



# seeking:

*Will you give  
me a drink?*

Sunday, March 12, 2023

**8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

In the heat of midday, Jesus seeks out a Samaritan woman drawing water from a well. His question to her is also an invitation into a new way of life: "Will you give me a drink?" This question creates a dialogue between them in which Jesus sees the woman fully; she leaves the well transformed. This week, we might imagine ourselves at the well. Are we willing to care for our neighbors, seeking to not just quench thirst, but to find living waters that sustain us all?

***Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) 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

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

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*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*  
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Bill Putzig  
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez  
*Nursery Worker*  
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# seeking community

*\*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

## \*Songs of Praise

*We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise (2x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2031

*As the Deer*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2025

## \*Call to Worship

Jim and Theresa Sandifer

We gather together—  
**the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,  
in hopes of seeing God.**

We gather together—  
**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,  
in hopes of finding peace.**

We gather together—  
**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,  
in hopes of finding justice.**

So come to the well,  
come to the table.

Come, let us worship our God.

**And may be filled by Christ's living water. Amen.**

# seeking insight

## \*Song of Praise

*Fill My Cup, Lord*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 641

## Children's Message

Shawn Walker

## Prayer for Illumination

Jim Sandifer

God of conversation,  
**We come to you today thirsty -  
thirsty for hope,  
thirsty for good news,  
thirsty for a glimpse of you.  
So today we pray,  
move in these words like a current.**

**Give us the courage to wade into your story  
with open eyes and open hearts.  
Give us the courage to drink this moment in.  
We are listening.  
We are grateful.  
Amen.**

**Scripture**

John 4:5-42

Jim Sandifer

**Response to the Word**

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.**

**Message**

“Will You Give Me a Drink?”

Pastor Lane

# seeking wholeness

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*God Will Take Care of You*

The United Methodist Hymnbook 130, vs. 1 & 3

**\*Call to Confession**

Jim Sandifer

In today's service we hear the story of the Samaritan woman. It's a well-known story of a woman who, in the heat of the day, meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink.

This story begs the question of us: when was the last time I drew water for someone?

When was the last time I drew water for myself?

So with this same open curiosity, we come to the prayer of confession, trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.

Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God,**

**We have been on every side of this story.**

**We have been the one who is thirsty**

**and in need of compassion,**

**and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.**

**So today we wonder:**

**how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors?**

**How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change?**

How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work?

Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day.

It was you.

It is still you.

With hope we pray, amen.

**\*Words of Forgiveness and Grace**

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:  
we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see  
all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.  
This is the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace is deeper than any well.**

**We are seen, loved, and forgiven.**

**May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.**

**\*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ**

## seeking gratitude

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

*Come to Jesus*

Soloist: Bryan Adams

*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](http://stjohnsbr.org/give).*



**\*Doxology**

*Holy Ground*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2272

**We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around;  
let us praise Jesus now;  
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

## seeking grace

**\*Invitation to the Feast**

Friends, if your seeking has led you here,  
if your weary heart followed breadcrumbs all the way to this sanctuary,  
then I have good news:  
you do not have to seek anymore.

The One you seek welcomes you.  
The grace you seek will be given.

This is Christ's table.

We are the guests.

He is the host.

There is a seat here with your name on it.

So kick off your walking shoes.

Let your weary heart rest.

We are standing on holy ground.

All are invited. All are loved.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

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 God thanks and praise.**

God of the lost and the found,  
surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise;  
for day after day we look for you,  
and day after day we find you:

in the laughter of children,

in the sun rising over the horizon,

in the flowers of spring.

Our seeking does not go unanswered,  
and for that we are grateful.

And so together, we proclaim our praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One**

**God of justice and love**

**Heaven and earth are full of your wonder.**

**Hosanna, among us!**

*The congregation is seated.*

Like those who gathered with Jesus on the night of his arrest, we come  
in need of grace.

After feasting with his companions, Jesus took the bread, blessed it,  
broke it, gave it to all of them, saying, "This is my body which is given  
for you. Take, eat, and remember me."

