



*Ephesians 4:1-6*

*Sunday, September 15, 2024  
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Today's scripture speaks of approaching one another with "all humility, gentleness, and patience." Together let's discover how this teaching, along with the Golden Rule, has the power to heal relationships, bridge political chasms, and transform our community in a world so torn by division. Welcome to Worship!

***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](http://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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
*Lead Pastor*  
[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
[billputzig@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:billputzig@stjohnsbr.org)

Cheryl Roubique  
*Nursery Coordinator*

# 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

## \*Song of Praise

*The Gift of Love*

The United Methodist Hymnal 408, vs. 1 - 3

## \*Call to Worship

Kathy King

We gather around the Light of Christ.

**Christ's love knows no bounds.**

Though we are a divided world,  
**may we be united in our worship.**

Teach us Your ways, O Lord,  
that we may walk in Your truth.

**Show us the way to do unto others  
with humility.**

## \*Response

*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

The United Methodist Hymnal 382, vs. 4

## Children's Moment

Shawn Walker

## Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-6

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.**

## Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

"Malice Towards None, Charity for All"

## \*Hymn

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

The United Methodist Hymnal 549, vs. 1 - 3

## \*Invitation to Reconciliation

Kathy King

Today we gather around this table to remember what true relationship means. All are invited to this Table of Grace and Humility.

Jesus broke bread with those whose worldview did not mirror his.

Jesus broke bread with those whose experience and traditions were sometimes not only different, but opposed, to his.

He simply offered a place to be, to sit down at the same table, and see what transformation might happen between people.

Yet, as we prepare ourselves for this feast, we are called to admit the complexity that lies at the edges of our relationships.

## \*Prayer of Confession

Kathy King

For all the ways we hurt each other – with harmful expectations, judgments, and our own fear...

**God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.**

For all the ways we squander right relationship – choosing being “right” over “relationship”...

**God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.**

For all the ways we abuse our freedom – engaging in hateful speech towards those not on “our” side...

**God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.**

For all the ways we deny equality and the belovedness of all – deeming some “in” and others “out”...

**God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.**

*A time for silent prayer and confession.*

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Jesus said, “I have come to set the prisoner free.”

No matter what binds you this day, freedom is yours through new life in Christ.

In the name of the One who came to loose the chains, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and set free.**

**Glory to God! Amen.**

## \*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

### 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!**

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Liberating God be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts with joy!

**We lift them up to God!**

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

It is right, and a good and holy thing  
to give our praise to you this day,  
Liberator of all humanity.

You unleashed your creative power and a world blossomed.

You bestowed upon every living thing life and breath,  
color and movement.

No matter how many battles we wage within and  
between ourselves and against you, your promise, vision,  
and gifts of peace and abundance continue.

And so we lift up our voices in celebration of You!

**Holy, holy, holy are You!**

We join all the prophets and saints!

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

We join the parade for peace and justice!

**Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!**

We add our cries and exclamations!

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*(The congregation is seated as the story of God's  
redeeming love is shared.)*

Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.

To those who were imprisoned by status, law, illness, poverty, gender,  
age, and disease, he said, "Your belief has set you free.

You are a child of God."

He invited disciples, friends, and strangers alike to his tables.

He proclaimed God's grace to all with whom he broke bread.

He proclaimed God's love to all with whom he shared the cup.

And he told us to remember:

**You are one at this table, the table of grace.**

For Christ has died, Christ has risen,

**and Christ comes again in this meal we eat together.**

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body so that we  
might be free to love without condition,

invite without hesitation,

go without reservation, and

proclaim your call to kindness and humility to all the world!

## The Lord's Prayer

### \*Sharing the Bread and Cup

*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

Kathy King

**Holy One,**

**You show us the way to Do Unto Others with  
humility through the welcome we experience at your table.**

**Send us into the unknown future with hope  
that we can not only survive,**

**but we can thrive, together –**

**no matter the outcomes of a divided world.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,  
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. 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

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 3, & 4

## \*Blessing and Sending Forth

## \*Postlude

# Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by Rev. Marie Williams in honor of Dr. James Williams 47th birthday and in memory of Rev. John Williams' death September 18th.

Worship prayers are adapted from [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness) in collaboration with <https://campaignforkindness.com>.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Darren and Chris Stubbs.

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

## **"DO UNTO OTHERS" – A CAMPAIGN FOR KINDNESS**

This month, join us in a campaign for kindness, as we focus on embodying The Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Together we will discover how this simple, yet profound principle of kindness can be our catalyst for positive change.

*"Do Unto Others" is a grassroots movement launched by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in the Kansas City area, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, that encourages intentional acts of kindness and fosters civility and respect, countering the polarization in our society.*

## **THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONAL ACTS OF KINDNESS**

As we focus on LIVING OUT the Golden Rule, you are invited to practice Intentional Acts of Kindness throughout the month of September. We are focusing on Intentional Acts because they require thoughtfulness and often lead to growth within ourselves and our relationships. Here are this week's Intentional Acts of Kindness suggestions:

- Write a heartfelt thank you note to someone who has impacted your life.
- Apologize to someone you've wronged, even if it's difficult.
- Help someone with yard work who hasn't had a chance to clean up after Hurricane Francine.

