



Sunday, February 4, 2024
11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION
All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship! Today we welcome Rev. Todd Rossnagel, Director of Communications Strategies for the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, as our guest preacher. Together, we will read Jesus' parable of the wedding feast from Matthew's gospel. Much like guests preparing themselves to be presentable at a wedding, Jesus' parable points to the need for all of us to prepare ourselves spiritually and morally to be acceptable in the eyes of God through our attitude, beliefs and our actions.

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



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

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. 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 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.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

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Bill Putzig
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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.*



Gathering

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

Introit

More Like You

***Call to Worship**

Richard Damberg

Here in this place, with these people, we come to worship
the living God.

In you, O God, we hope; in you, Creator of love, we live.

Here in this sacred space, in these very moments, we are invited
to the Table of Joy.

**In you, Christ of the Way, we rejoice; in you, dear Brother, grace
is as near as your heart.**

Here on this day of gentleness and beauty, we are filled with
the peace of God.

**In you, O Spirit, we find our path; in you, Teacher of hope,
we learn to serve.**

***Hymn of Praise**

More Love to Thee, O Christ
The United Methodist Hymnal 453, vs. 1, 2, & 4

Installation & Blessing of 2024 Officers & Church Leaders

Listening

Children's Message

Shawn Walker

Prayer for Illumination

Richard Damberg

**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**

Richard Damberg

Matthew 22:1-14

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.

Sermon

“The Wardrobe of Love”

Rev. Todd Rossnagel

Responding

***Hymn of Faith**

We Are Called

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

***Prayer of Confession**

Natalie Cooper

Coming together as God’s family, with confidence let us ask the Lord’s forgiveness for our failure to respond fully to his grace, for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for your invitation to gather around your holy table, a celebration banquet that reveals your heavenly Kingdom.

Help us to respond to your invitation and not to despise it. Help us to put away our old clothes of sin and wear the wedding clothes of your Kingdom.

Today we ask for your forgiveness for living without your presence in our lives; for relying on our own achievements; for believing that we are the architects of our own destiny; for living as though you have no place in our modern world.

Forgive us, restore us, renew us and equip us to do Your will on earth, until the dawning of your heavenly Kingdom. Clothe us in the riches of your grace, as we study your word, serve in your world, and meet you in prayer. Amen.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Hear the Good news, Jesus will always forgive us, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Let us proclaim that good news to one another:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Ave Verum Corpus
By W. A. Mozart
Chancel Choir Anthem

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online at 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!**

*The Great Thanksgiving

A Service of Word and Table
The United Methodist Hymnal 15

Our sung communion responses are from The Faith We Sing Songbook 2257

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.

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. (3x)
Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the institution
of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The Lord's Prayer

*Sharing the Bread and Cup

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, or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice.

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 the usher know and someone will bring communion to you.

Prayer After Receiving

Connor Dean

God,

by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you clothe us with grace and make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us and do the work you call us to do with compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so. Amen.

Departing to Serve

Call to Action

Connor Dean

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

Freely

The United Methodist Hymnal 389, vs. 1 & 2

Please bring donations for The Shepherd's Market forward during the singing of our closing hymn.

*Benediction

Rev. Todd

*Postlude

*The end of worship.
The beginning of service.*

Worship Notes

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Scott Durham and Renee Rodi.

Announcements

THIS WEEK'S PASTOR ON CALL

Pastor Lane is taking Bereavement Leave in the recent passing of her father. For the week beginning Monday, February 5, our Pastor on Call is Rev. Larry Norman. He can be reached on his cell (225-933-1881) should a pastoral need arise.

TODAY - YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study today at the home of Pam & John Toney (617 Highland Oaks Dr., 70810) at 4 p.m.. There will be snacks & drinks, including king cake!

MARDI GRAS CLOSURES

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed for Mardi Gras, **Tuesday, February 13**. The office will reopen Wednesday at 9 a.m. and the pantry will reopen Thursday, February 15 at 8 a.m.

COMMUNION COMPANIONS

The Communion Companions meeting scheduled for today at 4 p.m. has been postponed to a later date. It will be rescheduled and notices sent out.

2023 FINAL GIVING STATEMENTS

The final giving statements for 2023 went out this past week via email. Check your Inbox. The email will be from St. John's United Methodist Church with the subject line "2023 Year End Giving Statement from St. John's." If you did not get one, please contact LeAnn Davis at 225-766-4594.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2024 is now available in the hallway of the Edu/Admin Building. There is almost a blank slate for you to choose a date to honor or remember a loved one, friend, or group. Sign up now to keep the beautiful flower arrangements on the altar.

Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The sacred season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. We invite you to join us at 6 p.m. for worship. Rev. Karli Pidgeon, our District Superintendent, will be preaching.

NOTE: If you would like to receive ashes earlier in the day, University United Methodist Church (3350 Dalrymple Drive) will offer Ashes To Geaux from 7-8:30 a.m. (pull into the front middle parking lot spaces) and 12 -1 p.m. (drive up through the overhang or at the corner of Chimes and Highland).

LENT WORSHIP SERIES "EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH"

Join us on a Lenten journey where we will discover what it means to know that we are "good enough," where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that's ok. What if we stopped striving for unattainable ideals and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives. The series begins on **Sunday, February 18** with a message from Pastor Lane.

We will use the book *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche, as the companion for our Lent worship series. Each week we will highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* and then you can move through the devotions on your own, using a schedule provided in the newsletter or simply as you feel led. There is also a discussion guide available for Sunday School classes who may be interested in using the book during Lent. Contact the church office for more information.

Upcoming Events

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

St. John's, you are invited to come to *Unity in the CommUNITY*, **Saturday, February 17 at 10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. The staff at Charlie Thomas Head Start Center is helping plan the annual special worship service. We hope to have a large number of our membership at this service. In addition to music provided by our members, a children's choir will perform several songs and play hand bells. Natalie Cooper will deliver a brief message. Following the service, the United Women in Faith will host a light lunch reception in the FLC where everyone can gather for food and fellowship.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) OVERVIEW

On **February 18**, right after Coffee Time, for those who are interested, we will have a brief session to get familiar with the AEDs that were installed last year. The 15 minute session will start at 9:45 in the FLC.

PRIME TIMERS BUFFET BREAKFAST

It's time for Prime Timers Buffet Breakfast that's held on the second Saturday of each month. Prime Timers invite you to meet them at the Drury Inn and Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave. on **February 10 at 8:30 a.m.** If you do, there will be no cooking or dirty dishes for you to think about - just friendly people, good conversation, and \$8.99 for tasty food.

Servanthood

YOUTH MEALS NEEDED

Help is needed to feed our Youth once a month! Yes, it is only for the third Wednesday of each month for 8 - 10 people. ***The meal can be as simple as picking up several pizzas, a party pack from Taco Bell, or a couple of family meals from KFC.*** Of course, you can bring a home-cooked meal as well. The meal should be brought to the Admin Building between 5:45 and 6 p.m. Sign up to help at stjohnsbr.org/YouthMeals. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) for more information.

COFFEE TIME NEWS!

A big thank you goes to all of you who continue to donate goodies for Coffee Time so faithfully! In January, the Genesis Sunday School class provided for us, with United Women in Faith taking one Sunday. For February, the Seekers Sunday School class has volunteered. Thank you!

However, beginning in March, our signup sheet is currently empty! If you want to sign up online, you certainly may, but we are also going to try a different way to get participants. Starting this Sunday, a Food Fun and Fellowship representative will circulate in the FLC to use the old-fashioned paper/pencil/clipboard method for signup! We'll have the months until summer available, so look at your calendar so you can pick a day. This way everyone will have a chance to participate, just based on your own desire to help! Thank you again!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

We look forward to hosting VBS again this year! This 5-day program will run from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024. More information will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. For the time being, mark your calendars!

Youth & Children's Ministries

YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER

First Sundays: The St. John's youth group will gather on the first Sunday of each month from **4 - 5:30 p.m.** Throughout the spring semester, they will meet at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities.

Third Wednesdays: Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Wednesday Night Live*. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) if you did not receive one.

C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

February 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Bring your leftover Mardi Gras beads and join us for a craft night using upcycled beads! Dinner will be included.

March 23, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Bunny Breakfast celebration - complete with pancakes, crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Save the date for this event... More info coming soon!

YOUTH EVENTS CALENDAR

Youth events calendars for the month of February have been mailed and should be received by youth households shortly. If you do not receive a calendar and would like one, please contact Connor.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 4

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study, The Toney's
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, February 5

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 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, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, February 6

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support, Founders' Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, February 7

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. Circle of the Heart, Founders Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, February 8

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee, Library

Friday, February 9

- 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

Saturday, February 10

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center