

Joy TO THE WORLD

A service of song, scripture, and celebration, rejoicing in the good news that Christ has come and God's love is alive in the world!

Make A Difference This Week

January 4 is Grocery Bag Sunday. Take a reusable yellow grocery bag home today and return it next Sunday with groceries and household items for the The Shepherd's Market.

Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing prayers@stjohnsbr.org or visiting 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 **Playground** is a child-friendly space at the front of the sanctuary where children and their families are welcome to participate in worship in a way that works for them.
- 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 - 12th grade from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

The flowers on the altar are given by Rev. Marie Williams in honor of her children, their spouses, and her grandchildren.

Todays ushers are **Phil and Jill Slicker**,

CHECK-IN &
PRAYER REQUESTS
VIA QR CODE



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

End-of-Year Gifts Deadline, December 31

In order for gifts to be eligible for inclusion on 2025 tax returns, they must be postmarked by December 31. Thank you for your generosity all year!

Holiday Closure

The church office will be closed December 31, 2025–January 2, 2026, and will reopen on January 3. The Shepherd's Market will currently closed and will reopen for shopping on Monday, January 5.

Epiphany Sunday & Star Words, Sunday, January 4

Rev. Rosmery LaFontaine will bring the message as worshipers receive a Star Word to guide prayer and reflection throughout the year.

Pastor Pop-Up, Wednesday, January 7

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! The first Pop Up will be January 7, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., at Light House Coffee (257 Lee Dr.). Everyone is welcome!

The Chosen Watch Parties, Wednesdays beginning January 7

Join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. to watch *The Chosen: Season 1*, a TV series about the life of Jesus. Watching the full season is encouraged, but all are welcome at any time. For more information contact Rhonda at parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com.

Weekly Youth Group starts January 11!

Our Youth (6th-12th grades) will be meeting every Sunday, 5:00–7:00 p.m., starting January 11 for faith, food, community and fun! Dinner provided.

Associ-Eights Is Returning, Spring 2026!

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

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. FLC
Last Names M-Z may bring snacks on January 4

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide

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 Cafe *fresh fruit: Teachers*

4:00 p.m. Music Makers (K-8th 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

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET

A client choice food pantry

Mondays 3:30 p.m. FLC
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m. FLC
shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

CONTACT

stjohnsbr.org/contact-us



welcome

10:00 AM Worship Celebration

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



CHECK IN
& PRAYER
REQUESTS

Gathering Music

Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

We Sing Together*

Joy to the World

U.M. Hymnal #246 v 1

We Sing Together*

Angels From the Realms of Glory

U.M. Hymnal #220 v 1

Invitation to Worship*

Rev. Larry Norman

Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Sing Together*

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

U.M. Hymnal #224 v 1

We Share Signs of Joy & Peace*

We Light the Christ Candle*

Today we light again the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, the light that guided us through waiting and watching.
(*Advent Candles are lit.*)

And now, we light the Christ candle.

For when the world was still broken, God made room among us - not in power, but in love made flesh.

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

(*The Christ Candle is lit*)

As we light these candles together, let us proclaim:

Christ is born! Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #246 v 2

Joy to the World

The Children's Moment

Shawn Walker

Carol & Hymn Sing-a-long

By Request

We invite you to call out requests for your favorite hymns.

We Read the Word*

Natalie Cooper

Matthew 2:13-23

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.

Carol & Hymn Sing-a-long

By Request

We invite you to call out requests for your favorite hymns.

Meditation

Natalie Cooper

Carol & Hymn Sing-a-long

By Request

We invite you to call out requests for your favorite hymns.

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 to give online.



GIVING

We Sing Together*

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*

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:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation is seated as we recall the Last Supper, concluding with:

...as a living sacrifice, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

Rev. Larry Norman

O God, we thank you for this mystery that is Christmas.

We are filled with joy, for we have heard the good news.

We are filled with love, for we have tasted

the signs of God's grace.

We are filled with hope, for the angels still sing, and there is a Light for us to follow.

In the name of the One who brings peace to our souls. Amen.

We Receive This Week's Call To Action

Natalie Cooper

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #224 v 2 & 31

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

We Share in a Blessing*

Natalie Cooper

We Go Out into the World*

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