



# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:30 and 11 a.m.

All Are Welcome

Welcome to our Sounds of the Season service! Today's worship services feature the Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Alleluia Ringers, our Music Makers, and original written works from members of our congregation. We hope this worship experience fills you with a spirit of joy and peace.

*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.



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

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*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. 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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Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez  
*Nursery Worker*  
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# GATHERING

*\*Please stand as you 're comfortable.  
Bold indicates congregational response.*

**Prelude**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Alleluia Ringers

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

**Advent Candlelighting**

Members of the Confirmation Class

8:30 Service

*Tel Cahow, Elizabeth Cooper, Iman Dunbar,  
Evie Durham, and Seth Robertson*

11:00 Service

*Evie Durham, Bishop Idikwu,  
Paul Idikwu, and Haylee Matthews*

As we focus on the meaning and scenes of the Advent season,  
today we light the Candle of Peace.

*(Lighting of the Candles of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy.)*

There is much turmoil in our times, so much unrest knocks at our door.  
But our God brings order out of chaos,  
restoration out of destruction,  
and renewal out of our regret.

**This season we set the scene for Christ's Peace that it might make  
a home in our hearts.**

Let us pray...

**Lord God, we look to you to bring us true peace  
in a world where peace seems far away.  
We hear your call to us  
to be peacemakers within ourselves  
and in the world around us,  
but we know we cannot find peace apart from you.  
Grant us your peace in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

**We Sing a Song of Response**

*In This Time of Waiting*

**In this time of waiting we will sing of peace,  
Peace in Jesus: Savior, Prince of Peace  
In our expectation we will sing of peace--  
Hearts of longing, we will sing of peace.**

# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

**Anthem**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Music Makers

**Anthem**

Alleluia Ringers, Terry Byars, organ  
*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

**\*Hymn**

*Once in Royal David's City*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 250, vs. 1, 2, & 4

**Reading**

*An Innkeeper Speaks*  
by Guy Johnson

Guy Johnson

**Anthem**

*A Midnight Clear in Bethlehem*  
*Gesu Bambino*  
by Pietro Yon

Chancel Choir

**Anthem**

Terry Byars, Betty Schroeder, John Toney  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
*Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella*

**Reading**

*The Magnificat*  
Luke 1:46-55

Natalie Cooper

**Anthem**

*Hydom, Hydom*

Alleluia Ringers

**Reading**

*Advent Blossom*  
by Darlene Dickson

Darlene Dickson

**Anthem**

*Lo, How a Rose Is Growing*  
Arranged by Joel Martinson

Chancel Choir

**Reading**

*Advent Evening*  
by Betty Schroeder

Betty Schroeder

**Anthem**

*Coventry Carol*

Alleluia Ringers

Anthem

*Song of the Shepherds*  
by Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

Prayer

*Joy*  
by Betty Schroeder

Betty Schroeder

The Lord's Prayer

# RESPONDING

Prayer of Dedication

Evan Gager

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*  
Terry Byars, Organ

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

# DEPARTING

Call to Action

Pastor Lane

*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

*There's a Song in the Air*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 249, vs. 1, 3, & 4

\*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

\*Postlude

*Ode to Joy*

# WORSHIP NOTES

## **Ushers**

8:30 service - Jim and Theresa Sandifer

11:00 service - Fred and Becky Shearer

## **Flowers on the Altar**

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of Troy and Sarah Prevot's 38 years of marriage. Congratulations, Troy and Sarah!

## **Poinsettias**

Thanks to all who placed a Poinsettia in the Sanctuary and Narthex. A list of dedications is on the back page of the bulletin.

## **Coffee Time**

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to Coffee Time to say good bye to Evan Gager our fall Youth Intern and to have a piece of cake.

# Announcements

## **UWF CRAFT AND BAKE SALE**

The United Women in Faith Craft and Bake Sale is happening all morning in the FLC. There will be many ideas for Christmas Gifts and delicious goodies to bring home or to share. All proceeds from the sale go to local missions.

