



*Sunday, November 17, 2024*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Today we are excited to welcome Tori Lambert home to preach. She will share about Hannah, whose story has room for both gratitude as well as grief. As we approach the holiday season, we too may feel a mixture of emotions. Hannah's story reminds us that there is room in life for both. Welcome to worship!

***Welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church.***

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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  
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[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

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Cheryl Roubique  
*Nursery Coordinator*

# The Celebration of the Gospel

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.  
Bold indicates congregational response.*

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Songs of Praise

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2193 (2x)

*Do, Lord, Remember Me*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 527, vs 1 & 2

## \*Call to Worship

Beth Forester

God of possibilities, fill us with your hope and faithfulness.

**Listen to us as we pour out our souls before you.**

We come with both our gratitude and our grief -  
our joys and our sorrows.

**Live in us, that we may arise with hope and walk in your peace.**

There is no love as great as the love God offers today  
and all days.

**Let a double portion of God's love flow through us!**

## \*Sung Response

*All I Need Is You*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2080, vs 1

## Children's Moment

Connor Dean

## Prayer

Tori Lambert

**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

1 Samuel 1:4-20

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

Tori Lambert

**\*Hymn**

*Lean on Me*  
Words and music by Bill Withers

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

**Responsive Reflection**

Pastor Lane

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

**We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach  
the end without delay.**

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

**We are impatient of being on the way to something  
unknown, something new.**

And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability —  
**and that it may take a very long time.**

And so I think it is with you;  
your ideas mature gradually — let them grow,  
**let them shape themselves, without undue haste.**

Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
*(that is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own good will)*  
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.

**Above all, trust in the slow work of God.**

**Anthem**

*In Christ Alone*  
By Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

Alleluia Ringers

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*  
Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski  
Alleluia Ringers

*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 God's Table

*To prepare for Holy Communion, we recall the story of the Last Supper and the pastor invokes the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

## 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, 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

Beth Forester

**Eternal God,**

**We give you thanks for this holy mystery in  
which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world  
guided by your Spirit of unity and peace**

**to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

*Stand By Me*

The United Methodist Hymnal 512, vs 1 - 3

## \*Blessing and Sending Forth

## \*Postlude

# *Worship Notes*

The flowers on the altar are given by Rev. Marie Williams in honor of Rev. Sarah Williams Shoup's 44th birthday. Happy birthday, Sarah!

Responsive Reflection is a prayer by Teilhard de Chardin, circa 1915.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Phil and Jill Slicker.

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

# Announcements

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of November 15, we have received 88 pledges totaling \$495,335. We celebrate 43 households have increased their pledges and we welcome 12 new first-time pledging households. If you haven't turned in a pledge for 2025, please complete your pledge online ([stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025)) or with a printed pledge card (available in the Office and Narthex) as soon as possible. Our aspirational budget for 2025 is \$687,102.

We know that circumstances change, including personal finances, and so Pledges do not automatically renew each year. Please complete a new pledge annually. If you have your pledge set up as a recurring gift through the online system, please make sure to log in and enter your new 2025 pledge with a new start and end date for next year. If you would like to adjust the amount of your 2025 pledge and keep your recurring gift active without logging in, email LeAnn Davis at [leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org) with instructions and she can make the change for you. Just make sure to let her know if you want to cover the processing fee.

## MEMBERSHIP ROLLS UPDATE

In January 2025, when the church reports its annual 2024 statistics to the Louisiana Conference, we are to report the results of a membership audit. We are in the process of going over our membership roll to remove those who might have moved to another church or another city and/or state. The initial list that we come up with will be published in the November 19 *Inside St. John's* newsletter. If you believe a name is being removed in error, please contact the church office with information by December 3 ([office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)). The Church Council will vote on the membership update at their December 5 meeting.

*If you are not currently receiving the weekly Inside St. John's newsletter which is sent on Tuesdays, please email Lynn Cooper at [office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org) to be added. In addition to having announcements of upcoming church programming, Inside St. John's also includes the Prayer List, birthdays and anniversaries of church members, links to our most recent worship services online, and other timely highlights.*

## COFFEE TIME SNACKS

If your last name begins with **D - G**, **Sunday, November 24** 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.***

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Finance Committee will meet today, **Sunday, November 17 at 4 p.m.** in the Library.

Trustees will meet **Tuesday, November 19 at 4 p.m.** in the Library.

The Church Council will meet **Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Library.

Good Grief, St. John's will meet **Tuesday, November 19 at 5:30** in the Founders' Parlor.

## HOLIDAY SUPERSTORE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

This year's shopping day for the Holiday Superstore will be on **Monday, November 25** at the Target on Siegen Lane; plan to meet at **8 a.m. at the entrance on the far right.**

For those of you who have not been involved before, the Holiday Superstore is an Opening Doors program that targets the children of the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center located in the Gardere area. During the year, parents earn points by following guidelines to get them involved in their children's education, these points are translated into a dollar amount and volunteers from St. John's do the shopping for the gifts. The money is budgeted by Opening Doors so there is no cost to you as the shopper.

