

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

OPENING DOORS BATON ROUGE

openingdoorsbr.org



A LA Non-profit Corp.

Sunday September 19, 2021

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

- Matthew 25:40

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.

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

The Servant Song

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 1 - 4

*Call to Worship

Betty Schroeder

Family of faith, we gather in the spirit of love for our neighbor.
We tune our minds and hearts to the many needs around us, to those
in our community who experience the love of God through us.

In this tuning, we can create harmony.

We turn our attention to those who need assistance in getting enough
food for their families, school supplies and uniforms for their children.

In this turning, we can create equality.

We offer our compassion to families struggling to find a solid foothold
in a world filled with many overwhelming obstacles and challenges.

In this offering, we can create strength.

We share and rejoice in the creative and supportive enrichment of
the lives of children and families who often find themselves on the
margins of society.

In this sharing, we can create unity.

God is with us.

**Come, let us worship our mighty God who holds all people
in his hands.**

by Betty Schroeder

*Song of Response

Make Me a Servant

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2176

Opening Doors Reflection

Sandra Kuykendall, Joyce Perry

Who We Are
A Look Back

OPENING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

Children's Moment

Natalie Cooper

Opening Doors Reflection

Theresa Sandifer

The Shepherd's Market

Prayer for Illumination

Jan Hughes

God of love and grace,
we come in humility to seek your will as we strive to share
your love with our neighbors.
Open our hearts wide with compassion and generosity.
Open our eyes to the wonderful possibilities that,
with your help, lie within our reach.
Fill us to the brim with the love that Jesus showed
to all those he met.
Help us follow his example of extending his hand
to the poor, the hurting, and the marginalized.
Continue to remind us that the cross of Jesus
makes invisible the lines that divide us.
In the name of the loving Christ we pray. Amen.

by Betty Schroeder

***Scripture**

Matthew 25:31-40

Jan Hughes

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Opening Doors Reflection

Betty Schroeder, Danielle Blackwood

The Charlie Thomas Memorial Head Start Center

OPENING OUR LIVES

***Hymn of Faith**

Take My Life and Let It Be
The United Methodist Hymnal 399, vs. 1, 3

Opening Doors Reflection

Carol Gordon

Families In Transition (FIT), ALICE Grant

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

God of love,
you created us to love you and one another.
We confess that we have sometimes limited that love to words,
and failed to make that love real by our actions.
We have failed to recognize Christ in the hungry, the thirsty,
the homeless, the naked, the incarcerated and the sick.
Too often, we have turned away from your presence, failing
to share what we have with our brothers and sisters in need.
Forgive us.
Turn our hearts, and guide us through the open door of
possibilities for which we are called and follow in your ways
anew. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

No matter the times we have failed to show up to God's call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors,

God's door is always open and God welcomes us again.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

Opening Doors Reflection

Amy Richardson

Financial Literacy and Gardere Initiative

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!**

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

Bonnie Byland

O God,

this meal we shared together is a remembrance of your radical embrace of the outcast and oppressed.

May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts and doors to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. Amen.

Opening Doors Reflection

Beth Forester

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), School Supplies, and You

OPENING THE DOORS 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

A Charge to Keep I Have
The United Methodist Hymnal 413

*Benediction

Pastor Lane

*Postlude

The flowers on the altar are given by Marilyn and Richard Damberg and are dedicated to past and present Opening Doors members who have brought glory to God through their works.

The rosebud on the altar is to celebrate the birth of Jack Grant Litke-Byars on Friday. Baby Jack is the first grandchild of proud grandpa Terry Byars.

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

Ushers and greeters for today's services are Bonnie Byland, Sandra Kuykendall, Bobbi Marino, and Dianna Underhill.

To join a livestream of worship, share today's service or watch previous worship services, visit stjohnsbr.org/live.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

60th Anniversary Pictorial Directory

Photo appointments are being made for **Tuesday, October 12**, and **Wednesday, October 13**. You may make them today in the Narthex or anytime online at <http://bit.ly/stjohns60photo>. Contact Rhonda Tucker at 225-270-2193 if you have a problem.

PLEASE NOTE: Appointments made in September are not carried over, you must make a new appointment.

Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation Fund

Throughout this our 60th Anniversary year we have been working toward the goal of announcing plans for renovating the church kitchen. Last Sunday in a report from Susan Lambert, chair of the renovation committee, we have an estimate for the project of \$200,000. You will be receiving information today on how you can help us reach our goal. We hope you will join us in making this happen.

60th Anniversary Cookbooks

Pre-ordered cookbooks are available for pickup in the church office; additional copies are available for \$20 each. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks go toward the kitchen renovation.

Hurricane Ida Mission Day

St. John's will head to Destrehan on **Saturday, September 25**, to help St. Charles UMC distribute food and cleaning supplies to those recovering from Hurricane Ida. If you would like to take part in this mission please call or text Rev. Larry Norman at 225-933-1881 by September 22. Learn more about this one-day mission (7 a.m. to 5:30 pm.) in our newsletters.

Hurricane Ida Food Drive

We are joining forces with other UMC's to collect supplies and food for victims of Hurricane Ida. We are collecting the following items: beans, bottled water, tuna, energy bars, Gatorade/Powerade, granola bars, peanut butter, and rice. There is a basket in the narthex and blue tub in the FLC to collect your donations.

Hurricane Ida Supplies Delivery

If you have a truck and or a trailer and are willing to help transport Hurricane Ida relief supplies from Broadmoor UMC down to churches in south Louisiana please contact Patricia Poulter, Broadmoor UMC, at 225-229-0865 to schedule your pick up time.

Jesus In the Gospels

Part two of Jesus In the Gospels Bible study, led by Guy Johnson, will begin on **Monday, September 20**. The morning session will be held at 10 a.m. and the Monday evening session will be held at 6 p.m. in the library. Newcomers are welcome to join. Contact the church office to reserve the 2 books.

United Methodist Women

St. John's United Methodist Women will hold their General Meeting **today** at 3 p.m. in the FLC. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.