

Christmas Eve Worship

Featuring a live nativity pageant
presented by

St. John's Youth & Children



December 24, 2024

4 p.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

Merry Christmas! We are delighted you have chosen to join us on this sacred evening as we celebrate the Light of Christ that has come into the world with a live nativity presentation. The St. John's U.M.C. family welcomes you! As a people claimed and shaped by God's love, we invite you into this community of faith. We hope you will return to experience how God might change your life at St. John's United Methodist Church.

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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

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

Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn & Connor Dean

*Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful
The United Methodist Hymnal 234, vs. 1 & 3

*Christmas Proclamation

Pastor Lane

Family of faith, the angels are singing:
unto us a child is born.
It is a love that is personal.
It is a love that knows your name.
So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
You are seen. You are claimed. You are forgiven. You are loved.
Glory to God in the highest heaven!
Glory to God here and now.
Alleluia! Amen.

Prayer

Special Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Evie Durham, violin

Lighting of the Christ Candle

John & Judy Gilmore,
Molly, Chris, & Alice Means

We light again the Candle of Hope, for the Christmas story shines hope on our lives and we bring all our stories to this circle.

We light again the Candle of Peace to honor all the places where we have found peace in our lives and all the places for which we pray that peace may come.

We light again the Candle of Joy to reflect on our celebrations in this season and to pray for those who experience feelings of loss and loneliness.

We light again the Candle of Love because Jesus Christ was born that we might know the depth of God's love for us, and we are born again into the love of God.

We light the Christ candle, for on this night we meet Emmanuel, God coming and with us, who lifts us up and lets us shine.

The Christ Candle is lit.

Christ Candle Litany

Christ's light shines on smiles and tears.

It shines on younger and older.

It shines and we hear angels.

It shines and we see a manger.

It shines and we remember the story.

It shines on our world, like Bethlehem long ago.

It can never be extinguished, because you are the light tonight, and we promise to be the light tomorrow and each day after. **Amen.**

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
The United Methodist Hymnal 240, vs. 1

The Christmas Story

(As told in Luke 2:1-20 & Matthew 2:1-12)

Introduction

Abdiel Idikwu

Entrance of the Holy Family

Isaiah Ajuka as Joseph,
Jane Walker as Mary

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem
The United Methodist Hymnal 230, vs. 1

The Journey to Bethlehem & Birth of Jesus

Julian Hartman

Carol

Away in a Manger
The United Methodist Hymnal 217, vs. 1

We Hear From Mary

Jane Walker

Carol

What Child Is This
The United Methodist Hymnal 219, vs. 1

The Angels Announce the Good News

Bishop Idikwu

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High
The United Methodist Hymnal 238, vs. 1

Entrance of the Angels

Iris Ajuka & Heavenly Hosts

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High
The United Methodist Hymnal 238, vs. 3

The Shepherds Visit Jesus

Daniel Csaszar

Carol

Go, Tell It On the Mountain
The United Methodist Hymnal 251, vs. 1

Entrance of the Shepherds

Isaac Ajuka & The Herd

Carol

Go, Tell It On the Mountain
The United Methodist Hymnal 251, refrain

The Magi Travel From Afar

Bishop Idikwu

Carol

We Three Kings
The United Methodist Hymnal 254, vs. 1

Entrance of the Magi

James Barrow, Daniel Cszasz,
Anna Durham, Abdiel Idikwu, & Livia Walker

Carol

What Child Is This?
The United Methodist Hymnal 219, vs. 3

Offering Our Tithes & Gifts to God

Noel
Soloist: Connor Dean

*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!**

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lane

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing in Holy Communion

The First Noel
The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs. 1 - 5

*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.
If you are a person with limited mobility, please let the usher know and
someone will bring communion to you.*

Prayer

Julian Hartman

O God,

We thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus,
who invites us in and welcomes us at his table.

We are filled with Love,
having felt your presence among us.

We are filled with Joy, having heard the good news!
We are filled with Hope, for the angels still sing,
and there is a Light for us to follow.

We pray in the name of the One who brings Peace
to our souls.

Amen.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Silent Night, Holy Night
The United Methodist Hymnal 239, 1, 3, & 4

*Christmas Blessing

Pastor Lane

*Recessional Carol

Joy to the World
The United Methodist Hymnal 246, vs. 1

*Postlude

Dr. Terry Byars

Merry Christmas!

