



December 24, 2024

6 p.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

Merry Christmas! We are delighted you have chosen to join us on this sacred night as we celebrate the Light of Christ that has come into the world. 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](http://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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
*Lead Pastor*  
[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

Connor Dean  
*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
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Betsy Adams  
*Fall Youth Intern*  
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Dr. Steve Rushing  
*Choir Director*  
[stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org)

Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
[billputzig@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:billputzig@stjohnsbr.org)

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

*Suite Antique: Chanson*

By John Rutter

Dr. Penny Kemler, flute

## Words of Grace & Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Carol

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

The United Methodist Hymnal 234, vs. 1-3 & 6

## \*Lighting the Christ Candle

John & Judy Gilmore, Molly Means

In a weary and worn world, Christmas comes to remind us that  
there is still hope,  
there is still peace,  
there is still joy,  
there is still love.

Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
we light the Christ Candle.

For surely God is in this place.

Surely the Spirit is near.

Surely love is born this night.

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.

**A light shines in the darkness and  
the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.**

## Candle Response

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

The United Methodist Hymnal 240, vs. 1

## Children's Moment

Connor Dean

## Anthem

*The First Noel*

Flute duet: Grace Idikwu & Penny Kemler

## The Story of God's Love

John 3:16-17

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that  
everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have  
eternal life.**

**"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the  
world but in order that the world might be saved through him."**

**Carol**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 240, vs. 3

**The Journey Begins**

Luke 2:1-5

Connor Dean

**Carol**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 230, vs. 1 & 4

**The Birth**

Luke 2:6-7

Grace Idikwu

**Carol**

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

**The Good News**

Luke 2:8-14

Rev. John Gilmore

**Carol**

*The First Noel*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs. 1

**The First Believers**

Luke 2:15-20

Natalie Cooper

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.**

**\*Carol**

*Joy to the World*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 246, 1 - 4

**Prayer**

Written by John Winn

**O God,  
light the dark corners of our minds,  
warm the cold places in our hearts,  
fill the empty chambers of our spirits,  
heal the brokenness in our lives,  
be born in us this day. Amen.**

**Christmas Meditation**

“Love Is Born”

Pastor Lane

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Anthem**

*O Holy Night*  
Connor Dean and Steve Rushing

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*All on a Christmas Morning*

By Alfred Burt

Chancel Choir Anthem

*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](http://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!**

### \*Invitation to Holy Communion & Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You loved the world so much you gave your only Son,  
Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.

At his birth, the angels sang glory to you in the highest and  
peace to your people on earth.

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.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

In him, the Word became flesh and made a home among us,  
full of grace and truth.

In him we witnessed the height and depth and length and breadth of  
your unfailing love for all the world.

In him, from the cradle to the cross, was revealed the matchless  
wonder of your amazing grace and expansive welcome to us all.

*At the altar the pastor will recount the story of the Last Supper,  
break the bread and pour the cup.*

And so, in remembrance of his life given for us, we offer ourselves to you, Eternal God, and to one another as together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of starlight and angel choruses, on this Christmas Eve, as you come dwell among us, pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts.

May your love be born within us,  
transforming us and strengthening us,  
so that we might help build the world you have in mind.

In the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup  
we may know the living presence of Jesus Christ,  
who was, and is, and ever shall be,

**King of kings, Lord of lords,  
Prince of Peace, Emmanuel,  
God With Us.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

## Sharing the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing

*Away in a Manger, The United Methodist Hymnal 217, vs. 1-3  
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, The United Methodist Hymnal 218, vs. 1-4  
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, The United Methodist Hymnal 229, vs. 1-2*

*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 After Receiving

Rev. John

**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.**

## \*Passing the Light of Christ

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 239, vs. 1 - 3

## \*Christmas Blessing

Pastor Lane

## \*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 6:00 Christmas Eve service are Richard and Marilyn Damberg, Paul Ivey, and Sandra Kuykendall.

## 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](http://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](mailto:jobs@stjohnsbr.org) by January 12, 2025.**

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

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! Keep an eye out for Safe Sanctuary Training sign-up, coming soon! To sign up and share your availability, go to [stjohnsbr.org/nurseryvolunteer](http://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](mailto: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

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*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*