



**Embracing the**  
*“Good Enough”*  
**of life & faith**

*Sunday, March 17, 2024*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*  
All Are Welcome

The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of building relationships. In today's story we experience an act of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. In her vulnerability, we see grace and care poured out and Jesus accepting it from Mary as a gift and a way to deepen their relationship. How might our lives be changed if we were willing to be vulnerable before God? We will ponder this question and others in worship today, as we welcome seminary student Lauren Broussard LeBoeuf as our guest preacher. 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.*



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

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. 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 Playground** 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 Playground 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  
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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.*



## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

## Gathering Music

*Good Enough*

## Prayer

Rhonda Tucker

Holy God,  
We call out to you and you are with us.  
You know our tears and sorrows,  
and you bear the seeds of grief with us.  
Open us this day to your comfort  
that nurtures these seeds into blossoms of joy,  
so that we might become more aware of the  
simple and “good enough” moments that fill our days.  
Amen.

## \*Hymns

*We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2031  
*What a Friend We Have In Jesus*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 526, vs. 1 & 2

## Children’s Message

Rhonda Tucker

## Prayer

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

John 12:1-8

A Word of God that is still speaking,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Witness to the Word

Lauren Broussard LeBoeuf

“Love Is Vulnerable”

**\*Hymn**

*Be Still My Soul*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 534, vs. 1 & 3

**\*Prayer**

Natalie Cooper

As it is written in our holy scripture, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Therefore, trusting in God’s grace and mercy, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

**Source of all life,**

**We confess that we have not allowed your grace  
to set us free.**

**We fear that we are not good enough.**

**We are fragile, but we don’t want others to know.**

**We hear your words of love freely given to us,  
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward, rather than moving  
it outward.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Fill us with the fragrance of your love,  
so that we might pour out ourselves more fully  
in worship of you and in service to your people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Response**

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ’s vulnerability in his life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own life’s journey.

And know that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Glory to God! Amen.**

**\*Sharing Signs of Love and Peace**

**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;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \*Invitation to Holy Communion

Rev. Barbara Duke

## \*Holy Communion

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.**

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 and the institution  
of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:*

By your Spirit open us to each other. Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

**Amen.**

## 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.*

Loving Lord,

You have looked upon us with love and said, “You are welcome at my table.”

Thank you for creating a place where we need not be perfect, we need not be sure of ourselves or our faith, and we need not feel whole and right with the world.

Send us out to share that same grace and compassion with others.

In the name of the One who accepts us and transforms us.  
Amen.

**Call to Action**

Natalie Cooper

*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**

*I Am Thine, O Lord*

The United Methodist Hymnal 419, vs. 1, 3, & 4

**\*Blessing**

“A Blessing for When You're in Grief”

Blessed are you, dear, dear one,  
doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered.

Of grieving what has been lost.

Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known.

This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass  
from the world around you, a force field of different realities  
separating you.

Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen  
by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now.

Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you,  
gathering you up into the arms of love.

Rest now, dear one.

You are not alone.

**\*Benediction**

Lauren Broussard LeBoeuf

**\*Postlude**

**FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar are from Gray and Suzanne Sexton in memory of Gray's mother, Valentine Sexton, who was a lifetime member of Pineville United Methodist Church for 70 years.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Most Liturgy written by Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/) goodenough; used and adapted with permission.

“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

“A Blessing for When You're in Grief” from *Good Enough: 40-ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

# Announcements

## GUEST PREACHER AND COMMUNION SUPPORT

Today we welcome Lauren Broussard LeBoeuf as our guest preacher while Pastor Lane is serving on the mission team to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans. Lauren is a seminary student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and a candidate for ordained ministry. While working towards her Master of Divinity, she serves as the Coordinator of Welcome and Engagement at University UMC.

We thank Rev. Barbara Duke for presiding at the communion table today while Pastor Lane is on the mission to St. Marks UMC.

## TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE WORKDAYS

There are two, yes two, opportunities to participate in a Trustee workday in the next few weeks. The goal is to spruce up the St John's campus before Holy Week. We will be focusing on window and outside eave cleaning, light bulb replacement and general outdoor clean up. You are encouraged to pick **ONE** of the dates and come and help prep for Easter.

Day 1: **Friday March 22 from 8:30 – 11:30**

Work around the FLC and Admin Building

Day 2: **Saturday Mar 23 from 8:30 – 11:30**

Work around the Sanctuary and Narthex (St. John's is a voting precinct and will be hosting an election in the FLC on Saturday, so we will not work in that area)

## GOOD GRIEF, ST. JOHN'S!

The fellowship and grief support group, Good Grief, St. John's! will meet on **Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Founders' Parlor. If you would like more information about this grief support and fellowship group, please call Susan Johnston at 225-773-9563.

## EASTER LILIES

We will be ordering lilies to adorn the sanctuary and narthex on Easter Sunday, March 31. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or dedicate it to the glory of God, there are several ways you can place your order: online at [stjohnsbr.org/lilies-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/lilies-2024), complete a form found in the church office or narthex, call the office (225-766-4594), or send an email ([office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)). The cost of lilies is rising so this year they will be \$25. You may pay by check or online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give), under Other>Sub Fund. Deadline is Monday, March 25.

