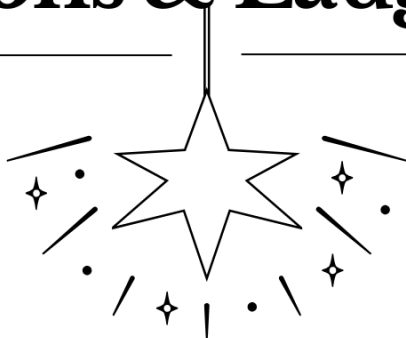


— JANUARY 5 —

Epiphany Sunday Lessons & Laughter



Worship filled with
joy, laughter, and hope.

January 5, 2025

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

The Christmas season is hallmarked by joy. The angels sing. The shepherds run. Mary cherishes. The star shines and the magi are overcome with joy. Christ is born! In response to all this good news, we sing “Joy to the World!” with grateful celebration. So lean into the holy joy of this season as we relish in the angel’s promise that Christ brings joy to the world. We will also celebrate Holy Communion and receive our 2025 Star Word, a spiritual practice that provides a word for guidance and reflection for the year ahead.

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

GUEST INFORMATION

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, located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please take home a copy of our Welcome Brochure located in the Narthex or view it online at: stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure.

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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

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

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

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

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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

The Celebration of the Gospel

**Please stand as you are comfortable.*

Bold indicates congregational response.

Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.



Prelude

Words of Grace & Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Singing God's Praise

Clap Your Hands
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2028

Lean On Me
Music & lyrics by Bill Withers

*Call to Worship

Pastor Lane

One: Children of God, how did you get here?

Left side of the room: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.

Right side of the room: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

Left side of the room: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

Right side of the room: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?

All: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

One: Welcome home. This is God's house!

All: We have reason to celebrate!

One: God is in our joy.

**All: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of
this new day and new year. Amen.**

Practice Joy

What Brings You Joy?

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
The United Methodist Hymnal 89, vs. 1 & 4

Prayer for Illumination

8:30 - Cindy Carter
11:00 - Darlene Dickson

**God of angel choruses and contagious laughter,
we know that you speak to us in the quiet.**

**We know that when we bow our heads and fall to our knees,
you are there, hovering close, calling our names.**

**However, we also trust that
when we throw our heads back in laughter,
when we dance and clap with joy,
when we skip and sing with gratitude,
that even there, you are speaking.**

**So on as we worship you now,
open our ears and hearts to hear what it is
that you are saying.**

**Meet us in this joy.
Meet us in this delight.
Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season,
and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today.
With hearts full of gratitude we pray.
We laugh. We listen. We pray.
Amen.**

Listen for Joy

8:30 - Cindy Carter
11:00 - Darlene Dickson

Matthew 2:10

Sing with Joy

I Come With Joy
The United Methodist Hymnal 617, vs. 1, 2, & 4

Practice Joy in Community

Friends, the peace and joy of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pass joy to one another with signs of love and peace.

Listen for Joy

8:30 - Daniel Cszaszar
11:00 - Anna Durham

Luke 2:10 & Isaiah 9:2-3

Sing with Joy

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
The United Methodist Hymnal 251, vs. 1 & 2

Practice Joy

Children's Moment

Connor Dean

Listen for Joy

8:30 - Cindy Carter & Daniel Cszaszar
11:00 - Darlene Dickson & Anna Durham

Psalms 148

Sing with Joy

All Creatures of Our God and King
The United Methodist Hymnal 62, vs. 1 & 7

Practice Joy

A Star Word Reflection - Harmony

Connor Dean

Sing with Joy

Joy to the World
The United Methodist Hymnal 246, vs. 1

Pray with Joy

Pastor Lane

Offering Gifts with Joy

11:00 Offertory: *Gesù Bambino*
By Pietro Yon
Soloist: Steve Rushing

*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!**

Gathering at God's Table

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.

If you are a person with limited mobility, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion to you.

Prayer

8:30 - Cindy Carter
11:00 - Darlene Dickson

O God,

Having gathered around your table, we have tasted your goodness. May the joy we find in this meal lift up our hearts and may we carry that joy into the world around us. This we pray in your holy name.

Amen.

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.

