



Sunday, August 7, 2022, 11 a.m.

All Are Welcome

One of the metaphors Jesus uses to describe our relationship to Him and to one another is, "I am the vine and you are the branches." There are seven "I Am" statements made by Jesus in John's Gospel, and our Youth have been studying these passages all summer. Today, Evan Gager, our Summer Ministry Intern, will wrap up this summer Youth series with a message for all of us that without Christ in our lives, there is not much that we can accomplish.

Today is Back to School Spirit Sunday! We will offer prayers for those who are beginning a new school year and share a blessing with everyone to remind them of our connectedness to Christ and one another.

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 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

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. 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 Playground** 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 Playground 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 3 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
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator
cherylroubique@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leannDavis@stjohnsbr.org

Evan Gager
Summer Ministry Intern
evangager@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker
srodmez23@gmail.com

GATHERING WITH THE GREAT I AM

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

Prelude

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Evan Gager

Introit

***Call to Worship**

Grace Idikwu

Calling all children of the Living God:
the gospel is good news for every age and every stage of life.

**Let us worship together,
the young and the old.**

The good news is proclaimed in God's words,
and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

**Let us worship together,
every generation.**

We come together with different abilities and experiences,
learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

**Let us worship together,
with our family of faith.**

Jesus is the vine and we are his branches. In our worship,
witness, and service we grow and find connection with him.

**Let us worship together, glorifying God,
as we bear fruit and abide close to the true vine.**

***Hymn of Praise**

We Gather Together
The United Methodist Hymnal 131, vs. 1, 3

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Bible Presentation & Back to School Blessing

Natalie Cooper,
Marilyn Damberg, Beth Forester

Prayer for Illumination

Grace Idikwu

God of love,

**As we dig into your holy word,
plant us in the soil of your grace.**

**Nurture us with the strength of Christ,
the vine of everlasting life.**

**Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,
which flows through us today and all days.**

**Abide in us, that we may abide in you
and live in your love.**

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Scripture**

Grace Idikwu

John 15:1-5

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

Evan Gager

“Be the Branches”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

***Hymn of Faith**

Spirit Song

The United Methodist Hymnal 347, vs. 1, 2

***Prayer of Confession**

Evan Gager

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches.
If we abide in Christ, Christ’s words will abide in us.
Ask for whatever you wish in Christ’s name
and it will be granted.

Lord,

**We confess that we have not lived up to the calling
you first whispered in our ears.**

We have gone astray.

We have been weeds of isolation

**and thorny vines that carry no seed,
choking our brothers and sisters of fruitfulness,
stealing their sunshine,**

allowing no rain to fall upon new seed.

**We are guilty of serving our own needs
rather than contributing to the whole.**

We are not connected to you.

We are not connected to one another.

**Forgive us, connect us,
graft us once again by your grace.**

Amen.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

There is good news,
Christ came in the flesh to abide with us.
God’s love still grows in this world!
In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.
Lord, You are the Vine, we are your branches!

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

Be Thou My Vision

Old Irish Melody

Violin: Evie Durham

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 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!**

BEING FED BY THE SPIRIT

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Rev. Marie

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Like trees, let us aspire to raise our hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the God of relationships!

We give our thanks and praise!

Holy God, you are the creator who gave us vines to climb, trees to lay down in the shade, and fields to run and play. You are the source of our life. All life flows from you and connects to the vine of your purpose – the Kingdom that is here and is coming fuller and fuller each day. And so, we join together as branches on the True Vine as we share in unending praise:

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

Heaven and Earth are filled with your glory!

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the Highest!

You, Jesus, flow as the Source, the Love. You are the Vine. We are the branches. You taught us that when we connect with you, we grow. When we are not connected, we wither and die. You know what it is to die. You are the seed that was planted.

Christ has died.

You give us the faith in your Church – a growing, living, plant of your creation.

Christ is risen.

You give us the hope in the Kingdom.

Christ will come again.

On the night in which Christ died for us, he took the bread. Wheat that had grown in the fields gathered and prepared. He gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, connecting each of them to the single loaf.

“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup - grapes from the vine, crushed, poured out freely for all to share. He gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, inviting them to be in the vine.

“Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the new relationship, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of brokenness. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Pour out your Holy Spirit here on your branches. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of the field and of the vine. Make this cup and this bread be for us the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus.

Connect our branches to your vine so that all may grow in your love and grace!

All this we pray in the name of the Vine-grower, the Vine, and the Spirit of life within.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing in Holy Communion

Everyone is 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 you are mobility challenged, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion elements to you.

Prayer after Receiving

Grace Idikwu

Keeper of the Vineyard,

When the taste of bread and juice fade from our lips, remind our hearts to abide in you. For it is with you that we find meaning. It is in you we have our hope.

As we depart from this time, may our lives bear fruit as we bring your abiding love into the world. Amen.

SENT OUT TO BEAR FRUIT

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**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The United Methodist Hymnal 138, vs. 1, 2, 6

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Terry Byars

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Bill and Jane Metcalf.

Grocery Bag Sunday

Please bring up the grocery bags during the singing of the final hymn.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in celebration of Curtis Vanover's birthday tomorrow. Happy birthday, Curtis!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Age-specific Sunday School classes for children and youth will resume at 9:45 am on August 7.

The start of a new school year is a great time to begin attending Sunday School. We have classes for adults of all ages, children and youth, and a nursery for our youngest ones.

Associ-eights is Back!

Associ-Eights, a short-term fellowship opportunity, is coming back this fall. Everyone is invited to participate! You will be assigned to a group of eight persons and might be with others you may not know well. Your group decides when and where to meet and what to do for at least three times between September and November. Forms are in the Narthex or you may sign up online at stjohnsbr.org/associ-eights by the deadline August 21.

United Women in Faith Mary Martha Circle

The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. The group will celebrate getting back together with an Ice Cream Social! All women are invited to attend.

Prime Timers Second Saturday Breakfast

Mark your calendars and join the Prime Timers **Saturday, August 13 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Drury Inn & Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave for a Dutch treat buffet breakfast for \$8.99. All of you in your prime are invited to join this small but interesting and fun group of other folks in their prime. They get up early and so can you!

St. John's Writers' Group

St. John's Writers' Group will meet on Zoom on **Sunday, August 14 at 4 p.m.** Do you enjoy writing? Are you interested in taking up writing and/or journaling as a spiritual practice? If so, we encourage you to attend this Sunday's Writer's Group Zoom. For more information email Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com

Supplies Needed for Days for Girls

Our Fall work sessions for Days for Girls will be September 10, 17, and 24. Before we meet we need help with the following: sewers to complete the bags (contact Joyce Perry at joyce.perry@cox.net or 225-763-6613 if you can help sew bags), colored wash cloths, girls colorful panties/briefs size 10, 12, and 14 (no animals or characters please), monetary donations for other supplies (you may write a check to St. John's UMC with Days for Girls in the memo line). Look for the blue tubs in the Narthex or hallway of Admin/Education Building to drop your donations.

Coffee Time Snacks Needed

We need to replenish our snacks for Coffee Time! If you are willing, you may bring individually wrapped snacks (sweet or salty) to the office during the week or on Sunday to the kitchen. You may also bring bought or home made snacks that can be separated and served on a plate or tray.