

# Christmas EVE

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Celebration

Wednesday, December 24th 2025



ST. JOHN'S

Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

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



ST. JOHN'S  
United Methodist Church

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

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

# CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS

Tonight we celebrate the love of Christ and honor our loved ones through Christmas dedications. The poinsettias that adorn our sanctuary were given in their honor or memory, and gifts to our Mission & Vision help St. John's United Methodist Church share Christ's love in our community. Thank you for your generosity and for making this season even brighter.

## **Poinsettia Dedications**

In honor of:

- Dale and Barbara Biggs for their wedding anniversary by Bill Elrod and Fran Bussie.
- Dale Biggs for his birthday by Bill Elrod and Fran Bussie.
- Our four great grandchildren by Phil and Jill Slicker.

In memory of:

- Valentine and Jesse Sexton by Gray and Suzanne Sexton.
- Pearl and Walter Fournet by Gray and Suzanne Sexton.
- Hilda and James Roy Thomason by Norma and Jim Thomason.
- George and Frances Lindsley by Norma and Jim Thomason.
- My husband, Jim Schaffhauser, by Kathy Schaffhauser.
- Beth Keith by Dick Keith.
- George Cahlink, Sr. by Steve Cahlink.

*Poinsettias brighten our worship space and may be taken home after the 6 p.m. service.*

## **Mission & Vision Dedications**

In honor of:

- Jane and Livia Walker by Mari and Shawn Walker.
- Pat Cobb, Richard and Marilyn Damberg, Clara Maynard, Bill and Jane Metcalf, with gratitude for their faithful kindness in bringing me to church each Sunday by Carole Cotton Winn.
- Lane, Ben, and Julian, I love you to the moon and back! by "CC," Carole Cotton Winn.
- Guy Johnson by Seekers Sunday School Class.
- Sallie Paulsen by Seekers Sunday School Class.
- Jesse Locke by Seekers Sunday School Class.
- The Holy Helpers by Lynn Cooper.
- Bill Perry by Revelation Sunday School Class.
- Pastor Lane by Revelation Sunday School Class.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas! We're glad you are here to celebrate the birth of Christ. Inside, you'll find details about our worship service and ways to connect.

Here at St. John's United Methodist Church, we seek to share God's love, grow in faith together, and serve our neighbors with compassion. Thank you for joining us tonight. May you experience the joy and hope of Christ's love in this season.

# WELLNESS

*Come connect, move, and grow in community!*

## Pickleball

**Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.** (except the 3rd Tuesday) | Family Life Center  
Fun and fellowship for all skill levels. Come play, learn, and enjoy the game together!

## Early Risers Exercise Group

**Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 7:00 a.m.** | Family Life Center  
Gentle chair exercises to start your day with movement and friendship. All are welcome!

## AA Meetings

**Five groups meet throughout the week** | Family Life Center  
Supportive groups meet regularly at St. John's.  
Check the church calendar for times and locations  
[stjohnsbr.org/church-calendar/](http://stjohnsbr.org/church-calendar/)

# CONNECT

**Text** the word "Connect" to 225-230-1017

**Follow us** on Instagram & YouTube @stjohnsbr

**Browse** [stjohnsbr.org](http://stjohnsbr.org)

**Call** 225-766-4594

**Email** [office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)

**Pastor** Rev. Lane Cotton Winn, [pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

**Staff** [stjohnsbr.org/clergy-staff](http://stjohnsbr.org/clergy-staff)

**Visit** 230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

# WELCOME

CHECK-IN &  
PRAYER REQUESTS  
VIA QR CODE



## 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.

## 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).

## Tips for Your Visit

**Restrooms & Welcome Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our ushers can help you in any way you may need. Everyone is welcome to receive Communion (Gluten free elements are available). Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 to join our updates.

## For Families with Children

- The St. John's **Playground** is a child-friendly space at the front of the sanctuary where children are welcome to participate in worship in a way that works for them.
- The **Nursery** serves infants through preschool on Sundays morning starting at 8:00 a.m.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- Holy Communion elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children during tonight's service. We serve Communion weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service.

## Altar Flowers

- The Poinsettias are given as dedications and remembrances. These are listed in the back of this bulletin.

# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2025 4:00 p.m.

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

## Gathering Music

Dr. Terry Byars

**Christmas Greeting & Proclamation\*** Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
Tonight, heaven meets earth with good news.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Light shines in the darkness, and joy fills the air.

**Peace is proclaimed and hope is born anew.**

This living sanctuary welcomes all – angels, shepherds, travelers, and you.