Sing with Joy

*The Trees of the Field (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2279*

Please bring donations for The Shepherd's Market forward during the singing of this our closing hymn.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Dr. Terry Byars

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by George and BJ Cobb to celebrate Epiphany as well as their 28th anniversary. Congratulations, George and BJ!

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Susan Johnston and Bobbi Marino.

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Fred and Becky Shearer.

After the 8:30 service everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments.

Announcements

A SERVICE OF BAPTISM REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday, January 12, we will read the story of Jesus' baptism. Together, we will ponder the meaning and significance of baptism before being invited to come forward and touch the water as we remember our baptisms and give thanks. We will also celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion at both services. Baptism celebrates birth and new life, and Communion celebrates our continued nourishment and growth as we live into all Christ calls us to be. Sharing our two sacraments in one worship service will be a holy and special experience. Join us at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. for this Service of Baptism Remembrance.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE RESUMES

The regular weekly schedule for the Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry, Alleluia Ringers, Chancel Choir, Pickleball, and Early Risers Exercisers resumes this week. See the back of the bulletin to view the schedule.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS

If your last name begins with **A - C**, "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is next Sunday, **January 12**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

SPRING YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN

St. John's is excited to announce applications are now being accepted for our Spring Youth Ministry Intern position. This 15-week internship spans February 2 - May 19 and is designed for young adults who have a passion for working with youth (6th-12th grades) and/or may be exploring a call to ministry. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable leadership and ministry experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 10 hours per week. Each intern will receive \$1,500 throughout the spring semester, to be paid semi-monthly (15th & 30th of each month) during the 15-week internship.

We are looking for someone who has a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome. **Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by January 12, 2025.**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Beginning **Sunday, January 26**, we are asking members to spend some time with the youngest blessings of St. John's. This will help us meet our budget and best stretch your contributions! If no children arrive within the first 15 minutes of the worship service and/or Sunday School, volunteers are free to leave the nursery. You will remain "on call" until your time has ended and will receive a text if a child shows up and you are needed. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the rotation with others!

To sign up and share your availability, go to stjohnsbr.org/nurseryvolunteer. Also, keep an eye out for Safe Sanctuary Training sign-up, coming soon!

Middle school and high school students are welcome to sign up!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The next meeting of the UWF Circle of the Heart will be held in the Founders' Parlor on **Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m.** Clara Maynard will present the program "Our Identity: How Has Your Faith Been Formed in You?" Officers for 2025 will be installed. All women are invited to attend.

The UWF books in the 2025 Reading Program are now available in the church library.

Youth and Children's Ministries

YOUTH AND CHILDREN SUNDAY FLOW

We offer faith formation for children and youth of all ages during Sunday School.

Upstairs Café opens at 9:30 a.m. - Students start in the Upstairs Cafe (Room 202 of the Admin building) helping them get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their age specific Sunday School groups.

Sunday School Classes - Children 2 yrs to 4 yrs are in the Pre-K Room on the first floor of the Admin building; students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are in Room 204; students in 3rd through 5th grades are in Room 207; students in 6th through 12th grades are in the Youth Sunday School class Room 201.

UPSTAIRS CAFE SNACK SCHEDULE

First Sundays - Sunday School Teachers

Second Sundays - PreK - 2nd Families

Third Sundays - 3rd - 5th Families

Fourth Sundays - Youth Families.

We will deal with Fifth Sundays separately.

JOIN MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers rehearse on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergarten through 5th grade students as well as Youth (6th - 12th grades) to be introduced to songs and hymns of the United Methodist Church and a variety of instruments. Drop them off and pick them up in the choir room. They will have a wonderful time with Dr. Steve. **Music Makers will resume on January 12 at 4:30 p.m.**

YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

First Sundays: The St. John's youth group gathers on the first Sunday of each month from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities. **Our first Youth Bible Study of the new year will be held today, here at St. John's at 4 p.m. in the Youth Room.**

Third Wednesdays: Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for Wednesday Night Live. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) if you did not receive one.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, January 5

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study, Youth Room
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Monday, January 6

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

*Family Life Center

Tuesday, January 7

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, January 8

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Circle of the Heart, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, January 9

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC

Friday, January 10

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

Saturday, January 11

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church