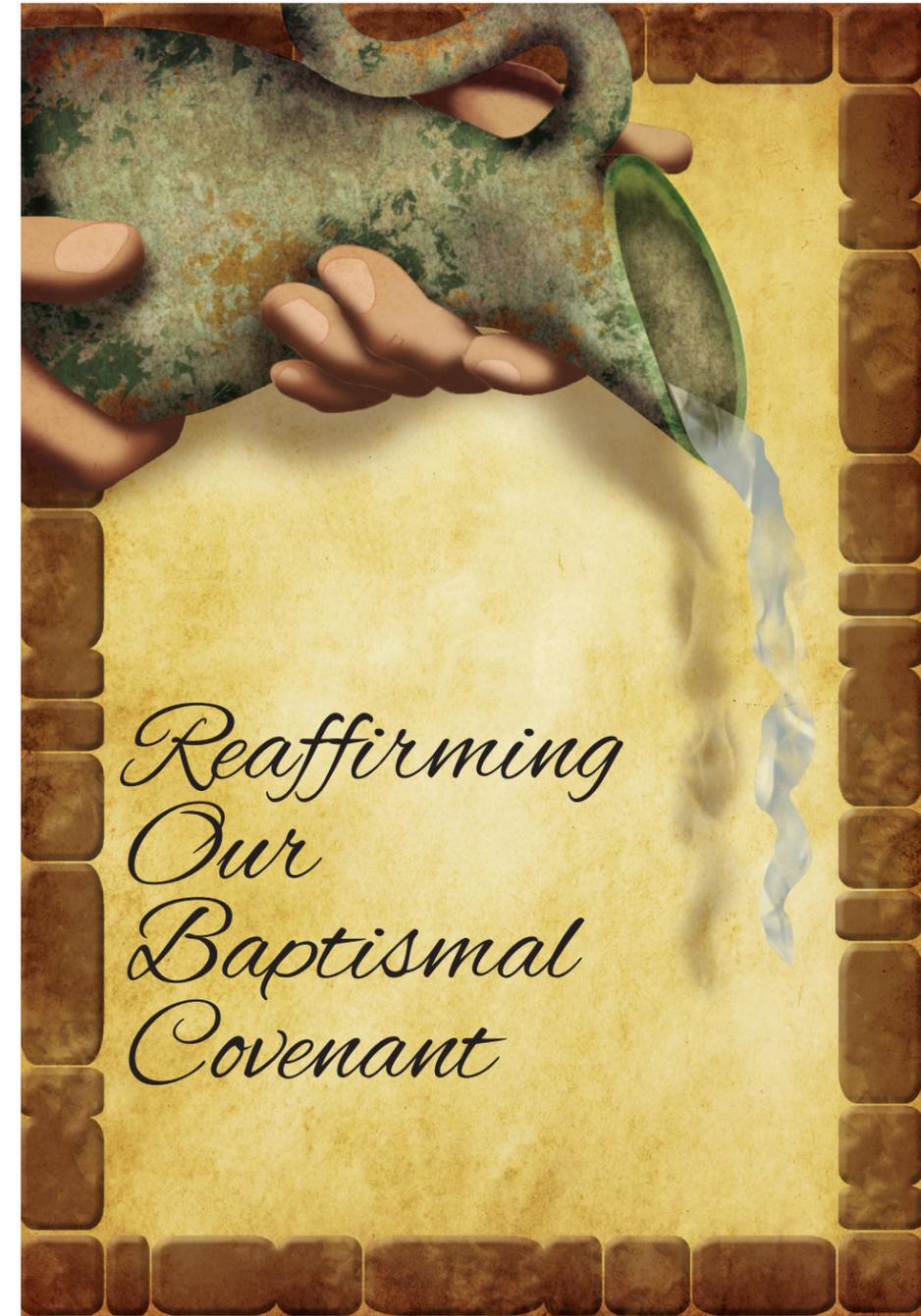
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



January 12, 2020
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.

St. John's United Methodist Church
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594