



# GRACE IN THE DEPTHS

A series on Jonah

Sunday, August 20, 2023

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

All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship! As we continue our “Grace in the Depths” worship series about Jonah, we see how the centering character of God is grace and it is relentless. It is God’s nature to love and to save. Come claim that love for yourself. We’re so glad you’re here.

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

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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. 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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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.*



## GRACE GATHERS US IN

### Prelude

### Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

### \*Songs of Praise

*He Has Made Me Glad*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2270

*All I Need Is you*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2080, vs. 1 - 3

### \*Call to Worship

Margaret Sprunger

The word of God came to Jonah...

**The word of God comes to us:**

Go...

**Despite your fears.**

Speak..

**the truth of God.**

Love...

**your neighbor and your enemy.**

Forgive...

**as you have been forgiven.**

Receive...

**grace upon grace,  
overflowing from the fullness of God.**

### \*Song of Response

*Grace Alone*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2162, refrain

# GRACE IN GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Sarah Prevot

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

God of New Life,

Speak to us in the rich, ancient words of scripture.  
Send us your Holy Spirit so that we will hear your call,  
leave behind our old ways,  
and follow Jesus Christ,  
your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Pastor Lane

Jonah 3:1-10

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.**

The Message

Pastor Lane

"God's Greatest Desire"

## SHARING IN MEANS OF GRACE

\*Hymn of Faith

*There Is a Balm In Gilead*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 375, vs. 1 & 2

Prayer of Confession

Margaret Sprunger

Merciful God,

We confess that there are days  
we just don't want to be your people.  
We don't want to love our neighbors.  
We don't want to give up our time.  
We don't want to put in the effort.  
We don't want to answer your call.  
Be patient with us, Lord.  
We'll come around, with your spirit  
to breathe new life into us,  
and your love to surround us,  
and your grace to forgive us.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Savior and friend.

Amen.

## Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Hear, O Children of God, this Good News:

No amount of avoiding or running can separate you from the love of God. God's steadfast love will pursue you to the end of time and the depths of the sea. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you by God's grace.

**Amen.**

## Ministry Moment

Music Ministries

Steve Rushing

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory

*More Love, More Power*

by Jude del Hierro

Natalie Cooper, vocalist

*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!**

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

Everyone has a place at this table!

**Everyone has a place at this table!**

So come to the table of grace!

**We come to be fed at God's table of grace.**

*Let's sing that affirmation together now...*

**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.**

Friends, God is ever present with you!

**And also with you!**

The peace of Christ is always with you!

**The peace of Christ is always with you!**

Turn to someone around you – or text this message to someone –  
and tell them this Good News:

“The peace of Christ is always with you!”

*Share words of peace with someone else.*

As close as breath, the Holy Living One is present with us.  
So we lift up our hearts and give thanks to God  
because it is the right thing to do – not only now, but always.

**For “always” is when God is with us.**

We thank you God for breathing into us the breath of life.

Even when we turn away, you remain with us.

When it seems that all hope is lost, your grace finds us.

When we are frightened, hesitant, still you are patient.

Time and again you reach out your hand to free us,  
for your promise is steadfast.

Claim God’s unconditional love for yourself!

**God loves me no matter what I *have ever done*,  
no matter what I *am doing*,  
no matter what I *will ever do*.**

Blessed is your Son, Jesus – Love Incarnate.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry,  
and sat down at the table to eat with those others  
considered “unworthy.”

He journeys with us now and invites us to his table of grace.

Let us remind ourselves by saying:

“The Lord is present with every one of us.”

**The Lord is present with every one of us.**

*You may be seated as we recall Jesus’ invitation to Holy Communion and  
the pastor invokes the present work 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. 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.*

### **Closing Prayer**

Margaret Sprunger

**Gracious God,**

**We have come today to see, and touch,  
and know your presence among us.**

**At your table, we have been fed spiritually and physically.**

**Send us into the world to share your grace with others,  
and to accept the grace that is offered to us,  
all in your holy name.**

**Amen.**

# PUTTING GRACE INTO ACTION

## 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

*Jesus Calls Us*

The United Methodist Hymnal 398, vs. 1, 4, & 5

## \*Benediction

## \*Postlude

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

## WORSHIP NOTES

### USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Jackie Creed and Maureen Robertson.

### FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

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

### 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.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Call to Worship was written by Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com.

### AUGUST WORSHIP SERIES

"Grace in the Depths: A Series on Jonah" - This August we take a deep dive into the story of Jonah and see just how far God's grace will go.

