



Uniquely UMC

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

Sunday, April 14, 2024
11 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

Our new worship series, “Uniquely UMC” begins today. Our identity is rooted in The United Methodist Church, but what does that mean for us today? Our United Methodist history, theology, beliefs, and practices are not just a part of who we are; they are the foundation upon which our faith is built. Welcome as we explore the possibilities and practices of being United Methodist through this worship series.

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.



Welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church

GUEST INFORMATION

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, located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please take home a copy of our Welcome Brochure located in the Narthex or view it online at: stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure.

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. 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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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Nursery Coordinator

Brooklyn Hays
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The Celebration of the Gospel

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



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Hymn of Praise

Grace, Greater Than Our Sin

The United Methodist Hymnal 365, vs. 1 & 4

*Call to Worship

Grace Idikwu

We gather as people brought together by grace and bound together in the family of God.

May God draw us together in love.

We are part of the people called Methodists, a movement dedicated to prayer, worship, study, and service.

May we never stop seeking the heartwarming Spirit of God.

We are part of the people called Methodists, Yes!
But more than that, we are God's people, connected to every Jesus-follower through the body of Christ.

May the love of Christ unite this day and always. Amen.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Children's Message

Sarah Prevot

Prayer

**O God,
we invite you into our fellowship,
into our minds, and into our hearts.**

**Deepen our questions, guide our answers,
and let us gather in your name. Amen.**

*Scripture

Luke 3:7-14, 18

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.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

***Hymn**

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine
The United Methodist Hymnal 606, vs. 1 & 3

***Wesleyan Covenant Prayer**

By John Wesley, 1755

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Stewardship Moment

“The Journey of a Dollar”

Video

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Anthem: *I've Just Come from the Fountain*
African American Spiritual
Chancel Choir

*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.*



***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!**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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.

The pastor remembers God's acts of creation, and concludes:
... and all the company of heaven who have gone before us 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.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

As we stand before the empty tomb, celebrating the good news of this day, 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.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and consecrates the Communion elements .

The Lord's Prayer

***Sharing the Bread and Cup**

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 a person with limited mobility, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion to you.

Wesley's Covenant Prayer, Revised

**I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being.
In truth, O God, I am Yours.**

Make me into what You will.

Make me a neighbor with those whom You will.

Guide me on the easy path for You.

Guide me on the rocky road for You.

Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You;

Whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You;

Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing;

I give all that I have and all that I am for You.

So be it.

And may I always remember that you,

O God,

and I belong to each other. Amen.

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**

Grace Alone

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2162, vs. 1 & 2

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

Call to Worship adapted from prayer by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2024.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer by John Wesley, first used in worship on August 11, 1755 in London.

Wesley's Covenant Prayer, Revised, by Rev. Jeremy Smith.

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are from the Parker Tucker family in memory of Frank Steffen, *Rhonda's dad*.

USHERS

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Joyce Perry and Tommie Reinhardt.

Connect with Us

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love. Sign up for text/email notifications by texting the word "Connect" to 225-230-1017.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We believe that prayer is a powerful way to connect us to one another and to God. If you have a prayer or joy you want lifted up, please email prayers@stjohnsbr.org. Pastor Lane and Lynn Cooper, our Administrative Assistant, will receive your request and pass it along to the Prayer Team, unless you request it only be shared with Pastor Lane. A group of dedicated volunteers receive prayer requests weekly and then focus on praying for these requests immediately and throughout the week. Prayer Requests are also included in the Inside St. John's newsletter, sent on Tuesdays. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested.

We are grateful for the individuals on our Prayer Team who commit to pray for the concerns and joys that are shared. Would you like to be a part of this team that commits to praying daily/weekly? Send a request to join the Prayer Team to prayers@stjohnsbr.org.

Announcements

TODAY - PICKLE BALL & PROSCIUTTO

Join us for a friendly pickle ball match on **this afternoon from 3 - 4:30 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. You can invite friends to play, and you can bring a partner, or we will find one for you. And, if you've never played before and don't know anything about pickleball, come try it out in a supportive environment with your church family. We'll have paddles and balls, but you can bring your own gear if you prefer.