At the end of the week, reflect back on the acts you did or didn't perform. If you didn't perform an intentional act of kindness, consider why. Was it a lack of opportunity? Did you forget? Were you self-conscious? Consider any opportunities you might have missed. Share your experience - successes and failures - with us on social media with the hashtag #kindnessatstjohnsbr or email your story and picture to Pastor Lane ([pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)).

## MEET OUR NEW FALL YOUTH INTERN

We have hired a new youth intern for our fall semester. Sunday, September 15 is Betsy Adams' first official day as the fall youth intern. Betsy may be a familiar face, since she grew up being an active member of St. John's. We are excited to work with her and have her be able to share her gifts with us in this leadership role.

## COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

If your last name begins with **A - C**, **Sunday, September 22** 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.**

## TODAY - COMMUNION COMPANIONS

There will be a meeting of Communion Companions **today, September 15 at 3 p.m.** in The Founders' Parlor. Contact Pastor Lane ([pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)) if you have any questions.

## TRUSTEES MEETING

There will be a Trustees Meeting on **Tuesday, September 17 at 4 p.m.** in the library.

## GOOD GRIEF ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP

Good Grief! Fellowship will meet on **Tuesday September 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in The Founders' Parlor.

## FALL BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS STARTING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Due to the storm, we postponed the start of our fall bible study on the Psalms. Our first session will be this Tuesday, September 17 at 6 p.m. in the library. If you are interested in participating in this 6-week study, you can register here: [stjohnsbr.org/Immersion-Study-Fall-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/Immersion-Study-Fall-2024). The study book, *Immersion Bible Study on the Book of Psalms*, cost \$15 and can be picked up in the church office. Participants should read Lesson 1 prior to the first class. You may pay for the book by check (made out to St. John's UMC with Bible Study in the memo line) or online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give), then from the General Budget pull down menu select SS Classes and Small Groups, then from the Sub Fund pull down menu select Bible Study. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Tucker (by phone or text: 225-270-2193 or [parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com](mailto:parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com)).

## CIRCLE OF THE HEART MEETING

The cancelled meeting of the United Women in Faith Circle of the Heart has been rescheduled to **Wednesday, September 18 at 9:30 a.m.** in The Founders' Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

## ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION

Our fall mission to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans will be **Sunday, September 22**, when we will join St. Mark's in the French Quarter serving the unhoused. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful day of mission (from approximately 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.), please contact Larry Norman at 225-933-1881.

## TRIVIA - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 3:30 - 5:30 P.M.

The St. John's Food, Fun & Fellowship team is hosting *Trivia* in the Family Life Center. We will have 6 rounds of trivia, with each round focused on a different category. Questions will be appropriate for adults & youth, but this activity may not be suitable for students younger than 4th grade. You can show up with or without a pre-decided team. However, please limit teams to no more than 6 people. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place teams. Childcare can be provided upon request. (Please notify no later than September 22.)

## DISCOVER ST. JOHN'S

Are you a new or long-time visitor to St. John's who is looking to learn more about the church and/or church membership? Join Pastor Lane on **Sunday, October 6 at 9:45 a.m.** in her office to discover more about St. John's, meet others, ask questions, and get to know one another. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to [office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org) if you are able to attend so that we can prepare.

## FALL FEST AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

You will have a freaky good time at Fall Fest and Trunk-or-Treat on **Sunday, October 20, 4-5:30 P.M.** Candy donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 20. A Signup Genius will be made available September 10 for those interested in hosting a trunk or working an activity booth.



# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday, September 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Communion Companions, The Founders' Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## Monday, September 16

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders Parlor
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Tuesday, September 17

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Library
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief, St. John's, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Wednesday, September 18

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. Circle of the Heart, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room

## Thursday, September 19

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

## Friday, September 20

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

## Saturday, September 21

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center

## Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

### UPSTAIRS CAFE IS NOW OPEN

The Upstairs Cafe is now open with a new routine for supplying the Cafe with snacks. Beginning in September, the Sunday School leaders will provide snacks on the first Sunday of each month. Families are being asked to provide snacks for the remainder of the month, following this schedule: 1st Sunday - Sunday School Teachers; 2nd Sunday - K - 2nd Families; 3rd Sunday - 3rd - 5th Families; 4th Sunday - Youth Families; 5th Sundays will be dealt with separately.

### JOIN MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers rehearse on **Sundays at 4:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergarten through 5th grade students as well as Youth (6th - 12th grades) to be introduced to songs and hymns of the United Methodist Church and a variety of instruments. Drop them off and pick them up in the choir room. They will have a wonderful time with Dr. Steve.

### SAVE THE PLAYDATE - SEPTEMBER 22

Our families with children are invited to join us for a Park Playdate on **Sunday, September 22 4-6 p.m.** at Highland Road Community Park. We are hoping the weather will be clear for us.

If the weather does not cooperate, we have a rain-out plan that involves an indoor picnic and games in the St. John's FLC. If we end up needing to use the rain-out plan, I invite families to bring a picnic blanket to help us recreate the essence of a picnic, but inside. *To stay better connected with us, please text "Connect" to (225) 230-1017. We will send text updates on September 22 through this phone number.*



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*