



seeking: Who sinned?

Sunday, March 19, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

When Jesus and the disciples encounter a blind man along the way, the disciples immediately ask, “Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:2). They ask a question, filled with assumptions that could lead to harm. Unfortunately, the crowd continues to interrogate the man and dissect the miracle of his healing. This week, let us pay attention to the questions we ask. What assumptions do we carry? What is our intent? When seeking clarity or understanding, what are better questions we can ask?

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the bulletin) 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. If you are feeling cold, shawls are available in a basket in front of the media desk in the back of the sanctuary. 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 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.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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seeking community

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



Prelude

Meditation on Beautiful Savior
Arranged by Cathy Mohlebust

Alleluia Ringers

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

Shine, Jesus, Shine
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2173, vs. 1

*Call to Worship

Sandra Kuykendall

Scripture is full of questions...

Where are you?

Am I my brother's keeper?

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

Who sinned?

How many times shall I forgive?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures,
may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.

**Let us get on with the work of Christ, who is the light
of the world!**

seeking insight

*Song of Praise

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 349

Children's Message

Sarah Prevot

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

Gracious God,

You created us in your image,
gave us eyes to see and ears to hear.

Open our eyes so that we might more fully see
your presence among us, moving in our midst.

Open our ears so that we might hear
what you have to say to us this day.

**Grant us the power and the courage to come out
of the darkness and into the light of Christ,
so that we may serve you by serving others. Amen.**

Scripture

John 9:1-15

Pastor Lane

Response to the Word

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.

Message

“Who Sinned?”

Pastor Lane

seeking wholeness

Anthem

What Wondrous Love Is This
Arranged by Arnold Sherman

Alleluia Ringers

***Call to Confession**

Pastor Lane

In today's text, the disciples ask Jesus, "Who sinned?"
They want to know who around them could be blamed for suffering.
The disciples want to identify who around them had done wrong.
In the prayer of confession, we stop pointing fingers at others.
In confession, we turn our attention toward ourselves and invite God
into that honest and vulnerable space.
So do this counter-cultural thing with me today.
Let us pray together the Prayer of Confession.

***Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness**

Who here has sinned?
We have all sinned. We put our heads in the sand.
We ignore people in need.
We make false assumptions and fail to be kind.
We are in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish,
hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps.

When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

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

seeking gratitude

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Hymn of Promise
by Natalie Sleeth
Performed by 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

Holy Ground
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2272

**We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

seeking grace

*Invitation to the Feast

Friends, if your seeking has led you here,
if your weary heart followed breadcrumbs all the way to this sanctuary,
then I have good news:

you do not have to seek anymore.

The One you seek welcomes you.

The grace you seek will be given.

This is Christ's table.

We are the guests.

He is the host.

There is a seat here with your name on it.

So kick off your walking shoes.

Let your weary heart rest.

We are standing on holy ground.

All are invited. All are loved.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

*Celebration at the Table

Consecration and Blessing

Let us pray.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and cup.

May this meal be the nourishment we need to continue seeking you
in the world.

Use your Holy Spirit to make us one with Christ and one with each other, so we can care for the world until Christ comes again and we all join around his table as family in perfect love.

We also pray for conviction.

Do not let us get comfortable with half-hearted seeking.

Do not let us grow numb to the suffering of this world.

Make us persistent in our pursuit of justice,

in our consoling of the grieving,

in our welcoming of the stranger,

and in the feeding of the hungry.

Until your promised day, we will seek.

The Lord's Prayer

Until your promised day, we will pray, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

***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. The bread will be dipped in the grape juice and handed to you. Or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.

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 an usher know and someone will gladly bring communion to you.

Gratitude Prayer

Sandra Kuykendall

**God of manna and mustard seeds,
we came to this table hungry and we leave feeling full -
full of hope,
full of promise,
full of what could be.**

**Thank you for nourishing our curiosity
alongside our spirit and our conviction.**

May we always seek you the way you seek after us.

With grateful hearts we pray, amen.

may God bless you in your seeking

Call to Action

Pastor Lane

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 of Discipleship

Open My Eyes, That I May See

The United Methodist Hymnal 454, vs. 1 & 3

*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful.

Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God,

who is always seeking us, go now in peace.

Amen.

*Postlude

worship notes

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are in honor of Pat Cobb on her birthday (March 16), for all she does for St. John's, and especially for her love of flowers that shows in the beautiful arrangements she does for us.

USHERS

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

COFFEE TIME

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

LITURGY AND PRAYERS

Most of our liturgy and prayers were written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

announcements

TODAY - UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH GENERAL MEETING

The UWF will hold their General Meeting on **Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m.** in the Parlor. Guest speaker will be Courtney Murphy, Statewide Development Officer for Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. All women are invited to attend. Courtney usually has OWL salsas and jellies with her that are for purchase.

TODAY - MANNA MISSION MEAL POTLUCK

Join us for a food, fun, and fellowship event today, **March 19 at 5 p.m.!** We will meet in the FLC at 5 p.m. for a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share. Following the meal youth will lead us in packing manna bags in an assembly-line style.

UWF CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

The United Women in Faith of St. John's is once again sponsoring a Craft and Bake Sale on Palm Sunday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. There will be wonderful crafts and delicious Eater goodies to bring home or share with others. Proceeds from the sale go to UWF missions and projects.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE!

If you love to bake or you have a craft you love to do, please consider donating to the upcoming United Women in Faith Spring Bake and Craft Sale. Contact Liz McDonald at 318-542-9272 if you will be able to donate a craft or bake goods.

