



Embracing the
“Good Enough”
of life & faith

Sunday, February 18, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship on this first Sunday of Lent, as we begin a new series called Embracing the “Good Enough.” What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be more special, more shiny, more... than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy – “as is”? Where do we find satisfaction - our best life, is right here with us, what we have right now, searching for contentment - even here, even now, God is with us? We'll ponder these questions today in worship. We're so glad you're here.

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

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Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

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

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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

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Arranged by Jason Krug

Alleluia Ringers

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Song

Good Enough
Terry Byars, soloist

Prayer

Kathy King

Holy One,
Our refuge and shelter,
we call out to you...
sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress.
Whether we perceive it or not, you are there.
Open us this day to your presence...
in the smile of a friend, in the song of a bird,
and in the simple and “good enough” moments
that fill our days.
Amen.

*Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See
The United Methodist Hymnal 454, vs. 1 - 3

Children’s Message

Pastor Lane

Prayer

Kathy King

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

Matthew 4:1-11

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

“Holy in the Everyday”

*Hymn

How Firm a Foundation
The United Methodist Hymnal 529, vs. 1, 2, & 5

*Prayer

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.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Immortal Invisible*
Arranged by R. Lyndel Littleton
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.*



*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

Christ looks upon each one with love and says,
“You are welcome at my table.”

Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,
“Whatever troubles you, bring it here.”

Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,
“Whatever you’d like to leave behind, do it here.”

So come to this table that’s full of love, compassion and grace.
You are welcome.

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.

Prayer

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

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**

Near to the Heart of God
The United Methodist Hymnal 472, vs. 1 & 3

***Benediction**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the ordinary parts, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

***Postlude**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Arranged by Bill Ingram

Alleluia Ringers

*The end of worship.
The beginning of service.*

Worship Notes

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Clara Maynard in honor of her husband, Scott.

USHERS

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

COFFEE TIME

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

All liturgy and leader parts by Marcia McFee © 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 a Joyfully Mediocre Journey” from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

Announcements

TODAY - ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP

The St. John's Writers' Group will meet in person this afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Founders' Parlor. Anyone who enjoys writing - poetry, fiction, drama, essays, or any other genre - is invited to attend. You will find a place where ideas can be shared, new pieces tested, and friendly back-up provided.

TODAY - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) OVERVIEW

On **February 18**, right after Coffee Time, for those who are interested, we will have a brief session to get familiar with the AEDs that were installed last year. The 15 minute session will start at 9:45 in the FLC.

TRUSTEES MEETING

There will be a Trustees Meeting on **Tuesday, February 20 at 4 p.m.** Trustees will gather in the Library prior to doing a full campus walk through.

GOOD GRIEF FELLOWSHIP

The Good Grief, St. John's! Fellowship will be getting together at George's on Highland Rd. **Tuesday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m.** If you would like more information about this grief support and fellowship group, please call Susan Johnston at 225-773-9563.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2024 is now available in the hallway of the Edu/Admin Building. There is almost a blank slate for you to choose a date to honor or remember a loved one, friend, or group. Sign up now to keep the beautiful flower arrangements on the altar.

Worship

LENT WORSHIP SERIES "EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH"

Join us on a Lenten journey where we will discover what it means to know that we are "good enough," where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that's ok. What if we stopped striving for unattainable ideals and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives. The series begins on **Sunday, February 18** with a message from Pastor Lane.

We will use the book *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche, as the companion for our Lent worship series. Each week we will highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* and then you can move through the devotions on your own simply as you feel led.

There is a leader guide that was sent to small group leaders who may be interested in using the book during Lent in their classes. For those who have elected to read the devotions on a daily basis, there is a copy of a suggested reading list in the Narthex and in the hallway of the Admin/Edu Building.

Servanthood

YOUTH MEALS NEEDED

Help is needed to feed our Youth once a month! Yes, it is only for the third Wednesday of each month for 8 - 10 people. ***The meal can be as simple as picking up several pizzas, a party pack from Taco Bell, or a couple of family meals from KFC.*** Of course, you can bring a home-cooked meal as well. The meal should be brought to the Admin Building between 5:45 and 6 p.m. Sign up to help at stjohnsbr.org/YouthMeals. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) for more information.

COFFEE TIME NEWS!

A big thank you goes to all of you who continue to donate goodies for Coffee Time so faithfully! In January, the Genesis Sunday School class provided for us, with United Women in Faith taking one Sunday. For February, the Seekers Sunday School class has volunteered, and the Connections class has been scheduled for April! Thank you!

This means that March and May (and beyond!) are still available! You can sign up as a Sunday School class (or combined classes) or individually. Everything is welcome! You can sign up online at stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time or click on the QR code.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

We look forward to hosting VBS again this year! This 5-day program will run from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024. More information will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. For the time being, mark your calendars!

LSU WESLEY CENTER

Tuesday Night Meal and or Devotion. The LSU Wesley Center is asking for our help in providing a meal and or devotion on a Tuesday night. It would be served after their prayer service to a group of 8 - 10 students. It could be a home cooked meal or a bought meal (tacos, pizza, etc.). They ask that there be a vegetarian and a gluten free option. To sign up go to signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#/.

Wesley Center Campus Work Day. The Wesley Foundation at LSU will have a workday on **Saturday February 24 from 8 a.m. -12 p.m.** at 333 E. Chimes St. Work items include repairing and repainting the deck, yard work, washing windows, and repairing picnic tables. Donuts and lunch will be provided for volunteers. For more information or to RSVP contact Susan Lambert at 225-938-7235.

Youth & Children's Ministries

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!

February 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Bring your leftover Mardi Gras beads and join us for a craft night using upcycled beads! Dinner will be included.

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. Save the date for this event... More info coming soon!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 18

- 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. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Overview, FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Writers' Group, Founders' Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room

Monday, February 19

- 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, February 20

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 4:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Campus & Library
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief St. John's Fellowship, George's on Highland
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, February 21

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

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 23

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

Saturday, February 24

- 8:00 a.m. Giving Quilts Sewalong, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center