

STRANGER THINGS



A SERIES ABOUT
BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

*Sunday, June 23, 2024
11 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

The phrase, “see the writing on the wall” is often used to talk about sensing or seeing an impending disaster, knowing the eventual outcome of something in a negative sense. Did you know it originated from a little-known story in the book of Daniel? What message might God be trying to send you about your life? Let’s all try to listen more closely for God so we can read the writing on our own lives and respond faithfully. Welcome to worship.

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.



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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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

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

Introit

God Is Here Today

*Call to Worship

Sarah Prevot

We gather this day, and much is visible:

**Our smiles may share our joy;
our eyes may show our pain.**

We come to this place, seeking signs of the living God:

**May we sense something holy here;
May we be ready to receive.**

Will we see God today?

Will our living make God's love visible?

**Let us worship God - Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.
Amen.**

*Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See
The United Methodist Hymnal 454, vs 1 & 2

*Sharing God's Grace

Children's Message

Gabe Guillory

Prayer

Sarah Prevot

God of all ages,

Open our ears to hear your voice in the stories of our faith.

Open our minds to understand what they experienced.

**Open our hearts to accept what you might be saying
to us today.**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Daniel 5:1-9

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.

“The Handwriting on the Wall”

***Hymn**

Come and Find the Quiet Center
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2128, vs. 1 & 2

***Affirming Our Faith**

Sarah Prevot

A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church
The United Methodist Hymnal 884

**We believe in the one God,
creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations,
the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God manifest in the flesh,
our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for
strength.**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins,
in the life of love and prayer,
and in grace equal to every need.**

**We believe in the Word of God
contained in the Old and New Testaments
as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.**

**We believe in the church,
those who are united in the living Lord
for the purpose of worship and service.**

**We believe in the reign of God
as the divine will realized in human society,
and in the family of God,
where we are all brothers and sisters.**

**We believe in the final triumph of righteousness
and in 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.**

Prayers of the People

As prayers are shared, our response will be:

By your grace,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*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!**

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

Be Thou My Vision
The United Methodist Hymnal 451, vs. 1 & 2

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

USHERS

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Susanna Seals and Harriet Walters.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Joyce Perry to the Glory of God and in celebration of Bill Perry's birthday. Happy Birthday, Bill!

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

VBS THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who made Vacation Bible School possible! The support you've shown through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness have had a direct impact in our ability to host all our VBS participants this year. We cannot do it without you!

STRANGER THINGS: A SERIES ABOUT BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

In our current worship series, we are delving into some of the more bizarre passages in the Bible. Each week we are exploring an unusual story from scripture - some of which you may not have even heard before! Along the way, we'll see how even the strangest parts of the Bible reveal God's nature to us and encourage and strengthen our faith. The series includes a talking donkey, a tent peg, a floating hand, and a severed ear. As we read a few of the odd legends of the Bible, we are asking the question: What is the good news here?

LOVE FEAST JUNE 30 AT 10AM

June brings summer, lazy days, and something else this year ... a fifth Sunday! What a perfect day to have a different experience for worship!

So, on **Sunday, June 30, we are celebrating the fifth Sunday by hosting a "Love Feast" worship experience in the FLC at 10 a.m., in lieu of our regular worship times.** This will be a celebratory service featuring music, prayer, and testimonies as we enjoy a potluck brunch. Everyone is invited to bring a breakfast or brunch item to share.

The early Christians met and broke bread together to signify their union, fellowship, and love. In 1727, the Moravian Church in Germany revived this practice, calling it a "Love Feast." John Wesley, co-founder of Methodism and an Anglican priest, experienced a Moravian Love Feast during his time in Georgia, and it quickly became part of early American Methodism. Our own celebratory Love Feast will be a great way to remember our history while spending time in fellowship with our church family!

We will resume our regular Sunday morning schedule the following Sunday, July 7, with worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Coffee Time and Summer Sunday School in between services.

TODAY - UPDATE ON UMC CONFERENCES

Join us between services today for updates about General Conference and the Louisiana Annual Conference. Pastor Lane and Natalie Cooper (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference) will share highlights from the global General Conference and the local Louisiana Annual Conference. Our conversation will start at 10am on June 23 in the sanctuary.

SUMMER BELLS

Have you thought about joining the Alleluia Ringers and learning how to play handbells? Do you want to be a part of a group that serves the church community in a unique way? Then come to rehearsals in the bell room for the month of **June on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm**. We will teach you how to play and when to play. All you have to do is count. All are welcome!

YOUTH SUMMER TOUR

The next stop on our Summer Tour will be **First UMC of Gonzales (224 W. Constitution St., Gonzales) on Wednesday, June 26**. Youth should be dropped off at Gonzales' First UMC at 6 p.m. and picked up at 8.

The Youth Summer Tour meets each Wednesday in June & July (except for the week of July 4th) from 6 - 8 p.m. A different church will be hosting each week. The Summer Tour will not meet Wednesday July 3.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are looking for volunteers to serve as "table leaders" to help lead each age group within our one-room Sunday School class for our children & youth during the summer. Please carefully review the available slots at stjohnsbr.org/sumer-ss or contact Connor if you have any issues or questions.

TODAY - ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - TED TALK THEOLOGY

Our adult summer study series is called TED Talk Theology and runs through July 28 (9:55-10:45 am) in the sanctuary. Each Sunday we're watching a TED Talk, reading scripture, and talking about what they say to us about our faith and life. We have a new facilitator each Sunday. Come weekly or come when you can! There's nothing to prep for or to read ahead of time. After a two-week break, our next TED Talk session will be Sunday, July 7.

SUNDAY, JULY 7 our session will be led by Phil Sprunger with a talk by Shankar Vedantam titled "You Don't Actually Know What Your Future Self Wants."

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, June 23

- 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. Youth/Children's Sunday School, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. Update on UMC Conferences, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Summer Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, June 24

- 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 Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, June 25

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, June 26

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. UWF Sew Day, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Summer Tour, First UMC, Gonzales
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, June 27

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Friday, June 28

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
- 10:30 a.m. Gardere Initiative Meeting, Library

Saturday, June 29

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

*Family Life Center

LOVE FEAST

...in the Wesleyan tradition

SUNDAY, JUNE 30 @10AM
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

A 5th Sunday worship experience featuring music, prayer, and testimonies as we enjoy a potluck brunch.



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.