We will be serving light snacks and finger foods in the form of a giant charcuterie board! There is still time to add to the charcuterie board - all you have to do is bring the food, and we will arrange it. Don't know what to bring? Here are some suggestions: Cheeses (sliced in small pieces or cubes), Meats (prosciutto, pepperoni, salami, other thinly sliced deli meats), Crackers, Nuts, Pickles, Olives, Dips, Fruits (washed: grapes, strawberries, blueberries), Veggies (washed: cucumber slices, colored pepper strips, carrots, cherry tomatoes); Extras: Hershey kisses, other little candies, goldfish. Feel free to bring anything else you can think of! You can bring your items in plastic bags or the containers they come in, and we will put them all together for serving.

TODAY - COMMUNION COMPANIONS

Our Communion Companions will have a meeting on **Sunday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.** to offer support and encouragement to one another in this caring ministry role. Our Communion Companions make monthly visits to our church members who are home-centered or facility-centered to offer Holy Communion and fellowship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at 4 p.m. in the Library. Please contact Susan Lambert (225-938-7235) if you have any questions.

GOOD GRIEF! FELLOWSHIP

The Good Grief! fellowship and support group will hold their quarterly off-campus gathering at George's on Highland Road on Tuesday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Susan Johnston (225-773-9563) for more information.

ST JOHN'S TO HOST GENERAL CONFERENCE PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, April 21 at 5 p.m., St. John's will host a Prayer Service for the General Conference, which begins on April 23 in North Carolina. We are inviting neighboring churches to join us for this time of prayer and communion. Our thoughts and prayers are with the delegates to the General Conference.

It's no accident that our worship series, "Uniquely UMC," begins right before the upcoming General Conference, the decision-making body for The United Methodist Church. The series, "Uniquely UMC" will serve as a primer in United Methodism.

SEEKING SUMMER INTERN APPLICANTS

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Intern positions! There are two different positions available: one youth ministry intern and one children's ministry intern. Youth ministry involves working closely with students in 6th - 12th grades while children's ministry involves working closely with students in 5th grade and younger. Each internship spans 13-weeks throughout the summer, with the expectation of working at least 20 hrs each week -- including Sunday mornings from 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. These positions are designed for young adults who have a passion for ministry with youth and/or may be exploring a call to ministry by providing an opportunity to lead young believers in their spiritual formation through dynamic programming. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable ministry and leadership experience!

We are looking for people who have a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome.

Each intern will receive \$2,000, to be paid semi-monthly (15th & 30th of each month) during the 13-week internship.

Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by April 15, 2024.

Upcoming Events for Youth & Children's Ministries

YOUTH GROUP

First Sunday Bible Study: 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.

Wednesday Night Live: Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Cafe for dinner and fellowship activities.

Summer Tour: Each Wednesday in June and July (except July 3), a different UMC in the Baton Rouge area hosts an activity for students.

Youth Week - July 29 - August 2: Youth week is full of service opportunities and fun activities, such as laser tag, go karts, large group games, and more!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

C.H.A.O.S. - Christ Here And Other Spaces - Park Playdate: Join us for a playdate at Highland Road Community Park, **Sunday, April 28, 4 - 6 p.m.** as we build stronger relationships with God and one another by playing in His creation.

Summer Pool Parties: Members of St. John's host pool parties for children throughout the summer. We invite you to join in on the fun on **Friday, May 24, 6 - 8 p.m.** and **Sunday, July 21, 4 - 6 p.m.**

Vacation Bible School, June 17 - 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Children who have completed fifth grade and younger are invited to join us for VBS! You can register online at stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024.

Glow Party, Friday, July 12, \$20 admission: Invite your friends and get your glow on with us at this fundraiser for our Children's Ministry. Music, food, drinks, and fun are provided.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 14

- 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
- 3:00 p.m. Pickle Ball & Prosciutto, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Communion Companions, Founders' Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, April 15

- 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
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, April 16

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Library
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief! Fellowship, George's
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, April 17

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, April 18

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

Friday, April 19

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

Saturday, April 20

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

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