



Sunday, January 23, 2022

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and **knit together** by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

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

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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.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. Following guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health regarding indoor activities and the virulence of the Omicron variant, we recommend wearing a high quality mask during our worship services.

We look forward to the day when COVID will no longer be a part of our daily lives, 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 need a mask, some are available in the Prayground. 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 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.

BINDING CLOSE TO GOD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

***Hymn of Praise**

Together We Serve
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2175

***Call to Worship**

Pam Toney

God of love and unity, we gather here as many individuals, persons of various talents, interests and allegiances.

Merciful God, bind us into one.

Individually we face many challenges in the world today, but we come in humility to seek to work and overcome together.

Merciful God, bind us into one.

We ask that you use us as threads woven together in such a way that we become a beautiful and productive work of art.

Merciful God, bind us into one.

We seek that you grant us the grace of honest listening, the light of understanding, and the generosity of acceptance.

Merciful God, bind us into one.

We pray through the fire of love and the breath of peace that the beauty of your presence might be revealed in the tapestry we are creating.

Merciful God bind us into one. Amen.

written by Betty Schroeder

***Response Song**

Bind Us Together
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2226

WOVEN IN THE WORD

Litany for Unity

Liz McDonald

Knitted Together for God's Good Work
2020-21 UMW Program Book

Merciful and Gracious God, who knows the sparrow and the lily by name, remind us today that you know each of us by name.

**Assure us that we are your precious children,
given freedom as whole persons in Christ.**

Break through our fears, our discouragement, our hesitations.

**Fill us with the Spirit that we may show courage,
persistence, and joy in the days ahead.**

Here, we honor the gifts you have given us, Eternal Creator.

**Build us into your beloved community. Bless us
with your wisdom that we may be empowered to share
the good news of your salvation.**

Though each of us is but one strand in the tapestry of your world,

**Knit us together into the beautiful body of Christ,
to share with the world, so that all may know your mercy
and grace. Bind us together, Lord. Amen.**

Children's Moment

Rhonda Tucker

UMW Purpose and Highlights

Joyce Robinson, Beth Forester

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

UMW Special Mission Recognition

Pat Lively, Beth Forester

Each year the UMW recognizes members of St. John's who exemplify our motto of "Faith, Love, and Hope in Action" with a Special Mission Recognition Pin which honors the recipient with a monetary gift to mission in his/her name.

Introduction of Speaker

Kathleen Adams

Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-6, 15-16

Kathleen Adams

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"We Are One"

Brenda Thomas-Nero

RESPONDING IN LOVE

***Hymn of Faith**

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2223, vs. 1, 4

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Lane

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Pat Cobb

Weave

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online at 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.**

KNIT TOGETHER WE DEPART

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**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
The United Methodist Hymnal 557, vs. 1, 2, 4

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

WORSHIP NOTES

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to United Methodist Women past, present, and future.

Worship Stewards

UMW members assisting in worship include Joyce Perry and Tommie Reinhardt, ushers, and Liz McDonald, greeter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Sunday School Classes Move to Zoom

Out of an abundance of caution, our Children's Sunday School classes (K-5th grades) are meeting virtually. The Zoom link and information was sent directly to families. Please contact our teachers directly for additional information or if you did not receive the link.

K-2nd Grade Sunday School - Zoom on Sundays at 1pm. Contact Marilyn Damberg for Zoom information: marilyndamberg@mac.com; 225-335-3321 (Cell)

3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom on Sundays at 10am. Contact Natalie Cooper for Zoom information: natalie@piaooflouisiana.com; 225-241-1605 (Cell)

Church Council Meeting

The combined 2021 and 2022 Church Council will meet **Thursday, January 27 at 6 p.m.** One of the primary tasks will be approving the 2022 Budget. Everyone is invited to attend.

2022 Church Leaders and Officers Installation and Blessing

On **Sunday, January 30** we will offer a blessing to those who have been chosen to serve in leadership and as members of our boards and committees of the church for 2022.

#RelationshipGoals Worship Series

Our current series resumes **Sunday, January 30**, with the theme of cultivating empathy.

New Adult Sunday School

Due to the current COVID-19 surge, we are postponing the start of the new Sunday School class to the first Sunday in February. It will begin on **February 6 at 9:45 a.m.** and is open to adults of all ages. If you want to know more about this exciting new opportunity or want to get on the email list for the class, please contact Jami Prince (thecastle2018@gmail.com) or Bobbi Marino (bobbimarino@hotmail.com).

Seeking Lent Devotional Submissions

The St. John's Writers' Group is creating a 2022 Lent devotional, and we are seeking submissions. Our theme is *The Long & Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough*. The devotional will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and continue through Easter Sunday April 17, so we have plenty of pages to fill. The completed devotionals will be available by late February, and Sunday School classes can consider using it as their curriculum during Lent. A discussion guide and reflection questions based on the weekly lectionary reading used during worship will be included. Each submission should be around 300 words plus a Scripture and prayer. **Our deadline for submissions is Friday February 4.** Find out more or send your submissions by email to Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com.

Snacks for Coffee Time

In order for Coffee Time to include snacks, we are in need of food donations! In an effort to make this easy for everyone, you do not need to sign up for a specific date. You may drop off individually-wrapped snacks (sweet or salty) in the blue tub in the Narthex on Sundays or bring them to the church office Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Our staff will set out the snacks you provide on Sunday morning. We are hoping this will make it easier for folks to participate. Don't forget we encourage you to bring your own coffee mug to limit the use of disposable cups.

GriefShare Support Group

We are beginning a new session of GriefShare **Thursday, February 17 at 6 p.m.** in the Parlor. If you are hurting over the loss of a loved one and all you can see is your grief, it's easy to lose sight of God. GriefShare is a 13-week grief recovery program that will help you on your journey through the grief. If you are interested, please register by going to the GriefShare website griefshare.org entering 70810 in the postal code block and choosing St. John's.

Media Desk Volunteers Needed

Where are our video and audio producers and future producers? We need you to help with our media and live streaming on Sundays at 8:30 and 11 a.m. No experience necessary, but if you have some, bring it! Senior adults, high school seniors, and everyone in between with the time and desire to learn and help are welcome. We'll rotate volunteers on various Sundays and services as we are able. Join the Media Desk Volunteers! If you are willing to serve, email Ben at benbalsar@stjohnsbr.org.



United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

2022 Officers

Beth Forester - President
Joyce Robinson - Vice President
Liz McDonald - Secretary
Marie Varnes - Treasurer
Kathleen Adams - Immediate Past President
Pat Lively - Ruth Circle Leader
Lenni Stickles - Mary Martha Circle Leader

St. John's has two "circles" of United Methodist Women and these groups gather monthly in the church parlor. The Ruth Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The Mary Martha Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Our mission is to support local, state, national, and world-wide projects with women and children as our focus. We are always looking for women to join our efforts by contributing your time, talents, and financial support.

You may join one of the Circles or be a Friend of the UMW if attending meetings does not work into your schedule at this time.

Important Dates This Spring

February 12, 19, 26	Days for Girls Mission Work Days 9 a.m. in the FLC
March 10	General Meeting 3 p.m. in the Parlor
April 10	Easter Craft & Bake Sale between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. in the FLC