

# ROOM FOR *Hope*

CHECK-IN &  
PRAYER REQUESTS  
VIA QR CODE



*When Joseph found himself in an impossible situation with no good way out, an angel of the Lord arrived with hope, making room for a new God-given possibility! How is God making room in the places in our lives that feel impossible and hopeless?*

## Christmas Dedications & Poinsettias

Honor loved ones with a **Poinsettia Dedication** (\$35)—poinsettias may be taken home after the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service—or a **Mission & Vision Dedication** (\$35), which includes a gift card to share with the honoree. Deadline: December 18.  
Order at [stjohnsbr.org/christmas-dedication](http://stjohnsbr.org/christmas-dedication), scan the QR code, or use a form from the Narthex or Office.



## Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing [prayers@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsbr.org) or visiting [stjohnsbr.org/here](http://stjohnsbr.org/here).

## All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here

Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

## For Newcomers

**Restrooms** & Welcome **Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

## For Families with Children

- The **St. John's Playground** is in the front of the sanctuary during services. Children are welcome to spend **the entire service** here.
- The **Nursery** serves infants – preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- **Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months – 12<sup>th</sup> grade from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

*The Altar Flowers are given by The Alleluia Ringers who are thankful for all that Dr. Steve Rushing does for them; may he know he is appreciated. From the Alleluia Ringers, Merry Christmas, Steve.*

Today's Ushers  
**Bob Armstrong & Belinda Dumas**

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Giving Tree – Gifts for Neighborhood Kids

Visit the Giving Tree during Coffee Time in the F.L.C. to share a little Christmas joy with a child in our community. Simply **choose a child from the tree and purchase two gifts** – one clothing item and one fun – each under \$30. It's a small act that makes a big difference, and your generosity will brighten a child's holiday in the sweetest way. Gifts are due on December 15.

### Joyfest, Today!

Join us for a festive, all-ages gathering today, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas or a tacky outfit, and bring a dish to share as we enjoy good food, good company, and the joy of the season together.

### Music Makers Time Change

Music Makers meets from 4:00–5:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in December, preparing to sing "Away in a Manger" on Sunday the 14th. All children from kindergarten through middle school are invited to join.

### Staff Love Offering

As we enter this joyful Christmas season, please join in blessing our incredible staff with a love offering in appreciation for all they pour into our church. You may give online by selecting "Staff Appreciation," note it on a check or cash during Sunday offering, or drop off your gift at the church office. Please send contributions by Dec. 16 online and Dec. 17 for checks or cash.

### UWF Circle of the Heart Christmas Meeting, December 10

All women are warmly invited to join us for a festive Circle of the Heart Christmas gathering at 9:30 a.m. at Pat Cobb's home (1910 Camellia Trace Dr.). Bring a favorite Christmas snack to share.

### Make A Difference this Holiday Season, December 13

Come help give away food at **Great Turkey Giveaway** on Saturday! Arrive at 7:00 a.m. at the Family Life Center to help assemble & distribute meals.

### United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale, December 14

Treat yourself to a little holiday cheer at the United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale on Sunday, December 14, all morning long! Browse homemade goodies, handcrafted items, and thoughtful gifts—all supporting local and global missions.

### Lessons & Carols, *The Heavens Declare*, December 14

Join us for the beautiful Lessons and Carols services, *The Heavens Declare*, on Sunday, December 14 at both services. This cherished tradition weaves together scripture, music, and the wonder of the season. Let the beauty of word & song lift your spirit!

### Family Ministries Christmas Party, December 18

Join us for a cozy evening of Christmas cheer from 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center and outside by the bonfire! Enjoy s'mores, laughter, and relaxed fellowship as we celebrate the season together. All ages welcome—just bring your holiday spirit!

### Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities, December 24

**4 p.m.** A Family-Friendly Service with a children's live nativity

**6 p.m.** A Traditional Candlelight & Communion Service

## EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

 **FLC = Family Life Center**

### WORSHIP SERVICES

#### Sundays

**8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.** Sanctuary

### COFFEE TIME

#### Sundays

**9:30 a.m.** Family Life Center

**Last names D–G – December 14**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sundays, 9:45 a.m.**

#### Find A Class

[stjohnsbr.org/childrens-ministries](http://stjohnsbr.org/childrens-ministries)

[stjohnsbr.org/adult-sunday-school-classes/](http://stjohnsbr.org/adult-sunday-school-classes/)