After the supper, he did the same with the cup, saying, "This is a sign  
of the new covenant. Drink in remembrance of me."

As a way to remember Christ's perfect love and life we joyfully and  
thankfully give you back our lives as holy, living sacrifices. Receive this  
gift of our lives, together with Christ's gifts for us, as we speak the Truth  
about our faith:

**Christ died.**

**Christ rose!**

**Christ is alive, and is coming again.**

## Consecration and Blessing

*Let us pray.*

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and cup.  
May this meal be the nourishment we need to continue seeking you  
in the world.

Use your Holy Spirit to make us one with Christ and one with each  
other, so we can care for the world until Christ comes again and we  
all join around his table as family in perfect love.

We also pray for conviction.

Do not let us get comfortable with half-hearted seeking.

Do not let us grow numb to the suffering of this world.

Make us persistent in our pursuit of justice,  
in our consoling of the grieving,  
in our welcoming of the stranger,  
and in the feeding of the hungry.

Until your promised day, we will seek.

## The Lord's Prayer

Until your promised day, we will pray, saying:

**Our Father...**

## Breaking the Bread

This broken bread is *whole* in our taking.

This full cup *overflows* in our sharing.

No matter what it is your soul is seeking,  
there is good news to be found here.

Come with your questions.

Come with your hunger.

Come, because this feast is a reminder that God's Table is big enough  
for all of us.

So come. All are welcome.

## 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. The bread will be dipped in the grape  
juice and handed to you. Or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.*

*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 an usher know and  
someone will gladly bring communion to you.*

## Gratitude Prayer

Theresa Sandifer

**God of manna and mustard seeds,  
we came to this table hungry and we leave feeling full -  
full of hope,  
full of promise,  
full of what could be.**

**Thank you for nourishing our curiosity  
alongside our spirit and our conviction.**

**May we always seek you the way you seek after us.  
With grateful hearts we pray, amen.**



# may God bless you in your seeking

## Call to Action

Pastor Lane

*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

*O How He Loves You and Me*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2108, vs. 1 & 2

## \*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

As you leave this place,  
may God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry.  
Seek the weary.  
Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful.  
Seek the faithful.  
Seek God in each of us.  
As you seek and as you wonder,  
may you find what you are looking for.  
In the name of our loving God,  
who is always seeking us, go now in peace.  
**Amen.**

## \*Postlude

# worship notes

## FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of Curt and Wanda Vanover.

## USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

## COFFEE TIME

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

## LITURGY AND PRAYERS

Most of our liturgy and prayers were written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

# announcements

## **TODAY - ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP**

The St. John's Writers' Group will meet **today on Zoom at 3 p.m.** If you would like to join St. John's Writers' Group, please contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for the Zoom information. New writers are always welcome. Writers are invited to bring a short piece of writing to share at the meeting, but it's also OK to come for the fellowship and support of fellow writers.

## **TODAY - YOUTH GROUP**

Youth will meet **this afternoon, 3 - 4:30 p.m.** To celebrate Women's History Month, we will have a lesson on women in the Bible and historical women in the United Methodist Church.

## **MANNA MISSION MEAL**

Join us for a food, fun, and fellowship event on **Sunday, March 19 at 5 p.m.!** The youth will lead us in packing manna bags assembly-line style. We will meet in the FLC at 5 p.m. for a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share.

The last day we will collect supplies is Wednesday, March 15. If you would like a printed list of items needed, there are postcards in the Narthex. The list can also be found in the newsletter. You may also make a monetary donation online at [www.stjohnsbr.org/give](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give) - Fund: Mission, Sub Fund: Manna Bags

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATES**

The Mary Martha Circle of United Women in Faith will meet **Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

The UWF will hold their General Meeting on **Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m.** in the Parlor. Guest speaker will be Courtney Murphy, Statewide Development Officer for Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. All women are invited to attend. Courtney usually has OWL salsas and jellies for purchase.

