



**UPSIDE
DOWN
LIVING**
PARABLES WITH A PUNCH

Sunday, July 24, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today we continue in our worship series “Upside Down Living,” where we are looking at familiar parables from the gospels and “flipping” them in order to look at them from a different perspective and to see if we can gain a deeper understanding about God. In today’s Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast, we’ll learn to see things through the lens of God, who is constantly turning things upside down – in both unpredictable and beautiful ways.

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 | stjohsbr.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
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator
cherylroubique@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Evan Gager
Summer Ministry Intern
evangager@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker
srodmz23@gmail.com

GLORIFYING GOD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
The United Methodist Hymnal 139, vs. 1, 3, 5

*Call to Worship

Bobbi Marino

Lord of mustard seeds and yeast,
we come to you this day
seeking to experience the in-breaking of your kingdom.

Do something new and incredible in our midst.

Plant your seed into our lives,
help us work your yeast into our hearts.

**We open ourselves to the *wideness* and *wildness* of your
love, for we ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.**

*Song of Response

Open Our Eyes, Lord
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2086

STORYTIME WITH JESUS

Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

Prayer for Illumination

Bobbi Marino

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

Bobbi Marino

Matthew 13:31-33

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Pastor Lane

Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Wheat:
"The Unbounded Kingdom of God"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn of Faith

Open My Eyes, That I May See
The United Methodist Hymnal 454, vs. 1, 2

*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 Peace and Love of Christ with Others

Ministry Moment

Marilyn Damberg

Serving in Children and Youth Ministries

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

Loving Savior,

Thank you for this meal that nourishes our bodies and spirits. By feasting on this bread of life, your presence reminds us of our belovedness, even when broken. For you, Holy Mystery, companion us through all things. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey onward. Thanks be for your sustaining love. 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

This Is My Father's World

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 3, 4

*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

*Postlude

Terry Byars

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Brian and Danielle Blackwood, Amy Richardson.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Harriet Walters in honor of the music ministry at St. John's.

Coffee Time

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safe Sanctuaries & Hands Only CPR Training TODAY

Our annual Safe Sanctuaries Training will be held today after the 11:00 service in the Family Life Center. If you can stay a few minutes after the training, we will be learning Hands-only CPR from Marc Adams from The American Red Cross.

Bereavement Food Team

When a loved one passes away, we need the support of our community. An important part of the grieving process is the opportunity to be together and share a meal. One of St. John's core values is caring for one another and our vision is to feed people. One of the ways to do this is by serving in the Bereavement Food Ministry.

There are several ways to serve:

- You can offer to serve on a food team, whose members takes turns providing items for a reception or meal following a funeral or memorial service. Sometimes items need to be purchased rather than cooked so you don't need to be a gourmet chef. (Many of our Sunday School classes have set up a food team you can sign up through, as well.)
- Additionally, we need volunteers to serve as hosts, helping set up, serve, and/or clean up on the day of the service.

If you are willing to serve, contact Dee Muenzler (225-933-1668; deemuenzler@gmail.com) or sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex today.

Youth Week Begins Today

Evan has a full week of fun and adventure planned for Youth Week beginning **today** after the 11:00 service at Andy's Frozen Custard and ending up Friday with the End of Summer Youth Night with youth groups from the Baton Rouge area. Friends are welcome at all events. Check out the newsletter for details or contact Evan Gager (evangager@stjohnsbr.org).

End of Summer Youth Night Party

Youth groups from the Baton Rouge area are being invited to attend the End of Summer Youth Night on **Friday, July 29 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** There will be plenty of games, sports, fellowship, and pizza. Friends are welcome. Everyone is being asked to bring a non-perishable food item for The Shepherd's Market.

Back to School Spirit Sunday August 7

- Show your school spirit by wearing your school colors or favorite spirit wear! At both services we will offer a bag blessing and bag tag for EVERYONE in worship. If you worship online, come by the office and pick one up.
- Children 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 a Bible ready.
- Age-specific Sunday School classes for children and youth will resume at 9:45 a.m.

Annual School Supply Drive

Opening Doors is collecting school supplies for schools in our neighborhood through Sunday, August 7. There is a blue tub in the Narthex as well as the hallway in the Admin/Education Building. Schools receiving supplies are Wildwood Elementary, Charlie Thomas Head Start, and Gardere Christian Academy.

Suggested supplies are: loose leaf paper, pencils, pens (black or blue), Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 24-pack of crayons, colored pencils, spiral notebooks (3 subject or more), standard rulers, folders with clasps and pockets, scissors, boxes of Kleenex, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, dry erase markers, kid scissors, construction paper, copy/computer paper.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Postponed

Financial Peace University scheduled to begin in August has been postponed until 2023.