## SEEKING SUMMER INTERN APPLICANTS

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Intern positions! There are two different positions available: one youth ministry intern and one children's ministry intern. Youth ministry involves working closely with students in 6th - 12th grades while children's ministry involves working closely with students in 5th grade and younger. Each internship spans 13-weeks throughout the summer, with the expectation of working at least 20 hrs each week -- including Sunday mornings from 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. These positions are designed for young adults who have a passion for ministry with youth and/or may be exploring a call to ministry by providing an opportunity to lead young believers in their spiritual formation through dynamic programming. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable ministry and leadership experience!

We are looking for people who have a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome.

Each intern will receive \$2,000, to be paid semi-monthly (15th & 30th of each month) during the 13-week internship.

Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to [jobs@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:jobs@stjohnsbr.org) by April 15, 2024.



# *Palm Sunday*

## **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP, MARCH 24, 8:30 & 11 A.M.**

Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and into our hearts. Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Palm Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services.

## **UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE**

The United Women in Faith of St. John's is sponsoring a Craft and Bake Sale on **Palm Sunday, March 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** or until we sell out of merchandise. There will be wonderful crafts and delicious Easter goodies to bring home or share with others. Proceeds from the sale go to UWF missions and projects.

## **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

This year we are celebrating **Palm Sunday** in an extra special way. From **4 - 5:30 p.m.**, we will be hosting our annual children's Easter event. We are so excited to welcome the children and families at St. John's and in our community -- we hope you will be able to serve in this wonderful, fun ministry.

# *Holy Week Worship*

## **Maundy Thursday Worship, March 28, 6:30 p.m.**

In this special service of worship, we will commemorate the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples. We get a seat at the table, to the meal in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what "blessing" really means, as we share in prayer, reflection, and Holy Communion.

## **Good (Enough) Friday Worship, March 29, 5 p.m.**

Our Good (Enough) Friday worship service will be a Service of Tenebrae. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." This service, based on a 12th century tradition, invites us to reflect on the passion of Christ through scripture readings, prayers, and music. During the service, we will hear the story of the trial, sentencing, execution, death, and burial of Jesus, and depart in silence.

**NOTE:** Childcare will be available **UPON REQUEST** for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Contact Connor Dean ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)).

# Help Needed For Eggstravaganza

This year we are celebrating Palm Sunday in an extra special way. We will be hosting our annual children's Easter event on **Sunday, March 24 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** This event will be similar to last year's Bunny Breakfast, but on a Sunday afternoon rather than a Saturday morning. We are so excited to welcome the children and families at St. John's and in our community -- but we need your help.

*Here are a few ways you can serve*

**Donate candy & other supplies:** We are asking for generic donations of plastic Easter eggs, fine-tip permanent markers, small prizes for games, and nut-free, individually-wrapped candy. You can also donate more specific supplies from our Amazon wish list by going to [stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist](http://stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist).

## **Monetary Donations:**

- **Cash/Check:** You can make monetary donations on Sunday in the collection plate or by mailing or delivering a check or cash to the church office. Checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with "Easter Event" on the memo line.
- **Card/Online:** You can also send a monetary donation online. Visit [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give). For "Fund", select "Family Events" in the drop-down menu. Please include "Easter Event" in the notes section. Then enter and submit the amount you would like to contribute.

**Volunteers Needed:** In addition to the supplies needed for this event, we also need at least 30 volunteers to help ensure everything runs smoothly with our various craft and activity stations as well as the Easter egg hunt. Go to [stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers](http://stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers) to sign up your Sunday School class, Bible study, covenant group, or as an individual to work an activity booth for the Eggstravaganza on Sunday, March 24.

Volunteers will need to meet at the FLC at **3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24** to receive instructions on the activity they will be running. Activity booths will run on March 24 from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. For some activities, supplies will be provided. For others, the group will need to provide materials. Please read carefully on the activity you sign up for.

# Youth & Children's Ministries

## CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONALS

**Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 & 11 a.m.** Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Palm Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

**Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:30 & 11 a.m.** The children and young at heart will process with flowers to decorate the cross at the altar. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

## YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER

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

**Third Wednesdays:** Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Wednesday Night Live*. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) if you did not receive one.

## C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

**March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

**April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** We hope to have a park playdate at Highland Road Community Park on Sunday, April 28 -- pending good weather!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are already starting to plan some of our summer programs for St. John's children and youth. We are looking forward to hosting VBS again this year! **This 5-day program will run from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024.** SAVE THE DATES!

More will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. Check the Sunday bulletin and our Tuesday and Friday newsletters for upcoming information.

## CAMP ISTROUMA SUMMER 2024

Summer overnight camp dates have been announced for Camp Istrouma, 25975 Greenwell Springs Rd. There is a Day Camp option for 1st - 5th grades each week.

Discovering God (3rd - 5th grades): May 27-May 31, June 10 - June 14, June 24 - June 28, July 15 - July 19.

Pathfinders (6th - 8th grades): June 3 - June 7, June 17 - June 21, July 8 - July 12, July 22 - July 26.

Senior Sunrise (9th - 12th grades): July 1 - July 5.

For general and registration information, please call 225-261-2089 or go to [campistrouma.com](http://campistrouma.com).

# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, March 17**

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, March 18**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' 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, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Tuesday, March 19**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief, St. John's! Fellowship, Founders' Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, March 20**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

## **Thursday, March 21**

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

## **Friday, March 22**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

## **Saturday, March 23**

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

\*Family Life Center