## **COME SAY GOOD BYE TO EVAN**

Today is Evan Gager's final day with us as our Youth Intern. Join us after the 8:30 service in the FLC during Coffee Time to say good bye and have a piece of cake.

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

There will be NO afternoon or evening programs or rehearsals today. Alleluia Ringers, Music Makers, as well as Youth Group will resume in January.

## **THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you to all who helped make yesterday's Great Turkey Giveaway another great success - to all volunteers, in one way or another, we couldn't have done it without you! The Shepherd's Market will be closed until **Tuesday, January 3** so our pantry volunteers can take a well-deserved breather.

## **CALL FOR COOKIES**

We are in need of several dozen cookies for Christmas Day Worship! Please bake a batch and bring them with you on Christmas Day. They can be dropped off in the kitchen prior to 10 a.m. worship.

## **STAFF APPRECIATION LOVE OFFERING**

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible through a love offering. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. You may also make your gift online at [www.stjohnsbr.org/give](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give). Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is **Tuesday, December 20**.

## **2023 FLOWER CHART**

The 2023 Flower Chart is up in the hallway of the Admin/Education Building. Almost the whole year is available to select a Sunday to honor or remember someone by putting flowers on the altar. Heroman's on Staring Lane has a key to the Sanctuary and will deliver your flowers to the church. Call the office for more information.

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to the St. John's "well" for 2023. To date, we have received 88 pledges totaling \$416,624. If you have not had a chance to turn in a pledge for 2023, we hope you will do so soon. You can pledge online at [stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2023) or turn in a pledge card at church, which are available in the office and the Narthex. Your 2022 pledge will NOT automatically renew for 2023 - you must turn in a new pledge card every year. Your pledge enables our Finance Committee to plan and budget for supporting and furthering our mission in the new year.

# Holiday Worship Opportunities

## **LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP**

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to give yourself the gift of attending our Longest Night worship service on **Wednesday, December 21 at 6 p.m.**, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING**

**Saturday, December 24 at 5 p.m.** we will hold our Christmas Eve service as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Our service will include singing of Christmas carols, reading the Christmas story from the Gospel, an inspiring message, a special time for children, beautiful music, and Holy Communion. Our service will conclude by candlelight. Children, guests, family, and friends are all invited.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY - CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND COOKIES!**

**Sunday, December 25 at 10 a.m.** We invite you to come comfortable to our one worship service. We will sing tons of Christmas carols, share in Holy Communion, and following the service enjoy loads of cookies plus coffee and hot cocoa. Children are invited to bring one toy they received for Christmas for a Blessing of the Toys during worship - in person and virtually. Feel free to bring some cookies to share!

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Many of us know the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but did you know that each verse refers to a different teaching of church doctrine? The "Partridge" refers to Jesus Christ, who died on a tree, and the "True Love" is God, our Creator, the giver of life and every good gift. **Join us for a single service at 10:00 a.m. on January 1** for a lively service of *Lessons and Carols for the Twelve Days of Christmas*. Don't worry, we'll only sing the song once, but once you've heard the meaning behind this familiar carol, it will bring a whole new appreciation to the song.

## **JANUARY 8 EPIPHANY**

On Epiphany Sunday, January 8, each person will receive a special word for the year printed on a star. These words are a symbol of the star the magi followed on their way to baby Jesus. Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. Following in the footsteps of the magi, we are invited to follow our individual star and open our hearts and minds to see where it takes us in 2023.

# Coming in the New Year

## **UWF FREE WATER COLOR ART WORKSHOP**

St John's UWF (formerly UMW) will be offering a free workshop in watercolor painting for teen and adult members of St. John's or members of their families, on consecutive Saturdays beginning **Saturday, January 14 from 9 - 11 a.m.** Paints and paper sufficient for working on projects in class will be provided. The 6-lesson workshop will be held in Classroom E of the Family Life Center. Due to space restrictions we must limit enrollment to 12 individuals. Contact Marie Varnes to enroll in the class (by text: 225-252-8936).