### INNER INSIGHTS: A SERIES ABOUT OUR MENTAL HEALTH

Scripture calls us to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our *mind*. Caring for our minds, therefore, is a spiritual practice. Our mental health matters to God and is part of caring for our whole selves. Our September worship series, "Inner Insights" invites us to see mental health as part of our faith life. Each week we will talk about the different ways that mental health struggles can present themselves and will offer insights from our faith about how to support ourselves and others. *This series about our mental health begins on September 3.*



# Worship & Music

## RINGING AND SINGING

The **Chancel Choir** which sings weekly at the 11 a.m. service, has resumed rehearsals on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the choir room. All are welcome to join us as we aspire to worthily magnify our Lord through song.

The **Alleluia Ringers** has resumed rehearsals on **Sundays at 6 p.m.** Ask any experienced bell ringer, counting is the only prerequisite for being a member. If you can count to eight and ring a bell, then you can join the Alleluia Ringers--we will teach you the rest.

For more information on either of these music-making opportunities please contact Steve Rushing at [stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org) or call 225-773-2589.

# Servanthood

## DAYS FOR GIRLS MISSION WORK DAYS

We are getting ready for 3 more workdays for Days for Girls, a mission of United Women in Faith. We will prepare and assemble 100 kits containing reusable feminine hygiene projects for girls in developing countries who are missing school because of a lack of available products.

We will meet in the Family Life Center on **September 16, 23, and 30.** from 9 a.m. – noon. We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and counting supplies. All are welcome and needed! You don't need to know how to sew to take part in this mission.

We are asking for the following donations: (1) new girls cotton panties (briefs) sizes 10, 12, or 14, solids or flowers, no characters or animals; (2) new colored washcloths; and (3) cash. Also, if you are available for sewing bags prior to the work days, please let Joyce know.

For more information contact Joyce Perry, home 225-763-6613 or cell 225-978-2206 or [joyce.perry@cox.net](mailto:joyce.perry@cox.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 signup by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: [tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals](http://tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals).



## SERVE ON THE FLOWER MINISTRY TEAM

One of the bright spots of worship each Sunday morning is the fresh floral bouquet in the sanctuary. A new bouquet appears each week, thanks to those congregation members who sign up to sponsor the flowers. But after worship, those bouquets continue to brighten the day of others from the congregation who are not able to enjoy them in person – our members who are home-centered, facility-bound, ill, hospitalized, suffering a loss, or are otherwise experiencing hardship and in need of a bit of cheer. Flowers don't magically get rearranged and transported to those receiving them. It takes a team working behind the scenes to organize and implement the flower deliveries each week and during holidays. We invite you to join in this incredible ministry of delivering cheer and joy.

Ways you can serve on the Flower Ministry Team:

- Saturday mornings: Assist in making a flower arrangement once a month on a Saturday morning with Pat Cobb to guide you
- Sunday afternoons: Assist in breaking down the Altar Flowers into smaller bouquets for sharing with others once a month
- Sundays afternoons or Monday mornings: Deliver flower bouquets once a month
- Periodically serve as a back up team member when needed

No prior floral arranging experience is required! This is a great ministry opportunity for someone who works during the week and would like to serve for a couple of hours on the weekend once a month. When the altar flowers leave the church each week, they are more than something beautiful to look at. They are God's love being delivered by those who are Christ's hands, gladly bringing with them a bit of joy and connection!

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).

# Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

## **FALL 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

### ***Immersion Bible Study: Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians***

Journey with others through three New Testament Epistles, letters written to the early church by its leaders. Guy Johnson will be leading a 6-week Bible Study this fall on the Epistles of Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians, using the Immersion Bible Study program, which offers a refreshing plunge into God's Word, your life, and your life with God. We will offer two sessions of this study. Choose the one that works best for you!

DAYTIME: Mondays at 10 a.m. (First session is September 11)

EVENING: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (First session is September 12).

Register online at [stjohnsbr.org/sept-study-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/sept-study-2023)

Participants will need a workbook and a Bible. Workbooks are \$16 and will be handed out at the first class session. If you do not have a Bible, the church can provide one for you. A nursery as well as scholarships are available upon request. Please contact the church office ([office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org); 225-766-4594) for assistance. You can pay for your workbook online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give) (Select "SS Classes and Small Groups" Fund; "Bible Study" Subfund) or by placing a check in the offering plate made out to St. John's, with Bible Study in the memo.

## **GRIESHARE WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP & PROGRAM**

A 13-week grief and loss support group and program using the recently released GriefShare 4 materials will begin on **Tuesday, August 22, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the parlor. To join the class you must register through the GriefShare website, [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org). There is a \$20 charge for class materials, there are scholarships available. Please contact Dee Muenzler for more information (225-933-1668 or [deemuenzler@gmail.com](mailto:deemuenzler@gmail.com)).