NEW PROGRAM ABOUT GRIEF

Taking Steps in Loss and Life is an 8-week grief support program that will begin **Tuesday, March 21, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Dee Muenzler, who recently received her certification as a Grief Educator, will facilitate the sessions. All who are experiencing grief are invited to meet with others to share their experience. To register text Dee at 225-933-1668 or send an email to deemuenzler@gmail.com. Cost of the program is \$20 (scholarships are available). You may pay online at [stjohnsbr.org/Give Now](http://stjohnsbr.org/GiveNow). Use the *Fund* drop down menu and choose *SS Classes and Small Groups*, under *Sub Fund* choose *Grief Program*. Checks written to St. John's UMC should have Grief Group in the memo line or on the cash envelope. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 16.

FOOD FOR COFFEE TIME

The Food, Fun, and Fellowship team is looking for volunteers to provide snacks for Coffee Time on Sundays. Sign up for several Sundays as a group – Sunday School class, church committee, or just a few friends! Sign up to celebrate a birthday or an anniversary! See more details and get on the schedule by going to <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeTimeSignup>.

“GOOD GRIEF! ST. JOHN'S” OUTING

The Good Grief! Group is a fellowship for anyone who is dealing with grief. We meet once a month in the church parlor from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The purpose of this group is to provide a place of ongoing support and fellowship. It is not a set grief counseling program such as “GriefShare” or “Taking Steps in Loss & Grief.” Rather we have a very informal format designed to provide open discussion on a wide variety of appropriate topics. Generally we have a ‘focus’ question to get the discussion started but the format is casual. Once a quarter the group meets at a local restaurant to gather for fellowship and a meal. **Tuesday, March 21** we will gather (Dutch treat) at **George's Southside, 8905 Highland Rd. at 5:30 p.m.** Next month our meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor. Should you need any more information please contact Susan Johnston at 225-773-9563.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a regularly scheduled Church Council meeting on **Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library. A portion of the meeting will be a called Charge Conference to approve the pastor's compensation, that is already in place, to meet the strict interpretation of The Book of Discipline. As with all Church Council meetings, this is an open meeting and all members are invited to attend.

BUNNY BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT

On **Saturday, April 1**, St. John's will host an Easter event for families with children at St. John's and our neighbors from The Shepherd's Market. Join us for pancakes, faith-filled crafts, face painting, an egg hunt, and pictures with the Easter bunny.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our greatest need is for people to run activity stations. **The stations are already planned and materials are provided!** (except for the Cupcake Walk).

Activity/Game Volunteers should arrive by 8:50 a.m. Activity stations will run from 9 - 10:15 a.m. All you need to do is show up and help us out. *You will be free to go around 10:15 a.m.*

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITY STATIONS STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS:

Easter Story Plate (Needs 4 volunteers)

A craft that tells the Easter story through pictures and scripture cut-outs.

Supplies provided.

Slap Bracelets Station (Needs 2 volunteers) - See sample in Narthex.

Kids color in Easter-themed slap bracelets. Supplies provided.

Cupcake Walk (Needs 4 volunteers; Need 24 cupcakes)

Similar to a cake walk. Children will walk around numbered eggs (taped to the ground) until told to stop. Then a number is drawn, and the child standing next to that number gets a cupcake. Volunteer group will need to provide 24 cupcakes and music.

Resurrection Hand Print Craft (Needs 4 volunteers) - See sample in Narthex

Involves cutting, gluing & painting. a little more adult oversight required

Basket Bonanza Game (Needs 6 volunteers)

A game where kids toss ping pong balls into different Easter baskets to win prizes.

There will be 2 lines of baskets running at the same time. Supplies and prizes provided.

Easter Bunny Photo Booth Helper (Needs 1-2 volunteers)

To help manage the line for the photo booth.

If you don't have a particular booth that you would like to volunteer for, please put your name in the "No Preference" row in the Signup Genius. If you select this option, you will be placed where there is a need left unmet.

We are signing up Volunteers through a simple online form called **Sign Up Genius**.^{*} You can get to the Sign Up Genius by scanning this QR Code or by going online to: tinyurl.com/BunnyBreakfastSignup. Groups of friends, your Sunday School class, Bible Study, or covenant group as well as Individuals are welcome to sign up and help!



***NOTE:** If you had difficulty last Sunday trying to sign up for activity stations, please try again. **The Signup Genius form has been updated.** You can now sign up either as an individual or as a group. If signing up as a group, select the number of people in your group in the drop down menu under "Quantity". If you continue to have an issue using the Signup Genius, please reach out to Connor (connordean@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594). She will be happy to assist you!

HELP WITH YOUTH MINISTRY

If you have a passion to work with young people or are just looking for more ways to get involved at St. John's, consider signing up as an adult volunteer with our youth group. To ensure the safety of our young people, St. John's requires at least two adults be present to oversee all events involving youth and/or children. Volunteers essentially serve as a secondary adult to help supervise these activities. Remember - you don't have to have a child in youth group to volunteer. Email Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) to sign up or if you have any questions. You may also sign up online at tinyurl.com/jumcyouthsignup.

this week at a glance

Sunday, March 19

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. UWF General Meeting, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Manna Mission Meal, FLC**
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells' Room

NOTE: No Music Makers Today

Monday, March 20

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 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, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, March 21

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. New Grief Program, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief! St. John's, George's
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, March 22

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer
- 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary Open for Prayer
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

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

Saturday, March 25

- 7:00 a.m. Election Polling Site, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center



seeking sanctuary?

Our sanctuary is open for reflection and prayer
every Wednesday in Lent.

NOON - 1PM | 5PM - 6PM