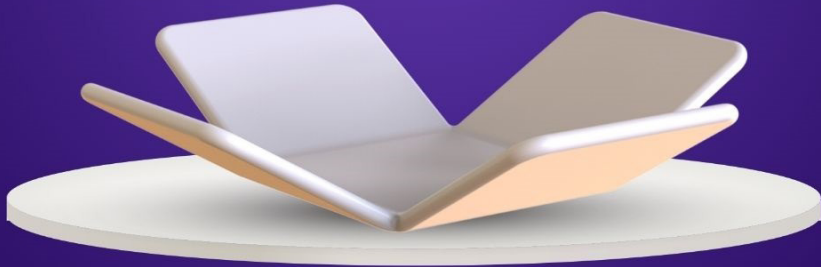




THE *Gift* OF
MANY NAMES



Sunday, December 10, 2023

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

The prophet Isaiah foretold of a child being born as a sign of God's presence for all people who would be called Emmanuel, which in Greek means "God with us." The message of the coming one named Emmanuel was a message of hope in times of sadness, doubt, and fear. How might it still be a message of hope for us today?

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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

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. If you are feeling cold, shawls are available in a basket in front of the media desk in the back of the sanctuary. 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 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.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

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Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

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.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Steve Rushing, vocalist

***Advent Proclamation**

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.
The carols we sing, the prayers we pray,
the words we say are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.
**They are a gift, inspired by the Giver Of All Words,
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us,
God with us, Emmanuel.**

He was indeed the long-expected one, the Messiah, our Lord -
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace...
**In this Season we proclaim again, the birth of Christ,
who comes to show us everything we will ever need to know
about God.**

We anticipate the gift of Christmas in this time of worship.
**We come, longing to be as close to the source of hope, love,
joy, and peace as possible, on this day and always. Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
The United Methodist Hymnal 211, vs. 1, 2, & 4

Advent Candle Lighting

Benjamin Davis

The Advent season invites us to experience joy.
Joy that erupts with the good news of Christmas!
We light this third candle for the Joy of knowing that God is with us in
our everyday lives.

(The candles of Hope, Love, and Joy are lit.)

Let us pray:

Christ be with us in the light of Joy.

Joy in the face of apathy,

Joy in the face of sorrow,

Joy in the face of death,

Joy in the face of uncertainty.

This we ask in the name of the one born in Bethlehem,

God with us, Emmanuel. Amen.

Candle Song

Jesus, Name Above All Names

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2107

Let Us Be Open

Children's Moment

Shawn Walker

Prayer for Illumination

Steve Rushing

God who is with us,

Open our hearts to receive your Word

and our minds to understand it.

May your Holy Spirit lead us in wisdom and truth,

as we receive you in the flesh, Jesus, Emmanuel.

Amen.

The Word in Scripture

Isaiah 7:14-16

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

“Emmanuel”

Pastor Lane

***Hymn of Faith**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

The United Methodist Hymnal 204

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

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

The United Methodist Hymnal 204

Let Us Be Generous

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Sing We Now of Christmas
harmonized by Martin Shaw
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.*



***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

*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**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 196, vs. 1 & 2

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

Worship Notes

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Scott Durham and Renee Rodi.

Stewardship & Giving

END OF YEAR GIVING

Please make certain that the date on any gift you wish recorded in 2023 is no later than December 31. You can make gifts online at stjohnsbr.org/give up until midnight on December 31 or be sure your check is postmarked by December 31.

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN "CALLED TO COMMUNITY"

Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024. We celebrate the following:

- **102** individuals & families have pledged a total of **\$513,558**, so far.
- **57** households have increased their pledge for next year.
- **15** are first time pledged givers.

If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining your fellow St. John's family members who have increased their pledge from this year to next. Our 2024 budget includes a Spirit-led 13-14% increase, and your increased pledge will get us closer to our goal. You can complete a pledge card and turn it in during the offering or to the church office, or you can pledge online at: stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024.

STAFF APPRECIATION LOVE OFFERING

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. You may also make your gift online at www.stjohnsbr.org/give. Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is Tuesday, December 18 for online and Wednesday, December 19 for checks and cash.

Upcoming Rehearsals

As we prepare for upcoming special services, here is the rehearsal schedule for our musical ensembles:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers

4:00 p.m. Music Makers (children and youth)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Star of Hope Rehearsals, Sanctuary

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. Music Makers (children and youth)

2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers

2:45 - 3:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (Please note change in time.)

Fellowships

TODAY! JOY FEST @ 5 P.M.

Join us at 5 p.m. for an evening of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire! We'll have a potluck supper (of course!), followed by a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and Christmas carol singing ... karaoke-style! We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

Advent & Christmas Worship

STAR OF HOPE: AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND RHYME

Our Advent music festival will be held **Sunday, December 17** at both worship services. Always a highlight of the Advent season, this year's musical extravaganza features original poetry written by Guy Johnson and beautiful music from our Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Music Makers. "Star of Hope: An Advent Festival of Music and Rhyme," will bring joy to your spirit as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christmas.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 21

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to give yourself the gift of attending our Longest Night worship service, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. Join us **Thursday, December 21 at 6 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, and we will celebrate with one morning service and one evening service. Each worship experience will be uplifting, celebratory, and meaningful in its own unique way. Join us for one or both!

Family-Friendly Service 10 a.m.

Our children and youth will present the "ABCs of Christmas," during our family-friendly morning service. We will also sing carols, celebrate Holy Communion, and experience the Christmas story through the eyes of our young people. Following worship we'll have a Birthday Party for Jesus, with cupcakes, cocoa, and coffee for all.

