

# Beloved & SENT

CHECK-IN &  
PRAYER REQUESTS



In the waters of baptism, Jesus stands with the people and hears the words we all long to hear: "You are my beloved." Baptism reminds us that we are deeply loved by God and continually invited to return—again and again—to lives shaped by justice, mercy, and courageous faith. Our "belovedness" calls us to live boldly in the world.

## Make A Difference This Week

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting **The Shepherd's Market**. We will continue to emphasize the **First Sunday of each month as Grocery Bag Sunday**, and a grocery cart will remain in the Narthex for donations anytime. Most-needed items will be shared in the newsletter and the bulletin. Your generosity helps ensure our neighbors have access to food during uncertain times.

This week's most needed items: **peanut butter, snacks, and pasta.**  
**Ongoing needs also include cereal, condiments, drinks, and household items** (ex: detergent, paper products, hygiene items).

## Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing [prayers@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsbr.org) or visiting [stjohnsbr.org/here](http://stjohnsbr.org/here).

## All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here

Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

## For Newcomers

**Restrooms & Welcome Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

## For Families with Children

- The **Playground** is a child-friendly space at the front of the sanctuary where children and their families are welcome to participate in worship in a way that works for them.
- The **Nursery** serves infants - preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- **Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months - 12<sup>th</sup> grade from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

Todays ushers are **Beth Forester & Rhonda Tucker**.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Star Words & Reflection Guide | Available Now In Narthex (Lobby)

Star Words are a single word to carry with you through the year as a guide for prayer and reflection. Pick up a printed Star Word as well as a Reflection Guide in the narthex or office, or download it from the church newsletter.

### The Chosen Watch Parties | Wednesdays | 5:30 p.m.

Join us for weekly watch parties featuring *The Chosen*, a series about the life of Jesus. You're welcome to attend any session, whether or not you can join for the full season.

### Weekly Youth Group Begins | Sunday, January 11 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Youth in grades 6–12 gather weekly for faith, food, community, and fun. Dinner is provided, and all middle and high school students are welcome.

### 2026 Confirmation Class (Open to Youth) | Sundays, Jan 25–May 3 | 9:45–10:45 a.m.

Confirmation is a time to explore faith, ask questions, and reflect on what it means to claim faith as your own. Contact Kate at [katebouchillon@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:katebouchillon@stjohnsbr.org) for details.

### UWF Circle of the Heart | Wednesday, January 14 | 9:30 a.m.

All women are invited to gather in the Founders' Parlor for fellowship and a program presented by Clara Maynard on the theme "Light for Our Path."

### Kids Night | Sunday, January 18 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Kids are invited to the Family Life Center for games, a faith lesson, fun, dinner, and time together at our first Kids Night of the year. Kids Night meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

### Parent Enrichment & Support Group | Sunday, January 18 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

At the same time as Kids Night, parents and those raising kids are invited to a Parent Enrichment & Support Group. This first monthly gathering will be led by Beth LaCour and will offer a relaxing and refreshing yoga session—a chance to breathe, connect, and be renewed.

### Associ-Eights | Sign Up by January 22 | Fellowship Groups Meet February–April

Associ-Eights is a short-term small-group experience designed to build connection and community. Participants are placed in a thoughtfully mixed group of eight and meet at least three times between February and April. Each group chooses when and where to gather. Sign up with the QR Code or on a paper form found in the Narthex (lobby) and Office.



## EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

FLC = Family Life Center

### WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sundays**  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

### COFFEE TIME

**Sundays**  
9:30 a.m. FLC  
**Last Names D–G** may bring snacks on 1.18.26

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sundays**  
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide for All Ages

### MUSIC MINISTRIES

**Sundays**  
6:00 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room  
**Wednesdays**  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Sundays**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide  
**Upstairs Cafe Fruit: Last Names I–P 1.18.26**  
4:00 p.m. Music Makers (K–8<sup>th</sup> grades)

### SERVE

**Fridays**  
10:30 a.m. Holy Helpers, Church Office

### WELLNESS

**Mondays**  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays**  
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

