



**Embracing the**  
*“Good Enough”*  
**of life & faith**

*Sunday, March 10, 2024*  
*11 a.m. Worship Celebration*  
All Are Welcome

We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing. Our delusions of a “perfect life” keep us disappointed in ourselves. So, like the prodigal son in today's scripture reading, we practice our repentance speech and nervously approach our Father hoping for acceptance. To our surprise, our extravagant sense of failure is met with God's extravagant love and grace. Truth is, life is a big Truth is, life is a risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only “good enough,” but worthy of love and grace.

***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  
*Lead Pastor*  
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Connor Dean  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
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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.*



## Prelude

*Prelude from Suite Antique*  
By John Rutter  
Flute, Dr. Penny Kemler

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## Gathering Music

*Good Enough*  
Steve Rushing, soloist

## Prayer

Rev. Leah Gaughan

**God of forgiveness,  
we call out to you in need and  
you surround us with deliverance.**

**You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves  
or others.**

**Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more  
merciful and more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in the  
simple and “good enough” moments that fill our days. Amen.**

## \*Hymn

*Blessed Assurance*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 369, vs. 1 & 3

## \*Call to Worship

Rev. Peter Gaughan

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**For once we were lost and felt so far away,  
and now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Through God’s spirit we have been made new.

**We rejoice in this promise of forgiveness and hope.**

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

**Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God.**

## Special Music

*Because He Lives*

Bryan Adams

## Sacrament of Baptism

Ezra Sayer Adams  
*Child of Anna Woods and Justin Adams*  
*Grandchild of Bryan and Cindy Adams*

Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care, Ezra Sayer, whom we this day recognize as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that Ezra may grow in the knowledge and love of God, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

**With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Ezra Sayer, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

## Baptism Song

*Welcome to the Family*

**Welcome to the family, we're glad that you have come  
to share your life with us, as we grow in love,  
and may we always be to you what God would have us be,  
a family always there, to be strong and to lean on.**

## Children's Message

Darlene Dickson

## Prayer

Pastor Lane

**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

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-24

A Word of God that is still speaking,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

"Extravagant Love and Grace"

## Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

## \*Hymn

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 383, vs. 1, 2, & 4

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *O Saviour, Hear Me!*

By Gluck

Vocalist, Pat Cobb; Violin, Dr. Penny Kemler

*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;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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 Greater Than Our Sin*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 365, vs. 1 & 4

**\*Blessing**

“A Blessing for Becoming Real”

Blessed are you who do not despise your realness.

It may hurt.

You may not recognize yourself in the mirror.

But this is what we hoped for, right?

To live and love.

To be loved.

To have our experiences show on our faces and in our cells.

It is the real life of Jesus in us, being made visible,

as all our seams show.

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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

# Worship Notes

## **FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar are from Hal Holloway and Bobby Johnson in memory of Danny Fontenot.

## **USHERS**

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Bill and Jane Metcalf.

## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Most Liturgy written by Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/) goodenough; used and adapted with permission.

Theme Song. "Good Enough" theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

Blessing. "A Blessing for Slowing Down" from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

# Announcements

## **GUEST PREACHER ON MARCH 17**

Next Sunday, March 17, we will welcome Lauren LeBoeuf as our guest preacher while Pastor Lane is serving on the mission team to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans. Lauren is a seminary student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and a candidate for ordained ministry. While working towards her Master of Divinity, she serves as the Coordinator of Welcome and Engagement at University UMC.

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

### **Circle of the Heart Meeting**

The March meeting of the Circle of the Heart will be held in the Founders' Parlor on **Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m.** Pat Cobb will present the program, "Sharing/Giving/ Missions." Easter gift bags will be prepared for UWF home-centered and facility-centered members. Attendees are being asked to bring Easter candy and fruit to the meeting that will be put in the bags. All women are invited to attend.

### **UWF 2024 Reading Program**

The 2024 books in the UWF Reading Program are now available in the church library. Books in the reading program have been reviewed by UWF members and the selected books encourage members to think critically about current issues. If you would like to participate, get an application from Norma Thomason; she can be reached at 225-765-7374. Applications are due back to her by June 1.

### **UWF Craft & Bake Sale**

The United Women in Faith of St. John's is sponsoring a Craft and Bake Sale on **Palm Sunday, March 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** or until we sell out of merchandise. There will be wonderful crafts and delicious Easter goodies to bring home or share with others. Proceeds from the sale go to UWF missions and projects.

## **TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE WORKDAYS**

There are two, yes two, opportunities to participate in a Trustee workday in the next few weeks. The goal is to spruce up the St John's campus before Holy Week. We will be focusing on window and outside eave cleaning, light bulb replacement and general outdoor clean up. You are encouraged to pick **ONE** of the dates and come and help prep for Easter.

Day 1: Friday March 22 from 8:30 – 11:30  
Work around the FLC and Admin Building

Day 2: Saturday Mar 23 from 8:30 – 11:30  
Work around the Sanctuary and Narthex (St. John's is a voting precinct and will be hosting an election in the FLC on Saturday, so we will not work in that area)



# Holy Week Worship

*(In-person and online)*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, March 28, 6:30 p.m.**

In this special service of worship, we will commemorate the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples. We get a seat at the table, to the meal in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what “blessing” really means, as we share in prayer, reflection, and Holy Communion.

