



*Sunday, August 25, 2024
11 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Right before Jesus ascends into heaven, he gives a “pep talk” to his disciples. In doing so, he passes the Gospel Torch on to them – and now on to us. Our calling is to take that torch to the ends of the earth, passing on the light of Christ’s love and grace everywhere we go.

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 | 230 Renee Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70810
office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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

Connor Dean
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

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

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

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

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

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

Go, Make of All Disciples

*Call to Worship

Zach Isenhower

At the starting line of this day, we call on your name,
God of grace.

**We are running this race of life –
faster, higher, stronger – together!**

God calls us to Olympic faith.

Our goal is to be more like Jesus each day.

We push forward to win the prize to which God
has called us.

Help us keep the faith as we worship our God.

*Hymn

Christ for the World We Sing
The United Methodist Hymnal 568, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Prayer

Zach Isenhower

Almighty God,

**We pray for a holy fire to be ignited in our
hearts and minds.**

**Breathe new life into us,
like a mighty rushing wind.**

**We ask that you renew your passion within us,
so that we might pass it on to others,
in your holy name. Amen.**

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

We can run with endurance the race that God has set before us,
because we know that the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit goes with us.

May the love and peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you and all others!

Prayer

**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

Pastor Lane

Matthew 28:16-20

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

Pastor Lane

“Pass the Torch”

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

We Are Called

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2172, vs. 1 & 2

*Affirming Our Faith

Zach Isenhower

A Modern Affirmation

The United Methodist Hymnal 885

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church,
apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, power, and love,
whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end
that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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.**

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Forever Blest Is He*
From "Jephtha" by George Frederic Handel
Chancel Choir

*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!**

Closing Prayer

Pastor Lane

Lord,

**As we run the race You have set before us,
help us keep our eyes on Your goals -
not our own.**

When we falter, give us fresh strength and courage.

When we are fleet-footed, let us give You the glory.

**By Your Spirit, send us out to exercise our faith, growing
faster, higher, stronger - together.**

In Jesus' name, we pray. 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

Pass It On
The United Methodist Hymnal 572, vs. 1 & 3

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

The flowers on the altar are from Susan Johnston in gratitude for all the blessings in her life.

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Scott Durham and Renee Rodi.

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.

Announcements

“DO UNTO OTHERS” – A CAMPAIGN FOR KINDNESS

This September, join us in a campaign for kindness, as we focus on embodying The Golden Rule – “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” This teaching from Jesus has the power to heal relationships, bridge political chasms, and transform our community in a world so torn by division. Join us as we discover how this simple, yet profound principle of kindness can be our catalyst for positive change.

“Do Unto Others” is a grassroots movement launched by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in the Kansas City area, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, that encourages intentional acts of kindness and fosters civility and respect, countering the polarization in our society.

ST. MARK’S UMC MISSION

Our fall mission to St. Mark’s UMC in New Orleans will be **Sunday, September 22**, when we will join St. Mark’s in the French Quarter serving the unhoused. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful day of mission (from approximately 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.), please contact Larry Norman at 225-933-1881.

An anonymous donor has offered to match the first \$500 of donations we raise for our one-day mission to St. Mark’s UMC in New Orleans! You may donate online by going to stjohnsbr.org/give, then from the pull down General Budget menu, select Sub Fund, then Missions, then St. Mark’s. You may also give by check made out to St. John’s UMC with St. Mark’s in the memo line and put it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church.

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Imagine a life of true happiness, a life of complete honesty with God. Through our upcoming Bible Study on the Psalms, you learn how to live a life of gratitude while producing actions that honor God. This 6-week study meets weekly, **beginning Tuesday, September 10**, with a **morning session at 9:30am**, led by Clara Maynard and an **evening session at 6pm**, led by Guy Johnson. Choose the time of day that works best for your schedule. (The study will end October 15.) The study book, *Immersion Bible Study on the Book of Psalms*, will cost \$15 and can be picked up in the church office. Participants should read Lesson 1 prior to the first class. You may pay for the book by check (made out to St. John’s UMC with Bible Study in the memo line) or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, then from the General Budget pull down menu select SS Classes and Small Groups, then from the Sub Fund pull down menu select Bible Study. In the For: line put Immersion Psalms.

You may register online at stjohnsbr.org/Immersion-Study-Fall-2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Tucker (by phone or text: 225-270-2193 or parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com).

COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

Thanks so much for all of your generous coffee time contributions over the summer! We are going to continue into the fall with this summer concept! Look for reminders in the Sunday Bulletin and weekly newsletters.

If your last name begins with **O - R**, **Sunday, September 1** is “your” day to bring a snack for Coffee Time. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. You don’t have to cook or bake – in these days of prepared foods, any grocery store has plenty of delicious items to choose from. **Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.**

DAYS FOR GIRLS MISSION

Days for Girls is a mission of St. John’s United Women of Faith Circle of the Heart to help provide reusable feminine hygiene products for girls in developing countries. For our Fall Workdays, we will meet in the Family Life Center on **Saturday, September 7 and 14 from 9 a.m. – noon**. We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and folding panties and washcloths. All helpers are welcome and needed!

To help with the cost of making the kits, we are asking for donations of: new girls’ cotton panties (briefs) sizes 10, 12, or 14, solids or flowers, no characters or animals; new colored washcloths, and cash donations for supplies. There is a blue tub in the narthex and in the hallway of the Admin Building for your donations.

