



# The 12 Days of Christmas

Sunday, January 1, 2023 - 10 a.m.

## Happy New Year

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## OUR MISSION

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.

## OUR VISION

Our church will be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.

## OUR CORE VALUES

We believe the following guiding principles make us a fruitful and spiritually intentional church:

- Fellowship: A sense of family, hospitality, and belonging to an open, accepting, and nurturing community.
- Caring: Loving response to needs of all people through empathy and compassion.
- Mission: giving of ourselves to meet and serve the needs of all others by faithful witness through our actions, servanthood and way of living.
- Spiritual Growth: Studying, understanding and growing in the word of God by Christ-centered prayer, worship and service through discipleship in action.



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

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*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*

# GUEST INFORMATION

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. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

*Thank you for being here.*

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We fully welcome and love engaging children in worship! We include a special Children's Moment each Sunday.

- **The St. John's Prayground** is located in the front of the sanctuary. This is a place for children and their families to worship together, allowing children to more fully participate in the service. More details about the Prayground may be found on our website.
- A staffed **nursery** for infants through preschool is open every Sunday morning and is located next door in our Education/Administration building.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms in the back of the sanctuary and in our nursery.
- Children are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**, which is served weekly at 8:30 a.m. and on the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free elements are also available.
- **Sunday School** is offered for children starting at age 18 months through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

*Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.*

## ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
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# Gathering With God

January 1, 2023

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.  
Bold indicates congregational response.*

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

## \*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

Praise the Lord! Praise God, all angels, sun and moon,  
and shining stars!

**I rejoice in the Lord, for God is my salvation!**

Praise God from the earth! Young and old, men and women - let  
everyone praise God's name!

**As the earth brings forth new life, God will cause  
righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.**

We continue to celebrate the birth of Christ,  
**for God is faithful and worthy of praise for ever and ever.**

based on Psalm 148 and Isaiah 61:10-62:3

## \*Hymn of Praise

*He Is Born*

The United Methodist Hymnal 228, vs. 1 & 3

# Lessons and Carols for The Twelve Days of Christmas

## Introduction to Our Service

Rev. Bernie Johnson

"The Twelve Days of Christmas was created in England during a time of religious persecution when Catholicism was outlawed in the 16th to 18th centuries. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest – a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact. Each verse refers to a teaching of church doctrine — with the partridge being Christ who died on a tree and the "True Love" being God the Father, who gave us all gifts. The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world."

Hymn

*The Twelve Days of Christmas, vs. 12*

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:  
12 Drummers Drumming,  
11 Pipers Piping,  
10 Lords a Leaping,  
9 Ladies Dancing,  
8 Maids a Milking,  
7 Swans a Swimming,  
6 Geese a Laying,  
5 Golden Rings,  
4 Calling Birds,  
3 French Hens,  
2 Turtle Doves,  
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree!

The First Day of Christmas:  
*A Partridge in a Pear Tree...*

Scripture

Matthew 23:37

Phil Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Symbol of Our Faith

Jesus Christ

Rev. Bernie

Hymns

*What Child Is This*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 219, vs. 1  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 229, vs. 1

The Second Day of Christmas:  
*Two Turtle Doves...*

Scripture

1 Timothy 4:13

Margaret Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Symbol of Our Faith

Old and New Testaments

Rev. Bernie

**Hymn**

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**  
The United Methodist Hymnal 218, vs. 1 & 4

**The Third Day of Christmas:**  
*Three French Hens...*

**\*Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-2, 11

Phil Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Symbol of Our Faith**

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Rev. Bernie

**\*Hymn**

*We Three Kings*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 254, vs. 1 & 5

**Sharing In Prayer**

Rev. Bernie

**The Fourth Day of Christmas:**  
*Four Calling Birds...*

**Scripture**

John 21:24-25

Margaret Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Symbol of Our Faith**

Four Gospels: Matthew Mark, Luke, and John

Rev. Bernie

**Hymn**

*O Word of God Incarnate*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 598, vs. 1 & 3

# The Fifth Day of Christmas: *Five Golden Rings...*

## Scripture

Luke 24:25-27

Phil Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Symbol of Our Faith

The Pentateuch

Rev. Bernie

## Hymn

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 224, vs. 2

# The Sixth Day of Christmas: *Six Geese A-Laying...*

## Scripture

Genesis 1:31-2:2

Margaret Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Symbol of Our Faith

Six Days of Creation

Rev. Bernie

## Hymn

There's a Song In the Air  
The United Methodist Hymnal 249, vs. 1

# The Seventh Day of Christmas: *Seven Swans A-Swimming...*

## Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

Phil Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Symbol of Our Faith

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Rev. Bernie

## Hymn

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 213, vs. 3 & 4

*We appreciate your generosity.  
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.  
You may give online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give).*

