



# ***CALLED*** ***COMMUNITY***

Sunday, October 15, 2023

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

All Are Welcome

What if we began to see everything that we have as a gift from God? In God's generous abundance, we were given the gift of Jesus, who came to earth, moved into the neighborhood, and changed the landscape of our lives and the world forever. Today, as we continue our stewardship worship series, "Called to Community," we consider the generosity of God and how we can join God in transforming the world through Jesus, starting right here in our own community. When we are united as a church, we are able to do far more together than we could ever imagine. We are called to reflect God's extravagant generosity and called to do that in community.

**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

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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*  
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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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.*



## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

\*Songs of Praise

*The Summons*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2130, vs. 1  
*Lord, Be Glorified*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2150, vs. 1 & 4

\*Call to Worship

Margaret Sprunger

We are beloved children of God:

**Called to serve, and to bless, and to love.**

We are citizens of the world:

**Called to care, and to respond, and to generosity.**

We are members of a community:

**Called to support, and to nurture, and to welcome.**

We belong to God and to one another.

**So may our hearts be as one, as we worship our God,  
who calls us together in love.**

\*Song of Response

*The Servant Song*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 1

## COMMUNITY FORMATION

Children's Moment

Connor Dean

Prayer for Illumination

**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**

John 1:14-18

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**

“Generous Abundance”

Pastor Lane

# THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

**\*Hymn of Faith**

*Jesu, Jesu*

The United Methodist Church 432, vs. 1 & 3

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lane

Within the strength of community, in the power of silence, we come before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of our Creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other.

**God,**

**You love this world so much that you became one of us in your own child, Jesus Christ.**

**You offer this gift of wholeness that we might have abundant life.**

**Forgive us for keeping that life to ourselves, for holding too tight to your generous gifts, for choosing self-interest instead of your compassion and justice.**

**Teach us what it means to live as neighbors, generously sharing your abundance with our siblings around the corner and around the world.**

*(A time for silent prayer and confession.)*

**\*Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Friends, receive God's forgiveness; know God's grace.

May God's love set you free this day and always. **Amen.**

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

**Stewardship Moment**

Susan Lambert, Chair  
Board of Trustees

**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](http://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!**

## Gathering at Christ's Table

### 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

Margaret Sprunger

O God,

**Just as we are called to this place,  
we are also called and sent out into the community,  
to proclaim your word with our lives,  
to engage your word with our minds and hearts,  
and to live your word with our whole selves,  
as we seek the well-being of our church and our community.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

# THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS

### 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

*Pass It On*

The United Methodist Church 572, vs. 1 & 3

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

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

# WORSHIP NOTES

## **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar are given by Amy Richardson in honor of her mother, Mary Frances Richardson, with love on her 90th birthday.

## **USHERS**

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

## **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.

# Worship & Music

## **“CALLED TO COMMUNITY” 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN AND WORSHIP SERIES**

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign was launched on Sunday, October 8 with a new worship series titled, “Called to Community,” in which we affirm the ways that we, here at St. John’s, are making a difference in our community and exploring how God is calling us to invest even further in this place we call home.

Stewardship packets were sent out this week. If you have not received one, they are available in the Narthex and Church Office. Please prayerfully consider how you will join us in answering our “call to community” by making a pledge for 2024.

### **ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M. ON OCTOBER 29**

Our campaign and series culminates on Sunday, October 29, Commitment Sunday, in which we will celebrate the pledges made to the St. John’s community in 2024. We will have one worship service that morning at 10 a.m. with a potluck luncheon to follow.

### **MEN’S CHORUS**

We are putting together a men’s chorus to perform on **Sunday, October 29 in worship**. This is an open invitation for all men to come and sing. We will hold two more rehearsals, Tuesday nights (October 17 and 24) from 7 to 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. These rehearsals will prepare us to sing together on Commitment Sunday, which is October 29. We will have one worship service that day at 10 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Rushing at [steverushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:steverushing@stjohnsbr.org)

### **TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS**

Music Makers will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room with Dr. Steve. If you missed their performance on September 24 (it was wonderful) you will have a chance to see and hear them on October 22. So, if you have a child in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade bring them to Music Makers so they can explore their faith through music.

