



seeking:
*Where are
you headed?*

Sunday, April 2, 2023

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Imagine you are in Jerusalem when Jesus enters on a donkey. Within the chaos and commotion of that scene, where are you and which way will you go? Will you follow Jesus all the way to the cross? Jesus' willing surrender to his arrest should always catch us off-guard. As dismayed as the disciples, we ask, "Jesus, are you really headed this way, straight to your death?" Many of our weekly questions throughout the season so far have helped us prepare spiritually for Holy Week. Now we examine if our beliefs have changed our behaviors. Has your path changed? In the midst of opposing forces, which way will you go?

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the bulletin) 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

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

seeking community

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



Prelude

Alleluia Ringers

Crown Him With Many Crowns
Arranged by L. Linda McKechnie
with Terry Byars on organ

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Palm Processional

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
The United Methodist Hymnal 278, vs. 1 - 3

Palm Sunday Dramatic Reading

“Honest Questions for Deeper Faith”

Hymn of Praise

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 277, vs. 1

seeking insight

Opening Prayer

Julian Hartman

Holy God,

Sometimes we struggle to hear you

over the loud “Hosannas,”

over the noise of city streets,

over our constantly racing thoughts.

Just as you stopped traffic in Jerusalem,

stop traffic here.

Pause the rush.

Open the gates.

Dwell among us, until your Word is all we can hear.

We are listening. Help us to lay down our cloaks. Amen.

Prayer Response

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 277, vs. 3

Children’s Message

Connor Dean

seeking wholeness

Call to Confession

Pastor Lane

For today's Prayer of Confession, we are going to read the Palm Sunday story together. As we read through the story, we will pause to admit the places where we so often and so easily could change the narrative. As we hear the story and pray together, may we trust that no matter what we do or don't do, this story ends with love.

Prayer of Confession & Scripture Reading

Julian Hartman

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

Let us pray.

God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:
"Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
"Hosanna to the Son of David!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, "Hosanna!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Grace

Pastor Lane

Family of faith,

There will be days when we withhold our praise.

There will be days when we dare not follow.

There will be days when we ignore God's call,
when we choose comfort over courage,
and ourselves over others.

But even on those days, even on our worst days,
we belong to God.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Nothing can separate us from God's love.
We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve.
Hosanna! Amen.**

Anthem

Alleluia Ringers

A Canticle of Praise
Written by C. William Goff

Message

Pastor Lane

"Where Are You Headed?"

*Hymn of Faith

Lead Me, Guide Me (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2214

seeking gratitude

Ministry Moment: Kairos Prison Ministry

Johnny McWilliams

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Lift High the Palms
Written by Joseph Martin
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

Holy Ground
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2272

**We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

seeking grace

Pastor Lane

*Invitation to the Feast

Friends,

The One you seek welcomes you.
The grace you seek will be given.

This is Christ's table.
We are the guests.
He is the host.

We are standing on holy ground.
All are invited. All are loved.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of the lost and the found,
surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise;
for day after day we look for you,
and day after day we find you:

in the laughter of children,
in the sun rising over the horizon,
in the flowers of spring.

Our seeking does not go unanswered,
and for that we are grateful.

And so together, we proclaim our praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of justice and love
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder.
Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, among us!**

The congregation is seated.

Like those who gathered with Jesus on the night of his arrest, we come in need of grace.

After feasting with his companions, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Take, eat, and remember me."

After the supper, he did the same with the cup, saying, "This is a sign of the new covenant. Drink in remembrance of me."

As a way to remember Christ's perfect love and life we joyfully and thankfully give you back our lives as holy, living sacrifices. Receive this gift of our lives, together with Christ's gifts for us, as we speak the Truth about our faith:

Christ died.

Christ rose!

Christ is alive, and is coming again.

Consecration and Blessing

Let us pray.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and cup.

May this meal be the nourishment we need to continue seeking you in the world.

Use your Holy Spirit to make us one with Christ and one with each other, so we can care for the world until Christ comes again and we all join around his table as family in perfect love.

Until your promised day, we will seek.

The Lord's Prayer

Until your promised day, we will pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

***Sharing in Holy Communion**

Everyone is welcome to share in Holy Communion.

Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction" with only the pastor and servers touching the elements. The bread will be dipped in the grape juice and handed to you. Or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.

A gluten-free option is also available.

You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.

If you are a person with limited mobility, please let an usher know and someone will gladly bring communion to you.

Gratitude Prayer

Julian Hartman

**God of manna and mustard seeds,
we came to this table hungry and we leave feeling full -
full of hope,
full of promise,
full of what could be.**

**Thank you for nourishing our curiosity
alongside our spirit and our conviction.**

**May we always seek you the way you seek after us.
With grateful hearts we pray, 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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2129, vs. 1 & 2

During the singing of the hymn, we invite you to bring forward The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.

*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

USHERS

Ushers for the 11 a.m. service are Susanna Seals and Harriet Walters.

STOP BY THE FLC AFTER CHURCH

Stop by the FLC - the Craft and Bake Sale is open until 12:15.

LITURGY AND PRAYERS

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

announcements

TODAY - UWF CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

The United Women in Faith of St. John's is sponsoring a Craft and Bake Sale **today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** There will be wonderful crafts and delicious Easter goodies to bring home or share with others. Proceeds from the sale go to UWF missions and projects.

EASTER LILIES IN THE SANCTUARY

Easter lilies will adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one, contact the office, pick up an order form in the Narthex, or use the QR code. Each lily dedication costs \$15. You may pay online at stjohnsbr.org/give and choose "Other" in the Fund drop down box, then under Sub Fund choose "Flower fund." *You may also pay by check or cash in the offering plate or mail. Mark your donation with "Lilies."*



The deadline to order is Monday, April 3.

