



Star of Hope

An Advent Festival of
Music and Rhyme

Sunday, December 17, 2023

8:30 & 11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Thank you for joining u for “Star of Hope: An Advent Festival of Music and Rhyme.” Always a highlight of the Advent season, this year’s musical extravaganza features original poetry written by church member Guy Johnson and beautiful music from our Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Music Makers. Our service will surely bring joy to your spirit and your heart as we prepare for the coming of Christmas. Welcome!

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to scan the QR code to register your attendance so we know you’re here and we can get to know you better.



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. If you are feeling cold, shawls are available in a basket in front of the media desk in the back of the sanctuary. 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 18 months 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

Connor Dean
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
connordean@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

Gabe Guillory
Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

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

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

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

A Star of Hope: An Advent Festival of Music & Rhyme

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



Prelude

Angel Tidings
by Cynthia Dobrinski

Alleluia Ringers

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Advent Proclamation

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.
The carols we sing, the prayers we pray,
the words we say are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.

**They are a gift, inspired by the Giver Of All Words,
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us,
God with us, Emmanuel.**

He was indeed the long-expected one, the Messiah, our Lord -
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace...

**In this Season we proclaim again, the birth of Christ,
who comes to show us everything we will ever need to know
about God.**

We anticipate the gift of Christmas in this time of worship.
**We come, longing to be as close to the source of hope, love,
joy, and peace as possible, on this day and always. Amen.**

*Hymn

Once In Royal David's City
The United Methodist Hymnal 250, vs. 1, 2, & 4

Advent Candle Lighting

Lisa Alfred, 8:30; Dottie Frazzini, 11:00

The Advent season calls us to work for peace.

Peace that flows from the hands of Jesus.

We light this candle for the Peace we seek,
a peace that sings in our hearts,
telling us that the Prince of Peace is near.

(The candles of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace are lit.)

Let us pray:

Christ be with us in the Light of Peace.

Peace in our hearts,

Peace in our homes,

Peace in our communities,

Peace around the world.

**This we ask in the name of the one born in Bethlehem,
Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

Anthem

Away In a Manger
by James R. Murray

Music Makers

Children's Moment

Ben Hartman

A Star Shone Over Bethlehem

by Guy Johnson

A new star shone on high that night,
Radiant, clear, a cheering light,
A heartwarming beacon seen from afar,
Larger than any neighboring star.
But below in the weary world were few
Wakeful and watchful this sight to view:
Shepherds on duty guarding their sheep,
Those whose worries robbed them of sleep,
Fishers at midnight casting their net,
Astrologers noting the stars' rise and set.
These were the ones who could look up and see
The star and ask what its message might be.

Anthem

He Whom Shepherds Praised
by Gerald Near

Chancel Choir

A Star of Hope

Ben Hartman, Larry Norman

Anthem

Il est né le divin Enfant (He Is Born)
Traditional French carol
Soloists: Daniel Csaszar, Julian Hartman, Hayden Matthews

Music Makers

A Star of Love, Part 1

Ben Hartman, Larry Norman

Anthem

Ding Dong Merrily on High
16th Century French carol

Chancel Choir

A Star of Love, Part 2

Natalie Cooper, Ben Hartman,
Larry Norman

Anthem

In Dulci Jubilo
arranged by Anna Laura Page

Alleluia Ringers

A Star of Joy

Natalie Cooper, Molly Means,
Larry Norman

Song

African Alleluia
by Jay Althouse

Chancel Choir

Anthem

Chancel Choir

O Little Town of Bethlehem
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *The Shepherd's Song*
by Cynthia Dobrinski
Alleluia Ringers

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online by scanning the QR Code
or navigate to 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!**

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**

Star Child
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2095, vs. 1 & 5

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Alleluia Ringers

Good King Wenceslas
arranged by Hart Morris

*The end of worship.
The beginning of service.*

Worship Notes

STAR OF HOPE

The poetry read in today's services was written by Guy Johnson.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of Troy and Sarah Prevot's 39 years of marriage. Congratulations, Troy and Sarah!

USHERS

Ushers for today's 8:30 worship service are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

Ushers for today's 11:00 worship service are Fred and Becky Shearer

COFFEE TIME

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the FLC for refreshments and coffee.

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building.

UWF CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

The United Women in Faith will have their Craft and Bake Sale open before the 8:30 service, during Coffee Time, and after the 11:00 service. Go by and check it out - you just might find that perfect gift. All proceeds support missions.

Announcements

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will be closed Friday, December 22 thru Tuesday, December 26, reopening on December 27 and Friday, December 29 thru Tuesday, January 2, reopening on January 3, 2024.

The Shepherd's Market is closing for the holidays after the Great Turkey Giveaway and will reopen for regular pantry hours on Thursday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

END OF YEAR GIVING

We would like to close the year with the joyful feeling of having met all our financial obligations, and to begin next year with renewed hope and confidence. We can do that with your help. As a church, we rely on strong December offerings, and this year is no different. **In this season of gift giving, we invite you to make a special year-end gift to the church.** Through your gifts, vital ministries of St. John's can continue.

