



Sunday September 26, 2021

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

All Are Welcome

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another."

-Acts 10:34

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

## \*Songs of Praise

*Make Us One (2x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2224

*Bind Us Together*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2226

## \*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

Let us worship the God who calls everyone in!  
**Jew and Greek, free and slave, male and female,  
young and old and everyone in between.**

No one is excluded from God's all encompassing love.  
**Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

All God's children are welcome here.  
**In this place, we are united as One and together in Spirit.  
Holy God, gather us in.**

# OPENING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

Prayer for Illumination

Natalie Cooper

Holy God,  
we know that you are always speaking—  
through strangers and friends,  
through sunrise and sunset,  
through random acts of kindness  
and feelings that stir hope awake in us.  
We know that you speak through dreams and prayer,  
through a still, small voice and bursts of overwhelming joy.  
We know that you are always speaking, but we also know that  
we are inclined to miss it.  
Settle our spirits now to hear your word fully.  
We want to be part of the conversation.  
Gratefully we pray,  
Amen.

Scripture

Acts 10:1-16

Natalie Cooper

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

## OPENING OUR LIVES

### \*Hymn of Faith

*Jesus, United by Thy Grace*

The United Methodist Hymnal 561, vs. 1, 2, 6

### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

Holy God,

we are naturals when it comes to stalling out.

We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall.

We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher.

Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter.

Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top.

Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection.

Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here.

With hope and honesty we pray,

Amen.

### Words of Assurance and Pardon

Pastor Lane

Family of faith,

we are works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed by God.

No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel, as we proclaim it together:

**God is with me on the mountain top,**

**and God is with me on the plateau.**

**I am loved, claimed, and forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Stewardship Moment

Susan Lambert

Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation Fund

### 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](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

*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.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

**Blest 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.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of 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 concludes:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

## 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.*

O God, our Great Connector,  
this space is holy. This space is special.  
This space is unique, because we are fed.  
We are seen. We belong.  
Help us remain open to possibility,  
and the awareness of the Holy Spirit,  
who is with us now and with us always.  
Amen.

## 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

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 557, vs. 1, 2, 3

### \*Benediction

Pastor Lane

Family of faith,  
as you leave this place, may God grant you  
the curiosity to counter assumptions,  
the bravery to speak your truth,  
the wisdom to listen,  
and the resiliency to chose love, even when it's hard.  
In the name of the God who created us in love, whose love  
is known in Christ and whose Spirit enables us to love,  
go in peace.

### \*Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are given by Lenni and Ted Stickles  
in celebration of their 8th wedding anniversary.*

*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>.*

*Most of our liturgy and prayers were written  
by Sarah Are I A Sanctified Art, LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

*Permission to stream music covered by OneLicense A-732159 and CCLI 20233858.*

# 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.

## 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.

## Prayer Time at St. John's

The sanctuary is now open on Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9 a.m. You can come and go anytime to pray, reflect, meditate, or just sit quietly here at St. John's.

## Grocery Bag Sunday

Next **Sunday, October 3** is Grocery Bag Sunday. Don't forget to add some grocery items to your buggy for The Shepherd's Market. Help us fill the shelves! Some needed items are peanut butter, jelly, soup, canned meat, canned fruit, canned beans, dried beans, and cereal. Of course, anything you can donate is very much appreciated.

## Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation Fund

Our fundraising efforts for the kitchen renovation are underway and we have already raised \$67,915! Our goal is \$200,000, which will enable us to make much-needed upgrades to the church's kitchen and food pantry space. The scope of the renovation includes new cabinets, stainless steel countertops, flooring, ceiling, and a new dishwasher, ice maker, and warmer. Check out the MENU for more details, which can be picked up in the Narthex and church office or found in the newsletter and on our website at [stjohnsbr.org/kitchen-renovation](http://stjohnsbr.org/kitchen-renovation). Thanks for helping fill the pot!

## Lagniappe Kitchen RENOVATION FUND

\$200,000 Goal



\$67,915 Raised

As of September 25, 2021



## WAYS TO GIVE\*

### TO GIVE ONLINE:

- Scan the QR or go to: [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give)
- Under Fund, select "Kitchen Renovation"

- Scan to Give -



### TO GIVE BY CHECK:

- Make check to St. John's UMC
- Write "Kitchen Renovation" on memo line
- Checks can be placed in the offering during worship or mailed to the church at:  
230 Renee Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

\* Gift may be a one-time donation or can be fulfilled by August 2022.



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

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*