



Sunday, December 25, 2022 - 10 a.m.

Carols, Communion, and Cookies

# Merry Christmas

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](http://STJOHNSBR.ORG) | [@STJOHNSBR](https://twitter.com/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  
*Lead Pastor*  
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
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Dr. Steve Rushing  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
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Bill Putzig  
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez  
*Nursery Worker*  
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# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 25, 2022

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

## Gathering With The Angels

### Prelude

W. A. Mozart

*Alleluia*

Dr. Penny Kemler, flute  
Dr. Terry Byars, organ

### Words of Grace and Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

### \*Caroling

*Joy to the World*

The United Methodist Hymnal 246, vs. 1

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

The United Methodist Hymnal 220, vs. 1

### \*Call to Worship

Bobbi Marino

*The Work of Christmas*

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,

**When the star in the sky is gone,**

When the kings and princes are home,

**When the shepherds are back with their flock,**

The work of Christmas begins:

**To find the lost,**

To heal the broken,

**To feed the hungry,**

To release the prisoner,

**To rebuild the nations,**

To bring peace among people,

**To make music in the heart.**

### \*Caroling

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

The United Methodist Hymnal 224, vs. 1

*What Child Is this*

The United Methodist Hymnal 219, vs. 1

## Prayers Around the Advent Wreath

The Csaszar Family

God of light and shadow, mystery and miracle,  
we celebrate your birth in our lives.

Your coming at Christmas makes the *impossible* POSSIBLE!

You are making all things new!

Prepare our hearts to receive your precious gift of love.

God of hope, guide us as we wait and watch for signs of your promise  
in our lives and in the world.

**Fill us with your spirit of hope.**

*The Candle of Hope is lit.*

God of love, open us to the love you bring to the world.

**Fill us with your spirit of love.**

*The Candle of Love is lit.*

God of joy, give us hearts and minds filled with the joy of your  
liberating message.

**Fill us with your spirit of joy.**

*The Candle of Joy is lit.*

God of peace, help us to be a part of the harmony you desire  
for all creation.

**Fill us with your spirit of peace.**

*The Candle of Peace is lit.*

**Source of all light, send your Son Jesus Christ to shine in our  
bleak world. Help us prepare our hearts to receive the One who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

## Candle Response Song

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

The United Methodist Hymnal 234, vs. 6

## Christmas Trivia

Pastor Lane

# Emmanuel - God With Us

## First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Julian Hartman

## Caroling

*Away in a Manger*

The United Methodist Hymnal 217, vs. 1 & 2

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

The United Methodist Hymnal 230, vs. 1

Blessing of the Toys

Caroling

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 240, vs. 1  
*Angels We Have Heard On High*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 238, vs. 1

The Christmas Story

Video

“Christmas According to Kids”

Christmas Trivia

Pastor Lane

\*Caroling

*The First Noel*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs. 1

\*Gospel Reading

Bobbi Marino

Selected verses from John Chapter 1

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light  
of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not  
overtake it.**

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a  
witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

**He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through  
him, yet the world did not know him.**

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power  
to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of  
the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.**

\*Response to the Word

*The First Noel*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 245, refrain only

# Presenting Our Gifts

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*I Saw Three Ships*

Dr. Steven Rushing, baritone

*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!**

# Celebrating at God's Table

## Sharing In Holy Communion

*Everyone is invited and welcome to share in Holy Communion.*

*Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction"  
with only the pastor and servers touching the elements, or,  
if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.*

*Our communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

*A gluten-free option is also available.*

*You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

*If mobility is a concern, please let an usher know and someone will bring  
communion elements to you.*

## Prayer After Communion

Bobbi Marino

**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.**

## Christmas Trivia

Pastor Lane

# DEPARTING

## *With Purpose*

### **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**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 251, vs. 1 - 3

### **\*Benediction and Sending Forth**

### **\*Postlude**

*Join us for Cookies, Coffee, and Cocoa in the Narthex following the service.*

*Poinsettias may be taken home after the Worship Service.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

**The church office** will be closed Monday, December 26. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, December 27 at 9 a.m.

The church office will be closed Friday, December 30 and 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.

### **GROCERY BAG SUNDAY JANUARY 8**

Due to the holidays, Grocery Bag Sunday will happen 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.

### **2023 FLOWER CHART**

The 2023 Flower Chart is up in the hallway of the Admin/Education Building. Almost the whole year is available to select a Sunday to honor or remember someone by putting flowers on the altar. Heroman's on Staring Lane has a key to the Sanctuary and will deliver your flowers to the church. Call the office for more information.



# COMING in the New Year

## LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Many of us know the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” but did you know that each verse refers to a different teaching of church doctrine? The “Partridge” refers to Jesus Christ, who died on a tree, and the “True Love” is God, our Creator, the giver of life and every good gift. **Join us for a single service at 10:00 a.m. on January 1** for a lively service of *Lessons and Carols for the Twelve Days of Christmas*. Don’t worry, we’ll only sing the song once, but once you’ve heard the meaning behind this familiar carol, it will bring a whole new appreciation to the song.

## 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. *If you are unable to worship in person with us on January 8 and would like to receive a Star Word, please contact Lynn Cooper (225-766-4594; office@stjohnsbr.org) in the church office to arrange a pick up.*

## 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!

## UWF FREE WATERCOLOR ART WORKSHOP

St John’s UWF (formerly UMW) will be offering a free workshop in watercolor painting for teen and adult members of St. John’s or members of their families, on consecutive Saturdays beginning **Saturday, January 14 from 9 - 11 a.m.** Paints and paper sufficient for working on projects in class will be provided. The 6-lesson workshop will be held in Classroom E of the Family Life Center. Due to space restrictions we must limit enrollment to 12 individuals. Contact Marie Varnes to enroll in the class (by text: 225-252-8936).

## 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).

