



Sunday, November 26, 2023  
**11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship at the start of a week of Thanksgiving! In today's scripture reading we witness an incredible act of gratitude coming from an unlikely source, reminding all of us to express thanks to God for the many healings, blessings, and gifts we've been given.

[STJOHNSBR.ORG](http://STJOHNSBR.ORG) | [@STJOHNSBR](https://www.instagram.com/STJOHNSBR)

*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.*



# 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

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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. 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*  
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Connor Dean  
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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.*



## O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

**Introit**

Chancel Choir

*Stir Up Your Power, O Lord, and Come*  
by Carl Schalk

**\*Advent Proclamation**

Pastor Lane

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.  
The carols we sing, the prayers we pray,  
the words we say are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.  
**They are a gift, inspired by the Giver Of All Words,  
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us,  
God with us, Emmanuel.**

He was indeed the long-expected one, the Messiah, our Lord -  
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace...

**In this Season we proclaim, again, the birth of Christ,  
who comes to show us everything we will ever need to know  
about God.**

We anticipate the gift of Christmas in this time of worship.  
**We come, longing to be as close to the source of hope, love,  
joy, and peace as possible, on this day and always. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*Ye Servants of God*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 181, vs. 1, 2, & 4

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

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Cindy Carter

The Advent season starts with expectancy;  
as we anticipate the coming of our long-promised Messiah.  
We light this first candle as a reminder that we live by Hope.

*(The candle of Hope is lit.)*

Let us pray:

**Christ be with us in this Light of Hope.  
Hope for your presence,  
Hope for your peace,**

**Hope for your promise,  
Hope for all the world.  
This we ask in the name of Christ our King.  
Amen.**

**Prayer Response**

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2071

# LET US BE OPEN

**Children's Moment**

Connor Dean

**Prayer for Illumination**

**God who is with us,  
Open our hearts to receive your Word  
and our minds to understand it.  
May your Holy Spirit lead us in wisdom and truth,  
as we seek greater understanding about Jesus Christ,  
the Anointed One.  
Amen.**

**\*The Word in Scripture**

Pastor Lane

Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1-6, 11

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

"The Royal Names for Jesus"

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

# LET US RECEIVE

**Sharing the Gift of Anointing**

*Those who would like to be anointed are invited forward.  
Oil will be traced on your forehead or hand in the sign of the cross.  
You may also pray at the kneeler or at your seat.*

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 203, vs. 1 & 4

# LET US GIVE

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Ride On King Jesus*  
vocalist: Steve Rushing

*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:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# LET US DEPART TO SERVE

## 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 of Discipleship

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 327, vs. 1 & 4

## \*Benediction

## \*Postlude

*The end of worship.  
The beginning of service*

# WORSHIP NOTES

## **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar “are in honor of my amazing friend Lenni Stickles by Rev. Marie Williams.”

## **USHERS**

Ushers for today’s worship service are Bill and Jane Metcalf.

# Stewardship Update

We have already seen such a great response to our Stewardship Campaign! Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024. We celebrate the following:

- **96** individuals & families have pledged a total of **\$498,038**, so far.
- **56** households have increased their pledge for next year.
- **15** are first time pledged givers.

Can you help us reach 100 pledges and exceed \$500,000? If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining your fellow St. John's family members who have increased their pledge from this year to next. Our 2024 budget includes a Spirit-led 13-14% increase, and your increased pledge will get us closer to our goal. You can complete a pledge card and turn it in during the offering or to the church office, or you can pledge online at: [stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024).

## Worship & Music

### TODAY - HELP DECORATE FOR ADVENT

We will need help today **Sunday, November 19** after the 11:00 worship service to bring the decorations out of storage including our big Christmas trees. We will start "Hanging the Greens" in the Narthex and Sanctuary once everything is out. **Monday, November 20**, at 10 a.m. we will finish the decorating. All ages are welcome.

### UWF DECORATING CHRISMON TREE

The United Women in Faith will be decorating the Chrismon Tree with the new and refurbished Chrismon ornaments on **Monday, November 20**. All women in the UWF and others are invited to come help beginning at 10 a.m.

### UPDATES FOR MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers are performing in worship TODAY and will also meet for rehearsal this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Their next performance will be Sunday December 17. For this performance, there will be an additional rehearsal on Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m.

**Youth** interested in joining the Music Makers performance on December 17 should plan to join Music Makers practices (for about 30 minutes of the practice), starting this Sunday, November 19.

*There will be no Music Makers rehearsal on November 26,  
as we will meet for C.H.A.O.S. at that time.*

### ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES BEGINS NOVEMBER 26

We know him by the name of Jesus. But he was also called other names, like Messiah, Lord, Savior, and Emmanuel. He is the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, and the Word made flesh. Each of these names reveals a little bit more of the story around who the person of Jesus was and still is today. Join us on November 26 as we celebrate the beginning of Advent with our new worship series, "The Gift of Many Names" in which we will explore some of the many names of Jesus and what they can tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.



# Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL**

Members and friends of St. John's have written daily reflections that will guide us throughout the Advent season. The readings start on November 26 and continue through Epiphany, January 6. Copies are available in the Narthex and also in the church office during the week. It is also available online at: [stjohnsbr.org/advent-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/advent-2023). Thank you to all who made contributions to this year's devotional.

