

RETURN WITH INTENTION

CHECK-IN & PRAYER REQUESTS VIA QR CODE →

As we turn the corner on the year, we ask: What is God inviting me to do, to be, or to change? Let this be a season to say “Yes” again – not to perfection, but to transformation and purpose.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Nursery Helpers Needed

We’re seeking extra support to care for our littlest members on Sunday mornings. With 18 people currently serving, most are scheduled just once every six weeks. If no children arrive within the first 15 minutes of worship or Sunday School, those serving are free to leave but remain “on call” by text if needed. To join the rotation, sign up at: stjohnsbr.org/nurseryvolunteer Middle and high school students are welcome too!

Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing prayers@stjohnsbr.org or visiting stjohnsbr.org/here.

All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here

Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

For Newcomers

Restrooms & Welcome **Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text ‘CONNECT’ to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

For Families with Children

- The **St. John’s Playground** is in the front of the sanctuary during services. Children are welcome to spend **the entire service** here.
- The **Nursery** serves infants – preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- **Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months – 12th grade from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

The altar flowers are from Laura & Stuart Hunt in prayerful gratitude for their children: Amanda & James Gale, Patrick & Sarah Hunt and their grandchildren: Hayes David Hunt & Indie Maria Hunt.

 Our ushers are **Susanna Seals & Eve Jones**.

📅 UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week’s Spiritual Practice: “Come to Yourself”

Each day, pause for 5–10 minutes and reflect:

- Where am I — spiritually, emotionally, relationally?
- What have I been avoiding or running from?
- What do I long to return to?

Journal, walk, or sit in prayer — no fixing, just presence. Close your day with:

“God, thank you for welcoming me back with grace. Help me live tomorrow with love and purpose. Amen.”

New Worship Series: Unmute the Gospel” begins next week

Unmute the Gospel is a call to speak honestly about our faith, reclaiming the power of our words to share the hope we’ve found in Christ. In a world where silence is common, this series invites us to find our voice and share with courage and compassion.

Pickleball & Prosciutto, August 17th 3–4:30p.m.

Save the date for Pickleball & Prosciutto in the FLC—an afternoon of friendly games and savory snacks! Bring your paddle and appetite as we serve up fun on and off the court.

Grub Sunday – Today, 4–6:00 pm on the lawn

Youth, including our rising 6th graders, are invited to this messy showdown from 4–6pm with water, shaving cream, soap suds, goo, and other gloriously grubby fun—all on the church lawn!

Mission–Vision Revision: A Season of Discernment

Mission & Vision – Help Shape the Future of St. John’s

Not part of a Sunday School class but still want to participate in shaping the future of our church? Join a condensed version of the Mission & Vision study, facilitated by John Gilmore, on Tuesday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m in the church library. This special session offers an opportunity for all members to reflect on who we are as a church and where God is calling us next. To register, please email (office@stjohnsbr.org) or call the church office at 225-766-4594 by August 17th. Let your voice be part of this important conversation!

One Service August 31 & Larger Coffee Time

The next 5th Sunday is on August 31, and we’ll worship together in one combined service at 10:00a.m. followed by an extended Coffee Time. Everyone is invited! If your last name begins with M–Z, A–C, or D–G, please consider bringing a treat to share for Coffee Time that day.

Thank you Ana de la Fuente

Thank you, Ana, for your faithful service as our summer intern. Your joy, creativity, and genuine care have been such a gift to us all!

📍 EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S FLC = Family Life Center

Worship Services

Sundays
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Coffee Time
Sundays
9:30 a.m. FLC
Last Names A–C may bring snacks on August 10

Sunday School
Sundays
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide

Music Ministries
Sundays
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room
Reconvenes in the Fall after Summer break
Children & Youth

Sundays
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
Reconvenes in the Fall after Summer break

Wellness

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Tuesdays
7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC–E

Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. Ladies AA Meeting, FLC–C

Saturdays
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC–C
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC
Shepherd’s Market
A client choice food pantry
Mondays 3:30 p.m. FLC
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m. FLC
shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
9 AM – 12 NOON
Monday – Friday



WELCOME

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.



CHECK IN
& PRAYER
REQUESTS

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Musical Reflection
You Are Mine

Invitation to Worship* Kate Bouchillon

Can you feel it?
The shift in the air –
not just the summer heat, but the call to return.
**We come from many places –
scattered by schedules, pulled by priorities –
but today, we return.**
Not just to routines or calendars,
but to the heart of who we are.
**We return to God,
who runs to meet us with open arms.**
We return to grace,
not because we have it all figured out,
but because we are ready to come home.
**We return with intention –
to listen, to reflect, to renew.**
**Let us worship the God who welcomes,
restores, and rejoices over every return.**

We Sing Together* U.M. Hymnal #383 vs 1, 3, 4
This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ*

We Present Bibles to Students Pat Cobb, U.W.F.

We Encourage Our Children & Those Heading to School
We ask God to bless the bags we carry, those returning to school & the school supplies donated to support students in our community.

**God of new beginnings,
Bless all who return to classrooms and lunchrooms,
to playgrounds and homework,
to locker combinations and early alarms.
Bless the students with curiosity and courage.
Bless the teachers with creativity and compassion.
Bless the parents and guardians with patience and grace.**

**Bless the backpacks, laptops, and all who carry them.
Bless the school supplies donated to support students in our neighborhood.
May every hallway be a place of welcome.
May every classroom echo with kindness.
May every challenge be met with resilience,
and every success with gratitude.
Remind us that learning is a sacred gift.
And as we return, may we do so with intention,
with love, kindness, and hope for what lies ahead.
Amen.**

We Read the Word* Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Luke 15:11–24
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.

We Reflect on the Word Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Return with Intention

Guided Meditation Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Sing Together* U.M. Hymnal #348 vs 1, 4
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

We Offer our Tithes and Gifts to God
Today Steven Rushing, soloist
Randy Sparks
Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit stjohnsbr.org/give to give online.

We Sing Together* U.M. Hymnal #94
Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
**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!**

We Prepare for Communion
We give thanks, remember God’s saving acts, and call on the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. Together, we join in a holy meal that connects us with Christ and one another.
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 our thanks and praise.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Creator of the heavens and earth.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**
The congregation is seated as we recall the Last Supper and pray for the Spirit's presence in this holy meal.

We Pray the Lord's Prayer U.M. Hymnal #895

We Receive Communion*
All are welcome to receive Communion.
We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged & gluten-free options are available. You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

We Pray Together Rev Lane Cotton Winn
**God,
Thank you for meeting me with grace,
even when I’ve wandered.
Today, I return to You with intention.
Help me live tomorrow with love and purpose. Amen.**

We Receive This Week’s Call To Action
We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John’s and invite you to come forward and stand with Pastor Lane during the singing of the next song.

We Sing Together* Our Faith We Sing # 2128 vs 1, 2
Come and Find the Quiet Center
Please bring grocery donations for the Shepherd’s Market Client-Choice Food Pantry forward as we sing.

We Share in a Blessing*

We Go Out into the World*
The service ends, but our worship continues as we go forth to love and serve the Lord.