



Sunday, May 15, 2022

8:30 WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth."

Genesis 1:26

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.

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 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. 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 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

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
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Ben Balsler
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Lynn Cooper
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

Through It All
The United Methodist Hymnal 507

His Name Is Wonderful
The United Methodist Hymnal 174

*Call to Worship

Sandra Kuykendall

We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love.

**In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair
are vanquished!**

In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign.

**Let all the people praise God with their music
and their voices!**

Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

Praise be to God.

*Response Song

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
The United Methodist Hymnal 191, vs. 3

Opening Prayer

Sandra Kuykendall

**Gracious and Loving God,
we are grateful that you have called us together
this day, drawing us from darkness
to the glory of your light.**

**May our spirits rejoice at the good news
you have for us today.**

**Open our hearts to your healing love,
for we ask this in Christ's name. Amen.**

GROWING IN CHRIST'S LIKENESS

Children's Moment

Molly Means

Prayer for Illumination

Sandra Kuykendall

**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.**

Genesis 1:26-28

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

“Myth: Everything Happens for a Reason”

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING WITH GRACE AND THANKS

*Hymn of Faith

What a Friend We Have In Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 526, vs. 1, 2

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

Pastor Lane

Almighty God,
another week has passed.
These previous seven days were filled with
good and bad experiences.

For the times we experienced your mercy,
we give you thanks.

(silent reflection)

For the times we took advantage of your grace,
we ask your forgiveness.

(silent reflection)

For the times we took bold steps of faith,
we give you thanks.

(silent reflection)

For the times we ignored your calling in our lives,
we ask your forgiveness.

(silent reflection)

For the times we learned more about you,
we give you thanks.

(silent reflection)

For the times we were too proud to see you at work
around us,
we ask your forgiveness.

(silent reflection)

Merciful God, guide us this new day and in this new week,
help us to see you more clearly than ever before.
Amen.

Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Pastor Lane

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life
and enables us to begin again and again and again.

Our God is with us in all seasons of life.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ we are made whole.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Sharing Signs of Peace and Joy

*Share a joyful sign of Christ's peace
with those near you or near to your heart.*

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!**

*The Great Thanksgiving

*A Service of Word and Table
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

Sandra Kuykendall

**Loving Savior,
we thank you for your presence with us through worship.
Here at your table we are reminded we are not alone.
We have been fed with love and grace.
May we follow you out in the world, ambassadors
of your hope and peace. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

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**

Emmanuel (2x)
The United Methodist Hymnal 204

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Pictorial Directories Are Here!

Thank you for your patience. Covid, the closing of Olan Mills Church Directory Division, and a hurricane were big hurdles we had to overcome. As always, St. John's prevailed. Everyone who had their picture taken or submitted a picture will receive a complimentary copy of the new directory! **You can pick up your directory today** in the Narthex before the 8:30 service, in the FLC during Coffee Time right after the Kitchen Dedication, or just before the 11 am service in the Narthex. If you are unable to pick it up on Sunday, you may pick your copy up during regular church office hours beginning Monday, May 16.

All are invited to our Kitchen Celebration

Our Kitchen Renovation Team is planning for us to celebrate the official re-opening of our newly renovated kitchen! A reception will take place immediately after the service with a dedication and blessing from 9:50 - 10 a.m.

St. John's Writers' Group

St. John's Writers' Group will meet **this afternoon at 4:00** on Zoom. Writers of all genres are welcome. Contact Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com.

Good Grief, St. John's!

Our monthly support and fellowship gathering, Good Grief, St. John's!, will meet **Tuesday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Contact Susan Johnston at sbjohnston@gmail.com or 225-773-9563 for more information. Newcomers are always welcome.

The Shepherd's Market Returns to Client-Choice Shopping

The Shepherd's Market is asking for volunteers as they will return to client-choice shopping in June. This will mean three day a week shopping and hot meals: Mondays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 - 10 a.m. We are asking for new and returning kitchen and pantry volunteers to help us resume our pre-covid schedule.

Summer Sunday School - Help Needed

This summer, we will combine our children's Sunday School classes (K-5th grades) for the months of June and July! Our summer theme will be "Spirited Praise!" How can you get involved? Let's give our regular children's and Youth Sunday School teachers the summer off, by offering ourselves! We are looking for adult Sunday School classes, small groups, and friends to join together to facilitate a week or two of "Spirited Praise!" Sunday School.

This one-room Sunday School for kids will meet in the Family Life Center from 9:45-10:45am. Steve Rushing will get things started with Music Time for the first 15-20 minutes. Following Music Time, adult volunteers will lead a short session, approximately 40 minutes, which will include a Bible story and an activity we provide. All you need to do is spend a few minutes that week reading over the lesson and gathering up any supplies you may need. Our Youth (6th-12th grades) will serve as your helpers.

If you are willing to be a part of "Spirited Praise!", our One-Room Children's Sunday School this summer, please contact Natalie Cooper (natalie@piaoflouisiana.com or 225-241-1605) to select your Sundays!

Family Night Potluck and Godspell Performance

Come kick off the summer with St. John's Family Night on **Saturday, June 4!** We will gather for a Potluck and Performance of Godspell, The Musical. Bring a dish, side or dessert to share for the potluck dinner starting at 5:45 p.m. Following dinner, the D.A.R.I.N.G. Youth Choir* from First UMC, Allen Texas, will present a lively production of "Godspell" starting at 7:00. Invite family and friends!