CALLING ALL FOODIES & FOOD LOVERS

We are hosting an Agape Feast, or Love Feast, as part of our Maundy Thursday worship experience on April 6 at 6pm. We will serve Mediterranean finger foods such as hummus, pita, olives, almonds, cashews, dried fruit, cheese, and grapes. Pastor Lane is looking for some "Foodies" to help host. If you are willing to provide something for the feast, set up, and/or clean up, please contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP & AGAPE FEAST, APRIL 6, 6 P.M., FLC

Maundy Thursday demonstrates God's invitations to encounter, to connect, and to be transformed. **Our service will take place in the Family Life Center** and will be followed with an Agape Feast, or Love Feast, featuring Mediterranean finger foods, a modern-day variation of what might have been served to Jesus and his disciples. (This service will not be streamed.)

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP, APRIL 7, 6 P.M.

Our Good Friday worship service is structured around Jesus' seven last words. Join us for this solemn worship service at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary and online.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, APRIL 9, 8:30 & 11 A.M.

Celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection on Easter at our regular worship times in the sanctuary and online. ***Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Flower Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services.***

PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

To everyone at St. John's and our friends: you are invited to join the Prime Timers for their monthly second Saturday Dutch-treat buffet breakfast (\$8.99), April 8, at the Drury Inn & Suites, 7939 Essen Park Drive at 8:30 a.m. They will be looking for you!

MANNA BAGS AVAILABLE

Thank you for your contributions to the Manna Bags mission project. We assembled over 125 Manna Bag care packages, some of which have already been distributed. Extra Manna Bags are located in the blue tubs in the Narthex, so feel free to grab one or several after worship today. Filled with food, water, and socks, Manna Bags are a tangible gift you can offer to someone in need. This mission is just one of the ways we continue to live out our vision of feeding people spiritually and physically within our community.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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. Working with our youth allows you to build connections with the young people at our church. Our youth are the future of the church, so it is important to cultivate meaningful relationships with them at this formative part of their lives.

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, in advance of the class, participants are required to purchase and read *Living Our Beliefs The United Methodist Way* by Bishop Kenneth L. Carder. The book is currently available on the Upper Room and Amazon web sites for \$13. Scholarships are available for the course and book. (Please contact the church office for scholarship assistance.) To register go to la-umc.org/umcbeliefscourse.

COOKIES FOR KAIROS

Johnny McWilliams is serving on staff at the Kairos Prison Ministry Retreat #49 April 27-30. Kairos works to establish strong Christian communities in prisons worldwide. Please be in prayer for Kairos #49 and all Kairos Prison Ministry weekends happening all over the world. Cookies are needed for this event as well as volunteers for the kitchen.

Home-baked cookies are a tangible expression of Christian love and one the inmates at LCIW (Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women) look forward to. Look for the guide, “Cookies for Kairos,” in the Narthex as there are specific rules to follow in baking and packaging the cookies. or you may find the guidelines online. You may bring your cookies to Johnny here at church on Sunday, April 16.

If you are unable to help with cookies or in the kitchen, you may also make a monetary donation. Make your check out to KPML. It can be put in the collection plate or brought by the office. For more information contact Johnny McWilliams at 225-270-1307 or johnny70817@gmail.com.

UMCOR TORNADO RESPONSE

Widespread atmospheric instability during the evening of March 24, 2023, caused a powerful tornado that was on the ground for more than an hour and traveled at least 170 miles, killing more than 25 people, injuring hundreds and causing damage primarily concentrated in Mississippi. According to weather experts, the supercell that produced the deadly twister in Mississippi also appeared to produce tornadoes causing damage in northwest and north-central Alabama and then Georgia.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) approved a grant from the Mississippi Conference for emergency relief and gave permission to the North Alabama Conference to use unused funds previously awarded to address the current disaster. UMCOR’s supply network is readying for the distribution of needed supplies.

We are collecting a special offering to support the tornado relief efforts in Mississippi

Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR’s Disaster Response to support these efforts. Through UMCOR, every penny donated goes to helping those in need. To make a financial donation, we have set up a special Disaster Relief Fund on our website at stjohnsbr.org/give. Choose the Missions Fund, and then the Disaster Relief Fund / UMCOR. Checks written to St. John’s should have UMCOR in the memo line or on the cash envelope.

ANNOUNCING 2023 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN

St. John’s United Methodist Church is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for our Summer Youth Intern position. This 13-week internship spans the summer months and is designed for young adults who have a passion for ministry with youth and/or may be exploring a call to ministry. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable ministry and leadership experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 20 hours per week.

We are looking for someone who has a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome.

Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by April 24, 2023.

this week at a glance

Sunday, April 2

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:00 a.m. UWF Craft and Bake Sale, FLC
- 8:20 a.m. Line up for Palm Processional
- 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 Group, Youth Room
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers (1st-12th grades), Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells' Room

Monday, April 3

- 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, April 4

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Ruth Circle, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, April 5

- 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, April 6

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship, FLC

Friday, April 7

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 8

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast,
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

THANK YOU

Our thanks and praise goes out to all who helped make the Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt such a success! We could not have done it without your prayers, donations, your time, and your support.



Maundy Thursday Service & Agape/Love Feast

April 6, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.
In the Family Life Center

Good Friday Service of Shadows & Stones

April 7, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuary & Streamed Online

Easter Sunday with Flower Processional

April 9, 2023
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Both services will feature the "Music Makers" Children & Youth Ensemble
• Handbells • Trumpet • Praise Team at 8:30am & Chancel Choir at 11am

Arrive early for the Flower Processional
Sanctuary & Streamed Online