

A stylized illustration featuring a dark blue whale's tail on the left, set against a background of green, jagged mountain peaks. A red, flame-like shape is positioned above the whale's tail. The entire scene is set against a light beige, textured background.

GRACE IN THE DEPTHS

A series on Jonah

A stylized illustration of a small white fish swimming in a green body of water. The water is represented by several dark green, vertical reeds or grass blades of varying heights.

Sunday, August 13, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

In today's portion of Jonah's story, we are reminded that no matter how dark it gets, how disoriented we feel, or how unclear the future is, God is surrounding us in grace. Even as he waited in the belly of a fish, Jonah knew this. His prayers while in the fish show a person of hope, even in the midst of darkness. Even when it seems like all hope is lost, God is always present. Even in the most hopeless circumstances God's love offers sustaining peace.

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

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

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
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

WELCOME to the CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
You may scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



GRACE GATHERS US IN

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

Cry of My Heart
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2165, vs. 1

Sanctuary (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2164

*Call to Worship

Theresa Sandifer

The word of God came to Jonah...

The word of God comes to us:

Go...

Despite your fears.

Speak..

the truth of God.

Love...

your neighbor and you enemy.

Forgive...

as you have been forgiven.

Receive...

**grace upon grace,
overflowing from the fullness of God.**

*Song of Response

Grace Alone
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2162, refrain

GRACE IN GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Barbara Benton

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

God of New Life,

Speak to us in the rich, ancient words of scripture.

Send us your Holy Spirit so that we will hear your call,

leave behind our old ways,

and follow Jesus Christ,

your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jonah 1:17-2:10

Pastor Lane

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.

The Message

“When All Hope Is Lost”

Pastor Lane

SHARING IN MEANS OF GRACE

*Hymn of Faith

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

The United Methodist Hymnal 117, vs. 1, 2, 3, & 6

Prayer of Confession

Theresa Sandifer

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace. Our God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit, and so together, let us pray...

Loving God,

You call, and like Jonah, we often run away in our unwillingness to show compassion to others.

Yet your strength and kindness never falter, even for the resistant Jonah.

And your strength and kindness never abandon us.

And so, we confess our failings to you and to one another, trusting in your forgiveness and your grace.

We cling to hope as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Savior and friend.

Amen.

Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Hear, O Children of God, this Good News:

No amount of avoiding or running can separate you from the love of God. God's steadfast love will pursue you to the end of time and the depths of the sea. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you by God's grace.

Amen.

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

Everyone has a place at this table!

Everyone has a place at this table!

So come to the table of grace!

We come to be fed at God's table of grace.

Let's sing that affirmation together now...

Come to the table of grace,

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Friends, God is ever present with you!

And also with you!

The peace of Christ is always with you!

The peace of Christ is always with you!

Turn to someone around you – or text this message to someone –
and tell them this Good News:

“The peace of Christ is always with you!”

Share words of peace with someone else.

As close as breath, the Holy Living One is present with us.

So we lift up our hearts and give thanks to God

because it is the right thing to do – not only now, but always.

For “always” is when God is with us.

We thank you God for breathing into us the breath of life.

Even when we turn away, you remain with us.

When it seems that all hope is lost, your grace finds us.

When we are frightened, hesitant, still you are patient.

Time and again you reach out your hand to free us,

for your promise is steadfast.

Claim God's unconditional love for yourself!

God loves me no matter what I *have ever done*,

no matter what I *am doing*,

no matter what I *will ever do*.

Blessed is your Son, Jesus – Love Incarnate.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and sat down at the table to eat with those others

considered “unworthy.”

He journeys with us now and invites us to his table of grace.

Let us remind ourselves by saying:

“The Lord is present with every one of us.”

The Lord is present with every one of us.

You may be seated as we recall Jesus’ invitation to Holy Communion and the pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing in Holy Communion

Special Music

Oceans

by J. Houston, M. Crocker, S. Lighthelm

Connor Dean, soloist

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.

Closing Prayer

Theresa Sandifer

Gracious God,

**We have come today to see, and touch,
and know your presence among us.**

At your table, we have been fed spiritually and physically.

**Send us into the world to share your grace with others,
and to accept the grace that is offered to us,
all in your holy name.**

Amen.

PUTTING GRACE INTO ACTION

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**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
The United Methodist Hymnal 384, vs. 1 & 3

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Phil and Jill Slicker.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Natalie Cooper and are dedicated to the children in her life - Kellen, Maddie, Izzy, and nephews Jonathon and Jack.

COFFEE TIME

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our newly opened "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building. Read more about it in the Children & Youth Ministries announcements.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Call to Worship was written by Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com.

Worship

RINGING AND SINGING

After a welcome summer break, the Alleluia Ringers and Chancel Choir will begin the fall with rehearsals starting the first week of August.

The **Chancel Choir** has resumed rehearsals on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the choir room. All are welcome to join us as we aspire to worthily magnify our Lord through song.

The **Alleluia Ringers** will commence rehearsals **today, August 13 at 6 p.m.** Ask any experienced bell ringer, counting is a prerequisite for being a member. If you can count to eight and ring a bell, then you can join the Alleluia Ringers--we will teach you the rest.

For more information on either of these music-making opportunities please contact Steve Rushing at stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org or call 225-773-2589.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERIES

"Grace in the Depths: A Series on Jonah" - This August we take a deep dive into the story of Jonah and see just how far God's grace will go.