Contributions can be made online (stjohnsbr.org/give), by mail, or during worship. We also accept stocks, bonds, securities, IRA charitable rollovers, and RMDs. Mailed contributions must be postmarked by December 31 to receive contribution credit for 2023. Online gifts can be made until midnight on December 31. If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn Davis in the office at 225-766-4594 or via email at leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org.

STAFF APPRECIATION LOVE OFFERING

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. You may also make your gift online at www.stjohnsbr.org/give. **Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is Tuesday, December 19 for online and Wednesday, December 20 for checks and cash.**

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN "CALLED TO COMMUNITY"

Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024. We celebrate the following:

- **102** individuals & families have pledged a total of **\$513,558**, so far.
- **57** households have increased their pledge for next year.
- **15** are first time pledged givers.

If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining your fellow St. John's family members who have increased their pledge from this year to next. Our 2024 budget includes a Spirit-led 13-14% increase, and your increased pledge will get us closer to our goal. You can complete a pledge card and turn it in during the offering or to the church office, or you can pledge online at: stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024.

GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY THANK YOU

What a great Great Turkey Giveaway! Thank you to all involved - to Duane and Fran for baking the delicious bread, to those who took loaves home to freeze (and brought them back!), to those who prayed, to those who made financial contributions, to the volunteers who came out Friday to help set up, and to EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT SATURDAY! What a great group of volunteers, helping folks go home with the fixings for a big turkey dinner.

Advent & Christmas Worship

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 21

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to give yourself the gift of attending our Longest Night worship service, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. Join us **Thursday, December 21 at 6 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, and we will celebrate with one morning service and one evening service. Each worship experience will be uplifting, celebratory, and meaningful in its own unique way. Join us for one or both!

Family-Oriented Service 10 a.m.

Our children and youth will present the "ABCs of Christmas," during our family-friendly morning service. We will also sing carols, celebrate Holy Communion, and experience the Christmas story through the eyes of our young people.

Following worship we'll have a Birthday Party for Jesus, with cupcakes, cocoa, and coffee for all.

Service Of Candlelight and Communion 5 p.m.

Our evening service is a traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, Holy Communion, and Silent Night by candlelight. Join us for a time of worship, community, and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Beautiful white poinsettias will adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Join in the adornment by dedicating a plant In Honor Of, In Memory Of, or To the Glory of God. Dedications will appear on Christmas Eve. You can order online at stjohnsbr.org/poinsettia-2023, by completing a printed form found in the Narthex, or by contacting the church office. Each donated plant is \$20. Donors are free to take their Poinsettia home following the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. ***Deadline to make dedications is Wednesday, December 20.***

ONE SERVICE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

We will celebrate the coming of the new year on New Year's Eve morning at 10 a.m. We will have a combined Service of Light and Reflection on Sunday, December 31, as we consider this past year and prepare our hearts and lives for 2024.

STAR WORD AND EPIPHANY SUNDAY

On Epiphany Sunday, January 7 at 8:30 and 11 a.m., we will receive a Star Word during worship as a gift from God and a guide in the new year. Inspired by the Magi following the star to Jesus, selecting a star word to meditate on throughout the year can deepen your self-reflection and prayer practices. Join us in this spiritual discipline and for our first worship service of the new year.

Servanthood

TODAY - UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Swing by the Family Life Center throughout the morning to purchase delicious holiday baked goods and take home some wonderful handcrafted Christmas gifts. All proceeds will go to local missions supported by the United Women in Faith (UWF).

Youth & Children's Ministries

"THE ABC'S OF CHRISTMAS" CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

We are hosting a family-oriented worship program at **10 a.m. on Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**. We would love for all of our children and youth to be a part of this! There are roles for all ages, some involve speaking but many do not require any public speaking, just a willingness to participate. Our current plan is for everyone participating to show up about an hour before the service (which would be 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 24) to do a brief run-through. Some props/costumes will be provided as well. If a child or youth in your household would like to participate in this program, please let Connor know as soon as possible (if you have not already done so).

SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or December 31. Our regular Sunday morning schedule resumes January 7.

UPSTAIRS CAFE

The "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Christmas Party for United Methodist Youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 17 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Tacky Christmas sweaters are encouraged. We will play some games, then do a white elephant gift exchange. (Each student should bring a gift that costs no more than \$10 to exchange.) Pizza will be served for dinner and we will decorate Christmas cookies for dessert.

NEW YEAR'S EVE LOCK IN

The St. John's youth group is hosting a lock-in for United Methodist Youth in and around Baton Rouge on **Sunday, December 31 beginning at 6 p.m. and ending Monday, January 1 at 8 a.m.** There is a \$10 registration/participation fee for the lock-in. The fee is due by Sunday, December 17. One youth group all the way from Amite will be joining us as well!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, December 17

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. UWF Craft & Bake Sale, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, Broadmoor UMC

Monday, December 18

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 19

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, December 20

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, December 21

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 6:00 p.m. The Longest Night Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, December 22

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Saturday, December 23

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center