

Finding **God** in the Flames



CAMPFIRE STORIES FROM SCRIPTURE

Sunday, June 12, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up. When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Moses said, "I'm here."

Exodus 3:2-4

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
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Evan Gager
Summer Ministry Intern
evangager@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
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Ben Balsler
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

GATHERING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

We Will Glorify the King of Kings
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2087, vs. 1 - 4

*Call to Worship

Phil Slicker

God declares, "I AM WHO I AM."

The God of our ancestors is with us today.

God calls us from a burning bush.

We are standing on holy ground!

Jesus calls out to us, "Come and follow me."

We are standing on holy ground!

The Spirit calls us to share God's love to all generations.

We are standing on holy ground!

God is our God, from generation to generation.

Let us worship God on this holy ground!

*Song of Response

Holy Ground
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2272

FANNING THE FLAMES

Children's Moment

Rhonda Tucker

Prayer for Illumination

Phil Slicker

O Great "I Am,"

**We are grateful that you have called us together this day,
drawing us from darkness to the glory of your light.**

**Just as you appeared to Moses in the burning bush,
may we discover your holiness in our lives, as well.**

**We stand amazed at the mystery of who you are,
and we give you endless thanks and praise. Amen.**

Scripture

Phil Slicker

Exodus 3:1-15

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Campfire Story:
"The Burning Bush"

FEEDING THE FIRE

*Hymn of Faith

Walk With Me

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2242, vs. 1, 4

Prayer of Confession

Just as God promised to be with Moses,
God promises to be with us,
from generation to generation.

The God of the burning bush is waiting even now to
encounter you,
call you,
challenge you, and
change you.

Take off your burdens and lay your sins at the cross
of redemption and grace.

Let us pray.

**Creator God, we confess
that we have tried to make you small:
to put you in our pockets,
and explain your wildness away.
Forgive our domestication, Lord,
and teach us to look for you
in unexpected places.
Give to us a sense of wonder,
curiosity, and awe.
In your holy name, we pray.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance and Pardon

In the power of the burning bush,
in the quiet stillness,
in the everyday noises of living,
God is calling to each one of us, telling us to trust in the gifts
with which God has bestowed on us.

You are beloved and blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Ministry Moment

Congregational Care
Bereavement Food Ministry

Pam Toney

God of the Sparrow

God of the Whale

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!**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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)**

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

Phil Slicker

Eternal God,

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

Stoke within us the flames of your mercy and grace, that we might be Christ's sparklers in our community.

And now, send us out to do the work you have called us to do, of loving and serving others in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT

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

Majesty

The United Methodist Hymnal 176

*Benediction

*Postlude

Terry Byars

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 after the worship service.

Flowers on the Altar

Flowers on the altar are in celebration of Parker and Rhonda Tucker's 33rd wedding anniversary and in memory of Tom and Martha Burch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth News

- There will be **NO** Youth Group this afternoon as the St. John's Youth contingent is still at BigStuf. They will be back home on Monday.
- **Wednesday, June 15** there will be a Youth Pool Party at the home of Pam and John Toney, 4-6 p.m.
- Typical Summer Youth Schedule: Sundays, 3-4:30 p.m.; Mondays, Shepherd's Market 3 - 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.

Additionally, Evan needs volunteers to help him on Sundays.

Please reach out and volunteer to serve! His email is evangager@stjohnsbr.org.

Writers' Group

St. John's Writers' Group will meet on Zoom this afternoon at 4 p.m. Newcomers are welcome and can contact Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com for more information.

Mary Martha Circle

The Mary Martha Circle of United Women in Faith will meet on **Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. All women are invited.

Summer Sunday School - "Spirited Praise"

"Spirited Praise" our one room Sunday School for K-5th graders continues for the months of June and July. Kids will start with music led by Dr. Steve Rushing and then will enjoy a lesson and activities led by volunteers from our adult Sunday School classes. Parents: please drop off and pick up your children in the FLC (9:45 - 10:45 a.m.).

June Worship Series "Finding God in the Flames: Campfire Stories from Scripture"

During the month of June we will be looking at some of the great fire stories from the Bible in our new worship series, "Finding God in the Flames: Campfire Stories from Scripture." From the Holy Spirit descending onto the disciples through tongues of flame on Pentecost, to a burning bush, join us as we explore the life-giving light of God.

The Shepherd's Market Returns to Client-Choice Shopping

The Shepherd's Market food pantry has returned to client-choice shopping. We are having an exciting and joy-filled time as we welcome our neighbors back inside for a hot meal, fellowship, and pantry shopping. Volunteers are always welcome Mondays from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 - 10 a.m.

Louisiana Annual Conference

For the first time in many years, the Louisiana Annual Conference will be held in Baton Rouge! St. John's will be well represented with our delegates: Rev. Lane Cotton Winn and Pat Cobb. Additionally, Grace Idikwu was selected to serve as a Youth At-Large Delegate and Natalie Cooper will serve as a Baton Rouge District At-Large Delegate. Guests are welcome to all sessions and worship experiences. Read your St. John's newsletters to find the schedule as well as more information about the conference. The worship services are always such a highlight! In fact, Pastor Deirdre', our former Associate Pastor and longtime church member, will be Ordained during Annual Conference. The Celebration of Ministry (Ordination) Service will be held at First UMC, Baton Rouge on Thursday, June 16 at 7 p.m. (Pre-Service music begins at 6:30 pm) so be sure to arrive early.

GriefShare

We are beginning a new session of GriefShare **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 know of someone who might benefit from this program, please let them know. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Roark (601-209-5102 or dianer14@gmail.com).