



"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."
+ Psalm 98

STEWARDSHIP 2021

October 14, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

As members and friends of St. John's, we are accustomed to showing up for one another. Whether assembling Days for Girls kits, loading groceries into cars at the Shepherd's Market, participating in worship, Sunday School, covenant groups, choir, youth, or any of the many activities not listed, we find great joy in being together as we serve Christ in the world. We now find ourselves in a strange time, when the best way to keep one another safe is to keep our distance. And yet physical distance does not mean spiritual distance. We are still *together in spirit*.

One powerful way to be present in our faith community is to pledge your financial support. Our congregation remains the heartbeat of St. John's and your pledge is the lifeblood of our ministries. Though we cannot all be physically together right now, we can continue to stay connected and supportive to the mission and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church.

We invite you to reflect on the role your faith and our church family have played in supporting you and to join us in making a 2021 financial pledge. Now is our opportunity to come ***together for joy***, investing in our shared congregational life and ministries, so that we can continue to live out our vision to feed people spiritually and physically.

Making a financial commitment to St. John's not only pays the staff and cares for our facilities, it enables us to continue to adapt to our changing circumstances. In the enclosed brochure, you will see some of the ways we have been faithful, adaptable, and creative in living out our shared mission together this year. We could not have made such an impact without your generosity.

In 2020, 126 households made a financial pledge to God's work at St. John's. While pledged giving has remained steady all year, the ongoing pandemic has impacted our revenue. Though we have been able to maintain our staffing and have adapted our programs and outreach, without full participation from our family and friends through pledges for 2021, we may face difficult decisions in the near future about our 2021 budget. In these uncertain times, your pledged support is essential.

Our hope is that you ask God for guidance in discerning your pledge for 2021. To help encourage prayerful consideration, we boldly suggest you place the enclosed pledge card somewhere prominent in your home. Whenever you see the card, use that moment to pray for guidance and wisdom surrounding your pledge, and pray for St. John's, too.

Commitment Sunday is October 25, 2020. In order to make pledging easier, we have expanded the ways that you can make a pledge. Your completed pledge card can be brought to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Commitment

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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

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Sunday, dropped off during the Drive Thru Offering immediately following worship, or mailed to the church office (230 Renee Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810). For the first time ever, you can also make your pledge online at www.stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2021.

We look forward to coming together — both in-person and in spirit — on Sunday, October 25, to celebrate our combined investment in our collective church family. For all that we've already accomplished together during this challenging season, and for all that we will accomplish together in the future, we thank God and thank you.

In faith and joy,



Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor



Gray Sexton
Finance Committee, Chairperson



Rhonda Tucker
Lay Leader

