



seeking:
*Will you give
me a drink?*

Sunday, March 12, 2023

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

In the heat of midday, Jesus seeks out a Samaritan woman drawing water from a well. His question to her is also an invitation into a new way of life: "Will you give me a drink?" This question creates a dialogue between them in which Jesus sees the woman fully; she leaves the well transformed. This week, we might imagine ourselves at the well. Are we willing to care for our neighbors, seeking to not just quench thirst, but to find living waters that sustain us all?

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. 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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator
cherylroubique@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean
*Interim Director of Youth and
Children's Ministries*
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

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

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker
srodmz23@gmail.com

seeking community

**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

Introit

*Call to Worship

Penny Kemler

We gather together —

**the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.**

We gather together —

**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.**

We gather together —

**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.**

So come to the well,

come to the table.

Come, let us worship our God.

And may be filled by Christ's living water. Amen.

*Song of Praise

You Who Are Thirsty
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2132

seeking grace

*Call to Confession

Pastor Lane

In today's service we hear the story of the Samaritan woman. It's a well-known story of a woman who, in the heat of the day, meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink.

This story begs the question of us: when was the last time I drew water for someone?

When was the last time I drew water for myself?

So with this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession, trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.

Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God,

We have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors?

How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change?

How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work?

Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day.

It was you.

It is still you.

With hope we pray, amen.

***Words of Forgiveness and Grace**

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:

we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see

all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.

This is the good news of the gospel:

God's grace is deeper than any well.

We are seen, loved, and forgiven.

May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.

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

seeking insight

Children's Message

Shawn Walker

Prayer for Illumination

Penny Kemler

Holy God,

We come to you today with big questions.

As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text.

Speak to us through this ancient story

that we might find what we are seeking in you.

With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

Scripture

Penny Kemler and Steve Rushing

John 4:5-42

Response to the Word

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.

Message

“Will You Give Me a Drink?”

Pastor Lane

seeking wholeness

*Hymn of Faith

God Will Take Care of You
The United Methodist Hymnbook 130, vs. 1 & 3

*Affirming Our Faith

Penny Kemler

We believe that a glass of water given to us by a stranger
can taste like justice.

**We believe that honest conversation has the power
to change us.**

We believe that all God’s children have a voice and something to say.

**We believe that Jesus loves the outcast, the ignored,
the shamed, and the abandoned.**

We believe in asking questions.

We believe in curiosity.

We believe in giving people a drink.

May we be brave enough to give people a drink. 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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lane

The Lord’s Prayer

seeking gratitude

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

What Shall I Render to My God?

By Austin Lovelace
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 him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

may God bless you in your seeking

Call to Action

Pastor Lane

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

O How He Loves You and Me

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2108, vs. 1 & 2

*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry.
Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful.
Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God,
who is always seeking us, go now in peace.
Amen.

*Postlude

worship notes

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of Curt and Wanda Vanover.

USHERS

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Richard and Marilyn Damberg.

LITURGY AND PRAYERS

Most of our liturgy and prayers were written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC
| sanctifiedart.org

announcements

TODAY - ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP

The St. John's Writers' Group will meet **today on Zoom at 3 p.m.** If you would like to join St. John's Writers' Group, please contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for the Zoom information. New writers are always welcome. Writers are invited to bring a short piece of writing to share at the meeting, but it's also OK to come for the fellowship and support of fellow writers.

TODAY - YOUTH GROUP

Youth will meet **this afternoon, 3 - 4:30 p.m.** To celebrate Women's History Month, we will have a lesson on women in the Bible and historical women in the United Methodist Church.

MANNA MISSION MEAL

Join us for a food, fun, and fellowship event on **Sunday, March 19 at 5 p.m.!** The youth will lead us in packing manna bags assembly-line style. We will meet in the FLC at 5 p.m. for a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share.

The last day we will collect supplies is Wednesday, March 15. If you would like a printed list of items needed, there are postcards in the Narthex. The list can also be found in the newsletter. You may also make a monetary donation online at www.stjohnsbr.org/give - Fund: Mission, Sub Fund: Manna Bags

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATES

The Mary Martha Circle of United Women in Faith will meet **Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

The UWF will hold their General Meeting on **Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m.** in the Parlor. Guest speaker will be Courtney Murphy, Statewide Development Officer for Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. All women are invited to attend. Courtney usually has OWL salsas and jellies for purchase.