## **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

There has been a price reduction to participate in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The 9 week course on **Tuesday evenings 6 - 8 p.m. beginning January 17** is being offered by Opening Doors at a cost of \$40, scholarships are available. For more information contact Jill Brant, Class Coordinator, at [jbrant96518@gmail.com](mailto:jbrant96518@gmail.com) or 985-503-4246. Registration forms are in the Narthex or you may register online at [stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023).

## **DISCIPLE I NEW TESTAMENT**

A 12-session Bible study that covers the entire New Testament will begin on **Monday, January 23 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. The class will be facilitated by Guy Johnson, Danielle Blackwood, and Rhonda Tucker. Registration is online ([stjohnsbr.org/disciple-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/disciple-2023)) or by form in the Narthex. The cost of the study book is \$18. A nursery is available on request, call the church office (225-766-4594).



# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## **Sunday, December 18**

- 8:30 a.m. UWF Craft and Bake Sale, *FLC\**  
8:30 a.m. Sounds of the Season, *Sanctuary*  
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, *FLC*  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*  
11:00 a.m. Sounds of the Season, *Sanctuary*

## **Monday, December 19**

- 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*  
4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## **Tuesday, December 20**

- 1:00 p.m. Good Grief, St. John's!, *Superior Grill*  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## **Wednesday, December 21**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*  
10:00 a.m. Gardere Youth Cooking Class, *FLC*  
5:00 p.m. Longest Night Service, *Sanctuary*

## **Thursday, December 22**

## **Friday, December 23**

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*  
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*

## **Saturday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*  
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service, *Sanctuary*  
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC*

*\*Family Life Center*

## **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas and Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2 in observance of New Years.

The Shepherd's Market will be closed until Tuesday, January 3 at 8 a.m.

## **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



# Christmas Poinsettias

At St. John's United Methodist Church

## DEDICATIONS IN MEMORY OF

**Bevelyn Yonts** *by Pam and John Toney*

**George and Frances Lindsley, &**

**James and Hilda Thomason** *by Jim and Norma Thomason*

**Our son, Jake Shearer,** *by Fred and Becky Shearer*

**My sister, Pat Grace,** *by Janice Schmidt*

**Mary and Jake Marino &**

**Tony Marino** *by Bobbi and Frank Marino*

**Alline and Papa Webb** *by Bobbi and Frank Marino*

**Karen Cochran** *by Bobbi and Frank Marino*

**Rev. John Williams** *by Rev. Marie Williams*

**Jack and Betty Byrd, Eddie Byrd,**

**Dorothy Worthy, & Gerald Creed** *by Mike and Jackie Creed*

**Christopher Schroder** *by Betty Schroeder*

**Our parents, John and Mae Fowler &**

**James and Frances Ruth Roby** *by Jim and Claudia Fowler*

**Our parents** *by Don and Carol Gordon*

**Tommy Dunbar** *by Susan Dunbar*

**Keith Hartman** *by Ben and Julian Hartman & Rev. Lane Cotton Winn*

**Dan Winn** *by the Winn Family*

**Nancy R. Brown** *by Jessica Brown*

## DEDICATIONS IN HONOR OF

**My mother, Janice Silver** *by Karen Silver Holton*

**My son, Luke,** *by Betty Schroeder*

**Jim and Claudia Fowler** *by the Brooks family*

**Revelation Sunday School Class** *by Bill and Joyce Perry*

**Our four great grandchildren: Weston, Hensley, Emmylou,  
and Wrenley** *by Phil and Jill Slicker*

**My children and grandchildren** *by Rev. Marie Williams*

**Pastor Lane and Bill Perry** *by Lynn Cooper*

**God's gift of our sons, Billy and Hans** *by Bill and Jane Metcalf*

**Our family** *by Don and Carol Gordon*

**Jane and Livia Walker** *by Mari and Shawn Walker*

*Poinsettias may be taken home  
after the Christmas Eve Worship Service.*