

“Give ear, O my people,
to my teaching;
incline your ears to the
words of my mouth.”

Psalm 78:1



Sunday, November 12, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like...” In his wisdom, Jesus illustrates profound spiritual truths to all who might hear, in the form of parables – using relatable, common themes of the day to communicate a deeper and more meaningful lesson for our lives and our futures. Today we will delve in to the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids – only one of many illustrations of what the kingdom of heaven will be like. How do we live in the Kingdom of God today? Will we be prepared for the Kingdom of God tomorrow? Welcome to worship!

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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

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. 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
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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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

***Song of Praise**

What a Friend We Have In Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 526, vs. 1 & 2

***Call to Worship**

From Psalm 78:1-7

Theresa Sandifer

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that he has done.

The Lord established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

So that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep God's commandments. Amen.

Song of Response

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 349

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

LISTENING

Children's Moment

Molly Means

Prayer for Illumination

Theresa Sandifer

**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 Reading**

Matthew 25:1-13

Theresa Sandifer

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

“The Oil of Preparation”

Natalie Cooper

RESPONDING

***Hymn of Faith**

There Is a Balm In Gilead
The United Methodist Hymnal 375, vs. 1 & 2

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lane

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**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them 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 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.

Prayer After Receiving

Natalie Cooper

**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

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 Church 467, vs. 1 & 2

*Benediction

Choose this day who you will serve.

We will serve the Lord!

Then stay alert!

Be ready to do God's work.

We will serve our Lord faithfully each day.

Go in peace. Be brave.

And remember that God is with you always.

Amen.

*Postlude

The end of worship.

The beginning of service.

WORSHIP NOTES

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by J.R. Madden and Daphne Grady to the glory of God and in recognition of the 248th birthday of the United States Marine Corps and in honor of all veterans and their families on Veterans Day.

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Sandra Kuykendall and Darren Stubbs.

COFFEE TIME

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building.

Stewardship Update

We have already seen such a great response to our Stewardship Campaign! Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024. We celebrate the following:

- **90** individuals & families have pledged a total of **\$478,874**, so far.
- **56** households have increased their pledge for next year.
- **15** are first time pledged givers.

If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining your fellow St. John's family members who have increased their pledge from this year to next. Our 2024 budget includes a Spirit-led 13-14% increase, and your increased pledge will get us closer to our goal. You can complete a pledge card and turn it in during the offering or to the church office, or you can pledge online at: stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024.

Worship & Music

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

We know him by the name of Jesus. But he was also called other names, like Messiah, Lord, Savior, and Emmanuel. He is the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, and the Word made flesh. Each of these names reveals a little bit more of the story around who the person of Jesus was and still is today. Join us on November 26 as we celebrate the beginning of Advent with our new worship series, "The Gift of Many Names" in which we will explore some of the many names of Jesus and what they can tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

UPDATES FOR MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the choir room (**except on November 26, which is CHAOS**). They will perform in worship on November 19 and December 17. There will be an additional rehearsal on Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m. Youth interested in joining the Music Makers performance on December 17 should plan to join Music Makers practices (for about 30 minutes of the practice), starting November 19.

HELP DECORATE FOR ADVENT

We will need strong help on **Sunday, November 19** after the 11:00 worship service to bring the decorations out of storage including our big Christmas tree. We will start "Hanging the Greens" in the Narthex and Sanctuary once everything is out. **Monday, November 20**, at 10 a.m. we will finish the decorating.

UWF DECORATING CHRISMON TREE

The UWF will be decorating the Chrismon Tree with the new and refurbished Chrismon ornaments on **Monday, November 20**. All women in the UWF are invited to come help beginning at 10 a.m.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

TODAY - ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP

Do you enjoy writing? Do you write poetry, fiction, drama, essays, or any other genre? Do you sometimes feel the need for a little support from others who also work with words? If you do, join us for The St. John's Writers' Group at our Zoom gatherings. You will find a place where ideas can be shared, new pieces tested, and friendly back-up provided. We will be meeting today, **Sunday, November 12 at 3 p.m. on Zoom**. Contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for the Zoom information.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Members and friends of St. John's have written daily reflections that will guide us throughout the Advent season. The readings start on November 26 and continue through Epiphany, January 6. We have a few printed copies of the devotional available today in the Narthex, which are intended for those who will not be in worship again before November 26. We will have plenty of additional copies available next Sunday, and the downloadable PDF and daily reflections will be added to our website. Thank you to all who made contributions to this year's devotional.