### Tuesdays

7:00 p.m. Pickleball  
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

### Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Ladies AA Meeting, FLC-C

### Saturdays

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

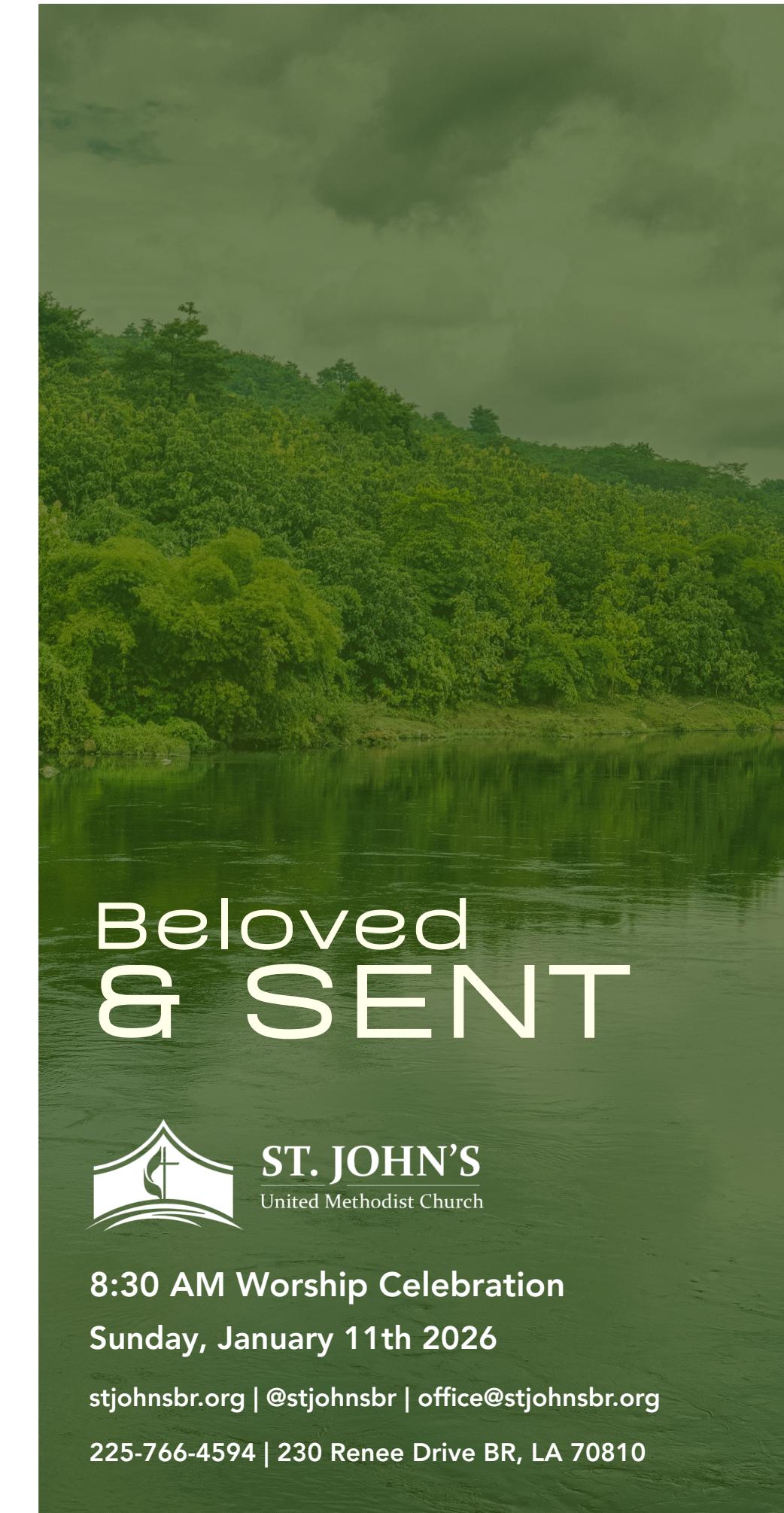
### THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET

**A client choice food pantry**  
Mon 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. FLC  
Tues & Thurs 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. FLC  
[shepherdsmarket.org](http://shepherdsmarket.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

**CONTACT** [stjohnsbr.org/contact-us](http://stjohnsbr.org/contact-us)



# WELCOME



CHECK IN  
& PRAYER  
REQUESTS

## 8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (\*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.

### Gathering Music

Dr. Terry Byars

### Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

### We Sing Together\*

U.M. Hymnal #400 v. 1 & 3

### Invitation to Worship\*

Barbara Benton

Come to the waters where God meets us as we are.

**We return to God – seeking grace and longing for renewal.**

In the wilderness, a voice calls us to prepare the way.

**We open our hearts to transformation and new life.**

At the river, God names us beloved.

**We remember our baptism and our calling.**

Come, worship the God who says, "You are my child; with you I am well pleased."

**We worship with joy, with hope, and with courage. Amen.**

### We Sing Together\*

U.M. Hymnal #393

### We Encourage Our Children

Phil Sprunger

### We Read the Word\*

**Luke 3:3-22**

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.**

### We Reflect on the Word

"Beloved and Sent"

### We Sing Together\*

The Faith We Sing # 2248 vs 1 - 3

### We Name Our Need For Grace\*

Barbara Benton

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived as your beloved children.**

**We have turned away from your call to love, from your way of justice and mercy, and from the courage you offer us.**

**We have been silent when we should have spoken.**

**We have been comfortable when faithfulness called for risk.**

**We have held tightly to what you meant for sharing.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Turn us back to you.**

**Renew in us the grace of our baptism, that we may trust your love, follow your Son, and walk in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

### Words of Grace and Forgiveness\*

Barbara Benton

Hear the good news: The God who calls us back is the God who claims us as beloved.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and renewed.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### We Greet One Another with Joy and Peace\*

### We Offer God's Tithes and Our Gifts

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give) to give online.



GIVING

### We Sing Together\*

U.M. Hymnal # 94

**Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow**

**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!**

### We Reaffirm the Covenant of Baptism

Pastor Lane

We remember our baptism, renounce sin, and reaffirm our faith in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for God's grace and hear God's call to live as beloved children, empowered by the Spirit. (This ritual can be found on page 34 of The U. M. Hymnal.)

People of God, remember this truth:

**We are God's beloved children.**

Claimed by grace,

**and renewed by the Spirit.**

Called to live with courage and compassion, **and to follow Christ in all that we do. Amen.**

### We Prepare for Communion\*

Pastor Lane

We give thanks for God's grace, hear Jesus' words spoken at the table, and ask the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. In this holy meal, we are joined with Christ and with one another, reminded that there is always room at God's table for all.

### We Pray the Lord's Prayer

U.M. Hymnal #895

### We Remember our Baptism & Receive Communion\*

In Remembrance of Me

Natalie Cooper

Let Us Break Bread Together

**All are welcome to receive Communion. As you come forward, you may touch the baptismal waters to remember you are**

**God's beloved child.** We serve Communion by intinction (bread dipped in juice); only servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged & gluten-free options are available. You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need Communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

### We Pray Together

Barbara Benton

I am no longer my own, but thine.

**I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being.**

**In truth, O God, I am Yours.**

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

**Make me into what You will.**

**Make me a neighbor with those whom You will.**

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**Guide me on the easy path for You.**

**Guide me on the rocky road for You.**

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

**Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You;**

**Whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You;**

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

**Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing;**

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

**I give all that I have and all that I am for You.**

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

**So be it.**

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

**And may I always remember that you,**

**O God, and I belong to each other. Amen.**

### We Receive This Week's Call To Action

Pastor Lane

### We Sing Together\*

U.M. Hymnal #395 v 1, 2, & 4

Take Time to Be Holy

### We Share in a Blessing\*

Pastor Lane

### We Go Out into the World\*

Dr. Terry Byars

Music sends us out, but our worship continues as we go forth to love and serve the Lord.