

LEGACY

of hope



Sunday, May 14, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Within the short story of Ruth from the Old Testament, we see the unfolding of a number of scenes of everyday faithfulness in the midst of hardship. In the final scene, which we read today, we witness the coming together of all these small acts of faith with the marriage of Ruth and Boaz. Though the ups and downs of life the characters in Ruth's book are quite ordinary – and much like our own – we see how generations later, their steadfast faith enables the story of Jesus Christ, who is a descendant of theirs. As you think about your own legacy, what might come from the ordinary goodness and faithfulness you share in the world?

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

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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
Lead Pastor
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Lynn Cooper
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
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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

Prelude in Classic Style
Arranged by Tammy Waldrop
Featuring Penny Kemler on flute

Alleluia Ringers

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

The Summons
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2130, vs. 1, 4, & 5

*Call to Worship

Beth Forester

We gather to worship the God of Ruth and Naomi and Boaz,
ordinary people who left an extraordinary legacy.

Today we celebrate their everyday faithfulness.

We come to take our place in God's unending story.
We did not begin God's work, nor will we complete it.

**Yet while we are here, we have a beautiful chapter
to continue.**

God works in mysterious ways.
May this time of worship empower us to carry on
the legacy of hope passed down to us
from generation to generation.

**We place our trust in God's plans
as we gather to worship!**

*Song of Response

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2129, vs. 1

GROWING

Special Music

For the Beauty of the Earth/I'm Gonna Sing

Music Makers

Children's Moment

Ben Hartman

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

God of All Ages,

**Give us open ears to hear your voice
in the voices of our ancestors.**

**Give us open minds to understand
what they experienced and believed.**

**Give us open hearts to accept
what you might be saying to us today.**

**As we leaf through the stories of our faith,
guide us into writing new chapters for the future!**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Ruth 4:9-17

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

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Faith

Take My Life, and Let It Be

The United Methodist Hymnal 399, vs. 1 & 3

*Prayer of Confession

Beth Forester

Merciful Lord,

**upon whom we build our life,
forgive us for our sins.**

**We have discounted what is small,
confused faith with futility,
and ignored where our ordinary stories
intersect with your eternal story.**

**Give us the trust to commit ourselves
to acts of ordinary faithfulness
without knowing where they may lead,
but trusting that you will make them good.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Hear the Good News!

Hope does not disappoint,

for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit, given to us in baptism.

Believe this Good News and give thanks.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.**

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

Ministry Moment: Summer Sunday School

Marilyn Damberg

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Alleluia Ringers Anthem:
My Lord, What a Morning
Arranged by John A. Behnke

*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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of creation and new creation,
God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah,
God of Ruth and David,
God of the priests and the prophets,
God of Mary and Joseph,
God of the apostles and the martyrs,
God of our mothers and our fathers,
God of our children to all generations.

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.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The congregation is seated.

Truly holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ.
Through his life, death, and resurrection, he demonstrated the full extent of your love for humankind.

The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

Therefore, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we gratefully offer to you our whole selves - heart, mind, soul, and strength - as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, spur us on into acts of everyday faithfulness as a legacy of hope for those around us and for future generations, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, until he comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Now hear our prayers, which we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

(Offer your own silent prayers.)

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

Beth Forester

**Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Order our steps
that as we go out into the world,
we may carry on your legacy of hope,
passed down to us from Jesus Christ.
In his name we pray.
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

Jesus Calls Us

The United Methodist Hymnal 398, vs. 1, 4, & 5

*Benediction

*Postlude

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho
Arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson

Music Makers

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS for today's service are Susan Johnston and Bobbi Marino.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of Faith Anne Williams, granddaughter of Rev. Marie Williams, who is sixteen today. Happy birthday, Faith Anne!

COFFEE TIME

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments. Coffee time hosts are members of the Connections Sunday School Class.

