



*Sunday, October 13, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

This week we practice releasing shame, anxiety, guilt, greed or anything that keeps us from freedom and wholeness. We release the elements of our story that prevent us from fully living into God's story. In our scripture reading today we see a man grieved to let go of his accumulated wealth and possessions when Jesus ask that of him. But we learn that releasing is a spiritual practice that frees us from ourselves and liberates others.

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.



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Welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church

GUEST INFORMATION

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, located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please take home a copy of our Welcome Brochure located in the Narthex or view it online at: stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure.

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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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The Celebration of the Gospel

**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

The Summons

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2130, vs. 1 & 2

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2129, vs. 1 - 3

*Call to Worship

Susan Johnston

Through Moses, God said,

“Let my people go.”

In scripture, the law declares:

“In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.”

With grace, Jesus said:

“Give one coat away.”

With honesty, Jesus taught:

“Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free,

Dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.

**May we worship with open hearts, so that we can walk freely
with God.**

Let it be so.

Amen.

*Response

Jesus Calls Us

The United Methodist Hymnal 398, vs. 1

Children’s Moment

Barbara Benton

*Scripture

Pastor Lane

Mark 10:17-27

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.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

“Release”

Mandala Moment

Words of Grace and Forgiveness

No matter what confines, limits, or presses us,
hear and receive this good news:

God washes away all sin, blurring our prayers into beauty and
color and grace.

Thanks be to God who makes us new – over and over and over again.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Hymn

I Surrender All

The United Methodist Hymnal 354, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Stewardship Witness

Carol Gordon

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 voices.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator God.

We remember stories of God's steadfast love, concluding with the following:

You invite us —

day in and day out —

to release our fears,

let go of assumptions, tear down walls,

throw open the doors,

and walk closer to love.

May it be so, as we join your people on earth and all the company
of heaven in praising your name in the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The congregation is seated and we remember the story of the Last Supper,
concluding with the following:*

And so, as we tell again these stories of faith, we gather to remember the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor concludes with a prayer of consecration.

The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrating 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, 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.

Closing Prayer

Susan Johnston

Holy One,

Thank you for inviting us and nourishing us at your table.

**As we go forth, inspire us to release our fears,
let go of assumptions, tear down walls,
throw open the doors, and walk closer to love.**

Help us release

so we can begin to reimagine.

Amen.

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

Be Thou My Vision

The United Methodist Hymnal 451, vs. 1 & 2

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by Beth Forester to the glory of God and in memory of her parents, Chuck and Eva Forester.

Some worship prayers were written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Paul Ivey and Sandra Kuykendall.

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

Connect with Us

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love. Sign up for text/email notifications by texting the word "Connect" to 225-230-1017.

Announcements

PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

On Sunday, November 3, we will observe All Saints' Day in worship. During the service, we will remember and give thanks for those who have passed away since the previous November 1, by reading their names and lighting a candle, giving thanks for their lives. Rev. Dr. Francey Hooton, Guy Johnson's daughter, will be our guest preacher. If you have a loved one who has died in the past year that you would like us to name aloud in those services, please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) with their name and the date of their passing by October 30.

All Saints Day Altar Cloth - We invite you to add the names of the "saints" in your life who have passed away and you remember fondly on a white tablecloth found in the Narthex. The tablecloth, adorned with names, will be placed on the altar on All Saints Day.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK ON OCTOBER 27

We will have one combined service on Sunday, October 27, at 10 a.m. for Commitment Sunday, which is the culmination of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, "Our Mission & Money Story." Please make plans to join us that morning as we offer our financial commitments as an act of worship. Our celebration will continue with a potluck luncheon immediately following the service. Bring your pledge card and a dish to share. (Sunday School will not meet that day.)

GOOD GRIEF! FELLOWSHIP

Good Grief! support group and fellowship will meet **Tuesday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m.** at George's Southside, 8905 Highland Rd.

DAYS FOR GIRLS RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 19

The United Women in Faith Circle of the Heart has scheduled the final Fall Mission workday for Days for Girls for **Saturday, October 19, 9 am-12pm** in the FLC. All helpers are welcome and needed! We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and folding panties and washcloths. **No sewing skills needed!**

FALL FEST AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

St. John's is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community on **Sunday, October 20, 4-5:30 p.m.**, and we need your help! We will have a trunk-or-treat, carnival-style games, and a snack station. We are so excited for this opportunity to connect with those in our community. Please join us by signing up to volunteer at [www.stjohnsbr.org/Fall Fest Volunteer/](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/Fall%20Fest%20Volunteer/).