## **JOY FEST - SUNDAY DECEMBER 10**

Join us on **Sunday, December 10, at 5 p.m.** for an evening of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire! We'll have a potluck supper (of course!), followed by a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and Christmas carol singing ... karaoke-style! We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

## **ELF NIGHT, FRIDAY DECEMBER 1**

A gift to families raising children, Elf Night provides a free night of childcare for children ages 2 years through 5th grade. Children will enjoy Christmas activities together, led by the United Women in Faith. They can be dropped off and picked up in the Admin/Education Building. Snacks will be provided. You may sign your child/children up on Sunday during Coffee Time or email Sherri Artecona at [iama225secfan@yahoo.com](mailto:iama225secfan@yahoo.com),

If you are interested in helping, please contact Sherri at 985-320-3018 or email at address noted above.

## **UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE FOR LOCAL MISSIONS**

Swing by the Family Life Center throughout the morning on **Sunday, December 17** to purchase delicious holiday baked goods and take home some wonderful handcrafted Christmas gifts. All proceeds will go to local missions supported by the United Women in Faith (UWF).

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE!**

If you love to bake or you have a craft you love to do, please consider donating to the upcoming United Women in Faith Winter Craft and Bake Sale. Text Beth Forester at 225-405-9324 or email to [bethforester@yahoo.com](mailto:bethforester@yahoo.com) if you have a donation to make.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS**

Opening Doors is offering us a chance to help brighten Christmas for children from two of our neighborhood schools, Wildwood Elementary School and Gardere Community Christian School, through their new mission: Neighborhood Friends.

Choose a child's name from our Christmas tree during Coffee Time **November 19** and **November 26**. You are being asked to purchase two gifts for each student you choose: an item of clothing and a fun item (toy). Each gift should cost between \$20 and \$30. Wrap each gift separately following the directions on the instruction sheet you receive. Please bring the gifts back to the church office on or before Sunday, December 3.

# Servanthood

## **TODAY - YOUTH JAMBALAYA FUNDRAISER**

We are hosting a Jambalaya Fundraiser for the St. John's Youth. The funds from this event will be used to replenish the designated fund for youth events, trips, and missions. The jambalaya plates include jambalaya, white beans, and green salad and will be handed out in the Family Life Center **TODAY** from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. If you purchased a plate, be sure to pick it up during this window.

## **OPENING DOORS' HOLIDAY SUPERSTORE**

This year's shopping day for the Holiday Superstore will be on **Monday, November 20** at the Target on Siegen Lane; plan to meet at **8 a.m. at the entrance on the far right.**

For those of you who have not been involved before, the Holiday Superstore is an Opening Doors program that targets the children of the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center located in the Gardere area. During the year, parents earn points by following guidelines to get them involved in their children's education, these points are translated into a dollar amount and volunteers from St. John's do the shopping for the gifts.

You will be given a "wish list" for a child and a budget to work with and then you get to pick out their toys and clothes. The money is budgeted by Opening Doors so there is no cost to you as the shopper.

If you can help this year or would like more information about this mission, email Marilyn Damberg (marilyndamberg@mac.com) or phone/text at 225-335-3321.

## **THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY**

The 13th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 16** and takes place in the church parking lot. Once the drive-through starts, it goes fast. Not only will it be a fun and uplifting time for you, but you will be helping our pantry shoppers have a wonderful Christmas dinner with their turkey and all the fixings.

**Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m.**

While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, The Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$25 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Monetary gifts can be made to St John's by check with Turkey Giveaway in the memo line, on Sunday in an offering envelope marked with your name and Turkey Giveaway, or online at stjohsbr.org/give, selecting the Shepherd's Market Fund.

# Holiday Closures & Meetings

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Finance Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 28 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. The Finance Committee is an open meeting and any St. John's member is welcome to attend.

## **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24 to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday. The office will reopen Monday, November 27.

The Shepherd's Market will be closed Thursday, November 23. The pantry will reopen Monday, November 27 at 3:30 p.m. for its regular shopping hours.

# Youth & Children's Ministries

## **FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.**

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

### ***Christ Here And Other Spaces***

We will next meet for C.H.A.O.S. on **Sunday, November 26 from 4- 6 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. The lesson will focus on how we can make and prepare spaces for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us. To accompany this lesson, we will work on Chrismons (Christian ornaments) with guidance from some of the members of the St. John's United Women in Faith. Dinner will be included. We hope to see you all there.

## **SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

## **UPSTAIRS CAFE**

The "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

## **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY SERIES - BIBLICAL LAMENT**

The study series we are following for Sunday School from now until Advent is called "Biblical Lament." This series is designed to help teenagers navigate complex feelings and experiences by finding Biblical examples of the same feelings and experiences. The series covers topics such as sadness, fear, joy, surprise, anger, and even issues facing LGBTQ youth.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

## **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Christmas Party for United Methodist Youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 17 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Tacky Christmas sweaters are encouraged. We will play some games, then do a white elephant gift exchange. (Each student should bring a gift that costs no more than \$10 to exchange.) Pizza will be served for dinner and we will decorate Christmas cookies for dessert.

# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday, November 19

- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Decorating Narthex & Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## Monday, November 20

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Holiday Superstore, Siegen Target
- 10:00 a.m. Decorating Narthex & Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Decorating Chrismon Tree, Sanctuary
- 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
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Tuesday, November 21

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

## Wednesday, November 22

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

## Thursday, November 23

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

## Friday, November 24

OFFICE CLOSED  
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor

## Saturday, November 25

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

\*Family Life Center