



**UPSIDE
DOWN
LIVING**
PARABLES WITH A PUNCH

Sunday, July 10, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

What happens when we take familiar Bible verses and parables and flip them upside down? Could it be that we can find alternative truths within these stories - truths that run parallel to those that we have always heard or been told? In worship today we turn Jesus' Parable of the Sower upside down and learn to trust God with the gardening.

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.

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

Thank you for being here.

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 Playground** 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. More details about the Playground 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 in 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.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
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terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker

GLORIFYING GOD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

Bring Forth the Kingdom
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2190, vs. 1, 2, 3

*Call to Worship

Gray Sexton

Come, let us worship.

Let us enter into the Spirit of God's creative work!

**May our worship sow seeds of hope
and bear the fruits of love.**

We gather in the name of Christ,
who sowed the seeds of grace wherever he went.

**May our lives sow seeds of hope
and bear the fruits of love.**

Trusting in God's abundant love,
may our worship sow within us the seeds of new life!

**May we become seeds of hope and grace,
seeds of love and encouragement
wherever we go.**

*Song of Response

Thy Word Is a Lamp
The United Methodist Hymnal 601, refrain

STORYTIME WITH JESUS

Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

Prayer for Illumination

Gray Sexton

Storytelling Jesus,

**Guide me as I keep learning how to live into the life you offer,
to stretch myself and grow in the atmosphere of your grace.**

**Keep my heart open to let the truths you taught hit home
to the places where I need them.**

Keep shaping and forming me into your likeness. Amen.

*Scripture

Gray Sexton

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Parable of the Sower
"Sow As You Go"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn of Faith

Wonderful Words of Life
The United Methodist Hymnal 600, vs. 1, 3

*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

Gracious and loving Savior, hear our prayer.

God of Mystery,

**We are constantly amazed
by the depth and breadth of your love.**

**Over and over again,
you turn our expectations upside down,
and still we don't understand
the radical nature of your grace.**

**We play by our own rules of justice,
even when it means excluding those
we are called to love and defend.**

**In our darkest moments,
we doubt if we are worthy of your care.**

**God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need;
that through the solid foundation of your love,
we find the strength to follow your call
as true disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Surprise us again, Lord.

Surprise us again.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

In his stories and in his way of life,
Jesus demonstrated grace upon grace.

Together, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

We are not only forgiven, we are also freed.

Let us greet the world as people made new in Christ our Lord.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

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!**

BEING FED BY THE SPIRIT

***The Great Thanksgiving**

A Service of Word and Table III
The United Methodist Hymnal 15

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:

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
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.

Prayer after Receiving

Sower of all Life,

We give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, continuing to plant, trusting that your love and abounding grace will take root.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENT OUT TO SHARE THE STORY

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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

The United Methodist Hymnal 664, vs. 1

*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

Go forth as God's people.

We will sow seeds of love and joy in the world.

Go forth as Christ's true friends.

We will sow seeds of justice and hope whenever we go.

Go forth as the Spirit's love.

**We will sow seeds of peace and reconciliation
in every corner of creation.**

*Postlude

Terry Byars

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Jackie Creed, Emeric Csaszar, Sandra Kuykendall, and Maureen Robertson.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Vanessa Ayres in honor of the Congregational Care Ministries.

Coffee Time

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Youth Group this afternoon.

St. John's Writers' Group

The St. John's Writers' Group will meet on Zoom **this afternoon at 4 p.m.** Please email Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for more information and for the Zoom login and passcode. Newcomers are always welcome!

Children & Youth Pool Party

Join us for some fun in the sun on Sunday, July 17 from 4-7pm. All children and youth are invited to the home of Sarah and Troy Prevot (242 Shady Lake Place W) for an afternoon around the pool. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish or treat to share and don't forget your towel.

Shepherd's Market 10th Anniversary July 17

July 17 is the 10th Anniversary of the Shepherd's Market Food Pantry. In celebration of ten amazing years in ministry, we will have a special Ministry Moment at both services and share in a birthday cake during Coffee Time.

Safe Sanctuaries Training Scheduled

Our annual Safe Sanctuaries training is scheduled for **Sunday, July 24 at noon** in the library, immediately following the 11:00 service. Anyone, staff or volunteer, who works with children or youth is required to take the training. Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance with Lynn (225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org).

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Coming in August

We are excited to host a Financial Peace University (FPU) class starting August 23 from 6-8pm. This 9 week course, created by Dave Ramsey, teaches biblical principles for managing money. Through video teachings and interactive conversations, FPU offers practical steps to help you get rid of debt, manage your money, and save and invest more wisely. The cost of the course is \$60. Registration forms can be found in the Narthex. Contact Jill Brant at jbrant96518@gmail.com or 985-503-4246 for more information. Childcare will be available upon request.

Take your first steps now to change your life and your legacy by attending this class.

Days for Girls in September

We are planning ahead for Days for Girls in September and need help with the following: sewers to complete the bags (contact Joyce Perry at joyce.perry@cox.net or 225-763-6613 if you can help sew bags), colored wash cloths, girls colorful panties/briefs size 10, 12, and 14 (no animals or characters please), monetary donations for other supplies (you may write a check to St. John's UMC with Days for Girls in the memo line). Look for the blue tubs in the Narthex or hallway of Admin/Education Building to drop your donations.

Bible Presentation

In honor of those heading back to school, on August 7, students going into Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th and 9th grades will be presented Bibles. If your student is moving up into one of those grades, please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) by July 31 so we can have an age-appropriate Bible ready.

GriefShare

A new session of GriefShare began Thursday, June 30 at 6 p.m. in the Parlor. This is a 13-week grief recovery program that will help you on your journey through the loss of a loved one. GriefShare is not only for St. John's congregation, it is open to everyone and is non-denominational. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Roark (601-209-5102 or dianer14@gmail.com).