If you would like to help by making a monetary donation you may write a check to St. John's with Superstore in the memo line or go to [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give) and click on General Budget. In the drop-down category list click on Holiday Superstore - Opening Doors. If you would like more information about this mission, email Marilyn Damberg ([marilyndamberg@mac.com](mailto:marilyndamberg@mac.com)) or phone/text at 225-335-3321.

# Advent & Christmas With St. John's

## PRE-ADVENT HELP NEEDED

We will take all our Advent and Christmas decorations out of storage immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service on November 24. Please stick around following the service or return at Noon to help for a few minutes. Many hands will make the work light and joyous. When you arrive for worship on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, the sanctuary and narthex will be adorned for the season. Can you spare 15 minutes of your time on November 24 to help usher in the Advent season?

## JOY FEST - SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on **Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m.** for an afternoon of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire -- there will be a prize for best-dressed child, youth & adult! The food for our time together will be a snack supper, so bring a finger food item to share. We will host a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and karaoke-style Christmas carol singing. We may even get a visit from a certain bearded and jolly special guest...We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

## GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The 14th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 14** and takes place in the church parking lot. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - you are asked to arrive by 7 a.m.

Volunteers are also needed **Friday, December 13** in the FLC for setup and staging as everything, including turkeys, will be delivered on Friday sometime between 1 and 2 p.m. We will be staging the various areas and bagging items that go along with the turkeys so there will be plenty of work.

If you cannot volunteer but would like to help out with a monetary gift, a donation of \$25 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Your gift can be made to St John's by check with Turkey Giveaway in the memo line, on Sunday in an offering envelope marked with your name and Turkey Giveaway, or online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give).

## CRAFT & BAKE SALE

If you have craft & baked items that you might want to donate to the United Women in Faith's Craft & Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 15**, please contact Deborah Cross-Young at 225-281-9470. This very worthy cause raises funds for local missions supported by UWF Circle of the Heart.

## THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 22

We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to attend our Longest Night worship service, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance. Join us **Sunday, December 22 at 5 p.m.**

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TUESDAY DECEMBER 24

**NATIVITY SERVICE:** This year, our family-oriented Christmas Eve Nativity service will be held at **4 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. During the service, children will process in to make up different parts of the nativity scene. Be looking for more information in Sunday bulletins and our 2 weekly e-newsletters.

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Our evening service is a traditional Christmas Eve service at **6 p.m.** with carols, Holy Communion, and *Silent Night* by candlelight. Join us for a time of worship, community, and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

## ONE SERVICE DECEMBER 29

We will have one worship service **Sunday, December 29 at 10 a.m.** We will still be singing Christmas songs so come wind down with us after your busy Christmas season.

# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, November 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

## **Monday, November 18**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. UWF Budget Meeting, 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, November 19**

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Gardere Youth Program, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, November 20**

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

## **Thursday, November 21**

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

## **Friday, November 22**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

## **Saturday, November 23**

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

# *Upcoming Children's & Youth Events*

## **MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee is inviting members of families with youth and children to a meeting on **Wednesday, November 20 at 6 p.m.** to discuss our next steps for the leadership of our children and youth ministries. Supper will be served at 7 p.m.; please RSVP to Beth LaCour (beth\_lacour@att.net) with the number in your household attending the meeting and staying for the meal.

Youth will be at Wednesday Night Live, but if anyone needs child care for children under 6th grade, please contact Beth by November 18

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE NOVEMBER 20**

This month's Wednesday Night Live will be on **November 20, 6 - 7:30 p.m.** During the last 30 minutes of WNL, Pastor Lane and members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee will visit with students about their hopes and dreams about the Youth group. Youth will meet in the Upstairs Café for dinner and a fellowship activity.

## **YOUTH ST. MARK'S MISSION**

The St. John's youth group is planning a mission trip to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans on **Sunday, November 24**. Our mission team will serve meals to those experiencing homelessness and hunger in the French Quarter. Adult volunteers are welcome to join as well! Please email Connor for more information (connordean@stjohnsbr.org)

## **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BROADMOOR UMC**

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Youth Christmas Party for UMC youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 15 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** in their gym/contemporary worship center. Students should bring a gift costing no more than \$10 for the gift exchange activity. Dinner will be provided. REMEMBER: It is a Christmas PJ Party, so be sure to wear your coziest pajamas. Bonus points if your pajamas are Christmas-themed!

## **MUSIC MAKERS WILL MEET TODAY**

Music makers will meet this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth in grades K - 12 are invited to this fun, musical experience with Dr. Steve.