



Sunday, February 16, 2025

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

From his prison cell during World War II, theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer penned a letter to a friend saying, "It is only by living completely in this world that one learns to have faith." These words reverberate throughout the gospel of Luke's account of Jesus' final visit with his disciples, as he tells them that it's time for them to take his work and message into the world. Today, we listen and respond to Christ's call to be engaged with the world around us.

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance and share any prayer requests you have at stjohnsbr.org/here or scan the QR code.



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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

Go Forth for God

The United Methodist Hymnal 670, vs. 1

Go Ye, Go Ye into the World

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2239, vs. 1 - 3

*Call to Worship

Jane Walker

There are so many directions in which we are being pulled.

We struggle and hope that we have chosen the right way.

Some of these paths are falsely enticing and others dangerous.

How can we know what to do?

Look to Jesus! He will be our guide,
and the Holy Spirit will journey with us.

Today we choose to follow Jesus.

May our worship reflect his love and grace.

These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Response

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2129, vs. 1

Children's Message

Shawn Walker

*Scripture

Luke 24:36-53

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

"Real Life in the Real World"

*Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 3, & 4

*Prayer of Confession

Jane Walker

O God,

We confess that we have not loved
as we have been loved,
nor have we given as freely
as we have already received.

We have heard your call;
we have seen your way;
your life is all around us within us,
yet we have resisted your Spirit;
we have been slow to love;
we have forgotten our faith.

Forgive us, transform us,
and by your Spirit, direct us,
that through Jesus Christ,
we may become the people
you have called us to be –
your children!

Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Receive the healing love of Jesus. Give your lives to his service
by loving and caring for others. You are forgiven.

The peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you.

*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.*



*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 God's Table

Pastor Lane

The Lord's Prayer

***Sharing the Bread & 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

Jane Walker

**O Jesus, our beloved,
we give you thanks for inviting us to
your table and sharing your feast.
Send us out into your world
to be the presence of love and hope
to all who despair and fear,
that all may have life, and life abundant. 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**

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

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are from Lenni Stickles in honor of my St John's family who have so faithfully done so much for me these past months. Thanks be to God.

The flowers on the altar are from Suzanne and Gray Sexton in memory of Gray's mother, Valentine Sexton. "Vallie" was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Pineville for 66 years.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Sandra Kuykendall and Amy Richardson.

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

Announcements

2025 LENT DEVOTIONAL

We are seeking submissions for a devotional, which will serve as a reflection guide throughout the season of lent.

Each submission should be 300 - 500 words plus a verse or short passage of scripture and a prayer. We've shared short stories and poems in the past - so you don't have to stick to any format or strict word count. Find out more or send your submissions by email to Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com. **Deadline for submissions is February 17.**

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Join us on Ash Wednesday as we begin the season of Lent with reflection, prayer, and worship. From **10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** the Family Life Center will be transformed into a quiet space for self-guided worship. Sit in silence or journey through prayer activities and meditations. We will also have a labyrinth set up for you to experience that ancient prayer practice, and Pastor Lane will be on hand to offer the imposition of the ashes. This experience is open and appropriate for all ages. St. John's Youth will meet to experience the stations at 1pm.

There will also be an **Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** that includes the imposition of ashes and Communion. Our Lenten theme, "Full to the Brim," will be woven throughout our evening service, inviting us to receive and share God's abundant, overflowing grace.

"FULL TO THE BRIM" LENT WORSHIP SERIES

This year's Lenten worship series, "Full to the Brim" is filled with parables and promises of God's overflowing grace, reminding us to live fully. And so, this Lent, let us trust – fully – that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Join us Sundays during Lent, starting March 9, as we discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

"FULL TO THE BRIM" LENT BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS DURING LENT

Join us for a five-week Lent Bible Study as we journey through the parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. This study will expand upon the Gospel readings from our Lent worship series, "Full to the Brim," allowing space for further reflection, conversation, and spiritual growth in a small group setting. We will offer two sessions of the study, both starting on March 11:

Daytime Study – Tuesdays at 10:30-11:30am

Nighttime Study – Tuesdays at 6-7pm

More information will be coming soon.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS

If your last name begins with **T - Z**, "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is next Sunday, **February 23**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. *Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.*

GOOD GRIEF FELLOWSHIP

Good Grief Fellowship will meet this month on **Tuesday, February 18, 5:30 p.m.** at George's Southside, 8905 Highland Rd.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED

The Shepherd's Market is lucky enough to have a free library located by the water fountain in the FLC; however, we are in desperate need of CHILDREN'S BOOKS! Any age is welcome - from board books to young adult - but we do NOT need adult books. Any gently read or brand new book is welcome! There is a blue tub in the hallway of the Admin Building for your donations. Thank you!

