

ROOM FOR *Hope*

CHECK-IN &
PRAYER REQUESTS
VIA QR CODE



When Joseph found himself in an impossible situation with no good way out, an angel of the Lord arrived with hope, making room for a new God-given possibility! How is God making room in the places in our lives that feel impossible and hopeless?

Christmas Dedications & Poinsettias

Honor loved ones with a **Poinsettia Dedication** (\$35)—poinsettias may be taken home after the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service—or a **Mission & Vision Dedication** (\$35), which includes a gift card to share with the honoree. Deadline: December 18.
Order at stjohnsbr.org/christmas-dedication, scan the QR code, or use a form from the Narthex or Office.



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. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

The Altar Flowers are given by The Alleluia Ringers who are thankful for all that Dr. Steve Rushing does for them; may he know he is appreciated. From the Alleluia Ringers, Merry Christmas, Steve.

Today's Ushers

Ben Hartman & Joyce Perry

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Giving Tree – Gifts for Neighborhood Kids

Visit the Giving Tree during Coffee Time in the F.L.C. to share a little Christmas joy with a child in our community. Simply **choose a child from the tree and purchase two gifts** – one clothing item and one fun – each under \$30. It's a small act that makes a big difference, and your generosity will brighten a child's holiday in the sweetest way. Gifts are due on December 15.

Joyfest, Today!

Join us for a festive, all-ages gathering today, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas or a tacky outfit, and bring a dish to share as we enjoy good food, good company, and the joy of the season together.

Music Makers Time Change

Music Makers meets from 4:00–5:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in December, preparing to sing "Away in a Manger" on Sunday the 14th. All children from kindergarten through middle school are invited to join.

Staff Love Offering

As we enter this joyful Christmas season, please join in blessing our incredible staff with a love offering in appreciation for all they pour into our church. You may give online by selecting "Staff Appreciation," note it on a check or cash during Sunday offering, or drop off your gift at the church office. Please send contributions by Dec. 16 online and Dec. 17 for checks or cash.

UWF Circle of the Heart Christmas Meeting, December 10

All women are warmly invited to join us for a festive Circle of the Heart Christmas gathering at 9:30 a.m. at Pat Cobb's home (1910 Camellia Trace Dr.). Bring a favorite Christmas snack to share.

Make A Difference this Holiday Season, December 13

Come help give away food at **Great Turkey Giveaway** on Saturday! Arrive at 7:00 a.m. at the Family Life Center to help assemble & distribute meals.

United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale, December 14

Treat yourself to a little holiday cheer at the United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale on Sunday, December 14, all morning long! Browse homemade goodies, handcrafted items, and thoughtful gifts—all supporting local and global missions.

Lessons & Carols, *The Heavens Declare*, December 14

Join us for the beautiful Lessons and Carols services, *The Heavens Declare*, on Sunday, December 14 at both services. This cherished tradition weaves together scripture, music, and the wonder of the season. Let the beauty of word & song lift your spirit!

Family Ministries Christmas Party, December 18

Join us for a cozy evening of Christmas cheer from 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center and outside by the bonfire! Enjoy s'mores, laughter, and relaxed fellowship as we celebrate the season together. All ages welcome—just bring your holiday spirit!

Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities, December 24

4 p.m. A Family-Friendly Service with a children's live nativity

6 p.m. A Traditional Candlelight & Communion Service

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. Family Life Center

Last names D–G – December 14

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

Find A Class

stjohnsbr.org/childrens-ministries

stjohnsbr.org/adult-sunday-school-classes/

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Sundays

6:00 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays

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

Upstairs Café Fruit Dec. 14 – Last names: A–H

4:00 p.m. Music Makers (K–8th grades)

SERVE

Fridays

10:30 a.m. Holy Helpers, Church Office

WELLNESS

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Tuesdays

7:00 p.m. Pickleball

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

Mondays 3:30 p.m. FLC

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m. FLC

shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

CONTACT

stjohnsbr.org/contact-us



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration

Sunday, December 7th 2025

stjohnsbr.org | [@stjohnsbr](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbr) | office@stjohnsbr.org

225-766-4594 | 230 Renee Drive BR, LA 70810

Welcome

11:00 AM Worship Celebration

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

Gathering Music Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Musical Reflection Betty Schroeder,
Advent Medley: Come, Thou Long Expected Hammer Dulcimer
Jesus & Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella & John Toney, Guitar

Invitation to Worship* Andre de la Fuente

In places that feel sealed off, where options seem few
and hope feels thin – God is already at work.
Where we see only dead ends, God carves out new beginnings.
Like Joseph, we come with questions, uncertainties,
and paths that feel impossible.
**And like Joseph, we are invited to listen, to make room for hope,
and to welcome God’s quiet possibilities and peace.**
Come, let us worship the One who makes a way
where there is no way,
the God of peace, the God of hope, the God who is with us.

We Welcome in the Light of Christ* U.M. Hymnal #189 vs 1,3,4)
Fairest, Lord Jesus

We Greet One Another with Joy and Peace*

We Light the Advent Candles Stephanie Rockco
Today, we light the candle of Peace. God calls us to open our hearts
and make room for the coming Christ child.
**In Christ, we receive holy possibility and
the deep assurance that God’s peace is with us and for us.**
(We light the candles of Hope and Peace.)

Christ comes to make peace in impossible places,
filling the world and our lives with new possibilities.
We welcome the One who is our peace.

We Sing Together* The Faith We Sing #2164
Sanctuary

We Encourage Our Children Molly Means



We Pray Together Pastor Lane
**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.**

We Read the Word* Pastor Lane
Matthew 1:18–25
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 Pastor Lane
Room for Hope

We Sing Together* U.M. Hymnal #219 vs 1, 3
What Child Is This?

Ministry Moment Cindy Carter
Staff Love Offering

We Offer God’s Tithes and Our Gifts
The King Shall Come Chancel Choir
John Leavitt

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* Pastor Lane
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 blessings of God, our Creator are shared,
concluding with singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**
*The congregation is seated as we recall the story of the
Last Supper, concluding with:*
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)
*We pray for the Spirit's presence in this holy meal concluding with
The Lord's Prayer.*

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

We Partake in 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 Andre de la Fuente
**Gracious God,
you have fed us with your love
and strengthened us with your peace.**
**Send us out to share what we have received, that your hope
and compassion may flow through us to the world. 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* U.M. Hymnal #202 vs 1–4
Angels from the Realms of Glory

**Please bring grocery donations for the Shepherd’s Market
Client–Choice Food Pantry forward as we sing.**

We Share in a Blessing* Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

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