

LEGACY

of hope



Celebrating Confirmation,
Baptism, Graduates & Youth

Sunday, May 7, 2023

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

“You are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him.”

1 Peter 2:9

Today is Youth Sunday, and our students in 6th-12th grades will be leading our worship time. Additionally, we are delighted to celebrate with the Class of 2023 as we recognize our graduates as well as the Confirmation of seven of our Youth. We will witness their Confirmation at the 11 a.m. service. Welcome to worship!

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

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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. 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
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Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
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Ben Balsler
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Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

Connor Dean
*Director of Youth and
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LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

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

Connor Dean

Introit

As the Deer
Violin solo by Lydia Rahkawi

***Call to Worship**

Devin Dickson

Welcome to God's house, where Christ is the cornerstone.

He is the source of all life - our rock and redeemer.

Vibrant life will come to those who lay a foundation upon this stone.

We turn our hearts to your vibrant life.

We recommit to living like Jesus.

Turn your hearts away from the darkness that causes us to stumble.

We turn our hearts to your amazing light.

Clear away the malice and pretense, the envy and hurtful talk.

May we drink deep from your pure kindness.

Come, for now you are God's people.

We join together as those chosen and called by Christ.

***Hymn of Praise**

We Are the Church
The United Methodist Hymnal 558, vs. 1 & 2

Children's Moment

Connor Dean

Graduation Recognition

Pastor Lane, Connor Dean,
Pat Cobb

Class of 2023:

Devin Dickson Lydia Rahkawi

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Grace Idikwu

Gracious God,

**Who values the wisdom of age, the energy of youth,
and the steadiness in between,
make Your presence known to us in
our worship today.**

**Make plain to us the gifts you've planted in the lives of our sisters and brothers of different generations.
May Your Holy Spirit move among us, so that we draw closer to each other and closer to you.
Thank you for your invitation to gather as a community of disciples. Amen.**

Scripture

Rev. Marie Williams,
Elizabeth Cooper, Bishop Idikwu

1 Peter 2:2-10

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.

The Message

“We Will!”

Pastor Lane

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***Hymn**

Here I Am, Lord
The United Methodist Hymnal 593, vs. 1 & 2

Ministry Moment

Youth Highlights Video

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Haylee Matthews, prayer

Morning Has Broken
Violin solo by Evie Durham

*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!**

SERVICE OF BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Candidates

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

The United Methodist Hymnal 34

Congregational Commitment

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help, we will.

Affirming Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

The United Methodist Hymnal 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he arose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God

the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge

the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Sacrament of Baptism

We baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Haylee Michel

Iman Kamaria

*As family and friends place hands on the baptized,
the congregation is invited to extend a hand out in prayer.*

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

It is our joy to welcome our new siblings in Christ. Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
as members of the family of Christ.**

Confirmation

Our Confirmands:

Elizabeth Stuart Cooper

Evelyn Faith Durham

Iman Dunbar

Pennel Iranyohe Idikwu

Paul Ukoachimia Idikwu

Haylee Matthews

Seth Robertson

*As each candidate is confirmed, immediate family and
Confirmation Mentors will come forward to participate.*

*Extended family, friends, and loved ones are invited to stand where they
are for silent prayer during the laying on of hands for the Confirmands.*

*After being Confirmed, each person will light a candle on the Altar,
representing Christ's light in their lives, and receive a Cross bracelet and
Certificate of Confirmation.*

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

May the Holy Spirit confirm you in the faith, that having been born of water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reception in The United Methodist Church and Congregation of St. John's

Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God,

I commend these persons to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and
we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ and
at St. John's United Methodist Church, we renew our vows
to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our
service, and our witness, that in everything God may be
glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Blessing and Celebration

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Iman Dunbar

**We thank you once again for this day,
the gift of resurrection,
and for making us your people.**

**Send us out by your mercy,
that we may be instruments of your work
embodying Christ's love and pure kindness,
that all may have abundant and vibrant lives. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

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 of Discipleship**

My Hope Is Built

The United Methodist Hymnal 368, vs. 1, 2, & 4

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

***United Methodist Youth Fellowship Benediction**

Seth Robertson

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace, both now and forever more. Amen.**

***Postlude**

*You may greet and congratulate our graduates
and confirmands in the Narthex as you leave.*

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS

Ushers for today's service are members of St. John's Youth Group.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are presented by Beth Forester in honor of our Youth and all who work with them, our graduating seniors, and the Confirmands, their mentors, their families, and Rev. Marie Williams, who led them on this important journey in their life and in that of the church.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Rev. Marie Williams for leading our Confirmation class sessions and our Confirmation Mentors for supporting and mentoring our Confirmands this year. Thank you to Genesis and Love Is Love Sunday school classes for hosting our Youth Celebration luncheon honoring our graduates and Confirmands.

