



Embracing the
“Good Enough”
of life & faith

Sunday, March 10, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing. Our delusions of a “perfect life” keep us disappointed in ourselves. So, like the prodigal son in today's scripture reading, we practice our repentance speech and nervously approach our Father hoping for acceptance. To our surprise, our extravagant sense of failure is met with God's extravagant love and grace. Truth is, life is a big Truth is, life is a risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only “good enough,” but worthy of love and grace.

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.



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 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 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
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Bill Putzig
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Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

Welcome to 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 Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Gathering Music

Good Enough
Terry Byars, soloist

Prayer

Maureen Robertson

**God of forgiveness,
we call out to you in need and
you surround us with deliverance.**

**You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves
or others.**

**Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more
merciful and more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in the
simple and “good enough” moments that fill our days. Amen.**

*Hymns

I Love You, Lord
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2068

Blessed Assurance
The United Methodist Hymnal 369, vs. 1 & 3

Children’s Message

Darlene Dickson

Prayer

**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.**

*Scripture

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-24

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

“Extravagant Love and Grace”

*Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings
The United Methodist Hymnal 383, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Prayer

God is always inviting us to return home.
Come let us bring our full selves home to God.
Will you pray with me?

**God, I confess that when I feel lost,
it is hard to return to you.
All my imperfections scream at me,
telling me that I am not deserving of your love.
And sometimes those fears are confirmed
by my experience of human judgement
or prejudices.
Remind me that you are never prejudice.
God, you welcome me home and renew me
every single time I ask for forgiveness.
Forgive me for all that I did that was wrong
and all the things I have left undone.
Forgive me for forgetting that nothing can
separate me from your love, and help me
to return to your loving embrace. Amen.**

*Response

Know that already, God is offering us freedom
from the guilt and shame of our past failings and
our present unrealistic expectations.

We are invited to rejoice that each day
is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy,
and not dread, the life before us.

And know that despite our sometimes faltering steps,
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven,
even now.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

*Sharing Love and Peace

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Desert Mist*

By Glenn Barbay

Lead vocalist and guitar, Glenn Barbay

Violin, Betty Schroeder

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;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Invitation to Holy Communion

*Holy Communion

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.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*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.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

By your Spirit open us to each other. Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Loving Lord,

You have looked upon us with love and said, “You are welcome at my table.”

Thank you for creating a place where we need not be perfect, we need not be sure of ourselves or our faith, and we need not feel whole and right with the world.

Send us out to share that same grace and compassion with others.

In the name of the One who accepts us and transforms us.

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.

*Hymn

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

The United Methodist Hymnal 365, vs. 1 & 4

*Blessing

“A Blessing for Becoming Real”

Blessed are you who do not despise your realness.

It may hurt.

You may not recognize yourself in the mirror.

But this is what we hoped for, right?

To live and love.

To be loved.

To have our experiences show on our faces and in our cells.

It is the real life of Jesus in us, being made visible, as all our seams show.

*Benediction

*Postlude

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are from Hal Holloway and Bobby Johnson in memory of Danny Fontenot.

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Donnie and Susan Lambert.

COFFEE TIME

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

Most Liturgy written by Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/ goodenough; used and adapted with permission.

Theme Song: “Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

Blessing: “A Blessing for Becoming Real” from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

Announcements

GUEST PREACHER ON MARCH 17

Next Sunday, March 17, we will welcome Lauren LeBoeuf as our guest preacher while Pastor Lane is serving on the mission team to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans. Lauren is a seminary student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and a candidate for ordained ministry. While working towards her Master of Divinity, she serves as the Coordinator of Welcome and Engagement at University UMC.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Circle of the Heart Meeting

The March meeting of the Circle of the Heart will be held in the Founders' Parlor on **Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m.** Pat Cobb will present the program, "Sharing/Giving/ Missions." Easter gift bags will be prepared for UWF home-centered and facility-centered members. Attendees are being asked to bring Easter candy and fruit to the meeting that will be put in the bags. All women are invited to attend.

UWF 2024 Reading Program

The 2024 books in the UWF Reading Program are now available in the church library. Books in the reading program have been reviewed by UWF members and the selected books encourage members to think critically about current issues. If you would like to participate, get an application from Norma Thomason; she can be reached at 225-765-7374. Applications are due back to her by June 1.

UWF Craft & Bake Sale

The United Women in Faith of St. John's is sponsoring a Craft and Bake Sale on **Palm Sunday, March 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** or until we sell out of merchandise. There will be wonderful crafts and delicious Easter goodies to bring home or share with others. Proceeds from the sale go to UWF missions and projects.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE WORKDAYS

There are two, yes two, opportunities to participate in a Trustee workday in the next few weeks. The goal is to spruce up the St John's campus before Holy Week. We will be focusing on window and outside eave cleaning, light bulb replacement and general outdoor clean up. You are encouraged to pick **ONE** of the dates and come and help prep for Easter.

Day 1: Friday March 22 from 8:30 – 11:30
Work around the FLC and Admin Building

Day 2: Saturday Mar 23 from 8:30 – 11:30
Work around the Sanctuary and Narthex (St. John's is a voting precinct and will be hosting an election in the FLC on Saturday, so we will not work in that area)

Holy Week Worship

(In-person and online)

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

In this special service of worship, we will commemorate the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples. We get a seat at the table, to the meal in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what “blessing” really means, as we share in prayer, reflection, and Holy Communion.