## **GOOD (ENOUGH) FRIDAY WORSHIP, March 29, 5 p.m.**

Our Good (Enough) Friday worship service will be a Service of Tenebrae. “Tenebrae” is the Latin word meaning “darkness.” This service, based on a 12th century tradition, invites us to reflect on the passion of Christ through scripture readings, prayers, and music. During the service, we will hear the story of the trial, sentencing, execution, death, and burial of Jesus, and depart in silence.

**NOTE:** Childcare will be available **UPON REQUEST** for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Contact Connor Dean ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)).

# Easter Eggstravaganza

This year we are celebrating Palm Sunday in an extra special way. We will be hosting our annual children’s Easter event on **Sunday, March 24 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** This event will be similar to last year’s Bunny Breakfast, but on a Sunday afternoon rather than a Saturday morning. We are so excited to welcome the children and families at St. John’s and in our community -- but we need your help.

## *Here are a few ways you can serve*

**Donate candy & other supplies:** We are asking for generic donations of plastic Easter eggs, fine-tip permanent markers, small prizes for games, and nut-free, individually-wrapped candy. You can also donate more specific supplies from our Amazon wish list by going to [stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist](http://stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist).

### **Monetary Donations:**

- **Cash/Check:** You can make monetary donations on Sunday in the collection plate or by mailing or delivering a check or cash to the church office. Checks should be made out to St. John’s UMC with “Easter Event” on the memo line.
- **Card/Online:** You can also send a monetary donation online. Visit [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give). For “Fund”, select “Family Events” in the drop-down menu. Please include “Easter Event” in the notes section. Then enter and submit the amount you would like to contribute.

**Volunteer:** In addition to the supplies needed for this event, we also need at least 30 volunteers to help ensure everything runs smoothly with our various craft and activity stations as well as the Easter egg hunt. Go to [stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers](http://stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers) to sign up your Sunday School class, Bible study, covenant group, or as an individual to work an activity booth for the Eggstravaganza on Sunday, March 24.

Volunteers will need to meet at the FLC at **3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24** to receive instructions on the activity they will be running. Activity booths will run on March 24 from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. For some activities, supplies will be provided. For others, the group will need to provide materials. Please read carefully on the activity you sign up for. Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

# Servanthood

## ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION - SAVE THE DATE!

St. John's United Methodist Church will return to St Mark's United Methodist in the New Orleans French quarter on March 17. We will again be partnering with St Mark's to provide a meal for the unhoused immediately following their 10:30 AM worship service. Our caravan will leave St. John's at 7 AM in order to arrive there in time to make last-minute preparations and prepare for serving the meal. **If you are interested in volunteering for this mission, please call the church office (22-766-4594).** Additional vehicles may be needed; please let me know if you are willing to drive to New Orleans and back. Good news for those who went with us last time, Phil Diz has agreed to share his beautiful voice for the Sunday morning worship service and there may be other musical guests as well!

## GOOD NEWS FOR COFFEE TIME!

Coffee time snacks are covered through May! However, please be thinking about making up a group of friends, who might not be in a Sunday School class, and cover the month of June! After you get that group together, sign up at [stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time](http://stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time). We know there are a lot of folks who would be glad to show off their baking skills!

## LSU WESLEY FOUNDATION

**Tuesday Night Meal and or Devotion.** The LSU Wesley Center is asking for our help in providing a meal and or devotion on a Tuesday night. It would be served after their prayer service to a group of 8 - 10 students. It could be a home cooked meal or a bought meal (tacos, pizza, etc.). They ask that there be a vegetarian and a gluten free option. To sign up go to [signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#](http://signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#/).

## GARDERE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The Gardere Initiative is holding their first annual "Gardere Takes Flight!" Kites and Flights on **Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** in BREC's Hartley/Vey Park. There will be delicious food, kite making, team kite flying competitions, drones, Easter egg hunt, opportunities to learn about the important work Gardere Initiative does in this community, and much more.

The Gardere Initiative's goal is to raise \$25,000 to put towards a permanent home for them to continue serving over 70 children every afternoon.

# Youth & Children's Ministries

## CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONALS

**Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 & 11 a.m.** Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Palm Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

**Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:30 & 11 a.m.** The children and young at heart will process with flowers to decorate the cross at the altar. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

## 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!

**March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza 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.** We hope to have a park playdate at Highland Road Community Park on Sunday, April 28 -- pending good weather!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We are already starting to plan some of our summer programs for St. John's children and youth. We are looking forward to hosting VBS again this year! **This 5-day program will run from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024.** SAVE THE DATES!

More will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. Check the Sunday bulletin and our Tuesday and Friday newsletters for upcoming information.

### **CAMP ISTROUMA SUMMER 2024**

Summer overnight camp dates have been announced for Camp Istrouma, 25975 Greenwell Springs Rd. There is a Day Camp option for 1st - 5th grades each week.

Discovering God (3rd - 5th grades): May 27-May 31, June 10 - June 14, June 24 - June 28, July 15 - July 19.

Pathfinders (6th - 8th grades): June 3 - June 7, June 17 - June 21, July 8 - July 12, July 22 - July 26.

Senior Sunrise (9th - 12th grades): July 1 - July 5.

For general and registration information, please call 225-261-2089 or go to [campistrouma.com](http://campistrouma.com).

# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, March 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
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, March 11**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 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, March 12**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, March 13**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Circle of the Heart Meeting, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

## **Thursday, March 14**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

## **Friday, March 15**

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

## **Saturday, March 16**

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

\*Family Life Center