Service Of Candlelight and Communion 5 p.m.

Our evening service is a traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, Holy Communion, and Silent Night by candlelight. Join us for a time of worship, community, and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Beautiful white poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Join in the adornment by dedicating a plant In Honor Of, In Memory Of, or To the Glory of God. Dedications will appear on Christmas Eve. You can order online at stjohnsbr.org/poinsettia-2023, by completing a printed form found in the Narthex, or by contacting the church office. Each donated plant is \$20. Donors are free to take their Poinsettia home following the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Deadline to make dedications is Wednesday, December 20.

ONE SERVICE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

We will celebrate the coming of the new year on New Year's Eve morning at 10 a.m. We will have a combined Service of Light and Reflection as we consider this past year and prepare our hearts and lives for 2024.

Servanthood

FOOD FOR COFFEE TIME

We have to thank the individuals who brought snacks for coffee time during the month of November. We are calling on more individuals (unless a Sunday School class signs up) to help out during December. That's right! The whole month of December is open for you to shine with your extraordinary skills or just go to the store! If you want to sign up as an individual or a group go to <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeTimeSignup>. The QR code will take you right to the sign up form.



THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The 13th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 16** and takes place in the church parking lot. Once the drive-through starts, it goes fast. Not only will it be a fun and uplifting time for you, but you will be helping our pantry shoppers have a wonderful Christmas dinner with their turkey and all the fixings.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m.

While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, The Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$25 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Monetary gifts can be made to St John's by check with Turkey Giveaway in the memo line, on Sunday in an offering envelope marked with your name and Turkey Giveaway, or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, selecting the Shepherd's Market Fund.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

This year we are having everything, including turkeys, delivered on Friday sometime between 1 and 2 p.m. We will be staging the various areas and bagging items that go along with the turkeys so there will be plenty of work.

The frozen bread is due back in the FLC on the 15th. If you are "baby sitting" loaves of bread in your freezer, this is the day they are to be brought back - all whole loaves, please.

FREEZER SPACE NEEDED FOR BREAD

Duane Craig and his elf, Fran, began baking 500+ loaves of homemade bread for the Turkey Giveaway. If you have room in your freezer, please consider taking some home and keep it until Friday, December 15 when they will be brought to the FLC where we will be taking count of loaves out and loaves in. Please don't eat the bread!

UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Swing by the Family Life Center throughout the morning on **Sunday, December 17** to purchase delicious holiday baked goods and take home some wonderful handcrafted Christmas gifts. All proceeds will go to local missions supported by the United Women in Faith (UWF).

Calling All Bakers and Crafts People!

If you love to bake or you have a craft you love to do, please consider donating to the upcoming United Women in Faith Winter Craft and Bake Sale. Text Beth Forester at 225-405-9324 or email to bethforester@yahoo.com if you have a donation to make.

GOOD GRIEF! FELLOWSHIP

The Good Grief! fellowship and support group will be having their Christmas party at the home of Pat Cobb on **Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m.**

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

UWF Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 13 at 10 a.m.** at the home of Pat Cobb. Everyone is to bring a brunch dish. All women are invited to attend.

Youth & Children's Ministries

TODAY! JOY FEST @ 5 P.M.

Join us on **Sunday, December 10, at 5 p.m.** for an evening of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire! We'll have a potluck supper (of course!), followed by a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and karaoke-style Christmas carol singing! We may even get a visit from a certain bearded and jolly special guest... We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

“THE ABC’S OF CHRISTMAS” CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

We are hosting a family-oriented worship program at **10 a.m. on Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**. We would love for all of our children and youth to be a part of this! There are roles for all ages, some involve speaking but many do not require any public speaking, just a willingness to participate. Our current plan is for everyone participating to show up about an hour before the service (which would be 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 24) to do a brief run-through. Some props/costumes will be provided as well. If a child or youth in your household would like to participate in this program, please let Connor know as soon as possible (if you have not already done so).

SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children’s & Youth Sunday School time

NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or December 31. Our regular Sunday morning schedule resumes January 7.

UPSTAIRS CAFE

The “Upstairs Cafe” for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

FINAL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP OF 2023

All students in 6th-12th grades are invited to join us for dinner and fellowship on December 13 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. We will play a game called “Gifts of the Magi”, which is similar to Capture the Flag. Join us for this fun time together!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Christmas Party for United Methodist Youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 17 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Tacky Christmas sweaters are encouraged. We will play some games, then do a white elephant gift exchange. (Each student should bring a gift that costs no more than \$10 to exchange.) Pizza will be served for dinner and we will decorate Christmas cookies for dessert.

NEW YEAR’S EVE LOCK IN

The St. John’s youth group is hosting a lock-in for United Methodist Youth in and around Baton Rouge on **Sunday, December 31 beginning at 6 p.m. and ending Monday, January 1 at 8 a.m.** There is a \$10 registration/participation fee for the lock-in. The fee is due by Sunday, December 17. One youth group all the way from Amite will be joining us as well!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, December 10

- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Rehearsal: Alleluia Ringers
- 4:00 p.m. Rehearsal: Music Makers, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. JOY FEST, FLC**

Monday, December 11

- 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, December 12

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support, Founders' Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief! Fellowship, Pat Cobb's home
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, December 13

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Martha Circle UWF, Pat Cobb's home
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Setup/Staging for Great Turkey Giveaway, FLC

Saturday, December 16

- 7:00 a.m. GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY**
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 2:00 p.m. Rehearsal: Music Makers, Sanctuary
- 2:15 p.m. Rehearsal: Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary
- 2:45 p.m. Rehearsal: Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center