



#Relationship
goals

CULTIVATING EMPATHY

Sunday, January 30, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Be humble. Be gentle. Be patient. Tolerate one another *in an atmosphere thick with love*. Make every effort to preserve the unity the Spirit has already created, with peace binding you together.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (The Voice)

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

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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

Be a precious
donor of compassion,
kindness, calmness
and hope.
Give peace to
all you meet,
including yourself.
Be present with all
you encounter.
So many in this world are
anxious, afraid, torn apart by forces
deeper, larger, more vast
than they or I can imagine.
One act of calm kindness
genuinely given from the human heart
is bread for thousands.

by Rev. Dr. W. Craig Gilliam, 2018

*Songs of Praise

Pass It On

The United Methodist Hymnal 572, vs. 1, 3

Shine, Jesus, Shine

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2173, Refrain

*Call to Worship

Rev. Marie Williams

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

Barbara Benton

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Williams

**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

Ephesians 4:1-6

Rev. Williams

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

#RelationshipGoals:
"Cultivating Empathy"

Pastor Lane

LET US GIVE THANKS

*Hymn of Faith

Freely, Freely

The United Methodist Hymnal 389, vs. 1, 2

Installation and Blessing of 2022 Officers and Leadership

*Those serving in leadership positions for 2022 will be recognized
and a prayer of installation and blessing will be offered.*

Ministry Moment: New Sunday School Class

Jami Prince, Bobbi Marino

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.*

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer after Receiving

Rev. Williams

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

Let There Be Peace on Earth
The United Methodist Hymnal 431

*Benediction

*Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Sandra Kuykendall and Paul Ivey.

Coffee Time

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday of the Month

Grocery Bag Sunday is February 6 - don't forget to pick up a yellow bag as you leave worship today. During the week, please add an item or two to your buggy when you are grocery shopping. **Drive Thru Communion** will be offered from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. with elements that were consecrated during our worship service.

Seeking Lent Devotional Submissions

The St. John's Writers' Group is creating a 2022 Lent devotional, and we are seeking submissions. Our theme is *The Long & Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough*. The devotional will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and continue through Easter Sunday April 17, so we have plenty of pages to fill. The completed devotionals will be available by late February, and Sunday School classes can consider using it as their curriculum during Lent. A discussion guide and reflection questions based on the weekly lectionary reading used during worship will be included. Each submission should be around 300 words plus a Scripture and prayer. **Our deadline for submissions is Friday February 4.** Find out more or send your submissions by email to Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com.

New Adult Sunday School

Our new Sunday School class will begin on **February 6 at 9:45 a.m.** in the Parlor located on the first floor of the Admin/Education Building. If you want to know more about this exciting new opportunity which is open to adults of all ages or want to get on the email list for the class, please contact Jami Prince (thecastle2018@gmail.com) or Bobbi Marino (bobbimarino@hotmail.com).

Park Playdate

Join us at the park, **Saturday, February 12 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.**, for some hot chocolate and play time for the kids, plus fellowship with other grown-ups. We'll meet at the playground at Highland Road Park on Saturday, February 12 starting at 10 a.m. Kids Devo starts at 10:45 a.m. and there will be hot chocolate for everyone while it lasts. Come catch up with your St. John's family. We look forward to seeing you!

Days for Girls

Days for Girls workdays will be **Saturday, February 12, 19, and 26 from 9 a.m to noon** in the FLC. 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.

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.

Media Desk Volunteers Needed

Where are our video and audio producers and future producers? We need you to help with our media and live streaming on Sundays at 8:30 and 11 a.m. No experience necessary, but if you have some, bring it! Senior adults, high school seniors, and everyone in between with the time and desire to learn and help are welcome. We'll rotate volunteers on various Sundays and services as we are able. Join the Media Desk Volunteers! If you are willing to serve, email Ben at benbalsar@stjohnsbr.org.

Children's Sunday School Classes Move to Zoom

Please contact our teachers directly for additional information or if you did not receive the link.

K-2nd Grade Sunday School - Zoom on Sundays at 1 p.m. Contact Marilyn Damberg for Zoom information: marilyndamberg@mac.com; 225-335-3321 (Cell)

3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom on Sundays at 10 a.m. Contact Natalie Cooper for Zoom information: natalie@piaoflouisiana.com; 225-241-1605 (Cell)