# Children & Youth Ministries

## **NEW YOUTH SCHEDULE**

As we enter and head into a new school year, St. John's Youth is making some changes to our fellowship and Bible Study times. This school year we will meet for worship and Bible study on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 4-6 p.m.** Also, we will meet on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6-8 p.m.** for a time of fun and fellowship. This schedule is designed to hopefully accommodate the busy schedules of our students. We also hope this will allow our students to re-prioritize the time we have together, since we will not be meeting every week.

## **SUNDAY FLOW FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

St. John's has a new flow for children & youth on Sunday mornings. Students should be **signed-in by an adult (18 years or older) between 9:30 - 9:50 a.m.** in the Upstairs Cafe or at the sign-in station located at the base of the stairwell. (Children in the nursery and toddler classes will continue to sign in at their classrooms.)

The 20-minute window of time in the Upstairs Cafe is the designated fellowship and fun time for our students on Sunday mornings. This is their chance to hang out and play before the Sunday School lessons start at 9:50 a.m. Sunday School teachers will then escort students to their classrooms to promptly begin lessons at 9:50 a.m.

Students will also need to be **signed-out by an adult or an older sibling (at least youth age) at the end of Sunday School, around 10:50 a.m.** Older, youth-age siblings can sign-out younger siblings only if Connor has been directly notified of this preference.

This new Sunday flow is being adopted in an attempt to better comply with St. John's UMC's Safe Sanctuaries Policy, which requires that no student be left unattended on campus. Establishing solid rules for check-in and pick-up during Sunday School help our leaders ensure any adults who bring children with them on Sunday mornings are aware where the child is at all times.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe!

## **C.H.A.O.S. IS COMING!**

We are launching a new series of ministry/discipleship events for Fall 2023 called "C.H.A.O.S.!" This is an acronym which stands for...

### ***Christ Here And Other Spaces***

C.H.A.O.S. is all about finding unique and creative ways to apply the teachings of Jesus to the lives of today's children, youth, and families. These discipleship events will include a group Bible lesson, meal, creative activities, music, and more fun. This ministry model is designed to show children, youth, and families how the teachings of Jesus can be applied outside the walls of the church and into our everyday lives.

**Join us for C.H.A.O.S. from 4 - 6 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month this fall: August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 26!**

We will rotate which C.H.A.O.S. events are designed for full-family engagement and which events are drop-off. Adults are expected to stay with students and participate during the full-family engagement events. During drop-off events, though, adults are welcome to leave after students are checked in.

**August 27th - Full-Family Engagement**

**September 24th - Drop-off**

**October 22nd - Fall Fest/Full-Family Engagement**

**November 26th - Drop-off**

During our first C.H.A.O.S. event on August 27, we will focus on how we can bring Christ to other spaces by living out the teachings of Jesus through our actions. What does the Word of God say about how we should act? How do our actions lead others toward Christ and invite Christ into any space we might enter? We will explore these questions through fun and engaging activities and lessons designed for the whole family. We can't wait to see everyone there!

# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday, August 20

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Families with Teenagers Meeting, Youth Room
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## Monday, August 21

- 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 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Tuesday, August 22

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Wednesday, August 23

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

## Thursday, August 24

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Nominations Committee, Library

## Friday, August 25

- 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, August 26

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center

# Today at St. John's

## TODAY - MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH TEENAGERS

We will dedicate the first hour of Youth Group on to hosting a meeting for families raising teenagers (6th-12th grades). We invite Youth and their grown-ups (parents, grandparents, guardians) to attend. We will go over the fall schedule and update our records (emergency information sheets and photo release forms) for the school year. It will also be an opportunity to share feedback on the areas of St. John's Youth ministry that are thriving and which areas need improvement. We will meet from 4-5 p.m. in the Youth Room. Following the meeting, our Youth will gather from 5-6 p.m.

## TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers will be making music on **Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, in the Choir Room with Dr. Steve. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade will meet the first three Sundays of every month. Youth (6th - 12th grades) will join whenever special music is planned. Music Makers will perform in worship on September 24, October 22, November 26, and December 17. The Youth will join us for special music during the season of Advent leading into Christmas. Our children have so much musical talent and we are planning a fun and spirit-filled time through singing and playing instruments. Children may be dropped off and picked up from the Choir Room. For more information or to help serve with Music Makers, contact Steve Rushing at [stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org).