



#Relationship
goals

PRACTICING FORGIVENESS

Sunday, February 13, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

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



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. Following guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health regarding indoor activities and the virulence of the Omicron variant, we recommend wearing a high quality mask during our worship services.

We look forward to the day when COVID will no longer be a part of our daily lives, 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 need a mask, some are available in the Prayground. 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 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.

LET US BE CONNECTED

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

“Human Family”

I note the obvious differences
in the human family.
Some of us are serious,
some thrive on comedy.

Some declare their lives are lived
as true profundity,
and others claim they really live
the real reality.

The variety of our skin tones
can confuse, bemuse, delight,
brown and pink and beige and purple,
tan and blue and white.

I've sailed upon the seven seas
and stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world
not yet one common man.

I know ten thousand women
called Jane and Mary Jane,
but I've not seen any two
who really were the same.

Mirror twins are different
although their features jibe,
and lovers think quite different thoughts
while lying side by side.

We love and lose in China,
we weep on England's moors,
and laugh and moan in Guinea,
and thrive on Spanish shores.

We seek success in Finland,
are born and die in Maine.
In minor ways we differ,
in major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences
between each sort and type,
but we are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.
We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike.

by Maya Angelou
from *I Shall Not Be Moved* (1990)

***Songs of Praise**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
The United Methodist Hymnal 402, vs. 1

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord
The United Methodist Hymnal 352, vs. 1, 3

***Call to Worship**

Danielle Blackwood

As we gather to give thanks,
to pray and sing,
to be with others and to be with God,
let us pray:

**God of Relationships and
God in Relationships,**

Lead us now to let loose your grace in all our relationships.

Cultivate within us a bent towards kindness and empathy.

**Open our hearts to those with whom we disagree
or where the fabric of community is troubled.**

Cover us with your peace that our wounds might heal.

Free us from burnout and help us realize our worth.

May we know our limits and live within them.

Feed us by your Spirit, and

move us into action towards those most in need.

**In the name of the One who embodied love in all his
relationships.**

Amen.

LET US CHOOSE TO GROW

Children's Moment

Shawn Walker

Prayer for Illumination

Danielle Blackwood

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our
redeemer. Amen.**

based on Psalm 19:14

***Scripture**

Matthew 18:21-22

Danielle Blackwood

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

#RelationshipGoals:
"Practicing Forgiveness"

Pastor Lane

LET US GIVE THANKS

*Hymn of Faith

The Gift of Love
The United Methodist Hymnal 408, vs. 1-3

*Prayer of Honesty and Confession

Holy God,
there are chasms in our lives,
deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You.
We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
for fear of admitting our part in the separation,
for fear of being rejected when we reach out.
You call us to a reconciled life,
to healed relationships with each other and with You.
Mend us, we pray, and bring wholeness to our lives
through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

*Words of Forgiveness and Grace

Siblings in Christ, hear the Good News!
God's grace knows no bounds!
We are forgiven!

We are called back into relationship with God
and one another.

**With God's help, we will practice forgiveness
toward others.**

We are set back on the path that leads towards wholeness.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Sharing Signs of Peace

*Turn and offer signs of peace, reconciliation,
and the love of Christ with those around you.*

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

The Holy One be with you.
And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.
We open our hearts to you, Jesus Christ.

Let us give thanks to the One who gathers us together.

We give thanks to the One who welcomes us here.

The pastor tells of God's acts of love and grace.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, proclaiming, with voices lifted:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of relationships,
God in relationship,
Heaven and earth are full of your wonder!
Hosanna, among us!**

*The congregation is seated
and the institution of the Last Supper is recalled.*

We testified that this mystery of salvation found in Jesus Christ is for all, when we say:

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

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

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

Danielle Blackwood

O God,

**by the bread of heaven and the cup of life,
you make us one body.**

**Bind us together by your Spirit that we might live
into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ
and rich in compassion, kindness, courage, and care.**

In all our relationships, may it be so. Amen.

LET US DEPART IN LOVE

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**

Take Time to Be Holy

The United Methodist Hymnal 395, vs. 1, 2, 4

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Cheese-y Valentine's Party

The Youth are having a "cheesy" Valentine's Party **TODAY** from 3 - 4:30 p.m. with games, devotion, and a service project. Bring a cheesy snack to share.

GriefShare Support Group

We are beginning a new session of GriefShare **Thursday, February 17 at 6 p.m.** in the Parlor. If you are hurting over the loss of a loved one and all you can see is your grief, it's easy to lose sight of God. GriefShare is a 13-week grief recovery program that will help you on your journey through the grief. If you are interested, please register by going to the GriefShare website griefshare.org entering 70810 in the postal code block and choosing St. John's.

Days for Girls

Thank you to all who served yesterday. The next Days for Girls workday will be **Saturday, February 19 from 9 a.m to noon** in the Family Life Center. If you have never participated in this international ministry, please join us. These reusable hygiene kits are sent to girls in under- developed countries so they will not have to miss school due to lack of feminine hygiene products. If you are unable to attend, monetary donations are welcome and can be made with a check made out to St. John's UMC and Days for Girls in the memo line. For more information contact Joyce Perry at 225-763-6613.

Congregational Care Meeting

One of our core values as a congregation is Caring. We do this in a variety of ways as individuals, in small groups we are involved in at the church, and through the Congregational Care Team. Pastor Lane invites all who are currently serving in our caring ministries, as well as those interested in learning about how together we can offer a loving response to each other's needs, to join her for a meeting on **Tuesday, February 22 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Library. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Lane in the church office or pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org.

Lent 6-week Anti-Racism Study Beginning Thursday March 10

Interested in a lunchtime Zoom small group opportunity? Join Pastor Lane and others in a 6-week Zoom study on Thursdays at noon called "Faithful Lent: Connecting the Practices of Lent and Anti-Racism." Each Zoom will last 55 minutes so you can continue on with your day following our session. Participants will receive a free workbook, and sessions will include scripture readings, prayer, time for self reflection and discussion. If you have questions or would like to sign up, email Pastor Lane at pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org.

Family Ministries Meeting

Are you interested in how St. John's will minister to families with children this summer? Do you have a passion for nurturing children and youth as they grow? Are you currently raising a child/ children at home? Are you interested in ensuring that St. John's future is bright? Let's bring our passion, ideas, and creativity together for a brainstorming and planning session on Zoom this **Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m.** Pastor Lane will lead this conversation so that we can solidify plans for Easter and the summer. Zoom information will be in Tuesday's Inside St. John's. Please contact Pastor Lane to offer your input and support at pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org.

New Adult Sunday School Class Started

Our newest adult Sunday school class, Connections, got off to a great start Sunday. There is still room for you if you are looking for a place to discuss current events and how they can be linked to scripture.

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Donnie and Susan Lambert.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Gray and Suzanne Sexton in memory of Gray's mother, Valentine Sexton, on her birthday tomorrow, Valentine's Day.