Servanthood

TODAY - COMMUNION COMPANIONS MEETING

Our Communion Companions will have a meeting **at 4:30 p.m.** in the Parlor to offer support and encouragement to one another in this caring ministry role. Our 17 Communion Companions make monthly visits to 19 of 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, contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

OUR NEXT ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 8**. This is our next one-day mission to New Orleans to help feed those experiencing homelessness in and around the French Quarter. All ages and abilities are welcome. Text or call Larry Norman (225-933-1881) for more information.

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 signup by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals.



Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

FALL 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Immersion Bible Study: Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians

Journey with others through three New Testament Epistles, letters written to the early church by its leaders. Guy Johnson will be leading a 6-week Bible Study this fall on the Epistles of Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians, using the Immersion Bible Study program, which offers a refreshing plunge into God's Word, your life, and your life with God. We will offer two sessions of this study. Choose the one that works best for you!

DAYTIME: Mondays at 10 a.m. (First session is September 11)

EVENING: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (First session is September 12).

Register online at stjohnsbr.org/sept-study-2023

Participants will need a workbook and a Bible. Workbooks are \$16 and will be handed out at the first class session. If you do not have a Bible, the church can provide one for you. A nursery as well as scholarships are available upon request. Please contact the church office (office@stjohnsbr.org; 225-766-4594) for assistance. You can pay for your workbook online at stjohnsbr.org/give (Select "SS Classes and Small Groups" Fund; "Bible Study" Subfund) or by placing a check in the offering plate made out to St. John's, with Bible Study in the memo.

GOOD GRIEF, ST. JOHN'S! FELLOWSHIP

The Good Grief, St. John's! group is a fellowship for anyone who is dealing with grief. The gatherings take place once a month in the church parlor at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The purpose of this group is to provide a place of ongoing support and fellowship. It is not a set grief counseling program, rather we have a very informal format designed to provide open discussion on a wide variety of appropriate topics. All who are suffering a loss are invited to attend. For more information contact Susan Johnston at 225-773-9563.

GRIEFSHARE WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP & PROGRAM

A 13-week grief and loss support group and program using the recently released GriefShare 4 materials will begin on **Tuesday, August 22, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the parlor. To join the class you must register through the GriefShare website, www.GriefShare.org. There is a \$20 charge for class materials, there are scholarships available. Please contact Dee Muenzler for more information (225-933-1668 or deemuenzler@gmail.com).

INTERFAITH FEDERATION ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The 2023 Community Prayer Breakfast will be **Thursday, September 14, 7 - 9 a.m.** at the Baton Rouge Stake Center, 10335 Highland Rd. The theme this year is "Love Thy Neighbor." Tickets can be purchased online (www.ifedgbr.com/breakfast23) or by calling the Interfaith Federation office (225-267-5600).

Children & Youth Ministries

TODAY - MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We are hosting a meeting for families raising children (infant through 5th grade) on **Sunday, August 13 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** We will review the fall schedule and update our records (emergency information sheets and photo release forms) for children and their families. Families will also have an opportunity to share feedback on the areas of St. John's children's ministry that are thriving and which areas need improvement. We will meet in the new Upstairs Cafe, Room 202 of the Admin Building. *Childcare will be provided for those not attending Music Makers.*

TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS BEGINS!

Music Makers will begin making music on **Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, in the Choir Room with Dr. Steve. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade will meet the first three Sundays of every month. Youth (6th - 12th grades) will join whenever special music is planned. Music Makers will participate in up to four worship services this fall and the Youth will join us for special music during the season of Advent leading into Christmas. Our children have so much musical talent and we are planning a fun and spirit-filled time through singing and playing instruments. Children may be dropped off and picked up from the Choir Room. For more information or to help serve with Music Makers, contact Steve Rushing at stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org.

UPSTAIRS CAFE OPEN

Our "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth is now open in Room 202 of the Admin Building. The cafe 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.

NEW YOUTH SCHEDULE

As we enter and head into a new school year, St. John's Youth is making some changes to our fellowship and Bible Study times. This school year we will meet for worship and Bible study on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 4-6 p.m.** Also, we will meet on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6-8 p.m.** for a time of fun and fellowship. This schedule is designed to hopefully accommodate the busy schedules of our students. We also hope this will allow our students to re-prioritize the time we have together, since we will not be meeting every week. We begin this schedule today.

MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH TEENAGERS

We will dedicate the first hour of Youth Group on **Sunday, August 20** to hosting a meeting for families raising teenagers (6th-12th grades). We invite Youth and their grown-ups (parents, grandparents, guardians) to attend. We will go over the fall schedule and update our records (emergency information sheets and photo release forms) for the school year. It will also be an opportunity to share feedback on the areas of St. John's Youth ministry that are thriving and which areas need improvement. We will meet from 4-5 p.m. in the Youth Room. Following the meeting, our Youth will gather from 5-6 p.m.

C.H.A.O.S. IS COMING!

We are launching a new series of ministry/discipleship events for Fall 2023 called "C.H.A.O.S.!" This is an acronym which stands for...

Christ Here And Other Spaces

C.H.A.O.S. is all about finding unique and creative ways to apply the teachings of Jesus to the lives of today's children, youth, and families. These discipleship events will include a group Bible lesson, meal, creative activities, music, and more fun. This ministry model is designed to show children, youth, and families how the teachings of Jesus can be applied outside the walls of the church and into our everyday lives.

Join us for C.H.A.O.S. from 4 - 6 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month this fall: August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 26!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, August 13

- 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. Communion Companions, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Families with Children Meeting, Upstairs Cafe
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, August 14

- 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 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, August 15

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

Wednesday, August 16

- 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, August 17

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

Friday, August 18

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

Saturday, August 19

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

*Family Life Center