GOOD GRIEF, ST. JOHN'S! FELLOWSHIP

The monthly fellowship to help those struggling with grief, Good Grief, St. John's!, will meet in the parlor **Tuesday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m.** Come join us in this casual setting for refreshments and community where you will have the chance to talk or just sit and listen - it's your choice. For more information contact Susan Johnson by email (sbjohnston@gmail.com) or text/phone at 225-

ADVENT FEST SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 10, 5 p.m.** We will gather for a joy-filled Advent Fest that includes a potluck dinner, Christmas carols, bingo, crafts for the children, and prizes for the best tacky Christmas attire. More details coming soon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee will be meeting on **Thursday, November 16 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. The Finance Committee is an open meeting and any St. John's member is welcome to attend.

Servanthood

YOUTH JAMBALAYA FUNDRAISER

We are hosting a Jambalaya Fundraiser for St. John's Youth on **Sunday, November 19**. Tickets will be \$10 and will be sold in the Narthex before and after worship services. The menu is jambalaya, white beans, and green salad and will be served in takeout boxes from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

You can pay in person with cash or check (made out to St. John's UMC with Youth in the memo line) or online using the donations portal. To purchase tickets online, visit stjohnsbr.org/give. Select a one-time donation. Under the "fund" drop-down menu, select "Youth Fund." Please include a note saying "Jambalaya Fundraiser." If you make an online payment please forward the confirmation email to Connor at connordean@stjohnsbr.org.

TODAY - COMMUNION COMPANIONS

Our Communion Companions will have a meeting today **November 12 at 4:30 p.m.** to offer support and encouragement to one another in this caring ministry role. Our Communion Companions make monthly visits to our church members who are home-centered or facility-centered to offer Holy Communion and fellowship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

OPENING DOORS' HOLIDAY SUPERSTORE

This year's shopping day for the Holiday Superstore will be on **Monday, November 20** at the Target on Siegen Lane; plan to meet at **8 a.m. at the entrance on the far right**.

For those of you who have not been involved before, the Holiday Superstore is an Opening Doors program that targets the children of the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center located in the Gardere area. During the year, parents earn points by following guidelines to get them involved in their children's education, these points are translated into a dollar amount and volunteers from St. John's do the shopping for the gifts. The money is budgeted by Opening Doors so there is no cost to you as the shopper.

If you can help this year or would like more information about this mission, email Marilyn Damberg (marilyndamberg@mac.com) or phone/text at 225-335-3321.

THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The 13th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 16** and takes place in the church parking lot. Once the drive-through starts, it goes fast. Not only will it be a fun and uplifting time for you, but you will be helping our pantry shoppers have a wonderful Christmas dinner with their turkey and all the fixings.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m.

While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, The Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$25 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Monetary gifts can be made to St John's by check with Turkey Giveaway in the memo line, on Sunday in an offering envelope marked with your name and Turkey Giveaway, or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, selecting the Shepherd's Market Fund.

MEALS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

Help us provide meals for the St. John's youth group for their evening fellowship on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month**. Students meet from 6-8 p.m.; meals should be delivered between 5:45 - 6 p.m. to the Admin Building. The meal should include an entree, side dish, and dessert for 8-10 people. You are welcome to bring a home-cooked meal or order fast food (pizza, chicken fingers, tacos, etc.). We will have drinks, plates, and cutlery. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals.



Youth & Children's Ministries

FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

Christ Here And Other Spaces

This month's C.H.A.O.S. is FALL FEST! Join us **TODAY from 4-6 p.m.** for this family-friendly community wide event.

We will meet again, next month, for C.H.A.O.S. on **Sunday, November 26 from 4- 6 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. The lesson will focus on how we can make and prepare spaces for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us. To accompany this lesson, we will work on Chrismons (Christian ornaments) with guidance from some of the members of the St. John's United Women in Faith. Dinner will be included. We hope to see you all there.

SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

UPSTAIRS CAFE

The "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY SERIES - BIBLICAL LAMENT

The study series we are following for Sunday School from now until Advent is called "Biblical Lament." This series is designed to help teenagers navigate complex feelings and experiences by finding Biblical examples of the same feelings and experiences. The series covers topics such as sadness, fear, joy, surprise, anger, and even issues facing LGBTQ youth.

YOUTH GROUP

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, November 12

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Writers' Group, Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Communion Companions, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, November 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
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, November 14

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief, St. John's!, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, November 15

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, November 16

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

Friday, November 17

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

Saturday, November 18

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center