**\*Doxology**

**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 Eighth Day of Christmas: *Eight Maids A-Milking...*

**Scripture**

Matthew 5:3-10

Margaret Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Symbol of Our Faith**

Eight Beatitudes

Rev. Bernie

**Hymn**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 206, vs. 1

## The Ninth Day of Christmas: *Nine Ladies Dancing...*

**Scripture**

Galatians 5:22-23a

Phil Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Symbol of Our Faith**

Fruits of the Spirit

Rev. Bernie

**Hymn**

*Lord of the Dance*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 261, vs. 1



# The Tenth Day of Christmas: *Ten Lords A-Leapin'...*

## Scripture

Matthew 5:17-19

Margaret Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Symbol of Our Faith

Ten Commandments

Rev. Bernie

## Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 230, vs. 3

# The Eleventh Day of Christmas: *Eleven Pipers Piping...*

## Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

Phil Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Symbol of Our Faith

First Eleven Faithful Apostles

## Hymn

*Go, Make of All Disciples*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 571, vs. 1

# The Twelfth Day of Christmas: *Twelve Drummers Drumming...*

## Scripture

Ephesians 4:25

Margaret Sprunger

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Symbol of Our Faith

The Twelve Points of the Apostles' Creed

Rev. Bernie

**\*Affirming Our Faith**

The Apostles' Creed  
The United Methodist Hymnal 881

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.

**\*Hymn**

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 251, vs. 1 & 2

## Departing to Serve

**Call to Action**

Natalie Cooper

*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**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 251, vs. 3

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

Rev. Bernie

**\*Postlude**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THANK YOU, ST. JOHN'S

Heartfelt thanks so out to St. John's, from The Staff, for their generous gift of the love offering we received. The show of appreciation we receive all year makes it a great place to work for all of you.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will be closed Monday, January 2. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 3 at 9 a.m.

**The Shepherd's Market** will be closed until Tuesday, January 3 when regular shopping hours will resume at 8 a.m.

## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

These poinsettia dedications were omitted from the list, in memory of:  
Dorothy and Thomas Damberg, Olivia Williams, Virginia Barry *by Richard and Marilyn Damberg.*  
Kaitlin and Riley Hunt *by Kathy Vandiver.*

## GROCERY BAG SUNDAY JANUARY 8

Due to the holidays, **Grocery Bag Sunday will be on January 8.** If you are able, please add some items to your buggy and bring them back with you to worship on the 8th. Some items we are running low on are jelly, mac & cheese, crackers, and drinks other than water.

## STAR WORDS FOR 2023

On **Epiphany Sunday, January 8**, each person will be offered a special word for the year printed on a star. These words are a symbol of the star the magi followed on their way to baby Jesus. Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. Following in the footsteps of the magi, we are invited to follow our individual star and open our hearts and minds to see where it takes us in 2023. May we use these star words as reminders of the Christmas star we invite into our lives so that we might be led toward Jesus Christ.

## FUN BY THE FIRE JANUARY 8

All Children, Youth, their Families and Family Ministry Volunteers are invited to come hang out, play games, eat, and meet Connor Dean, our new interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at **Fun by the Fire on January 8 from 5pm-7pm.** Weather permitting, our bonfire will be outside on the St. John's grounds. Dress in warm clothes, come hungry, and bring a chair. Invite your friends and families!

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Want to get your finances in order in 2023? Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is being offered at St. John's on **Tuesday evenings from 6 – 8 pm beginning January 17**, in the Library. The cost of the course is \$40, scholarships are available; checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with FPU in the memo line. If you have any questions contact Jill Brant, Class Coordinator, at [jbrant96518@gmail.com](mailto:jbrant96518@gmail.com) or (985) 503-4246. You may register online at [stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023) or fill out a form found in the Narthex. The class is limited to 15 participants so register soon so you don't miss out on this great opportunity!

## DISCIPLE I NEW TESTAMENT

A 12-session Bible study that covers the entire New Testament will begin on **Monday, January 23 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. The class will be facilitated by Guy Johnson, Danielle Blackwood, and Rhonda Tucker. Registration is online ([stjohnsbr.org/disciple-jan-23](http://stjohnsbr.org/disciple-jan-23)) or by form in the Narthex. The cost of the study book is \$18. A nursery is available on request, call the church office (225-766-4594).

# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*

## Monday, January 2

OFFICE CLOSED

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## Tuesday, January 3

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC\**

9:30 a.m. UWF Ruth Circle, *Parlor*

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## Wednesday, January 4

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

## Thursday, January 5

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*

## Friday, January 6

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*

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

## Saturday, January 7

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC*

## Sunday, January 8

### GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, *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*

5:00 p.m. Fun By the Fire, *FLC & Back Yard*

*\*Family Life Center*