



Sunday, February 11, 2024
8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION
All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship today, as we seek to understand what Jesus means when he invites us to come to him if we are weary. It is all too easy to find ourselves in a “go, go, go” mindset. But if we don’t make time to experience the rest that Jesus talks about, then we will never experience the truly abundant life Jesus wants us to experience. We are delighted to welcome Rev. Fernie Rivera as our guest preacher.

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
Custodian
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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.*



Gathering

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

*Song of Praise

'Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 462, vs. 1 & 4

*Call to Worship

Beth Forester

Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy
Jesus will give us rest

Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace
Christ will give us peace

Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus
For our Savior will give us rest in our souls

Come, let us worship our God
Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life.

*Song of Response

All I Need Is You
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2080, vs. 1

Listening

Children's Message

Molly Means

Prayer for Illumination

Beth Forester

**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.**

Matthew 11:28-30

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Rest for the Soul”

Rev. Fernie Rivera

Responding

***Hymn of Faith**

Near to the Heart of God
The United Methodist Hymnal 472, vs. 1 - 3

***Prayer of Confession**

Natalie Cooper

Jesus says, “Are you tired? Burned out? Worn out?
Come to me.”

He promises rest.

When we come before God and confess our sins,

We are not only handing over those burdens,

We are asking Jesus to give us rest.

Listen to the Messiah.

In this time of confession,

allow him to take those burdens away, as we pray together:

Wise and loving God,

You know how we are.

**We spend so much time planning and rushing around,
and we are exhausted.**

**Our need for rest is so important, but we have let plans and
schedules crowd in, shouting their demands on our time and
energies.**

**Forgive us, Lord, when we have focused so much time on
these things and have not sought your healing,
restoring love.**

Be with us, we pray.

Give us peace.

For we ask these things in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Come to the Lord, all of you. There is healing and rest in the Lord.

You are given love and peace by God for all of your days.

And so, let us share love and peace with one another and into the
world, just as Christ shares it with us.

May the love and peace of Christ be with you.

And may it be yours. Amen.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

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 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!**

*The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Fernie

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 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.

Prayer After Receiving

Gabe Guillory

**Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

Departing to Serve

Call to Action

Gabe Guillory

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

Trust and Obey

The United Methodist Hymnal 467, vs. 1 - 3

*Benediction

Rev. Fernie

*Postlude

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

Worship Notes

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Lisa Davis.

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Sandra Kuykendall and Amy Richardson .

COFFEE TIME

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

Announcements

PASTORAL CARE

This is Pastor Lane's final week of bereavement leave. For the week beginning Sunday, February 11, please contact the church office if a pastoral care emergency arises or reach out to Gray Sexton, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair (225-266-6609).

MARDI GRAS CLOSURES

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed for Mardi Gras. The church office will be closed **Tuesday, February 13** and will reopen Wednesday at 9 a.m. The pantry will be closed **Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13** and will reopen Thursday, February 15 at 8 a.m.

2023 FINAL GIVING STATEMENTS

The final giving statements for 2023 have gone out via email. If you did not get one, please check your Spam or Junk folder before contacting LeAnn Davis at 225-766-4594.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2024 is now available in the hallway of the Edu/Admin Building. There is almost a blank slate for you to choose a date to honor or remember a loved one, friend, or group. Sign up now to keep the beautiful flower arrangements on the altar.

Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The sacred season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. We invite you to join us at 6 p.m. for worship. Rev. Karli Pidgeon, our District Superintendent, will be preaching.

NOTE: If you would like to receive ashes earlier in the day, University United Methodist Church (3350 Dalrymple Drive) will offer Ashes To Geaux from 7-8:30 a.m. (pull into the front middle parking lot spaces) and 12 -1 p.m. (drive up through the overhang or at the corner of Chimes and Highland).

LENT WORSHIP SERIES "EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH"

Join us on a Lenten journey where we will discover what it means to know that we are "good enough," where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that's ok. What if we stopped striving for unattainable ideals and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives. The series begins on **Sunday, February 18** with a message from Pastor Lane.

We will use the book *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche, as the companion for our Lent worship series. Each week we will highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* and then you can move through the devotions on your own, using a schedule provided in the newsletter or simply as you feel led.

There is a leader guide that was sent to small group leaders who may be interested in using the book during Lent in their classes. For those who have elected to read the devotions on a daily basis, there is a copy of a suggested reading list in the Narthex and in the hallway of the Admin/Edu Building.

Upcoming Events

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

St. John's, you are invited to come to *Unity in the CommUNITY*, **Saturday, February 17 at 10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. The staff at Charlie Thomas Head Start Center is helping plan the annual special worship service. We hope to have a large number of our membership at this service. In addition to music provided by our members, a children's choir will perform several songs and play hand bells. Natalie Cooper will deliver a brief message. Following the service, the United Women in Faith will host a light lunch reception in the FLC where everyone can gather for food and fellowship.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) OVERVIEW

On **February 18**, right after Coffee Time, for those who are interested, we will have a brief session to get familiar with the AEDs that were installed last year. The 15 minute session will start at 9:45 in the FLC.

Servanthood

YOUTH MEALS NEEDED

Help is needed to feed our Youth once a month! Yes, it is only for the third Wednesday of each month for 8 - 10 people. ***The meal can be as simple as picking up several pizzas, a party pack from Taco Bell, or a couple of family meals from KFC.*** Of course, you can bring a home-cooked meal as well. The meal should be brought to the Admin Building between 5:45 and 6 p.m. Sign up to help at stjohnsbr.org/YouthMeals. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) for more information.

COFFEE TIME NEWS!

A big thank you goes to all of you who continue to donate goodies for Coffee Time so faithfully! In January, the Genesis Sunday School class provided for us, with United Women in Faith taking one Sunday. For February, the Seekers Sunday School class has volunteered, and the Connections class has been scheduled for April! Thank you!

This means that March and May (and beyond!) are still available! You can sign up as a Sunday School class (or combined classes) or individually. Everything is welcome! You can sign up online at stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time or click on the QR code.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

We look forward to hosting VBS again this year! This 5-day program will run from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024. More information will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. For the time being, mark your calendars!

Youth & Children's Ministries

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!

February 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Bring your leftover Mardi Gras beads and join us for a craft night using upcycled beads! Dinner will be included.

March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravganza 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. Save the date for this event... More info coming soon!

YOUTH EVENTS CALENDAR

Youth events calendars for the month of February have been mailed and should have been received by youth households. If you did not receive a calendar and would like one, please contact Connor.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 11

- 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, February 12

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, February 13

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, February 14

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, February 15

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC

Friday, February 16

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

Saturday, February 17

- 10:00 a.m. Unity in the Community, Sanctuary, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center