### MUSIC MINISTRIES

#### Sundays

**6:00 p.m.** The Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

#### Wednesdays

**6:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

#### Sundays

**9:45 a.m.** Sunday School, Campus Wide

**Upstairs Café Fruit Dec. 14 – Last names: A–H**

**4:00 p.m.** Music Makers (K–8<sup>th</sup> grades)

#### SERVE

#### Fridays

**10:30 a.m.** Holy Helpers, Church Office

### WELLNESS

#### Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

**7:00 a.m.** Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

#### Tuesdays

**7:00 p.m.** Pickleball

**7:30 p.m.** AA Meeting, FLC–E

#### Wednesdays

**6:30 p.m.** Ladies AA Meeting, FLC–C

#### Saturdays

**12:00 p.m.** AA Meeting, FLC–C

**7:00 p.m.** AA Meeting, FLC

### SHEPHERD'S MARKET

**Mondays 3:30 p.m.** FLC

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m.** FLC

[shepherdsmarket.org](http://shepherdsmarket.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Monday – Friday**

### CONTACT

[stjohnsbr.org/contact-us](http://stjohnsbr.org/contact-us)



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

**8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration**

**Sunday, December 7th 2025**

[stjohnsbr.org](http://stjohnsbr.org) | [@stjohnsbr](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbr) | [office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)

**225-766-4594 | 230 Renee Drive BR, LA 70810**



Welcome

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (\*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.

Gathering Music Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Welcome in the Light of Christ\* U.M. Hymnal #189 vs 1, 3, 4  
Fairest, Lord Jesus

Invitation to Worship\* Kathy King

In places that feel sealed off, where options seem few and hope feels thin – God is already at work.  
**Where we see only dead ends, God carves out new beginnings.**  
Like Joseph, we come with questions, uncertainties, and paths that feel impossible.  
**And like Joseph, we are invited to listen, to make room for hope, and to welcome God’s quiet possibilities and peace.**  
Come, let us worship the One who makes a way where there is no way,  
**the God of peace, the God of hope, the God who is with us.**

We Sing Together\* U.M. Hymnal #204  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

We Greet One Another with Joy and Peace\*

We Light the Advent Candles Marcie Williams  
Today, we light the candle of Peace. God calls us to open our hearts and make room for the coming Christ child.  
**In Christ, we receive holy possibility and the deep assurance that God’s peace is with us and for us.**  
*(We light the candles of Hope and Peace.)*  
Christ comes to make peace in impossible places, filling the world and our lives with new possibilities.  
**We welcome the One who is our peace.**



We Sing Together\* Our Faith We Sing #2164  
Sanctuary

We Encourage Our Children Molly Means

We Read the Word\* Pastor Lane  
Matthew 1:18–25  
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.**

We Reflect On The Word Pastor Lane  
Room for Hope

We Sing Together\* U.M. Hymnal #219 vs 1, 3  
What Child Is This?

Ministry Moment Cindy Carter  
Staff Love Offering

We Offer God’s Tithes and Our Gifts  
Advent Medley: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus & Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella Betty Schroeder,  
Hammer Dulcimer  
& John Toney, Guitar

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit [stjohnsbr.org/give](https://stjohnsbr.org/give) to give online.



We Sing Together\* U.M. Hymnal #94

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow  
**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!**

We Prepare for Communion\* Pastor Lane  
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.**  
*The blessings of God, our Creator are shared, concluding with singing:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**  
*The congregation is seated as we recall the story of the Last Supper, concluding with:*  
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)**  
*We pray for the Spirit’s presence in this holy meal concluding with The Lord’s Prayer.*

We Pray the Lord’s Prayer U.M. Hymnal #895

We Partake in Communion\*  
**All are welcome to receive Communion.**  
*We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged & gluten-free options are available. You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know.*

We Pray Together Kathy King  
**Gracious God,**  
**you have fed us with your love**  
**and strengthened us with your peace.**  
**Send us out to share what we have received, that your hope and compassion may flow through us to the world. Amen.**

We Hear This Week’s Call To Action  
*We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John’s and invite you to come forward and stand with Pastor Lane during the singing of the next song.*

We Sing Together\* U.M. Hymnal #202 vs 1–4  
*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
**Please bring grocery donations for the Shepherd’s Market Client–Choice Food Pantry forward as we sing.**

We Share in a Blessing\* Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Go Out into the World\* Dr. Terry Byars  
*The service ends, but our worship continues as we go forth to love and serve the Lord.*