HALF DAY PRAYER RETREAT

Friend of St. John's and the Shepherd's Market, retired minister, Rev. Jack O'Dell, will be leading a half day retreat called "Deepening Your Prayer Life" on Saturday March 8, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Intentionally planned for the first weekend of Lent, this 4 hour retreat is an invitation to begin the season of Lent reflecting on the practice and discipline of prayer. The retreat is free of charge and hosted at First United Methodist Church. You may register online here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc59f6x9>.

Children's & Youth Ministries

TEAM ORANGE MEETS TODAY

Today we are launching Team Orange, a ministry team focused on working closely with the Director of Children's Ministry to envision what types of Family Ministry events and programming we want at St. John's.

For Team Orange to be most effective, we need many voices in the room. Whether you have children or grandchildren in preschool, elementary school, or even middle and high school, your perspective is needed and will be appropriately valued in the Team Orange meeting space. Even if you don't have children in your household but you are passionate about creating an effective ministry program for younger generations, we invite you to join Team Orange. **Our first meeting will be today, February 16, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

KING CAKE C.H.A.O.S.

Our next C.H.A.O.S. event will be **Sunday, February 23 from 4 - 6 p.m.** to bake and deliver King Cakes to local first responders - firefighters and healthcare workers. This is an act of service to share the love of Jesus Christ with hard-working members of our community. All participants should meet at the St. John's FLC at 4:00 p.m. After all deliveries have been completed, we will return to the FLC to share a meal together. Please let Connor know via email or text if you plan to join us for this event, as it will require more intentional preparations than some of our other C.H.A.O.S. events. We would love to see you there!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN SUNDAY FLOW

We offer faith formation for children and youth of all ages during Sunday School.

Upstairs Café opens at 9:30 a.m. - Students start in the Upstairs Cafe (Room 202 of the Admin building) helping them get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their age specific Sunday School groups.

Sunday School Classes - Children 2 yrs to 4 yrs are in the Pre-K Room on the first floor of the Admin building; students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are in Room 204; students in 3rd through 5th grades are in Room 207; students in 6th through 12th grades are in the Youth Sunday School class Room 201.

YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

First Sundays: The St. John's youth group gathers on the first Sunday of each month from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities.

Third Wednesdays: Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for Wednesday Night Live. **The next Wednesday Night Live will be February 19.**

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 16

- 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
- 1:30 p.m. Trustees' Campus Walk-through
- 4:30 p.m. Team Orange, Youth Room
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, February 17

- 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

*Family Life Center

Tuesday, February 18

- 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! Fellowship, George's Southside
- 6:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 20

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

Friday, February 21

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Saturday, February 22

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

Staffing Announcements

YOUTH INTERN INTRODUCTION

We are excited to welcome Cavin Taylor as our Youth Intern for the spring semester! Cavin is a theatre major at Southeastern University of Louisiana and is excited to share his gifts of leadership and ministry with us during this season. Cavin served as a counselor at Camp Istrouma last summer and is active at his church in Hammond, where he serves as the Children's Choir Director and Bible Study Coordinator. He is passionate about helping young people deepen their faith and grow into the individuals God has called them to be. Cavin's first official Sunday with us will be February 16, and he'll make a special guest appearance at today's Youth Council Meeting.

WE'RE HIRING!

We're excited to announce that the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is now accepting applications for passionate individuals to join our staff in the areas of Communications, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry! These are part time positions, but we are also open to hiring someone full-time to cover all three positions. We are looking for the right candidate(s) and will modify the responsibilities and compensation based on the gifts, needs, and preferences of the most qualified candidate(s). We would greatly appreciate you passing on this information to anyone you think may be interested in this opportunity. There are more details on the positions and how to apply at stjohnsbr.org/jobs. You can also help us get the word out by sharing our Facebook post about the positions at facebook.com/stjohnsbr/posts.



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Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.