Worship

LEGACY OF HOPE SERIES

Scripture is filled with intriguing characters who left profound legacies. As we look closer, we find that they were not that different from us. They too, experienced challenges, heartaches, successes, and failures. Their lives knew fear, doubt, and worry, and yet their lives bear witness to the everlasting story of God's hope and love for God's people. The Holy Spirit is hoping to do the same thing in our day and age through people just like us. During our "Legacy of Hope" series, we are talking about the importance of leaving a positive spiritual legacy. Join us on the Sundays in May. What will be your legacy?

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST

We encourage you to wear red and other fiery colors to worship on May 28 in celebration of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples like fire!

Missions and Fellowship

MANNA BAGS AVAILABLE

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.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF Mary Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, May 10 at 11 a.m. in the library**. This will be a salad luncheon and everyone is being asked to bring a salad whose name begins with one of their initials. For example, if your name is Joyce, you might decide to bring a Jello salad. This will be the final Mary Martha Circle meeting of the summer; their next meeting will be Wednesday, August 9 at 10 a.m. in the parlor. All women are invited to attend.

BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET LIBRARY

The free "library" in The Shepherd's Market needs donations of gently used and/or new adult and children's books. If you are down-sizing your library, we are gladly accepting fiction and non-fiction books.

PRIME TIMERS BUFFET BREAKFAST

Prime Timers will meet for their Second Saturday Dutch-treat Buffet Breakfast on **Saturday, May 13 at 8:30 a.m.** at Drury Inn and Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave. The buffet costs \$8.99. All are welcome.

Children & Youth Ministries

Music Makers (1st-12th grades) continue to meet at 4:30 on Sunday afternoons as we prepare for worship on **May 14, Mother's Day**. The Easter Ensemble made such a fun and meaningful contribution to the service and we will once again join voices and instruments as we add to the mix for praising God through word, rhythm, melody and harmony. Hope to see all of our music makers this afternoon.

YOUTH & CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each Summer, we give our regular and reliable youth and children Sunday School leaders a chance to relax by giving them the summer off.

This summer, our youth and children Sunday School classes **will meet in the Family Life Center from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.** The age groups included in this group are students who recently completed **1st-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades, and 6th-12th grades.** Connor will provide all of the curriculum to the leaders, but she needs leaders to give the curriculum to! Please consider the opportunity to create and strengthen intergenerational connections within our church family by volunteering to lead with one of these three age groups for at least one Sunday in June or July.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

Youth Switching to Wednesday Nights in May - Our Youth are now gathering on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We are asking anyone who would like to volunteer to help out on any of these evenings to please get in touch with Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594).

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Our collaborative youth ministry program will begin **Wednesday, June 7 at 6 p.m.** Each week a different church will host youth from St. John's, University UMC, Jefferson UMC, and First UMC in Gonzales. St. John's will host the first gathering on June 7 in the Family Life Center.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This year, in place of Vacation Bible School, St. John's will be hosting a Family Camp July 13-15. Family Camp will meet in the evenings on July 13 and 14 and the morning of July 15. It will include a dinner Thursday & Friday nights, worship, Bible study, games, music, and service projects to promote community building among the families with children at St. John's. More details will come soon, but mark your calendars now because you do not want to miss out!

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, there will be opportunities for fellowship and fun activities. So far, we have lined up swimming and a volley ball game night. Our first family activity will be swimming at the Magnolia Woods Swimming Pool, more details later.

Job Opportunities

ANNOUNCING 2023 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Youth Intern position. This 13-week internship spans the summer months and is a great opportunity for young adults with a passion for youth ministry to gain valuable leadership and ministry 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. Visit stjohnsbr.org/summer-intern-2023 for more information and application instructions.

HIRING A NURSERY WORKER

We are seeking qualified candidates to staff our church nursery on Sunday mornings, with the possibility of additional hours during the week in the evening for meetings and choir rehearsal. Nursery Workers provide dependable, safe, secure, and nurturing care to the children while at our Church, ages 0-4 years in a clean environment. They work as a team, with at least two nursery workers serving together at all times. Sunday morning hours are 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and pay is guaranteed even if there are no children. Hourly pay is \$13-\$15/hour. We are looking for someone who is available to start immediately. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required. Interested applicants should send their resume to jobs@stjohnsbr.org.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 7

YOUTH SUNDAY

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Celebratory Youth Luncheon, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, May 8

- 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 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 11:00 a.m. Mary Martha Circle, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-E
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, May 11

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

Friday, May 12

- 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

Saturday, May 13

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

*Family Life Center