



# #Relationship goals

STICKING WITH IT

Sunday, February 20, 2022

**8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you.” When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.

Ruth 1:16-18

*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

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*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

“A Litany of Thanksgiving”

In Your presence, O God, we make our Sacrament of Thanksgiving.

We begin with the simple things of our days:  
Fresh air to breathe,  
Cool water to drink,  
The taste of food,  
The protection of houses and clothes,  
The comforts of home.

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

We bring to mind all the warmth of humankind that we have known:

Our mothers’ arms,  
The strength of our fathers,  
The playmates of our childhood,  
The wonderful stories brought to us from the lives of many who  
talked of days gone by when fairies and giants and diverse kinds  
of magic held sway;  
The tears we have shed, the tears we have seen;  
The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the eye with  
its reminder that life is good.

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

Excerpt from “A Thanksgiving Meditation,” 1958  
by Howard Thurman

### \*Songs of Praise

*Make Me a Servant*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2176

*The Servant Song*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 1-3

### \*Call to Worship

Gray Sexton

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.**

**\*Song of Response**

*The Servant Song*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 4

## **LET US CHOOSE TO GROW**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Gray Sexton

**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**

Ruth 1:8-19a

Gray Sexton

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Moment**

Natalie Cooper

**Anthem**

*Deep River*

Alleluia Ringers

**Sermon**

#RelationshipGoals:  
"Sticking With It"

Pastor Lane

## **LET US GIVE THANKS**

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 399, 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**

Alleluia Ringers

*In Christ Alone*

*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!**

### **\*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.*

## 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

Gray Sexton

**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

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 549, vs. 1, 2, 6

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Bobbi Marino and Susan Johnston.

### Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in honor of Wanda Vanover's 81st birthday and in memory of Curtis and Wanda's daughter, Jacqueline Elaine Hughes.

### Coffee Time

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Guest Preacher Next Sunday**

Rev. Greg Toney will be our guest preacher on February 27. He is currently serving First United Methodist Church as an associate pastor. Greg, a lifetime Methodist, grew up in Baton Rouge and was a member of Ingleside UMC until he was hired to be director of youth and children at University UMC. We look forward to welcoming him to both services next Sunday.

## **Congregational Care Meeting**

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](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

## **13-week GriefShare Support Group**

A new session of GriefShare has begun and will be held on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Parlor. GriefShare is a grief recovery program that will help you on your journey through the grief. You can join the group at any time, so it's okay if you missed the first session. If you are interested, please register by going to the GriefShare website [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org), entering 70810 in the postal code block, and choosing St. John's. For additional information contact GriefShare coordinator Diane Roark at 601-209-5102 or [dianer14@gmail.com](mailto:dianer14@gmail.com).

## **Ash Wednesday Observances**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and we have two opportunities for you to mark the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday morning, we will offer Drive Thru Ashes from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. near the bell tower. You will be greeted at your car with a prayer and imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday evening we will worship at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary and online for our Ash Wednesday Service, which will include imposition of ashes. Rev. Bernadine "Bernie" Johnson will lead this service.

## **Spring Play Informational Meeting**

We invite you to an information meeting to learn more about the spring play coming in May, written and directed by Guy Johnson. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m.** in the Library. Whether you want to perform or be part of the backstage team, everyone is encouraged to attend the information meeting. Contact Guy Johnson to let him know of your interest and availability at 225-766-7931 or [storyteller1750@att.net](mailto:storyteller1750@att.net).

## **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." If you have questions or would like to sign up, email Pastor Lane at [pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

## **Lent 2022 Worship Series and Devotional**

### **The Long & Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough**

The season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter has long been called a journey. It is a journey we take with Jesus, even when the road he walks is rough. Beginning on **Sunday, March 6**, you are invited to join us for a new Lent worship series entitled, "The Long & Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough." Our faith often faces struggles and challenges along the way. Through this worship series, we will look to the teachings of Jesus from the Revised Common Lectionary readings for Lent to find the grace and wisdom to continue the journey, even when the path is rough. To follow Jesus is to be a person of the long and winding road.

To accompany our shared and personal journey during Lent, the St. John's Writers' Group has produced a Daily Devotional for Lent. The readings begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter. On Sundays, there is a Reflection Guide for small group and personal use, which coincides with the readings and themes shared during our Sunday morning worship services. Take home a copy today or pick one up the next time you are at the church. Thank you to all who contributed to the devotional.