Worship Notes

A list of Poinsettia and Mission & Vision dedications can be found in the back of the bulletin.

Ushers for the 4:00 Christmas Eve service are Lynn Cooper, Marilyn Damberg, Ben Hartman, and Susan Johnston.

Upcoming Worship

ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON DECEMBER 29

We will come together for one combined worship service on **Sunday, December 29 at 10 a.m.** to sing Christmas carols, take “hymn requests,” from those in attendance, hear a brief message by Natalie Cooper, a certified lay servant, and celebrate Holy Communion. Children are invited to bring a new Christmas Toy or Gift for a special blessing during the Children’s Moment. There will be no Coffee Time or Sunday School on December 29.

EPIPHANY LESSONS & LAUGHTER SERVICES ON JANUARY 5

To close out the Christmas season and celebrate Epiphany, these services of joy and connection on **Sunday, January 5** will amplify the good news of this holy season through song and laughter! We will also receive our 2025 Star Words, a spiritual practice that provides a word for guidance and reflection for the year ahead. We will resume our regular worship times of 8:30 and 11 a.m. as well as Coffee Time and Sunday School on January 5.

Announcements

THANK YOU FROM OUR STAFF

On behalf of the staff, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions to the staff appreciation love offering. Your kindness and support mean so much to us, and we are truly blessed to be part of such a caring community. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and encouragement!

WELCOME BROCHURES

Please take home a copy of our Welcome Brochure located in the sanctuary Narthex or view it online at stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure. It highlights our spiritual growth programs for all ages, service opportunities, our music ministries, and special interest ministries, such as United Women in Faith and Good Grief Fellowship, to name a few.

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.

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of every month we collect non-perishable food as well as household items, such as paper products, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies, for The Shepherd’s Market Client-Choice Food Pantry. Our next Grocery Bag Sunday will be January 5. In 2024, the St. John’s congregation donated 9,070 pounds of food and \$40,121 to The Shepherd’s Market, which enabled the pantry to buy food to supplement what we receive from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. In 2024, we served an average of 512 households per month, totaling 6,144 throughout the year. Thank you for helping us feed people spiritually and physically through this vital mission.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS

We will not have Coffee Time (or Sunday School) next Sunday as we are having only one worship service at 10 a.m.

HOWEVER, if your last name begins with **T - Z**, you don’t have to bring snacks until next year! “Your” day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is **January 5, 2025**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

HOLIDAY HOURS

During Christmas Week and New Year's Week we will have limited office hours. Both weeks the office will **only be open** on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. The regular office week will resume on Monday, January 6 at 9 a.m.

The Shepherd's Market is closed for the holidays and will reopen Monday, January 6 at 3:30 p.m. for regular shopping.

SPRING YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN

St. John's is excited to announce applications are now being accepted for our Spring Youth Ministry Intern position. This 15-week internship spans February 2 - May 19 and is designed for young adults who have a passion for working with youth (6th-12th grades) and/or may be exploring a call to ministry. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable leadership and ministry experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 10 hours per week. Each intern will receive \$1,500 throughout the spring semester, to be paid semi-monthly (15th & 30th of each month) during the 15-week internship.

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. **Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by January 12, 2025.**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Beginning Sunday, January 26, we are asking members to spend some time with the youngest blessings of St. John's. This will help us meet our budget and best stretch your contributions! If no children arrive within the first 15 minutes of the worship service and/or Sunday School, volunteers are free to leave the nursery. You will remain "on call" until your time has ended and will receive a text if a child shows up and you are needed. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the rotation with others! To sign up and share your availability, go to stjohnsbr.org/nurseryvolunteer.

Middle school and high school students are welcome to sign up!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM

The UWF books in the 2025 Reading Program are now available in the church library.

Youth and Children's Ministries

YOUTH AND CHILDREN SUNDAY FLOW

We offer faith formation for children and youth of all ages during Sunday School.

Upstairs Café opens at 9:30 a.m. - Students start in the Upstairs Cafe (Room 202 of the Admin building) helping them get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their age specific Sunday School groups.

