



Sunday October 10, 2021

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) 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

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon

60TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's was founded in 1961 by 60 charter members. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in August 1962, and it was dedicated Easter Sunday 1963. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2021. Give God the Glory!

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. In light of the Governor's statewide mask mandate, St. John's has returned to requiring all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while in worship and in small group gatherings.

We look forward to the day when we can return to maskless gatherings, until then, let us pray for our world, country, state, parish, and each other.

Grace & Peace
The Covid -19 Task Force

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. As a safety precaution, masks are required in the Prayground for everyone ages 2 and older. If you or your child needs a mask, some are available in the Prayground. More details about the Prayground may be found in the pew insert and 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 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 3 through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

GATHERING IN HOPE

Please stand as you are comfortable. **Bold indicates congregational response.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
The United Methodist Hymnal 133, vs. 1, 3

*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

We are here to celebrate God's presence and affirm God's gifts of love, hope, joy and peace.

**Here we discover the meaning of life,
know the power of love,
and together celebrate new life in Christ.**

God is with us as a community of faith as we look to the future with hope.

**With neighbor and friend and with the stranger, also,
we have come together to worship and give God praise.**

May we now celebrate new life in Jesus Christ.

**And sing the praise of a loving and compassionate Savior!
Together, we give God the glory! Amen.**

*Song of Response

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
The United Methodist Hymnal 133, Refrain

GROWING TOGETHER

Children's Moment

Sarah Prevot

Prayer for Illumination

Natalie Cooper

**Open our hearts and minds to your word, O God.
Help us to set aside all that distracts us from you.
Give us courage to hear your challenge for the future. Amen.**

Scripture

Natalie Cooper

Jeremiah 29:10-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Lane

"Receive Hope"

RETURNING TO GOD

*Hymn of Faith

Hymn of Promise
The United Methodist Hymnal 707

Stewardship Witness

Gray Sexton

Stewardship Prayer

Provider and Sustainer God,

**thank You for Your many blessings upon Your Church,
the family of St. John's, and the unique gifts that
You have imparted upon me and each in Your creation.**

**I pray that I may be a devoted caretaker of these gifts.
I humbly ask for Your guidance as I strive to serve
humankind and radiate the loving light of Christ, so that
others may come to know You and Your enduring love
and mercy available to all.**

**Help me to live my days as a faithful steward of Your gifts
and to serve others according to Your good
and perfect purpose.**

**I trust in You as Your humble servant; set me as a blessing
unto others as I look to a future with hope, in unity and
wholeness with You.**

In Jesus' name. Amen.

written by Natalie Cooper

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online at 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

Our sung communion responses are 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 invitation continues as the pastor gives thanks,
remembering God's acts of salvation.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with those from every time and place, to proclaim with them your glory, in the unending hymn:

**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 and
the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

In breaking bread and sharing wine with your people here and in all places we recall the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and conclude:

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, creator and sustainer of all; glory to you forever and ever. And now we pray the family prayer which Jesus taught;

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing in Holy Communion

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 mobility challenged, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion elements to you.

Prayer After Receiving

Natalie Cooper

Christ,

**You have nourished us in this meal and
fed our bodies and souls.**

We have heard your love, send us out to speak it.

We have seen your love, send us out to show it.

We have been fed by your love; send us out to share it.

And let all things be done for your glory. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

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

*Benediction

Pastor Lane

*Postlude

Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments following worship.

To join a livestream of worship, share today's service or watch previous worship services, visit <http://facebook.com/stjohnsbr/live>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

60th Anniversary Video

It has been so uplifting to hear people reflect on what St. John's means to them in the video vignettes shared on 60th Anniversary Sundays this year. We are offering one more chance to be included on the videos **after worship today** in the Narthex. We would love to hear you respond to the question: What are your hopes for St. John's future and our next 60 years together? Videos will be shared in worship on October 31.

60th Anniversary Pictorial Directory

We have an additional date for photo sittings: **Thursday, October 14, 2 - 8:30 p.m.** You may go online to make your appointment (<http://bit.ly/stjohns60photo>) or call Rhonda Tucker (225-270-2193) and she will help get your appointment scheduled. (If she doesn't answer, please leave a message including your name and the time you prefer.) *Photos will be taken Tuesday-Thursday this week.*

"A Future With Hope" Stewardship Campaign

We invite you to join us in building "A Future With Hope" at St. John's by making a pledge to our mission and ministries in 2022. Commitment Sunday will be **October 31**. We will share in **one combined worship service at 10 a.m.** as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary and make our financial commitments to God's work through St. John's for next year. We will enjoy a potluck outside (weather permitting) following the service.

Writers' Group

The St. John's Writers' Group will meet on Zoom on **this afternoon** at 4 p.m. If you are interested in joining the group, email Mari Walker at media@stjohnsbr.org.

Mary Martha Circle UMW

The Mary Martha Circle UMW will meet on **Tuesday, October 12** at 6:30 a.m. in the parlor. All women are invited to attend.

GriefShare Support Group begins October 21

Grief is lonely. When all you can see is your grief, it's easy to lose sight of God. Through GriefShare, a 13-week, video-driven program produced by top experts in grief and recovery fields, you will connect with others who are experiencing grief and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your journey through the grief. Sessions will be facilitated by Diane Roark, who has found great comfort through the GriefShare program. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required. You will find a link to register in our upcoming newsletters or you can contact the church office. GriefShare will meet in person on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. beginning October 21.

Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation Fund

Our fundraising efforts for the kitchen renovation are underway and we have already raised \$77,298! Our goal is \$200,000, which will enable us to make much-needed upgrades to the church's kitchen and food pantry space. To give online go to www.stjohnsbr.org/give (under Fund, select Kitchen Renovation); to give by check write kitchen renovation in the memo line and place in the offering plate during worship, drop it in the black box outside of the doors to the Admin Building, or mail to St. John's UMC, 230 Renee Drive, Baton Rouge 70810. Thanks for helping fill the pot!



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church