

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

# OPENING DOORS BATON ROUGE

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



*A LA Non-profit Corp.*

Sunday September 19, 2021

**11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

- Matthew 25:40

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.

## OUR CONTACT INFO

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

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

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's was founded in 1961 by 60 charter members. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in August 1962, and it was dedicated Easter Sunday 1963. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2021. Give God the Glory!

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. In light of the Governor's statewide mask mandate, St. John's has returned to requiring all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while in worship and in small group gatherings.

We look forward to the day when we can return to maskless gatherings, until then, let us pray for our world, country, state, parish, and each other.

Grace & Peace

*The Covid-19 Task Force*

## 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. As a safety precaution, masks are required in the Prayground for everyone ages 2 and older. If you or your child needs a mask, some are available in the Prayground. More details about the Prayground may be found in the pew insert and 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 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 3 through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

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

# OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## Introit

## \*Call to Worship

Betty Schroeder

Family of faith, we gather in the spirit of love for our neighbor.  
We tune our minds and hearts to the many needs around us, to those  
in our community who experience the love of God through us.

**In this tuning, we can create harmony.**

We turn our attention to those who need assistance in getting enough  
food for their families, school supplies and uniforms for their children.

**In this turning, we can create equality.**

We offer our compassion to families struggling to find a solid foothold  
in a world filled with many overwhelming obstacles and challenges.

**In this offering, we can create strength.**

We share and rejoice in the creative and supportive enrichment of  
the lives of children and families who often find themselves on the  
margins of society.

**In this sharing, we can create unity.**

God is with us.

**Come, let us worship our mighty God who holds all people  
in his hands.**

by Betty Schroeder

## \*Hymn of Praise

*The Servant Song*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 1-4

## Opening Doors Reflection

Sandra Kuykendall, Joyce Perry

Who We Are  
A Look Back

# OPENING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

## Children's Moment

Natalie Cooper

## Opening Doors Reflection

Theresa Sandifer

The Shepherd's Market

**Prayer for Illumination**

Jan Hughes

**God of love and grace,  
we come in humility to seek your will as we strive to share  
your love with our neighbors.  
Open our hearts wide with compassion and generosity.  
Open our eyes to the wonderful possibilities that,  
with your help, lie within our reach.  
Fill us to the brim with the love that Jesus showed  
to all those he met.  
Help us follow his example of extending his hand  
to the poor, the hurting, and the marginalized.  
Continue to remind us that the cross of Jesus  
makes invisible the lines that divide us.  
In the name of the loving Christ we pray. Amen.**

by Betty Schroeder

**\*Scripture**

Matthew 25:31-40

Jan Hughes

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

**Opening Doors Reflection**

Betty Schroeder, Danielle Blackwood  
The Charlie Thomas Memorial Head Start Center

## **OPENING OUR LIVES**

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*Take My Life and Let It Be*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 399

**Opening Doors Reflection**

Families in Transition (FIT), ALICE Grant

Carol Gordon

**\*United Methodist Social Creed Litany**

Bobbi Marino

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,  
calls us by grace  
**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,  
that we may be one  
in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day  
God cares for the integrity of creation,  
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,  
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.  
**And so shall we.**

Today is the day

God embraces all hues of humanity,  
delights in diversity and difference,  
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day

God cries with the masses of starving people,  
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,  
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day

God deplores violence in our homes and streets,  
rebukes the world's warring madness,  
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

**And so shall we.**

Today is the day

God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,  
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,  
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

**And so shall we.**

**Today is the day**

**God brings good news to the poor,  
proclaims release to the captives,  
gives sight to the blind, and  
sets the oppressed free.**

**And so shall we.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

**Opening Doors Reflection**

Financial Literacy, The Gardere Initiative

Amy Richardson

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Cindy Popadic

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

*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 him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

# OPENING THE DOORS TO SERVE

## Call to Action

### \*Hymn of Discipleship

*A Charge to Keep I Have*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 413

### \*Benediction

Pastor Lane

### \*Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given by Marilyn and Richard Damberg  
and are dedicated to past and present Opening Doors members  
who have brought glory to God through their works.*

*The rosebud on the altar is to celebrate the birth of Jack Grant Litke-Byars  
on Friday. Baby Jack is the first grandchild of proud grandpa Terry Byars.*

*Ushers and greeters for today's services are Bonnie Byland,  
Sandra Kuykendall, Bobbi Marino, and Dianna Underhill.*

*To join a livestream of worship, share today's service or watch  
previous worship services, visit [stjohnsbr.org/live](http://stjohnsbr.org/live).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 60th Anniversary Pictorial Directory

Photo appointments are being made for **Tuesday, October 12**, and **Wednesday, October 13**. You may make them today in the Narthex or anytime online at <http://bit.ly/stjohns60photo>. Contact Rhonda Tucker at 225-270-2193 if you have a problem.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Appointments made in September are not carried over, you must make a new appointment.

## Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation Fund

Throughout this our 60th Anniversary year we have been working toward the goal of announcing plans for renovating the church kitchen. Last Sunday in a report from Susan Lambert, chair of the renovation committee, we have an estimate for the project of \$200,000. You will be receiving information today on how you can help us reach our goal. We hope you will join us in making this happen.

## 60th Anniversary Cookbooks

Pre-ordered cookbooks are available for pickup in the church office; additional copies are available for \$20 each. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks go toward the kitchen renovation.

## Hurricane Ida Mission Day

St. John's will head to Destrehan on **Saturday, September 25**, to help St. Charles UMC distribute food and cleaning supplies to those recovering from Hurricane Ida. If you would like to take part in this mission please call or text Rev. Larry Norman at 225-933-1881 by September 22. Learn more about this one-day mission (7 a.m. to 5:30 pm.) in our newsletters.

## Hurricane Ida Food Drive

We are joining forces with other UMC's to collect supplies and food for victims of Hurricane Ida. We are collecting the following items: beans, bottled water, tuna, energy bars, Gatorade/Powerade, granola bars, peanut butter, and rice. There is a basket in the narthex and blue tub in the FLC to collect your donations.

## Hurricane Ida Supplies Delivery

If you have a truck and or a trailer and are willing to help transport Hurricane Ida relief supplies from Broadmoor UMC down to churches in south Louisiana please contact Patricia Poulter, Broadmoor UMC, at 225-229-0865 to schedule your pick up time.

## Jesus In the Gospels

Part two of Jesus In the Gospels Bible study, led by Guy Johnson, will begin on **Monday, September 20**. The morning session will be held at 10 a.m. and the Monday evening session will be held at 6 p.m. in the library. Newcomers are welcome to join. Contact the church office to reserve the 2 books.

## United Methodist Women

St. John's United Methodist Women will hold their General Meeting **today** at 3 p.m. in the FLC. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.



**ST. JOHN'S**

United Methodist Church

---

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*