Sunday School Classes - Children 2 yrs to 4 yrs are in the Pre-K Room on the first floor of the Admin building; students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are in Room 204; students in 3rd through 5th grades are in Room 207; students in 6th through 12th grades are in the Youth Sunday School class Room 201.

UPSTAIRS CAFE SNACK SCHEDULE

First Sundays - Sunday School Teachers

Second Sundays - PreK - 2nd Families

Third Sundays - 3rd - 5th Families

Fourth Sundays - Youth Families.

We will deal with Fifth Sundays separately.

JOIN MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers rehearse on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergarten through 5th grade students as well as Youth (6th - 12th grades) to be introduced to songs and hymns of the United Methodist Church and a variety of instruments. Drop them off and pick them up in the choir room. They will have a wonderful time with Dr. Steve.

Music Makers will resume on January 12.

YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

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

Third Wednesdays: Youth 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.

COMMON GROUND RETREAT

A group of youth directors across the Louisiana United Methodist Conference are working together to plan a retreat for students in 6th-12th grades this winter! The retreat will take place at Camp Istrouma February 21-23. The total cost to attend is about \$100-\$125/person. However, St. John's and the Louisiana United Methodist Conference will pay a portion of this cost.

Weekly at St. John's

Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry

Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-10 a.m.

Thursdays from 8 a.m.-10 a.m.

The Shepherd's Market will reopen on January 6. Starting in January, clients may receive food one time per month. Volunteers of all ages are welcome any time.

Music Ensembles

Alleluia Ringers - Sundays at 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Music Makers - Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

Early Risers Exercisers - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7 a.m.
(Except week of Christmas and New Year's Day)

Pickleball - Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (Resumes on January 7)

AA Recovery Groups

Mondays at 6:30 p.m. (Room E in Family Life Center)

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Room E in Family Life Center)

Wednesdays Women's Group at 6:30 p.m. (Room C in Family Life Center)

Saturdays at 12 p.m. (Room C in Family Life Center)

Saturdays at 7 p.m. (Family Life Center)

Christmas Dedications

Christmas Dedications are a meaningful way to celebrate and honor loved ones.

Poinsettias adorn our worship space on Christmas Eve and may be taken home by those who made dedications after our 6 p.m. worship service.

Dedications have also been made to the Mission & Vision of St. John's United Methodist Church. A keepsake card was given to all who made Mission & Vision Dedications to present to their loved one, letting them know a donation has been made in their name. Your gifts help support the work of St. John's, spreading Christ's love in our congregation and community. *Thank you to all who made dedications this year.*

Poinsettias

In honor of

Bill Putzig by *Bill & Joyce Perry*

Dale Biggs, for his birthday by *Fran Bussie & Bill Elrod*

In memory of

My husband, Jim Schaffhauser by *Kathy Schaffhauser*

Pearl & Walter Fournet by *Suzanne & Gray Sexton*

Valentine & Jesse Sexton by *Gray & Suzanne Sexton*

Jim & Hilda Thomason by *Jim & Norma Thomason*

George & Frances Lindsley by *Norma & Jim Thomason*

Mission & Vision

In honor of

Steve Rushing by *Alleluia Ringers*

Pastor Lane by *Lynn Cooper*

Connor Dean by *Lynn Cooper*

The Brooks & Fowler families by *Jim & Claudia Fowler*

Our St. John's Family by *Pastor Lane, Ben & Julian Hartman*

Annelle Lipinski, Sally Johnston,

Mary Shilling, & Bruce Ivey by *Paul Ivey*

Debra Yates by *Clara Maynard*

Annette Maxwell by *Maureen & David Robertson*

Alleluia Ringers

Guy Johnson by *The Seekers Sunday School Class*

Sallie Paulsen by *The Seekers Sunday School Class*

Jane & Livia by *Mari & Shawn Walker*

My church friends who help me get

to church each Sunday by *Carole Cotton Winn*

In memory of

John Winn by *Maggie Lane Evans*

My parents by *Karen Holton*

Ron Tucker by *Parker & Rhonda Tucker*

Frank & Margaret Steffen by *Rhonda & Parker Tucker*

Our grandparents: Ruth & Archie Steffen,

Jennie & Smick Williams, Harold & Delphine Tucker,

and J.R. & Dorothy Bell by *Rhonda & Parker Tucker*

John Winn by *Carole Cotton Winn*



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.