We are also receiving donations of candies, fall and Halloween decorations, and small prizes for games. Donations will be accepted until noon on October 20. Please use the blue tubs located in the Admin building and Narthex for your donations.

METHODIST MISSION TO CUBA

Donnie and Susan Lambert will be participating in a mission to Cuba, **October 22 - 29**. The primary objective is to share the love of Christ through actions and interactions. The Cuba 2024 mission team will be working on La Catedral Church in Holguin, which was built before the revolution.

If you would like to support the Cuba 2024 mission team, you can through both prayers and donations. A list of items that are not readily available to most people in Cuba is available in the Narthex, Admin. Building, and newsletters. We will have blue tubs in the narthex and hallway of the Admin Building for the next several weeks for your donations, for example note pads, colored pencils, wash cloths, men's ties, ball caps, lipstick/lip moisturizer. **Deadline for donations is Tuesday, October 15.**

To donate money you may write a check to St. John's with Cuba Mission in the memo line or to donate online go to stjohnsbr.org/give/; click on General Budget and select Missions from the drop down menu; click on Sub Fund and select Cuba Mission. ALL donations will go toward the work at La Catedral Church and the people of Holguin.

HURRICANE RELIEF SPECIAL OFFERING

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the devastation across the impacted areas is heart-wrenching, leaving communities facing a long and difficult road to recovery. Our Bishop Dolores J. Williamston is calling on all of us to take part in this crucial mission of love and solidarity. Donations can be made online at stjohnsbr.org/give (Fund: Missions; Subfund: Disaster Relief/UMCOR) or mark checks/cash with "Hurricane Relief". All monies raised will go directly to supporting the recovery efforts.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

If your last name begins with **O - R, Sunday, October 20** is "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. You don't have to cook or bake – in these days of prepared foods, any grocery store has plenty of delicious items to choose from. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

NOTE: We will **NOT** have Coffee Time on October 27 as we are only having ONE worship service at 10 a.m.

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

MUSIC MAKERS WILL MEET TODAY

Music Makers will meet this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth in grades K - 12 are invited to this fun, learning experience with Dr. Steve.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE OCTOBER 16

Mark your calendar - Wednesday Night Live will be **October 16, 6 - 7:30 p.m.** Wednesday Night Live is on the third Wednesday of each month during the school year. For WNL, youth meet in the Upstairs Café for dinner and a fellowship activity.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - VOLUNTEER AT DAYS FOR GIRLS

Youth who volunteer at Days For Girls on **Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. - noon**, will be treated to lunch afterward at MOOYAH (9730 Bluebonnet Blvd, Ste 1, Baton Rouge, LA 70810).

These pop-up Community Connection events are all about fostering greater fellowship and building stronger relationships among our students

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, October 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 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. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Monday, October 14

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, October 15

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief! Fellowship, George's
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, October 16

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Wednesday Night Live, Upstairs Cafe
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, October 17

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC

Friday, October 18

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

Saturday, October 19

- 9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

2025 Stewardship Campaign "Our Mission & Money Story"

Each fall, as we budget and begin planning financially for the following calendar year, we invite you to consider how you will support the mission and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church through your financial giving.

The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is "Our Mission & Money Story."

This stewardship season, we are asking ourselves what new story God is inviting us to write that weaves together our mission and money into a narrative of hope and joy. We are guided by the themes of remembering, releasing, reimagining, and restoring found in scripture. Throughout the campaign, there will be an ongoing conversation about how the mission of St. John's UMC is made possible only through your investment in it.

With the rising costs of printing and mailings, our campaign will primarily be digital this year. Each week you will be emailed a Stewardship Newsletter that we ask that you to read as you consider what you will pledge for 2025. You can pledge online at stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025, and we also have printed pledge cards available in the Narthex and church office.

Commitment Sunday, October 27, we will gather for a combined worship service at 10 a.m. followed by a Potluck luncheon. We hope you will make plans to join us that morning as we offer our commitments as an act of worship followed by a time of fellowship and celebration on October 27.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.