Worship

LEGACY OF HOPE SERIES

Scripture is filled with intriguing characters who left profound legacies. As we look closer, we find that they were not that different from us. They too, experienced challenges, heartaches, successes, and failures. Their lives knew fear, doubt, and worry, and yet their lives bear witness to the everlasting story of God's hope and love for God's people. The Holy Spirit is hoping to do the same thing in our day and age through people just like us. During our "Legacy of Hope" series, we are talking about the importance of leaving a positive spiritual legacy. Join us on the Sundays in May. What will be your legacy?

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST

We encourage you to wear red and other fiery colors to worship on **Sunday, May 28** in celebration of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples like fire!

Missions

BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET LIBRARY

The free "library" in The Shepherd's Market needs donations of gently used and/or new adult and children's books. If you are down-sizing your library, they are gladly accepting fiction and non-fiction books.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. MARK'S MISSION DAY

The St. John's Youth Group will be serving a meal to the unhoused and those experiencing hunger through St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans on **Sunday, June 25**. If you would like to participate in this one-day mission, please contact Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org. Anyone is welcome to serve - whether you are Youth or not.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT

Join us for a game night for all ages on **Thursday, June 1, 5 - 7 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. We will have board games, card games, and trivia games. We will also provide finger foods for everyone to grab as a snack supper. You are more than welcome to bring your favorite finger food to share and favorite game to teach everyone! People of all ages are encouraged to join. We hope to see you there.

ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP

Do you like to write? Do you like to 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 on **Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m. on Zoom**. Contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for the Zoom information.

Children & Youth Ministries

MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers will not meet on the afternoon of Sunday the 14th, since this is Mother's Day. However, we will meet on **Sunday, May 21 at 4:30** for an END-OF-THE-YEAR celebration of making music with a pizza and ice cream party! Anyone who has been a part of our Sunday afternoon MUSIC MAKERS is invited to attend. This will be our final Sunday before summer break so please join us for some fun, food, and musical games as we celebrate God's gift of music in our lives. Please write Mr. Steve at steverushing@stjohnsbr.org if you plan to attend.

YOUTH & CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each Summer, we give our regular and reliable youth and children Sunday School leaders a chance to relax by giving them the summer off.

This summer, our youth and children Sunday School classes will meet in the Family life Center from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. The age groups included in this group are students who recently completed 1st-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades, and 6th-12th grades. Connor will be leading each week's lesson and will provide oversight. She is seeking helpers to guide the activities that accompany each lesson, for each of the three age groups. All materials will be provided.

Please consider the opportunity to create and strengthen intergenerational connections within our church family by volunteering to lead with one of these three age groups for at least one Sunday in June or July.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

Youth Switching to Wednesday Nights in May - Our Youth are now gathering on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We are asking anyone who would like to volunteer to help out on any of these evenings to please get in touch with Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594).

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Our collaborative youth ministry program will begin **Wednesday, June 7 at 6 p.m.** Each week a different United Methodist Church will host youth from the Baton Rouge area. St. John's will host the first gathering on June 7 in the Family Life Center.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This summer, we will be hosting an event called "Family Camp." It will take place Thursday - Saturday, July 13 - 15. We will meet in the evenings on Thursday & Friday (July 13 & 14) from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and in the morning on Saturday (July 15) from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. We will gather in the Family Life Center each day for food, games, worship, Bible study, and other activities. Registration will be required for the event, but there is no cost to attend. For more information, please contact Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org.

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, there will be opportunities for fellowship and fun activities. On June 8, our first family activity will be swimming at the Magnolia Woods Swimming Pool, followed by a pool party (location TBA) on June 22. On July 6 there will be an activity at St. John's, and on July 20 there will be a pool party at the Toney's. Plus, we will have a Family Movie Night on August 3 at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library. This is an open meeting and all members of St. John's are invited to attend.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 14

- 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

Monday, May 15

- 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, May 16

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, May 17

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-E
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, May 18

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

Friday, May 19

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

Saturday, May 20

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

*Family Life Center