



Uniquely UMC

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

*Sunday, May 5, 2024
11 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

The United Methodist Church is known for its commitment to being an inclusive church that welcomes and affirms people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and identities. Just like those in today's scripture reading who did not give up until they got their friend to Jesus, The United Methodist Church strives to make a way for everyone to experience the love and grace of Jesus. Today we continue our Uniquely UMC worship series, by highlighting the inclusive nature of The UMC as we work to create a church where everyone is accepted, valued, and supported in their spiritual journey.

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.



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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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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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

Here I Am, Lord
By Dan Schutte

Alleluia Ringers

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Written by Charles Wesley
The United Methodist Hymnal 57, vs. 1 - 4

*Call to Worship

Rev. Larry Norman

We gather as people brought together by grace and bound together in the family of God.

May God draw us together in love.

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, a movement dedicated to prayer, worship, study, and service.

May we never stop seeking the heartwarming Spirit of God.

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, Yes!
But more than that, we are God's people, connected to every Jesus-follower through the body of Christ.

May the love of Christ unite us this day and always. Amen.

Children's Message

Darlene Dickson

Prayer

O God,
we invite you into our fellowship,
into our minds, and into our hearts.
Deepen our questions, guide our answers,
and let us gather in your name. Amen.

*Scripture

Luke 5:17-26

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

"An Inclusive Church"

Pastor Lane

***Hymn**

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast
The United Methodist Hymnal 339, vs. 1, 2, & 5

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Larry

Yes, we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose image we were created. Let us remake ourselves toward that image as we make our confession before God and each other.

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.

We know we do not always live as we ought:

**We turn away from You,
from our neighbor,
and from our true selves.**

**We dim Your light within us with our pride,
our self-righteousness, and our need for control.**

**We know that You love us,
that you do not abandon us,
and that again and again you call us back to You,
back to love,
back to grace,
back to your light.**

Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Friends, hear the Good News:
the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
Let us proclaim the Good News to one another:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

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

Ministry Moment

Vacation Bible School

Connor Dean

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Spirit Song*

By Cynthia Dobrinski

Alleluia Ringers

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!**

*The Great Thanksgiving

With sung responses 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.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's gift of salvation.

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, the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled, 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

O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread
By Charles Wesley; American Folk Melody
Chancel Choir Anthem

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

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

Rev. Larry

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

**I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. 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

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

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

Call to Worship adapted from prayer by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2024.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer by John Wesley, first used in worship on August 11, 1755, in London.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Susanna Seals & Harriet Walters.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We believe that prayer is a powerful way to connect us to one another and to God. If you have a prayer or joy you want lifted up, please email prayers@stjohnsbr.org. Pastor Lane and Lynn Cooper, our Administrative Assistant, will receive your request and pass it along to the Prayer Team, unless you request it only be shared with Pastor Lane. A group of dedicated volunteers receive prayer requests weekly and then focus on praying for these requests immediately and throughout the week. Prayer Requests are also included in the Inside St. John's newsletter, sent on Tuesdays. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested.

We are grateful for the individuals on our Prayer Team who commit to pray for the concerns and joys that are shared. Would you like to be a part of this team that commits to praying daily/weekly? Send a request to join the Prayer Team to prayers@stjohnsbr.org.

Announcements

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 17 - 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

We are seeking willing servants for Vacation Bible School. There are plenty of ways to help out. The best part is – everything is already planned, and all the materials will be provided. We are just asking for your time. If you do not have other commitments during that week or have a flexible work schedule that allows you to volunteer for a day or two, please consider volunteering.

Some slots only require 30 minutes of your time, some require 2 hours, and some require 4 hours. For many of the spots, you can choose if you volunteer for a single day or multiple days. All of that to say, there are many ways to get involved, and we have tried to make this as flexible and volunteer-friendly as possible. You can visit stjohnsbr.org/vbs-volunteers to get more information and sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Connor (connordean@stjohnsbr.org).

Children who have completed fifth grade and younger are invited to join us for VBS! You can register online at stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024.

LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

Join with other United Methodist laity in a one-day workshop about Lay Servant Ministries on **May 18 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge. This course is recommended for every person involved in any lay ministry or holding a leadership position. Participants will use scripture and engage in exercises designed to help better understand and employ your gifts, learn about servant leadership and developing future leaders, and discuss spiritual practices to keep you grounded in your faith.

Registration for the course is \$25, which includes lunch and refreshments. Participants are responsible for acquiring course materials, completing the reading, and completing an assignment based on the materials prior to the course date. Natalie Cooper, who is on the leadership team, is happy to assist you in getting prepared. Register online here: <https://www.la-umc.org/lsm>. For more information, please contact Natalie at natalie@piaoflouisiana.com.

YOUTH AND SENIOR SUNDAY MAY 19

During our Youth & Senior Sunday worship services on May 19, we will celebrate and recognize the youth and 2024 graduates. The St. John's youth will lead various parts of each worship service that morning, and we will have a luncheon in the FLC immediately following the 11 AM service. If you would like to help with the luncheon, please contact Connor (connordean@stjohnsbr.org).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN PANTRY

Some of you may not know, but The Shepherd's Market is an all-volunteer mission. During the month of May a lot of our volunteers will be going on vacation and we need your help! If you can help for any length of time on Mondays (3:30 - 5:30 p.m.) or Tuesdays and Thursdays (8 - 10 a.m.), please come by the FLC. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of The Shepherd's Market. Come join in - let your servant's heart shine!

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP - WEEKEND OF THE CROSS

This summer our Youth will be staying in the Alexandria area for Weekend of the Cross, July 17-20. Youth must be registered, including the \$50 registration fee (St. John's will cover the remaining \$100 participant fee), by May 19. This mission weekend is a great first-time experience for middle school youth and a chance for high schoolers to develop as leaders. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) for more information or if you have any questions.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE OF THE HEART

The Circle of the Heart will meet **Wednesday, May 8 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Founders' Parlor. Claudia Fowler will present the program. All women are invited to attend.

PRIME TIMERS BUFFET BREAKFAST

Prime Timers will meet for their Second Saturday Dutch-treat Buffet Breakfast on **May 11 at 8:30** at Drury Inn, 7939 Essen Park Ave. All are invited to join them.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 5

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

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

Wednesday, May 8

- 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. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, May 9

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

Friday, May 10

- 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, May 11

- 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