### **ALL SAINTS’ DAY**

On **Sunday, November 5**, we will be observing 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 and good witness. 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](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)) with their name by October 30.**



# Servanthood

## FALL FEST 2023

St. John's is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community on **Sunday, October 22 from 4 - 6 p.m.** -- and we need your help! Fall Fest will be a community celebration involving activity stations, a trunk-or-treat, food, and an inflatable slide. We are so excited for this opportunity to engage more families in our area, but we need donations and volunteers to make sure Fall Fest runs smoothly.

### WAYS TO SERVE:

- Trunk or Treat (decorate your car and hand out candy)
- Lead an Activity Station (all supplies provided)

Sign up for trunk-or-treat or an activity station at [stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-volunteers](http://stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-volunteers).

- Donate candy (individually wrapped and nut free)
- Donate small prizes for games
- Shop from our Amazon Wish List at [stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-wishlist](http://stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-wishlist)

Thank you for supporting this community outreach event!

## HELP MAKE NEW CHRISMON TREE ORNAMENTS!

Can you believe Advent begins in 8 Weeks! The United Women in Faith is planning to refurbish the Chrismon ornaments which we have been using since the mid 1980's. As you may know our sanctuary tree is decorated with gold and white ornaments called Christ monograms or Chrismons (Christ and Monograms).

We will have two workshops, one on **Wednesday, October 18** and another on **Wednesday, November 1**, meeting in the library from 9 - 11 a.m. Kits will be provided with all the supplies you need to make an ornament. If you are unable to meet with us and want to create an ornament, please see Pat Lively for kits to make counted-cross stitch ornaments and/or Joyce Perry for kits to make beaded ornaments.

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals).



# Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

## WOULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL?

The St. John's Writer's Group is curating a publication to enrich our Advent journey this year, and we invite anyone in our congregation to submit a reflection. Our theme for the year is "The Gift of Many Names," to follow with our Advent worship series. For more information, please email [silvermari@gmail.com](mailto:silvermari@gmail.com). Submissions are due to Mari no later than Friday, November 3.

## Charge Conference Today

St. John's will host one of two Baton Rouge District Charge Conferences today, **Sunday, October 15, 6 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

The Charge Conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the Church Council, but anyone can attend as an observer. Representatives from churches across the Baton Rouge district will gather in our sanctuary for this time of holy conferencing.

The gathering will include a brief time of worship as well as the approval of each church's nominations report, clergy compensation, and candidates for ordained ministry, including a reaffirmation of St. John's own, Tori Lambert, as a candidate for ministry, and Natalie Cooper, as a Certified Lay Servant. We invite you to join us as we host area churches for this annual meeting.

# 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 on **Sunday, October 22 from 4-6 p.m.** for this family-friendly community wide event.

## **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

## **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.

### **Youth Halloween Party**

We are hosting a Halloween Party on **Sunday, October 29 from 4-6 p.m.** in the St. John's FLC. Other UMC youth groups in the greater Baton Rouge area have been invited to join in on the fun, too!

We will play some halloween-themed games and have a costume contest. (Students, please use discretion for costumes, nothing too scary or inappropriate.)

**Snacks:** Students with last names starting with A-K should bring a salty/savory snack to share. Students with last names starting with L-Z should bring a sweet snack to share. Snacks can be halloween-themed or simply cookies/chips. Drinks, plates, napkins, and plastic cutlery will be provided.

### **Junior High Retreat**

Junior High Retreat is just around the corner! The Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA (where we gathered for Fusion Fest back in September) is hosting an overnight, weekend-long retreat for students in **6th-8th grades**. The retreat will start in the evening on Friday, November 3, and students will return in the afternoon on Sunday, November 5. Students are only required to pay \$35 to secure their spot for the trip. St. John's will cover the rest! Cash/check payments can be turned in to the church office, and credit/debit card payments can be submitted online. **The deposits and completed initial registration form (found at [stjohnsbr.org/jr-high-retreat](http://stjohnsbr.org/jr-high-retreat)) are due by noon on October 20.**

# This Week at St. John's

## **Sunday, October 15**

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Yourh Room
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room
- 6:00 p.m. District Charge Conference, Sanctuary

## **Monday, October 16**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 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, October 17**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, October 18**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Chrismon Workshop, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

## **Thursday, October 19**

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

## **Friday, October 20**

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

## **Saturday, October 21**

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

\*Family Life Center