



Sunday, January 15, 2023
11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION
All Are Welcome

When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

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

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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. 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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Lynn Cooper
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Bill Putzig
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker
srodzmz23@gmail.com

PREPARE

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Marie Williams

Welcome to worship this day!

We come seeking God's blessings and love.

They shall be given to you.

We come seeking forgiveness and healing.

These will be offered to you, for even when the world says
"No," to you, God says, "Yes!"

Open your hearts to receive God's Good News.

**We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways
for us. Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
The United Methodist Hymnal 500, vs. 1, 3, & 5

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

Offer someone signs of hospitality and grace to someone.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Marie

The Lord's Prayer

ENGAGE

Children's Message

Connor Dean

Prayer for Illumination

Tori Lambert

**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.**

Adapted from Psalm 19:14

***Scripture**

Tori Lambert

Matthew 3:13-17

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

Pastor Lane

“God Says Yes!”

RESPOND

***Hymn of Faith**

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
The United Methodist Hymnal 605, vs. 1 & 3

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Tori Lambert, prayer

Choral Anthem
Wade In The Water

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online at 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!**

REAFFIRMING OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

***Introduction**

Pastors

Today we are celebrating the baptism of Jesus, and we are remembering our baptism, when God affirmed our truest identity as God's children and enfolded us in a lifelong covenant.

If you have not been baptized, you are fully welcome here. Enjoy the ritual! Be among us in peace. Feel free not to say words that may not yet apply to you. If you would like to know more about the life of discipleship and about being part of the baptismal covenant, be sure to speak with one of the clergy or one of our lay leaders.

***Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**

Will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church, which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you remain open to your faith development and further growth, as the Holy Spirit continues to work in your life and in the world.

We will live into the questions of our faith, remaining open to the continuing revelation of our ever-living God in this ever-changing world.

***Affirming Our Faith**

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.**

Thanksgiving Over the Waters

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will.

We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.

Come upon these waters.

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Baptism Renewal

Using an evergreen branch, the pastors will sprinkle small amounts of water toward the congregation. This parallels sprinkling with hyssop for purification (Exodus 12:22; Psalm 51:7) and sprinkling as a sign of renewal (Ezekiel 36:25-26).

For those worshiping from afar, you are invited to touch water to your forehead as you remember your baptism.

Baptism Hymn

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tori Lambert

Almighty God,

**Who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and welcomes us around the table,
strengthen us in all goodness and keep us
in your eternal care,
as we strive to live out our baptismal covenant each day.**

**May your "YES!" in our lives
inspire us to join in Christ's transforming work in the world.**

**We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESS

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

Spirit of God

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2117, vs. 1 & 2

*Benediction

*Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE AND PANTRY CLOSED FOR MLK

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, January 16** in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The church office will reopen Tuesday at 9 a.m., The Shepherd's Market at 8 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP

St. John's Writers' Group will meet at **this afternoon at 3 p.m.** on Zoom. Newcomers are welcome to this group. Contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for the Zoom information.

NOTE NEW TIME FOR MEETING.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth will meet **this afternoon at 3 p.m.** Connor Dean our new interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries will lead a relaxed time together with games and hanging out. She is looking forward to seeing everyone.

MUSIC MAKERS RESUMES

Music Makers will resume their time together **this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room with Mr. Steve. While the focus will be on music for worship we will also be learning how to read and write music. It is going to be a fun-filled hour of learning about and making music through singing and playing instruments. We hope you will encourage your children and youth to participate in this fun, learning experience.

BELLS PRACTICE RESUMES

Alleluia Ringers practice resumes **this evening at 6 p.m.** in the Bell Room. New ringers are welcome - you don't have to have a musical background to be a part of this resounding group.

GOOD GRIEF, ST. JOHN'S

The monthly support and fellowship group, Good Grief, St. John's!, will meet on **Tuesday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. All those who are suffering a loss are invited to attend. For more information contact Susan Johnston at sbjohnston@gmail.com or 225-773-9563.

TRUSTEES MEETING

Trustees will hold their first meeting of 2023 on **Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library.

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK NEW TESTAMENT

Disciple Fast Track will begin **Monday, January 23 from 6 - 7:15 p.m.** in the Library. This 12-week study covers the entire New Testament. The class will be facilitated by Guy Johnson, Rhonda Tucker, and Danielle Blackwood. You may register with the form in the Narthex or online at stjohnsbr.org/disciple-jan-23. Student books cost \$18; there are scholarships available.

PLEASE NOTE: participants should pick up their student book from the church office prior to the first session in order to be ready to discuss the first lesson.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY

Next **Sunday, January 22**, we will celebrate UWF Sunday at both services. This year's theme is "Compassionate Commitment: Explore, Experience, Engage." Guest speaker is Sandra Jones from First UMC here in Baton Rouge. A reception is planned in the FLC during coffee time.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 15

- 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. Writers' Group, *Zoom*
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group, *Youth Room*
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, *Choir Room*
- 6:00 p.m. Alleuia Ringers, *Bells' Room*

Monday, January 16

OFFICE CLOSED

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*
- 9:00 a.m. Visitation for Linda Smith, *Sanctuary*
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, January 17

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief!, St. John's, *Parlor*
- 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting, *Library*
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Wednesday, January 18

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*

Thursday, January 19

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

Friday, January 20

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

Saturday, January 21

- 8:30 a.m. Watercolor Class, *FLC-E*
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC*

**Family Life Center*