COFFEE TIME REVISITED

Tired of boxed raisins and packaged muffins? It's time to Bring Back the Food! The Food, Fun, and Fellowship team is looking for volunteers to provide snacks for Coffee Time on Sundays. Sign up for several Sundays as a group – Sunday School class, church committee, or just a bunch of friends! Sign up to celebrate a birthday or an anniversary! See more details and get on the schedule by going to <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeTimeSignup>.

BUNNY BREAKFAST APRIL 1

On **Saturday, April 1 from 9 - 11 a.m.**, St. John's will host a community-wide Easter event for families with children. Join us for pancakes, faith-filled crafts & games, an egg hunt, face painting, and pictures with the Easter bunny.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: To add some fun and excitement to the event, there will be 8 activity stations set up for the children to visit. Most of the stations are crafts for which the materials will be provided but please check the sign-up form to see if you will need to provide materials. Sign up at tinyurl.com/BunnyBreakfastSignup with a group of friends, your Sunday School class, Bible study, or covenant group. Individuals are welcome to help, too.

We also need plastic Easter eggs, bags of nut-free candy, and fine point permanent markers. There will be a blue tub labeled Bunny Breakfast for your donations.

SANCTUARY OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS

Each Wednesday during Lent, our Sanctuary will be open for people to come for prayer, quiet time, and reflection. As you enter the narthex, a church member will greet you and offer you a devotional guide, which you can read as you sit in the sanctuary. Your prayer time can be quietly on your own while sitting in the pew or kneeling at the communion railing. The sanctuary will be open from Noon to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent. You may come and go as your schedule allows.

NEW PROGRAM ABOUT GRIEF

Taking Steps in Loss and Life is an 8-week grief support program that will begin **Tuesday, March 21, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Dee Muenzler, who recently received her certification as a Grief Educator, will facilitate the SESSIONS. All who are experiencing grief are invited to meet with others to share their experience. To register text Dee at 225-933-1668 or send an email to deemuenzler@gmail.com. Cost of the program is \$20 (scholarships are available). You may pay online at stjohnsbr.org/Give Now. Use the *Fund* drop down menu and choose *SS Classes and Small Groups*, under *Sub Fund* choose *Grief Program*. Checks written to St. John's UMC should have Grief Group in the memo line or on the cash envelope. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 16.

ONE DAY STUDY ON "LIVING OUR UMC BELIEFS"

A study that aims to examine the role of doctrine within the United Methodist Church will be held on **Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at First UMC downtown.** The class, will be facilitated by Rev. Brady Whitton. The cost for the class is \$20, which includes lunch. Additionally, participants are required to purchase and read *Living Our Beliefs The United Methodist Way* by Bishop Kenneth L. Carder in advance of the class. The book is currently available on the Upper Room and Amazon for \$13. To register go to la-umc.org/umcbeliefscourse.

HELP WITH YOUTH MINISTRY

If you have a passion to work with young people or are just looking for more ways to get involved at St. John's, consider signing up as an adult volunteer with our youth group. To ensure the safety of our young people, St. John's requires at least two adults be present to oversee all events involving youth and/or children. Volunteers essentially serve as a secondary adult to help supervise these activities. Remember - you don't have to have a child in youth group to volunteer. Email Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) to sign up or if you have any questions. You may also sign up online at tinyurl.com/sjumcyouthsignup.

this week at a glance

Sunday, March 12

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Youth Room
- 3:00 p.m. Writers' Group, Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers (1st-12th grades),
Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells' Room

Monday, March 13

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, 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, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, March 14

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. UWF Mary Martha Circle, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, March 15

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer
- 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, March 16

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

Friday, March 17

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

Saturday, March 18

- 9:00 a.m. Watercolor Refresher, Library
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center



seeking sanctuary?

Our sanctuary is open for reflection and prayer
every Wednesday in Lent.

NOON - 1PM | 5PM - 6PM