## **BUNNY BREAKFAST APRIL 1**

On **Saturday, April 1 from 9 - 11 a.m.**, St. John's will host a community-wide Easter event for families with children. Join us for pancakes, faith-filled crafts & games, an egg hunt, face painting, and pictures with the Easter bunny.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** To add some fun and excitement to the event, there will be 8 activity stations set up for the children to visit. Most of the stations are crafts for which the materials will be provided but please check the sign-up form to see if you will need to provide materials. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/BunnyBreakfastSignup](http://tinyurl.com/BunnyBreakfastSignup) with a group of friends, your Sunday School class, Bible study, or covenant group. Individuals are welcome to help, too.

We also need plastic Easter eggs, bags of nut-free candy, and fine point permanent markers. There will be a blue tub labeled Bunny Breakfast for your donations.

## **HELP WITH YOUTH MINISTRY**

If you have a passion to work with young people or are just looking for more ways to get involved at St. John's, consider signing up as an adult volunteer with our youth group. To ensure the safety of our young people, St. John's requires at least two adults be present to oversee all events involving youth and/or children. Volunteers essentially serve as a secondary adult to help supervise these activities. Remember - you don't have to have a child in youth group to volunteer. Email Connor Dean ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)) to sign up or if you have any questions. You may also sign up online at [tinyurl.com/sjumcyouthsignup](http://tinyurl.com/sjumcyouthsignup).

## **SANCTUARY OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS**

Each Wednesday during Lent, our Sanctuary will be open for people to come for prayer, quiet time, and reflection. As you enter the narthex, a church member will greet you and offer you a devotional guide, which you can read as you sit in the sanctuary. Your prayer time can be quietly on your own while sitting in the pew or kneeling at the communion railing. The sanctuary will be open from Noon to 1 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent. You may come and go as your schedule allows.

## **NEW PROGRAM ABOUT GRIEF**

*Taking Steps in Loss and Life* is an 8-week grief support program that will begin **Tuesday, March 21, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Dee Muenzler, who recently received her certification as a Grief Educator, will facilitate the SESSIONS. All who are experiencing grief are invited to meet with others to share their experience. To register text Dee at 225-933-1668 or send an email to [deemuenzler@gmail.com](mailto:deemuenzler@gmail.com). Cost of the program is \$20 (scholarships are available). You may pay online at [stjohnsbr.org/Give Now](http://stjohnsbr.org/Give Now). Use the *Fund* drop down menu and choose *SS Classes and Small Groups*, under *Sub Fund* choose *Grief Program*. Checks written to St. John's UMC should have Grief Group in the memo line or on the cash envelope. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 16.

## **COFFEE TIME REVISITED**

Tired of boxed raisins and packaged muffins? It's time to Bring Back the Food! The Food, Fun, and Fellowship team is looking for volunteers to provide snacks for Coffee Time on Sundays. Sign up for several Sundays as a group – Sunday School class, church committee, or just a bunch of friends! Sign up to celebrate a birthday or an anniversary! See more details and get on the schedule by going to <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeTimeSignup>.

## **ONE DAY STUDY ON “LIVING OUR UMC BELIEFS”**

A study that aims to examine the role of doctrine within the United Methodist Church will be held on **Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at First UMC downtown.** The class, will be facilitated by Rev. Brady Whitton. The cost for the class is \$20, which includes lunch. Additionally, participants are required to purchase and read *Living Our Beliefs The United Methodist Way* by Bishop Kenneth L. Carder in advance of the class. The book is currently available on the Upper Room and Amazon for \$13. To register go to [la-umc.org/umcbeliefscourse](http://la-umc.org/umcbeliefscourse).

## this week at a glance

### Sunday, March 12

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC\*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, Youth Room
- 3:00 p.m. Writers' Group, Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers (1st-12th grades),  
Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells' Room

### Monday, March 13

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 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, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

### Tuesday, March 14

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. UWF Mary Martha Circle, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

### Wednesday, March 15

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer
- 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### Thursday, March 16

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

### Friday, March 17

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

### Saturday, March 18

- 9:00 a.m. Watercolor Refresher, Library
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center



# seeking sanctuary?

Our sanctuary is open for reflection and prayer  
every Wednesday in Lent.

NOON - 1PM | 5PM - 6PM