

WORDS CREATE WORLDS

We love recommending books and restaurants, but often go quiet about our faith. This week, we'll reflect on Jesus' call to be witnesses—sharing honest stories in everyday relationships with courage, presence, and love.

CHECK-IN &
PRAYER REQUESTS
VIA QR CODE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Help Our Toddlers Grow In Faith

We're looking for loving adults to serve as Toddler Sunday School Leaders once per month. All materials and curriculum are provided — no prep needed! This is a fun and meaningful way to help our youngest children experience God's love in a safe, playful, and faith-filled environment. Interested or have questions? Contact Grace Idikwu at youth@stjohnsbr.org.

Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing prayers@stjohnsbr.org or visiting stjohnsbr.org/here.

All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here

Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

For Newcomers

Restrooms & Welcome **Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

For Families with Children

- The **St. John's Playground** is in the front of the sanctuary during services. Children are welcome to spend **the entire service** here.
- The **Nursery** serves infants - preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- **Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months - 12th grade from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

The flowers on the altar are given by Susan Johnston in gratitude to her family and her church family as well.

Our ushers are Beth Forester & Rhonda Tucker.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pickleball & Prosciutto | August 17 | 3:00–4:30 p.m. | Family Life Center

Grab a paddle, a plate, or just a comfy seat—everyone's welcome! Whether you want to play a round of pickleball, snack on delicious prosciutto, or simply enjoy good company while you watch the fun, this is the perfect Sunday afternoon hangout.

Mission–Vision Revision Session | August 19th | 10:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. | Library

Not part of a Sunday School class but still want to participate in shaping the future of our church? Join the Mission & Vision study, facilitated by John Gilmore. This special session offers an opportunity for all members to reflect on who we are as a church and where God is calling us next. To register, please email (office@stjohnsbr.org) or call the church office at 225-766-4594 by **August 18th**. Let your voice be part of this important conversation!

One Service Sunday & Extended Coffee Time | August 31st | 10:00 a.m.

The next 5th Sunday is on August 31st, and we'll worship together in one combined service at 10:00a.m. followed by an extended Coffee Time. Everyone is invited! If your last name begins with M–Z, A–C, or D–G, please consider bringing a treat to share for Coffee Time that day.

Toddler Sunday School Teachers Needed

Serve once a month as a Toddler Sunday School Leader—no prep needed—help little ones experience God's love through play; contact Grace at youth@stjohnsbr.org.

Fall Family Ministries Intern Search

We are now accepting applications for a Fall Family Ministries Intern, a 14-week, part-time paid position beginning in September for young adults passionate about serving families and growing in ministry leadership. The role includes hands-on experience in worship, discipleship, and multigenerational programming—perfect for students or recent grads exploring ministry or service-oriented careers. Submit a resume and cover by August 19th to jobs@stjohnsbr.org.

Trustees Meeting | August 19th | 4:00 p.m | St. John's Library.

Gather with fellow trustees to review updates, discuss upcoming plans, and make decisions for the continued growth and stewardship of our church community.

Good Grief Fellowship | August 19, 2025 | 5:30 p.m. | George's Southside

Join us for an evening of connection, comfort, and conversation with others who understand the journey of loss. Come as you are, share a meal, and find encouragement.

Music Makers & Alleluia Ringers Rehearsals Resume

Music Makers, for Kindergarten through Middle School, 4:30 p.m. Sundays | Choir Room
Alleluia Ringers, 6:00 p.m. Sundays | Bells Practice Room

EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S FLC = Family Life Center

Worship Services

Sundays
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Coffee Time

Sundays
9:30 a.m. FLC
Last Names H–L may bring snacks on August 24th

Sunday School

Sundays
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide

Music Ministries

Sundays
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Children & Youth

Sundays
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room

Serve

Fridays
10:30 a.m. Holy Helpers, Church Office

Wellness

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Tuesdays

7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC–E

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Ladies AA Meeting, FLC–C

Saturdays

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

Shepherd's Market

A client choice food pantry

Mondays 3:30 p.m. FLC
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m. FLC
shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9 AM - 12 NOON
Monday - Friday

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Sunday, August 17th 2025

stjohnsbr.org | [@stjohnsbr](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbr) | office@stjohnsbr.org

225-766-4594 | 230 Renee Drive BR, LA 70810

WELCOME

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.



CHECK IN
& PRAYER
REQUESTS

Gathering Music

Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Welcome in the Light of Christ*

U.M Hymnal # 572 vs 1 & 3
Pass It On

Invitation to Worship*

Danielle Blackwood

We gather to remember the good news we have experienced.
God’s love has met us in our homes, our friendships, and our everyday lives.
We gather to be renewed in courage.
God’s Spirit gives us words to speak and stories to share.
We gather to join God’s work in the world.
Starting here, starting now, we will share the love that has been shared with us.
Come, let us worship God together!

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #593 *Refrain Only*
Here I Am, Lord

We Encourage Our Children

Julian Hartman &
Jane Walker

We Pray Together

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

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.

We Read the Word

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Acts 1:6–11

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.

We Reflect on the Word

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

You Will Be My Witnesses

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #156 vs 1 & 4
I Love to Tell the Story

We Name Our Need for Grace*

Danielle Blackwood

**Merciful God,
you call us to be your witnesses –
to tell the story of your love and grace –
but we confess that we often keep silent.**
We hold back the stories of what you have done in our lives.
**We worry we will say the wrong thing,
or make someone uncomfortable,
or reveal too much of ourselves.**
Forgive us for the times we hide your light.
**Renew us by your Spirit,
that we may speak with honesty,
live with love,
and bear witness to your goodness –
starting right where we are. Amen.**

Words of Grace & Forgiveness*

Danielle Blackwood

Hear the good news: The One who calls us also equips us.
In Christ, our failures are forgiven, our fears are calmed,
and our voices are freed to tell the story of God’s love.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.
Thanks be to God!
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Greet One Another with Joy & Peace*


Mission Moment

St John’s Youth

Reflections on their recent mission trip

We Offer our Tithes and Gifts to God

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit stjohnsbr.org/give to give online.



GIVING

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #94

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
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!

We Prepare for Communion

We give thanks, remember God’s saving acts, and call on the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. Together, we join in a holy meal that connects us with Christ and one another.

We Pray the Lord's Prayer

U.M. Hymnal #895

We Receive Communion*

All are welcome to receive Communion.
We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged & gluten-free options are available. You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

We Pray Together

Danielle Blackwood

**Gracious God,
you have met us at this table with bread for the journey and the cup of blessing.**
Here, we have tasted your goodness and remembered your love.
Send us now into our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our homes
to share what we have seen, to tell what we have heard, and to live as signs of your grace.
By your Spirit, give us courage to speak honestly, to love deeply, and to invite others into your joy.
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

We Receive This Week’s Call To Action

We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John’s and invite you to come forward and stand with Pastor Lane during the singing of the next song.

We Sing Together*

Our Faith We Sing # 2130 vs 1 & 5
The Summons

We Share in a Blessing*

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Go Out into the World*

Dr. Terry Byars

The service ends, but our worship continues as we go forth to love and serve the Lord.