**Come, let us worship the God who comes near.**

**Welcome in the Light of Christ\*** U.M. Hymnal #234, vs 1, 3  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle\*** Rev. Rosmery Mejia-LaFontaine, Rev. Dr. Alejandro LaFontaine, Sofia and Vicky

Tonight, we light the candles of Advent – signs of God's presence in the world:

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

These candles remind us that God's promises have come to us: hope for the weary, peace for the broken, joy for the searching, and love for all.

*(We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.)*

And now, we light the Christ Candle, the fulfillment of all these promises. For when there was no room, God made room – in a manger, in a stable, in the heart of the world.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

*(We light the Christ Candle.)*

As we light this candle, we proclaim: Christ is born!

**Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!**

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

Come share the joy of music! All ages and skill levels are welcome as we enrich worship through singing and instruments.

### Chancel Choir

**Rehearses Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**

Leads hymns and anthems for the 11 a.m. service. All who enjoy singing are welcome to join, exploring traditional, gospel, spiritual, and folk music.

### Alleluia Bell Ringers

**Rehearses Sundays, 6:00–7:00 p.m.**

For those with some handbell experience – learn, grow, and make music together through hymns, classical pieces, seasonal medleys, and original compositions. Those interested in learning handbells are encouraged to contact Dr. Steve Rushing (info below).

### Music Makers (K–8th grade)

**Rehearses Sundays, 4:00–5:00 p.m.**

Students explore faith through singing and instruments, preparing music for worship. A fun, welcoming space for kids to make music together!

### Praise Team

**Rehearses Sundays, 7:45 a.m.**

Leads music for the 8:30 a.m. worship with piano, guitar, bass, violin, and ukulele, blending traditional hymns and modern songs. Those interested in joining the team are encouraged to contact Dr. Terry Byars (info below).

*All music rehearsals will take a break for the Christmas season and will resume the week of January 4.*

### Contact

Dr. Terry Byars, Praise Team Director & Accompanist | [terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org)

Dr. Steve Rushing, Choir Director | [stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org)

# FAMILY MINISTRIES

## **Sunday School** (Toddlers–12th grade)

### **Sundays, 9:45–10:45 a.m. | Center Building**

Kids learn about Christ's love and build friendships every week. A snack bar, The Upstairs Cafe, is available 9:30–9:50 a.m. in Room 202. All children are welcome!

## **Youth** (6th–12th grade)

### **Meets weekly, starting January 11 | Sundays, 5:00–7:00 p.m.**

A time for community, conversation, and fun! Dinner provided. All students are welcome to come grow in faith and friendship.

## **Confirmation Classes** (6th–12th grade)

### **Starts January 25 | During Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.**

Explore faith, ask questions, and grow together in our church community. Open to middle and high school students who want to deepen their understanding of faith.

## **Kids Night** (K–5th grade)

### **Third Sunday of each month | 4:00–5:30 p.m.**

Next session: January 18. Dinner provided. A fun, welcoming space for kids to learn, play, do service projects and grow in faith together.

## **Parent Enrichment & Support**

January 18 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

While Kids Night happens, you are invited to a relaxing yoga session with Beth LaCour – refresh, breathe, and connect with others. All are welcome.

## **Contact**

Kate Bouchillon, Family Ministries Director |  
[katebouchillon@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:katebouchillon@stjohnsbr.org)



## **We Sing Together**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

U.M. Hymnal #240 vs 1

## **Our Story Begins**

Bishop Idikwu

## **We Sing Together**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

U.M. Hymnal #230 vs 1

## **The Journey to Bethlehem**

Julian Hartman &  
Jane Walker

## **We Sing Together**

*Away in a Manger*

U.M. Hymnal #217 vs 1

## **The Birth of Jesus**

Jane Walker &  
Isaac Ajuka

## **We Sing Together**

*What Child is This?*

U.M. Hymnal #219 v 1

## **The Angels Announce the Good News**

Abdiel Idikwu

## **We Sing Together**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

U.M. Hymnal #238 vs 1

## **Glory to God! Peace on Earth!**

Bishop Idikwu, Paul Idikwu  
& Aurora Landry

**We Sing Together***Angels We Have Heard on High*

U.M. Hymnal #238 vs 3

**The Shepherds Visit Jesus**

Isaiah Ajuka

**We Sing Together***Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

U.M. Hymnal #251

Refrain, vs 1, Refrain

**The The Savior is Born!**

Bishop Idikwu, Paul Idikwu

**We Sing Together***Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

U.M. Hymnal #251

Refrain Only

**The Magi Travel from Afar**

Livia Walker and Iris Ajuka

**We Sing Together***We Three Kings*

U.M. Hymnal #254 vs 1

**Gifts for the King!**

Bishop Idikwu

**We Take Some Photos****We Sing Together***The First Noel*

U.M. Hymnal #245 vs 1

## THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET

Our client-choice pantry provides meals and groceries to families in our neighborhood and beyond. Guests shop with a grocery cart, enjoy a hot meal, and can access a free library. This volunteer-powered ministry offers nourishment, dignity, and care to the wider community.