For more information contact Joyce Perry (home: 225-763-6613 or cell: 225-978-2206 or joyce.perry@cox.net). You might be interested in checking out their website at www.daysforgirls.org.

PICK UP YELLOW GROCERY BAG

Don't forget to pick up a yellow shopping bag after worship and bring it back with grocery items to help stock the shelves in The Shepherd's Market. **Grocery Bag Sunday is September 1.** Items needed are condiments, cereal, pasta, canned tomatoes or tomato sauce, canned fruit, and snacks.

NO PICKLEBALL ON TUESDAY AUGUST 27

There will be **no Pickleball on Tuesday, August 27** as the Gardere Youth Program will be in the FLC that evening. Pickleball for adults will resume on Tuesday, September 3 at 7 p.m. Our schedule has changed for the fall and we will play Pickleball on Tuesdays with the exception of the fourth Tuesday in September and October and the third Tuesday in November. No sign up is required, just show up! Beginners are welcome. For more information contact Donnie Lambert at 225-921-0446.

JOIN OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

Our Chancel Choir has resumed rehearsals on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** and singing at the 11 a.m. service on Sundays. This is an opportunity for anyone to share the gift of their heart, soul, and voice--when one sings, they pray twice. Grace upon grace is bestowed upon those who share their gifts to the glory of God. Join us this Wednesday in the choir room.

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

UPSTAIRS CAFE IS NOW OPEN

The Upstairs Cafe is now open with a new routine for supplying the Cafe with snacks. For the month of August, to give families time to adjust to this new routine, Connor and the Sunday School leaders will provide all the Cafe snacks. Beginning in September, the Sunday School leaders will provide snacks on the first Sunday of each month. Families are being asked to provide snacks for the remainder of the month, following this schedule: 1st Sunday - Sunday School Teachers; 2nd Sunday - K - 2nd Families; 3rd Sunday - 3rd - 5th Families; 4th Sunday - Youth Families; 5th Sundays will be dealt with separately.

JOIN MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers rehearse on **Sundays at 4:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergarten through 5th grade students as well as Youth (6th - 12th grades) to be introduced to songs and hymns of the United Methodist Church and a variety of instruments. Drop them off and pick them up in the choir room. They will have a wonderful time with Dr. Steve.

SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We offer faith formation for children and youth of all ages during Sunday School. Students start in the Upstairs Cafe (Room 202 of the Admin building) helping them get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups: Children 2 yrs to 4 yrs are in the Pre-K Room on the first floor of the Admin building; Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are in Mrs. Marilyn's & Mrs. Sarah's class (Room 204); Students in 3rd through 5th grades are in Mrs. Natalie's and Mrs. Beth's class (Room 207); Students in 6th through 12th grades are in the Youth Sunday School class (Room 201). The nursery is open to infants and toddlers all morning on the first floor of the Admin building

Students should be signed-in by an adult (18 years or older) between 9:30 - 9:50 a.m. in the Upstairs Cafe or at the sign-in station located at the base of the stairwell. (Children in the nursery and toddler classes will continue to sign in at their classrooms.) Students will also need to be signed-out by an adult or an older sibling (at least youth age) at the end of Sunday School, around 10:50 a.m. Older, youth-age siblings can sign-out younger siblings only if Connor has been directly notified of this preference.

SAVE THE PLAYDATE - SEPTEMBER 22

Our families with children are invited to join us for a Park Playdate on **Sunday, September 22 4-6 p.m.** at Highland Road Community Park. We are hoping the weather will be clear for us.

If the weather does not cooperate, we have a rain-out plan that involves an indoor picnic and games in the St. John's FLC. If we end up needing to use the rain-out plan, I invite families to bring a picnic blanket to help us recreate the essence of a picnic, but inside.

*To stay better connected with us, please text "Connect" to (225) 230-1017.
We will send text updates on September 22 through this phone number.*

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, August 25

- 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 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, August 26

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, August 27

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Gardere Youth Program, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, August 28

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, August 29

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC

Friday, August 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

Saturday, August 31

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

*Family Life Center

LABOR DAY CLOSURES

The church office will be closed **Friday, August 30** and **Monday, September 2** for the Labor Day holiday and will reopen Tuesday September 3 at 9 a.m. The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, September 2** and will be open Tuesday, September 3 at 8 a.m. for regular shopping hours.

MIDYEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

In the first half of 2024 our revenues totaled \$321,227, representing 52% of our annual budget. The excess amount is due in part to a \$9,000 grant received from the Louisiana United Methodist Foundation for youth ministry. Our expenses through June were \$309,846, representing 48% of the budget. This means the excess of revenues over expenses stood at \$11,380.

It should be noted that during the first half of the year, expenses were lower than budget due to the postponement by the Trustees of maintenance issues, which they hope to attend to this fall, as funds are available.

The Finance Committee recently formed a subcommittee to begin exploring non-traditional streams of revenue for the church. If you have ideas or interest in this, please let us know!

Thank you for your faithful stewardship and your gifts to St. John's. If you have any questions, or would like additional information please reach out to me, Maureen Robertson, the chair of the Finance Committee (mroberts@lsu.edu) or LeAnn Davis, Manager of Finance and Facilities (leannDavis@stjohnsbr.org).



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.