



Sunday, February 11, 2024  
**11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship today, as we seek to understand what Jesus means when he invites us to come to him if we are weary. It is all too easy to find ourselves in a “go, go, go” mindset. But if we don’t make time to experience the rest that Jesus talks about, then we will never experience the truly abundant life Jesus wants us to experience. We are delighted to welcome Rev. Fernie Rivera as our guest preacher.

*Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to scan the QR code to register your attendance 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

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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 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 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  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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Brooklyn Hays  
*Nursery Worker*

# Welcome To The Celebration Of The Gospel

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.  
**Bold** indicates congregational response.  
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



## Gathering

### Prelude

### Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

### Introit

*All I Need Is You*

### \*Call to Worship

Bruce Bannerman

Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy

**Jesus will give us rest**

Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace

**Christ will give us peace**

Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus

**For our Savior will give us rest in our souls**

Come, let us worship our God

**Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life.**

### \*Hymn of Praise

*More Like You*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2167

### Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**In times of weakness and need,  
yours is the strength by which we carry on,  
the shoulder we rest our head upon.**

**When our load is heavy and too much to bear,  
yours are the arms stretched out to help us  
the grace that we depend on.**

**In times of weakness and hour of need,  
your voice is heard,  
'Come... find rest.'**

This is grace divine,  
the path we tread to wholeness  
of body and spirit,  
the path that leads to you,  
and for which we offer our thanks and praise. Amen.

## Listening

Children's Message

Molly Means

Prayer for Illumination

Bruce Bannerman

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our  
redeemer. Amen.

\*Scripture

Bruce Bannerman

Matthew 11:28-30

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Fernie Rivera

"Rest for the Soul"

## Responding

\*Hymn of Faith

*Near to the Heart of God*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 472, vs. 1 - 3

\*Affirming Our Faith

Natalie Cooper

*The Apostles' Creed*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he arose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*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.**

**Prayers of the People**

Natalie Cooper

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ**

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

Offertory: *Jubilate*  
Words and music by Greg Gilpin  
Chancel Choir Anthem

*We appreciate your generosity.  
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.  
You may give online by scanning the QR Code  
or navigate to [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!**

## Departing to Serve

**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**

*Trust and Obey*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 467, vs. 1 - 3

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Fernie

**\*Postlude**

*The end of worship.  
The beginning of service.*

# Worship Notes

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Lisa Davis.

## **USHERS**

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Fred and Becky Shearer .

# Announcements

## PASTORAL CARE

This is Pastor Lane's final week of bereavement leave. For the week beginning Sunday, February 11, please contact the church office if a pastoral care emergency arises or reach out to Gray Sexton, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair (225-266-6609).

## MARDI GRAS CLOSURES

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed for Mardi Gras. The church office will be closed **Tuesday, February 13** and will reopen Wednesday at 9 a.m. The pantry will be closed **Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13** and will reopen Thursday, February 15 at 8 a.m.

## 2023 FINAL GIVING STATEMENTS

The final giving statements for 2023 have gone out via email. If you did not get one, please check your Spam or Junk folder before contacting LeAnn Davis at 225-766-4594.

## THE 2024 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2024 is now available in the hallway of the Edu/Admin Building. There is almost a blank slate for you to choose a date to honor or remember a loved one, friend, or group. Sign up now to keep the beautiful flower arrangements on the altar.

# Worship

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The sacred season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. We invite you to join us at 6 p.m. for worship. Rev. Karli Pidgeon, our District Superintendent, will be preaching.

**NOTE:** If you would like to receive ashes earlier in the day, University United Methodist Church (3350 Dalrymple Drive) will offer Ashes To Geaux from 7-8:30 a.m. (pull into the front middle parking lot spaces) and 12 -1 p.m. (drive up through the overhang or at the corner of Chimes and Highland).

## LENT WORSHIP SERIES "EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH"

Join us on a Lenten journey where we will discover what it means to know that we are "good enough," where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that's ok. What if we stopped striving for unattainable ideals and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives. The series begins on **Sunday, February 18** with a message from Pastor Lane.

We will use the book *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche, as the companion for our Lent worship series. Each week we will highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* and then you can move through the devotions on your own, using a schedule provided in the newsletter or simply as you feel led.

There is a leader guide that was sent to small group leaders who may be interested in using the book during Lent in their classes. For those who have elected to read the devotions on a daily basis, there is a copy of a suggested reading list in the Narthex and in the hallway of the Admin/Edu Building.



# Upcoming Events

## UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

St. John's, you are invited to come to *Unity in the CommUNITY*, **Saturday, February 17 at 10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. The staff at Charlie Thomas Head Start Center is helping plan the annual special worship service. We hope to have a large number of our membership at this service. In addition to music provided by our members, a children's choir will perform several songs and play hand bells. Natalie Cooper will deliver a brief message. Following the service, the United Women in Faith will host a light lunch reception in the FLC where everyone can gather for food and fellowship.

## AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) OVERVIEW

On **February 18**, right after Coffee Time, for those who are interested, we will have a brief session to get familiar with the AEDs that were installed last year. The 15 minute session will start at 9:45 in the FLC.

# Servanthood

## YOUTH MEALS NEEDED

Help is needed to feed our Youth once a month! Yes, it is only for the third Wednesday of each month for 8 - 10 people. ***The meal can be as simple as picking up several pizzas, a party pack from Taco Bell, or a couple of family meals from KFC.*** Of course, you can bring a home-cooked meal as well. The meal should be brought to the Admin Building between 5:45 and 6 p.m. Sign up to help at [stjohnsbr.org/YouthMeals](http://stjohnsbr.org/YouthMeals). Contact Connor Dean ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)) for more information.

## COFFEE TIME NEWS!

A big thank you goes to all of you who continue to donate goodies for Coffee Time so faithfully! In January, the Genesis Sunday School class provided for us, with United Women in Faith taking one Sunday. For February, the Seekers Sunday School class has volunteered, and the Connections class has been scheduled for April! Thank you!

This means that March and May (and beyond!) are still available! You can sign up as a Sunday School class (or combined classes) or individually. Everything is welcome! You can sign up online at [stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time](http://stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time) or click on the QR code.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

We look forward to hosting VBS again this year! This 5-day program will run from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024. More information will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. For the time being, mark your calendars!

# Youth & Children's Ministries

## YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER

**First Sundays:** The St. John's youth group will gather on the first Sunday of each month from **4 - 5:30 p.m.** Throughout the spring semester, they will meet at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities.

**Third Wednesdays:** Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Wednesday Night Live*. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) if you did not receive one.

## C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

**February 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Bring your leftover Mardi Gras beads and join us for a craft night using upcycled beads! Dinner will be included.

**March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

**April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Save the date for this event... More info coming soon!

## YOUTH EVENTS CALENDAR

Youth events calendars for the month of February have been mailed and should be received by youth households shortly. If you do not receive a calendar and would like one, please contact Connor.



# This Week at St. John's

## **Sunday, February 11**

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC\*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, February 12**

### **THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Tuesday, February 13**

### **THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, February 14**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

## **Thursday, February 15**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC

## **Friday, February 16**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

## **Saturday, February 17**

- 10:00 a.m. Unity in the Community, Sanctuary, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center