



CALLED  ***COMMUNITY***

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2023
10 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION
All Are Welcome

Today is Commitment Sunday, which is the culmination of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, "Called to Community." We celebrate the gifts that we all contribute and the varied ways we are stewards to each other and to the broader communities that St. John's serves.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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



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.

OUR CONTACT INFO

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

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Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

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. If you are feeling cold, shawls are available in a basket in front of the media desk in the back of the sanctuary. 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
Lead Pastor
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Connor Dean
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
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Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

WELCOME TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Prelude *I Woke Up This Morning* Men's Chorus

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit *Majesty* Men's Chorus

***Call to Worship** Sandra Kuykendall

Delight, Children of God!

With joy and thanksgiving, come before the Lord.

**We are delighted to be here together,
to worship as a family, and to be united
in a common mission and vision.**

We gather in worship to celebrate and answer our call to community.

**We celebrate the love that we have for one another,
the support that we give to one another, and
the journey we are on, united by God's grace.**

We come together this day to reaffirm our commitments
to God's work here at St. John's United Methodist Church.

**We delight in the pledges we are making
and the future we are creating
that will enable our community to thrive.**

We join our hearts and our spirits today as one body.

We are here! We are joyful! We are united!

Let us worship the God who loves when we delight in giving.

We come now to worship our God.

***Hymn of Praise**

A Charge to Keep I Have

The United Methodist Hymnal 413, vs. 1 - 3

***Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ**

Opening Prayer

John Toney

Life-giving Lord,

**Thank you for your enduring love,
your limitless mercy, and your amazing grace.**

**Open our hearts and minds as we seek your will for
our church, our community, and ourselves.**

**Help us to move forward in faith,
so that we may grow in love and generosity.**

**Guide us to invest in others, to value diversity, and to
appreciate the variety that makes life interesting
and makes friendships vibrant.**

**Fill us with your Spirit, that it may guide us in worship
and all that we do.**

Amen.

Song of Response

Here I Am, Lord

The United Methodist Hymnal 593, refrain

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Children's Moment

Connor Dean

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our
redeemer. Amen.**

The Good News

Pastor Lane

Selected verses from Acts Chapter 18
"Invest in the Future"

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

*Hymn of Commitment

What Gift Can We Bring

The United Methodist Hymnal 87, vs. 1 - 4

*Declaration of Faith

Pastor Lane, Sandra Kuykendall
and John Toney

The prophet Jeremiah tells us that when we
help our community thrive, we, too, will thrive.

**We declare that we are a community that seeks the well-being
of our neighbors.**

God's generous abundance has shown us
that there is always enough.

We declare that we are a community of generosity.

When things are tight, and the future seems uncertain,
We declare that we are a community open to possibility.

Jesus calls us to invest in our future.
**We declare that we are a community that plants shade trees
for future generations to sit under.**

The Spirit sends us out to transform the world, beginning with our own
neighborhood.
**We declare that we are a community called to build, plant,
and to serve.**

God's love shapes us and molds us to share from our own blessings.
We declare that we are a community overflowing with gifts.

As those called to community here at St. John's United Methodist
Church, we live out that call through our prayers, our presence, our
gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything, God may be
glorified through Jesus Christ.

**We declare that we are a community united in God's mission
and vision for St. John's.**

***Act of Commitment**

*We answer our call to community, and join in God's life-giving work
at St. John's as we bring our 2024 pledges forward.*

*Pledges can also be made online at
stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024*

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

It Is Well With My Soul
Offertory: Men's Chorus

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online by scanning the QR Code
or navigate to 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!**

Prayers for the Community

Pastor Lane

The Lord's Prayer

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS

Call to Action

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2153, vs. 1 - 4

*Benediction

Pastor Lane

May we remember that just as you call us,
O God, so too, you send us.

**As we are called to this place -
to give, build, and serve -**

**we are now sent out into the community,
to proclaim your Word with our lives,
to engage your Word with our minds and hearts, and
to live your Word with our whole selves.**

We pray for the well-being of our community and your blessings
on the fellowship and meal we are about to share.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Postlude

*The end of worship.
The beginning of service.*

WORSHIP NOTES

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Karen Holton in memory of her parents, Walt and Jan Silver, and in honor of her grandson, Wyatt.

The rosebud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of William Arthur Beem.

William was born on October 24 and is the son of Alex and Madeline Blackwood Beem. William is the grandson of Brian and Danielle Blackwood.

GREETERS AND USHERS

Greeters and ushers for today's worship service are Jackie Creed, Maureen Robertson, and Fred and Becky Shearer.

Worship & Music

THANK YOU, MEN'S CHORUS

We want to express our gratitude to all who are participating in today's men's chorus and for the leadership of Dr. Steve Rushing and support of Dr. Terry Byars.

POTLUCK FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY

Today is Commitment Sunday, which is the culmination of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, "Called to Community." Our Commitment Sunday celebration continues after worship with a potluck luncheon. Everyone is invited to join us for the meal, whether you were able to bring a dish or not. All are welcome!

TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS RESUMES

Join us for Music Makers this afternoon from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. as we prepare for Advent & Christmas! If you have a child (or children) in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade, bring them to Music Makers this afternoon and on the first three Sundays of the month so they can explore their faith through music.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

On **Sunday, November 5**, we will be observing All Saints' Day in worship. During the service, we will remember and give thanks for those who have passed away since the previous November 1, by reading their names and lighting a candle, giving thanks for their lives and good witness. If you have a loved one who has died in the past year that you would like us to name aloud in those services, **please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) with their name by October 30.**

"FALL BACK" NEXT SUNDAY AND BACK TO TWO SERVICES

Next Sunday, November 5, at 2 a.m. will be time to set the clocks back to Standard Time. Don't forget! We will resume our regular Sunday schedule, as well, with worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m., and Coffee Time and Sunday School between services.

UPCOMING WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

We are excited to share that Natalie Cooper, Certified Lay Servant, will be preaching on Sunday, November 12. Her guiding scripture comes from the Revised Common Lectionary gospel reading for that day, Matthew 25:1-13. Come support Natalie as she preaches her first sermon at St. John's.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

WOULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL?

The St. John's Writer's Group is curating a publication to enrich our Advent journey this year, and we invite anyone in our congregation to submit a reflection. Our theme for the year is "The Gift of Many Names," to follow with our Advent worship series, but you are encouraged to share anything from the heart related to Advent or Christmas. For more information, please email silvermari@gmail.com. Submissions are due to Mari no later than Friday, November 3.

Servanthood

THANK YOU FALL FEST

Many, many thanks to all who helped make this Fall Fest 2023 such a rousing success - thank you to everyone who supported this event by praying, donating, volunteering, or participating. We hosted over 200 members of our community and our church family for food, fun, and fall festivities.

TRUNK OR TREAT WINNER

Did you know there was a person hidden underneath all of that bamboo? It was Bamboo Man, aka Darren Stubbs, who won the prize for Best Trunk!

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

After worship, don't forget to pick up a yellow bag to fill with grocery items to help fill the shelves at The Shepherd's Market. Some items we need are: snacks, cereal, jelly, pasta, canned meat, canned fruit, whole corn (not creamed, please), and drinks.

HALLOWEEN IN THE PANTRY

Shepherd's Market volunteers are invited to come in costume or festive Halloween attire on Tuesday, October 31.

HELP MAKE NEW CHRISMON TREE ORNAMENTS!

The United Women in Faith are refurbishing the Chrismon ornaments which we have been using since the mid 1980's. As you may know our sanctuary tree is decorated with gold and white ornaments called Christ monograms or Chrismons ([Christ](#) and [Monograms](#)).

We will have an informational and instructional workshop on **Wednesday, November 1**, meeting in the library from 9 - 11 a.m. Kits will be provided with all the supplies you need to make an ornament. If you are unable to meet with us and want to create an ornament, please see Pat Lively for kits to make counted-cross stitch ornaments and/or Joyce Perry for kits to make beaded ornaments.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER!

No group or individual has signed up for snacks for November or December. Therefore, I am calling on those who would rather just bring something or two without having to sign up. Surprise us, folks! You can do it - beginning November 5. Thanking you in advance!

COMMUNION COMPANIONS

Our Communion Companions will have a meeting on **Sunday, November 12 at 4:30 p.m.** to offer support and encouragement to one another in this caring ministry role. Our Communion Companions make monthly visits to our church members who are home-centered or facility-centered to offer Holy Communion and fellowship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

MEALS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

Help us provide meals for the St. John's youth group for their evening fellowship on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month**. Students meet from 6-8 p.m.; meals should be delivered between 5:45 - 6 p.m. to the Admin Building. The meal should include an entree, side dish, and dessert for 8-10 people. You are welcome to bring a home-cooked meal or order fast food (pizza, chicken fingers, tacos, etc.). We will have drinks, plates, and cutlery. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals.



Youth & Children's Ministries

FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

Christ Here And Other Spaces

We will meet, next month, for C.H.A.O.S. on **Sunday, November 26 from 4- 6 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. The lesson will focus on how we can make and prepare spaces for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us. To accompany this lesson, we will work on Chrismons (Christian ornaments) with guidance from some of the members of the St. John's United Women in Faith. Dinner will be included. We hope to see you all there.

SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY SERIES - BIBLICAL LAMENT

The study series we are following for Sunday School from now until Advent is called "Biblical Lament." This series is designed to help teenagers navigate complex feelings and experiences by finding Biblical examples of the same feelings and experiences. The series covers topics such as sadness, fear, joy, surprise, anger, and even issues facing LGBTQ youth.

YOUTH GROUP

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

Youth Halloween Party

We are hosting a Halloween Party on **Sunday, October 29 from 4-6 p.m.** in the St. John's FLC. Other UMC youth groups in the greater Baton Rouge area have been invited to join in on the fun, too!

We will play some halloween-themed games and have a costume contest. (Students, please use discretion for costumes, nothing too scary or inappropriate.)

Snacks: Students with last names starting with A-K should bring a salty/savory snack to share. Students with last names starting with L-Z should bring a sweet snack to share. Snacks can be halloween-themed or simply cookies/chips. Drinks, plates, napkins, and plastic cutlery will be provided.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, October 29

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Potluck Luncheon, FLC
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Halloween Party, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, October 30

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, October 31

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, November 1

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Chrismon Workshop, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, November 2

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

Friday, November 3

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Saturday, November 4

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center