



**UPSIDE
DOWN
LIVING**
PARABLES WITH A PUNCH

Sunday, July 3, 2022

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

For centuries, stories and parables have challenged us, helping us make sense of our lives. In just three years, Jesus Christ, one history's greatest storytellers, captivated crowds and answered questions with stories. In this new series, we explore some of the parables of Jesus that literally turned ideas about life, love, and faith upside down and continue to forever change the world.

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

Evan Gager
Summer Ministry Intern
evangager@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

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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

GLORIFYING GOD

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

Prelude

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

Introit

*Hymn of Praise

The Servant Song

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 1, 2, 3, 4

*Call to Worship

Evan Gager

We are children of God:

Called to praise, and to bless, and to show mercy.

We are citizens and residents of a nation:

Called to care, and to respond, and to share our freedom.

We are members of a community:

**Called to know each other, and to accept each other,
and to welcome all.**

We belong to God, and through Christ, we belong to one another.

**So may our hearts be as one as we lift our voices in song,
and worship our Holy and Triune God.**

STORYTIME WITH JESUS

Children's Moment

Sarah Prevot

Prayer for Illumination

Evan Gager

Storytelling Jesus,

**Guide me as I keep learning how to live into the life you offer,
to stretch myself and grow in the atmosphere of your grace.**

**Keep my heart open to let the truths you taught hit home
to the places where I need them.**

Keep shaping and forming me into faithfulness.

In your name we pray. Amen.

*Scripture

Evan Gager

Luke 10:25-37

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Rev. Beradine Johnson

Parable of the Good Samaritan:

“One of Us”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn of Faith

The Gift of Love

The United Methodist Hymnal 408, vs. 1, 2, 3

*Declaration of Freedom

Rev. Marie Williams

*A Blended Reading from Galatians and
The Declaration of Independence*

Let's unite our voices on this Independence Day Weekend in this Declaration of Freedom.

**We plant our feet firmly within the freedom
That Christ has won for us
And will not let ourselves be caught again
In the shackles of slavery.**

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

**That all are created equal;
That all are called to freedom;
That all are held accountable;**

**That liberty does not provide an opening
for self-indulgence.**

**We are all endowed with certain inalienable rights,
Among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
To secure these rights, governments are instituted,
Drawing their just powers from the consent of the governed.
However, if we use our freedom to bite and devour one another,
Let us take heed that we are not consumed by one another.
We have been made free in order to serve each other in love.**

by Rev. John Winn, *For All Seasons*

*Gloria Patri

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Marie

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.

God of Mystery,

**We are constantly amazed
by the depth and breadth of your love.**

**Over and over again,
you turn our expectations upside down,
and still we don't understand
the radical nature of your grace.**

**We play by our own rules of justice,
even when it means excluding those
we are called to love and defend.**

**In our darkest moments,
we doubt if we are worthy of your trust.**

**God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need;
that through the solid foundation of your love,
we find the strength to follow your call
as true disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Surprise us again, Lord.

Surprise us again.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Rev. Marie

In his stories and in his way of life,
Jesus demonstrated grace upon grace.
Together, let us proclaim the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

And we are not only forgiven, we are also freed.
Let us greet the world as people made new in Christ.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

A word of peace can have awesome power.
Let us share signs of this peace in the name of the One we follow.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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.*

*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. Bernie and Rev. Marie

*A Service of Word and Table III
The United Methodist Hymnal 15*

Our sung communion responses are from The Faith We Sing Songbook 2257.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we
praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)
Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the institution
of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Bernie

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

Evan Gager

Eternal God,

**We give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have
given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your
Spirit, to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENT OUT TO SHARE THE STORY

Call to Action

Natalie Cooper

*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**

Lord, Speak to Me
The United Methodist Hymnal 463, vs. 1, 2, 5

***Benediction**

Rev. Bernie

***Postlude**

Terry Byars

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Bill and Jane Metcalf, Joyce Perry, and Tommie Reinhardt.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Lynn Cooper in celebration of Independence Day. God Bless America.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Closures

- The Church Office will be closed **Monday, July 4**. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, July 5, at 9 a.m.
- The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, July 4**. Regular shopping hours will resume on Tuesday, July 5, at 8 a.m.

Safe Sanctuaries Training Scheduled

Our annual Safe Sanctuaries training is scheduled for **Sunday, July 24 at noon** in the library, immediately following the 11:00 service. Anyone, staff or volunteer, who works with children or youth is required to take the training. Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance with Lynn (225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org).

United Women in Faith

UWF Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, July 5 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

Prime Timers Second Saturday Breakfast

Join the Prime Timers **Saturday, July 9 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!

Summer Sunday School - "Spirited Praise"

"Spirited Praise" our one room Sunday School for K-5th graders continues for the month of July. Kids will start with music and then will enjoy a lesson and activities led by volunteers from our adult Sunday School classes. Parents: please drop off and pick up your children in the FLC, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

New Series for July: "Upside Down Living"

In our July worship series, "Upside Down Living: Parables with a Punch," we will take a look at several of the parables that Jesus told. In just three years, Jesus Christ, one history's greatest storytellers, captivated crowds and answered questions with stories. In this new series, we explore some of the parables of Jesus that literally turned ideas about life, love, and faith upside down and continue to forever change the world.

GriefShare

A new session of GriefShare began **Thursday, June 30 at 6 p.m.** in the Parlor. This is a 13-week grief recovery program that will help you on your journey through the loss of a loved one. GriefShare is not only for St. John's congregation, it is open to everyone and is non-denominational. If you know of someone who might benefit from this program, please let them know. There is still time to register. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Roark (601-209-5102 or dianer14@gmail.com).

Search for Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

St. John's is seeking a full time Director of Youth & Children's Ministries. If you are interested or you know of someone who might be interested, please go to stjohnsbr.org/hiring-youth-children-director to find out more about this job opportunity to lead and direct ministries with St. John's next generation (birth-12th grade) and their families.