

# World Communion

## SUNDAY



Sunday, October 1, 2023

**8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

Today we will celebrate our oneness in Christ with our Christian siblings around the world as we observe World Communion Sunday.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

*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.*



# 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

---

*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  
*Lead Pastor*  
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean  
*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing  
*Choir Director*  
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler  
*Media Producer*  
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique  
*Nursery Coordinator*

Gabe Guillory  
*Youth Intern*  
youth@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis  
*Manager of Finance & Facilities*  
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Brooklyn Hays  
*Nursery Worker*

# WELCOME TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

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



## GATHERING

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

\*Song of Praise

*The Trees of the Field (2x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2279

\*Call to Worship

Rev. Bernie Johnson

*Adapted from Isaiah 55*

From north and south and east and west,  
**all Creation sings forth your praises!**  
The mountains and the hills burst into song;  
**the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**  
Your steadfast love never ceases.  
**With joy and peace, let us worship God together.**

Opening Prayer

Gabe Guillory

*From Bangladesh*

O Savior Christ,  
in whose way of life lies the secret of all life,  
and the hopes of all people,  
we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.  
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.  
But let its problems challenge us, its discoveries exhilarate us,  
its injustices anger us, its possibilities inspire us,  
and its vigor renew us, for your Kingdom's sake. Amen.

## REFLECTING

Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

## Prayers and Candle Lighting for Our Community

Jane Walker,  
Shawn Walker

### **The First Candle**

*For those without a home*

### **The Second Candle**

*For those who work in government*

### **The Third Candle**

*For educators, mentors, and community builders*

### **The Fourth Candle**

*For those experiencing hunger*

### **The Fifth Candle**

*For police, firefighters and first responders*

### **The Sixth Candle**

*For those who wage peace*

### **The Seventh Candle**

*For faith communities around the world*

## Ministry Moment

Highlights of 2023, video

## Prayer for Illumination

David Idikwu

## \*Scripture Reading

Luke 22:14-20

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.**

## Meditation

Pastor Lane

# RESPONDING

## \*Hymn of Faith

*One Bread, One Body*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 620

## Ministry Moment

Fall Fest, Connor Dean

## 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](https://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!**

## \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Bernie

*From South Africa*

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

**God forgive us.**

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

**God forgive us.**

For our failings in community, and our lack of understanding,

**We ask your mercy.**

For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we do not really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

**God forgive us and shower your mercy upon us.**

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Rev. Bernie

*From Lamentations 3:22-23*

Hear the Good News:

No valley is too despairing, broken, or deep for God to enter.

No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.

Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible.

**We are redeemed and remade by the Spirit of Life.**

In our brokenness and in our wholeness we are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## A Great Thanksgiving

**Come to the table of grace,**

**Come to the table of grace.**

**This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.**

**Come to the table of grace.**

## 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. 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.*

*From the Iona Community, Scotland*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have put your life into our hands;  
now we put our lives into yours.  
Take us, renew, and remake us.  
What we have been is past;  
what we shall be, through you,  
still awaits us.  
Lead us on.  
Take us with you.  
Amen.

## DEPARTING

### 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 of Discipleship

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 431

*During the singing of the hymn, we invite you to bring forward donations to The Shepherd's Market.*

### \*Benediction

*From the Christian Council of Asia*

Rev. Bernie

Go to bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim release to the captives,  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
and to let the oppressed go free.  
God go with you in all that is gentle.  
Christ go with you in all that is brave.  
And the Spirit go with you in all that is free.  
**We go in peace, to love and serve our God. Amen.**

### \*Postlude

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

# WORSHIP NOTES

## **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar are in honor of Pastor Lane, with love and appreciation for all she has done for us, from her church family here at St. John's.

## **USHERS**

Ushers for today's worship service are Susan Johnston and Bobbi Marino.

## **COFFEE TIME**

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our newly opened "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building. Read more about it in the Children & Youth Ministries announcements.

## **PRAYERS AND CANDLE LIGHTING FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Prayers and Candle Lighting for Our Community are adapted from the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge's Prayer Breakfast held September 14, 2023.



# Servanthood

## SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

Safe Sanctuaries training is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 4 at 6 p.m.** in the Parlor. All Children and Youth Sunday School teachers, parents who help volunteer with those programs, as well as our nursery workers need to attend this training annually. Please confirm your attendance with Connor (225-766-4594 or [connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)).

## ST MARK'S MISSION

St John's will return to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal on **Sunday, October 8**. We will need about eight volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal after the 10 a.m. service there. Our team will leave the parking lot of St John's on October 8 at 7:30 a.m. Two vehicles will be needed to provide transportation for the team and for the meal supplies. Please let Larry Norman know if you will be among the volunteers and/or can provide one of the vehicles. You may text or call Larry at 225-933-1881.

## FALL FEST 2023

St. John's is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community on **Sunday, October 22 from 4 - 6 p.m.** -- and we need your help! Fall Fest will be a community celebration involving activity stations, a trunk-or-treat, food, and an inflatable slide. We are so excited for this opportunity to engage more families in our area, but we need donations and volunteers to make sure Fall Fest runs smoothly.

If you would like to [sign up for trunk-or-treat or an activity station](#), please visit [stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-volunteers](http://stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-volunteers). If you would like to donate items for Fall Fest, [we are requesting nut-free, individually-wrapped candy and small prizes for games](#). You can find more specific donation requests on our [Amazon wish list](#) at [stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-wishlist](http://stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-wishlist). Thank you for supporting our family ministry events at St. John's!"