**WHEN & WAYS TO SERVE**

- Mondays: 3:30–5:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8:00–10:00 a.m.
- Deliveries: 2nd & 4th Fridays, 8:00 a.m.

*Volunteer roles include pantry assistants, intake, stocking, kitchen help, and sorting deliveries.*

**DONATIONS & SUPPORT**

We collect food and household items on the first Sunday of each month (Grocery Bag Sunday). Learn more at [shepherdsmarket.org](http://shepherdsmarket.org).

**OUR IMPACT & STATS (2025)**

- Total pounds distributed: 319,568
- Households served per month: ~400 (about 1,700 people)
- Average pounds per household: 57.56
- Supported by ~20 volunteers per shift

# UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## One Service & Extended Coffee Time – December 28 | 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a combined worship with Natalie Cooper preaching, caroling, and a hymn sing-along. Stay afterward for extended coffee time and fellowship. All are invited to bring a treat to share!

## Epiphany Sunday & Star Words – January 4

Start 2026 with joy and encouragement! Rev. Rosmery LaFontaine will bring the message, and worshipers can receive a Star Word – a simple, prayerful guide for the year ahead.

## Grocery Bag Sunday – January 4

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect groceries and household items for The Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry. Bring your donations with you to worship.

## Pastor Pop-Up

Pastor Lane is visiting local spots around town and would love to see you! Stop by, say hello, and enjoy a relaxed conversation – no agenda, no pressure, just community. Everyone is welcome!

### Next Pop-Up: Wednesday, January 7 | 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Light House Coffee (257 Lee Dr.)

## The Chosen Watch Parties

### Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., starting January 7 | Family Life Center

Join us to watch *The Chosen: Season 1*, a popular TV series about the life of Jesus. The series is best experienced if you watch the entire season, but all are welcome to join at any time. Connect, discuss, and share fellowship together!

## Associ-Eights Is Returning, Spring 2026!

Associ-Eights is a short-term small-group experience focused on connection and community. When you sign up, you'll be placed in a thoughtfully mixed group of eight to help build new friendships. Groups meet at least three times between February and April. Sign-ups run January 4–January 22.

## Invitation to Share Our Gifts

Daniel Csaszar,  
Princess Ezim, & Davis Ezim

## We Offer God's Tithes and Our Gifts

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



**GIVING**

## 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

## 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); only 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

O God,

**We thank you for pouring out your grace at this table.**

Inspire us with hope, as we make room  
where there seems to be none.

Give us courage, as we do good in a world in such need.

Fill us with joy, as we create sanctuary  
through even the smallest acts of love.

Go with us, and help us welcome your presence  
and share your light with all. Amen.

Grace Idikwu

## We Share the Light of Christ\*

Please keep your candle upright once it's lit, and carefully pass  
the light from the candle next to you. Battery-operated  
candles are available, as well. Let's spread God's light safely.

Pastor Lane

## We Sing Together\*

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

U.M. Hymnal #239, vs 1, 3, 4

## We Share in a Blessing

Pastor Lane

## We Sing Together\*

*Joy to the World*

U.M. Hymnal #246, vs 1

## We Go Out into the World\*

Music sends us out, but our worship continues as we  
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Dr. Terry Byars

# Sundays AT ST. JOHN'S

### 8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship with a Relaxed Style

*Weekly Communion*

A welcoming blend of hymns and liturgy with a casual vibe, led  
by our Praise Team featuring piano, acoustic guitar, bass, violin,  
and ukulele. Come as you are and join in worship!

### 9:30 a.m. – Coffee Time

Enjoy snacks and fellowship in the Family Life Center. A great  
chance to connect with others. The Upstairs Cafe, in Room 202  
of the middle building, provides snacks for children & youth  
from 9:30–9:50 a.m.

### 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

For all ages, including six adult classes. Everyone is welcome to  
learn, grow, and explore faith together.

### 11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship with a Formal Touch

*Monthly Communion on first Sunday*

A classic worship experience with traditional liturgy, hymns,  
and choir. Open to all who enjoy a more formal rhythm and  
style of worship.

### For Families with Children

The Playground is our child-friendly zone in the front left corner  
of the sanctuary. Each week we have a 2–5 minute “Children’s  
Moment” story tied to the sermon. The Nursery serves infants  
through preschool on Sundays morning starting at 8:00 a.m.

### Online

Can't be with us in person? All services are livestreamed on  
[stjohnsbr.org](http://stjohnsbr.org), YouTube (@stjohnsbr), and Facebook  
(@stjohnsbr).