



#Relationship  
goals

NAVIGATING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, February 6, 2022

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

All Are Welcome

Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say.

Ephesians 4:29

*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

May this be the day  
We come together.  
Mourning, we come to mend,  
Withered, we come to weather,  
Torn, we come to tend,  
Battered, we come to better.  
Tethered by this year of yearning,  
We are learning  
That though we weren't ready for this,  
We have been readied by it.  
We steadily vow that no matter  
How we are weighed down,  
We must always pave a way forward.

This hope is our door, our portal.  
Even if we never get back to normal,  
Someday we can venture beyond it,  
To leave the known and take the first steps.  
So let us not return to what was normal,  
But reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.  
What was plagued, we will prove pure.  
Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,  
Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,  
Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;  
Those moments we missed  
Are now these moments we make,  
The moments we meet,  
And our hearts, once all together beaten,  
Now all together beat.

Come, look up with kindness yet,  
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.  
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,  
But to take on tomorrow.

Excerpt from "New Day's Lyric,"  
by Amanda Gorman, the first ever  
National Youth Poet Laureate

### \*Songs of Praise

*Change My Heart, O God*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2152

*I Love you, Lord (2x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2068

**\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Bernadine Johnson

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**

Jennifer Curry Csaszar

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Johnson

**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 5:21-24

Rev. Johnson

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

**Sermon**

#RelationshipGoals:  
"Navigating Difficult Conversations"

Pastor Lane

## LET US GIVE THANKS

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 560, vs. 1, 2, 4

**Ministry Moment: Kitchen Renovation Update**

Susan Lambert

## Prayer of Confession

### *I Confess*

The concern which I lay bare before God today is,  
my concern for the life of the world in these troubled times.  
I confess my own inner confusion as I look out upon the world.

**There is food for all – many are hungry.  
There are clothes enough for all – many are in rags.  
There is room enough for all – many are crowded.  
There are none who want war – preparations for conflict  
abound.**

**I confess my own share in the ills of the times.  
I have shirked my own responsibilities as a citizen.  
I have not been wise in casting my ballot.  
I have left to others a real interest in making a public opinion  
worthy of democracy.  
I have been concerned about my own little job, my own little  
security, my own shelter, my own bread.**

**I have not really cared about jobs for others, security for others,  
shelter for others, bread for others.  
I have not worked for peace;  
I want peace, but I have voted and worked for war.  
I have silenced my own voice that it may not be heard on the  
side of any cause, however right, if it meant running risks or  
damaging my own little reputation.**

**Let Thy light burn in me that I may, from this moment on,  
take effective steps within my own powers,  
to live up to the light and courageously to pray  
for the kind of world I so deeply desire.**

**Amen.**

*For the Inward Journey (1961)  
by Howard Thurman (1899-1981)*

## Words of Assurance and Pardon

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love  
toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

## 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

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.**

Now as those called and empowered by God let us join with Christ in prayer:

## 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

Rev. Johnson

**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**

*Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee*

The United Methodist Hymnal 562, vs. 1, 4, 5

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**

# WORSHIP NOTES

## **Worship Stewards**

Ushers in today's service are Sandra Kuykendall and Amy Richardson.

## **Coffee Time**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## First Sunday of the Month

Drive thru Communion and Offering is happening right after this worship service in the drive thru.

## Children's Sunday School is HYBRID

Starting today our children's Sunday school classes will be hybrid - both in-person and on Zoom from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Children are welcome to join teachers in the classroom for a time of prayer, study and fellowship, or may Zoom if preferred. Please contact our teachers directly for additional information or if you did not receive the link.

**K-2nd Grade Sunday School** - Contact Marilyn Damberg for Zoom information: marilyndamberg@mac.com; 225-335-3321 (Cell)

**3rd-5th Grade Sunday School** - Contact Natalie Cooper for Zoom information: natalie@piaoflouisiana.com; 225-241-1605 (Cell)

## New Adult Sunday School

Our new Sunday School class begins **this morning 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 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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:benbalsar@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](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).