## SERVE ON THE FLOWER MINISTRY TEAM

Did you know that the flowers adorning our altar on Sunday mornings are transformed into bouquets that we share with those unable to enjoy them in person – our members who are home-centered, facility-bound, ill, hospitalized, suffering a loss, or are otherwise in need of a bit of cheer? We are seeking some servants for our flower ministry team. No prior floral arranging experience is required to serve. Team members serve on a rotating basis for a couple of hours a month. If you are interested in serving with the Flower Ministry Team, please contact Harriet Walters via text 225-620-5777 or email [harriet.walters@att.net](mailto:harriet.walters@att.net).

## MEALS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

Help us provide meals for the St. John's youth group for their evening fellowship on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month**. Students meet from 6-8 p.m.; meals should be delivered between 5:45 - 6 p.m. to the Admin Building. The meal should include an entree, side dish, and dessert for 8-10 people. You are welcome to bring a home-cooked meal or order fast food (pizza, chicken fingers, tacos, etc.). We will have drinks, plates, and cutlery. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: [tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals](http://tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals).



# Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

## LIFE TRANSITIONS

Join us for our new “Learning in Community” series where we are fed, inspired, and grow - as members and friends of St. John’s UMC lead us in occasional workshops based on a variety of topics.

Our first “Learning in Community” workshop is called Life Transitions and will be led by Jami Prince on **Saturday, October 7 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon** in the Family Life Center. Throughout life, we experience a number of changes and transitions. Join us as we explore a model for understanding change and ways to help make the most of these changes, as they invite us to grow as individuals and in our faith. If you are anticipating an upcoming change in your life, if you are in the midst of change, or if you are trying to make sense of a change that has already occurred in your life, you will find something helpful in this workshop. The session is based on the book *Transitions: Making Sense of Life’s Changes* by William Bridges. You do not need to read the book to attend, although it is available online. Please bring a notebook or journal for personal use.

Participants are asked to give a \$5 love offering. To make a gift online, please visit [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give). Select the “Other” Fund and the “Learning in the Community” series Sub Fund. Please register by October 4: [stjohnsbr.org/life-transitions](http://stjohnsbr.org/life-transitions).

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The UWF Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, October 3 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. Clara Maynard will present the program. All women are invited to attend.

# Worship & Music

## TODAY - PARLOR RENAMING AND DEDICATION

For 60 years, the Founders Sunday School class gathered in the church’s parlor for study and fellowship each Sunday morning. Among the class members were some of the founding and charter members of St. John’s. They have been pillars of our congregation for generations. Most of the class members have joined the communion of saints or are no longer able to attend. In honor of their legacy, the Board of Trustees has voted to rename the parlor the Founder’s Parlor. We will hold a brief Dedication and Renaming Ceremony on **Sunday, October 1 at 9:50 a.m.** We invite those who have been part of The Founder’s Sunday School class and their friends to join us for a five minute dedication and celebration in the newly named Founder’s Parlor.

## “CALLED TO COMMUNITY” 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN AND WORSHIP SERIES

Join us October 8 as we launch our 2024 Stewardship Campaign with a new worship series titled, “Called to Community,” in which we affirm the ways that we, here at St. John’s, are making a difference in our community and explore how God is calling us to invest even further in this place we call home. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that when our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness enable our community to thrive, we, as a church, will thrive, too.

Our campaign and series culminates on Sunday, October 29, Commitment Sunday, in which we will celebrate the pledges made to the St. John’s community in 2024. We will have one worship service that morning at 10 a.m. with a potluck luncheon to follow.

To accompany our series we invite you to use our daily reflection calendar for the month of October. Printed calendars are available in the Narthex and Church Office.

## **MEN'S CHORUS**

We are putting together a men's chorus to perform on **Sunday, October 29 in worship**. This is an open invitation for all men to come and sing. We will hold three rehearsals, Tuesday nights (October 10, 17, and 24) from 7 to 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. These rehearsals will prepare us to sing together on Commitment Sunday, which is October 29. We will have one worship service that day at 10 a.m. If you have any questions or would like to recommend some selections for the men to sing, please contact Steve Rushing at [stevenerushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenerushing@stjohnsbr.org)

## **TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS**

**Music Makers will resume today at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room** with Dr. Steve. If you missed their performance on September 24 (it was wonderful) you will have a chance to see and hear them on October 22. So, if you have a child in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade bring them to Music Makers so they can explore their faith through music..

# Children & Youth Ministries

## **FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.**

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

***Christ Here And Other Spaces***

## **SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

## **YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE**

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

# Charge Conference

St. John's will be hosting one of two Baton Rouge District Charge Conferences on **Sunday, October 15, 6 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. The Charge Conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the Church Council, but anyone can attend as an observer. Representatives from churches across the Baton Rouge district will gather in our sanctuary for this time of holy conferencing. The gathering will include a brief time of worship as well as the approval of each church's nominations report, clergy compensation, and candidates for ordained ministry, including a reaffirmation of St. John's own, Tori Lambert, as a candidate for ministry, and Natalie Cooper, as a Certified Lay Servant. We invite you to join us as we host area churches for this annual meeting.

# This Week at St. John's

## **Sunday, October 1**

### **GROCERY BAG SUNDAY**

- 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
- 9:50 a.m. Parlor Re-Naming and Dedication
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Room
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, October 2**

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

## **Tuesday, October 3**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Ruth Circle, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, October 4**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Safe Sanctuaries, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

## **Thursday, October 5**

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

## **Friday, October 6**

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

## **Saturday, October 7**

- 9:00 a.m. Life Transitions, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center