GOOD (ENOUGH) FRIDAY WORSHIP, March 29, 5 p.m.

Our Good (Enough) Friday worship service will be a Service of Tenebrae. “Tenebrae” is the Latin word meaning “darkness.” This service, based on a 12th century tradition, invites us to reflect on the passion of Christ through scripture readings, prayers, and music. During the service, we will hear the story of the trial, sentencing, execution, death, and burial of Jesus, and depart in silence.

NOTE: Childcare will be available **UPON REQUEST** for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org).

Easter Eggstravaganza

This year we are celebrating Palm Sunday in an extra special way. We will be hosting our annual children’s Easter event on **Sunday, March 24 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** This event will be similar to last year’s Bunny Breakfast, but on a Sunday afternoon rather than a Saturday morning. We are so excited to welcome the children and families at St. John’s and in our community -- but we need your help.

Here are a few ways you can serve

Donate candy & other supplies: We are asking for generic donations of plastic Easter eggs, fine-tip permanent markers, small prizes for games, and nut-free, individually-wrapped candy. You can also donate more specific supplies from our Amazon wish list by going to stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist.

Monetary Donations:

- **Cash/Check:** You can make monetary donations on Sunday in the collection plate or by mailing or delivering a check or cash to the church office. Checks should be made out to St. John’s UMC with “Easter Event” on the memo line.
- **Card/Online:** You can also send a monetary donation online. Visit stjohnsbr.org/give. For “Fund”, select “Family Events” in the drop-down menu. Please include “Easter Event” in the notes section. Then enter and submit the amount you would like to contribute.

Volunteer: In addition to the supplies needed for this event, we also need at least 30 volunteers to help ensure everything runs smoothly with our various craft and activity stations as well as the Easter egg hunt. Go to stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers to sign up your Sunday School class, Bible study, covenant group, or as an individual to work an activity booth for the Eggstravaganza on Sunday, March 24.

Volunteers will need to meet at the FLC at **3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24** to receive instructions on the activity they will be running. Activity booths will run on March 24 from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. For some activities, supplies will be provided. For others, the group will need to provide materials. Please read carefully on the activity you sign up for.

Servanthood

ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION - SAVE THE DATE!

St. John's United Methodist Church will return to St Mark's United Methodist in the New Orleans French quarter on March 17. We will again be partnering with St Mark's to provide a meal for the unhoused immediately following their 10:30 AM worship service. Our caravan will leave St. John's at 7 AM in order to arrive there in time to make last-minute preparations and prepare for serving the meal. **If you are interested in volunteering for this mission, please call the church office (22-766-4594).** Additional vehicles may be needed; please let me know if you are willing to drive to New Orleans and back. Good news for those who went with us last time, Phil Diz has agreed to share his beautiful voice for the Sunday morning worship service and there may be other musical guests as well!

GOOD NEWS FOR COFFEE TIME!

Coffee time snacks are covered through May! However, please be thinking about making up a group of friends, who might not be in a Sunday School class, and cover the month of June! After you get that group together, sign up at stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time. We know there are a lot of folks who would be glad to show off their baking skills!

LSU WESLEY FOUNDATION

Tuesday Night Meal and or Devotion. The LSU Wesley Center is asking for our help in providing a meal and or devotion on a Tuesday night. It would be served after their prayer service to a group of 8 - 10 students. It could be a home cooked meal or a bought meal (tacos, pizza, etc.). They ask that there be a vegetarian and a gluten free option. To sign up go to signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#.

GARDERE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The Gardere Initiative is holding their first annual "Gardere Takes Flight!" Kites and Flights on **Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** in BREC's Hartley/Vey Park. There will be delicious food, kite making, team kite flying competitions, drones, Easter egg hunt, opportunities to learn about the important work Gardere Initiative does in this community, and much more.

The Gardere Initiative's goal is to raise \$25,000 to put towards a permanent home for them to continue serving over 70 children every afternoon.

Youth & Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONALS

Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 & 11 a.m. Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Palm Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:30 & 11 a.m. The children and young at heart will process with flowers to decorate the cross at the altar. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER

First Sundays: The St. John's youth group will gather on the first Sunday of each month from **4 - 5:30 p.m.** Throughout the spring semester, they will meet at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities.

Third Wednesdays: Youth will 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.

C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. We hope to have a park playdate at Highland Road Community Park on Sunday, April 28 -- pending good weather!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are already starting to plan some of our summer programs for St. John's children and youth. We are looking forward to hosting VBS again this year! **This 5-day program will run from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024.** SAVE THE DATES!

More will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. Check the Sunday bulletin and our Tuesday and Friday newsletters for upcoming information.

CAMP ISTROUMA SUMMER 2024

Summer overnight camp dates have been announced for Camp Istrouma, 25975 Greenwell Springs Rd. There is a Day Camp option for 1st - 5th grades each week.

Discovering God (3rd - 5th grades): May 27-May 31, June 10 - June 14, June 24 - June 28, July 15 - July 19.

Pathfinders (6th - 8th grades): June 3 - June 7, June 17 - June 21, July 8 - July 12, July 22 - July 26.

Senior Sunrise (9th - 12th grades): July 1 - July 5.

For general and registration information, please call 225-261-2089 or go to campistrouma.com.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, March 10

- 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, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, March 11

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, March 12

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, March 13

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

Thursday, March 14

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

Friday, March 15

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

Saturday, March 16

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

*Family Life Center