



*Sunday, October 20, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Today we are called to reimagine our own “money story” in light of all God teaches us through scripture, so that our practices with money bring about a future that looks better than our past. We are called to reimagine through the lens of God’s love and abundance, shared freely with us all. Welcome to worship!

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 | 230 Renee Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70810
office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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.

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
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

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

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

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

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Betsy Adams
Fall Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

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

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

This Is a Day of New Beginnings
The United Methodist Hymnal 383, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Call to Worship

Barbara Benton

Can you imagine unfettered love -
free and bold, wild and true,
the kind of love that changes you?

Can you imagine faith like a compass
that guides the way you love and hope;
**that asks questions and yet still believes,
even despite uncertainty?**

Can you imagine a world where trees, bees,
and all living things grow wild and free?
**Where peace is the narrative and
hope is the currency?**

Can you imagine?
Yes, we can imagine.

Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be.
And pay attention, for God is here ...
in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers.
Let us worship our loving and holy God.

*Response

Go Forth in God
The United Methodist Hymnal 670, vs. 1

Children's Moment

Marilyn Damberg

Scripture

Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:8-12

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

Pastor Lane

"Reimagine"

Mandala Moment

*Hymn

Freely, Freely
The United Methodist Hymnal 389, vs. 1 & 2

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Stewardship Witness

Maureen Robertson

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.*



*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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your voices.

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.

We remember stories of God's steadfast love, concluding with the following:

And so as we begin to reimagine the world as you see it, we lift our voices to worship you, as together we praise you saying

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The congregation is seated and we remember the story of the Last Supper,
concluding with the following:*

And so, as we tell again these stories of faith, together, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor concludes with a prayer of consecration.

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.

Holy One,

We are not sure what your reimagined world will look like,
but we're pretty sure it'll feel like this—
a meal where all are fed,
a place where all are welcomed,
and a table with a seat saved for each and every one of us.
Remind us of this truth in the coming days, as we continue to
release anything that holds us back from abundant life, so that
we can reimagine a life lived for You. Gratefully we pray.

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**

A Charge to Keep I Have
The United Methodist Hymnal 413, vs. 1 - 4

***Commissioning of Cuba Mission**

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of and appreciation for our pastor, Rev. Lane Cotton Winn. Thanks, Pastor Lane!

Some worship prayers were written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Sandra Kuykendall and Amy Richardson.

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

Connect with Us

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love. Sign up for text/email notifications by texting the word "Connect" to 225-230-1017.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We believe that prayer is a powerful way to connect us to one another and to God. If you have a prayer or joy you want lifted up, please email prayers@stjohnsbr.org. Pastor Lane and Lynn Cooper, our Administrative Assistant, will receive your request and pass it along to the Prayer Team, unless you request it only be shared with Pastor Lane. A group of dedicated volunteers receive prayer requests weekly and then focus on praying for these requests immediately and throughout the week. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested. Prayer Requests are also included in the *Inside St. John's* newsletter, sent on Tuesdays.

Fall Fest and Trunk-or-Treat

TODAY - FALL FEST AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

St. John's is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community TODAY, **Sunday, October 20, 4-5:30 p.m.** We will have a trunk-or-treat, carnival-style games, and a snack station. We are so excited for this opportunity to connect with those in our community. You may still volunteer by finding me at the Fest and we will find a place for you. We are also receiving donations of candies, fall and Halloween decorations, and small prizes for games. Donations will be accepted until **noon today, October 20.** Please use the blue tubs located in the Admin building and Narthex for your donations.

Announcements

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK ON OCTOBER 27

We will have one combined service on Sunday, October 27, at 10 a.m. for Commitment Sunday, which is the culmination of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, "Our Mission & Money Story." Please make plans to join us that morning as we offer our financial commitments as an act of worship. Our celebration will continue with a potluck luncheon immediately following the service. Bring your pledge card and a dish to share. (Sunday School will not meet that day.)

PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

On Sunday, November 3, we will observe All Saints' Day in worship. During the service, we will remember and give thanks for those who have passed away since the previous November 1, by reading their names and lighting a candle, giving thanks for their lives. Rev. Dr. Francey Hooton, Guy Johnson's daughter, will be our guest preacher. If you have a loved one who has died in the past year that you would like us to name aloud in those services, please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) with their name and the date of their passing by October 30.

All Saints Day Altar Cloth - We invite you to add the names of the "saints" in your life who have passed away and you remember fondly on a white tablecloth found in the Narthex. The tablecloth, adorned with names, will be placed on the altar on All Saints Day.

METHODIST MISSION TO CUBA

Donnie and Susan Lambert will be participating in a mission to Cuba, **October 22 - 29.** The primary objective is to share the love of Christ through actions and interactions. The Cuba 2024 mission team will be working on La Catedral Church in Holguin, which was built before the revolution.

If you would like to support the Cuba 2024 mission team, you can through both prayers and donations. A list of items that are not readily available to most people in Cuba is available in the Narthex, Admin. Building, and newsletters. We will have blue tubs in the narthex and hallway of the Admin Building for the next several weeks for your donations, for example note pads, colored pencils, wash cloths, men's ties, ball caps, lipstick/lip moisturizer.

To donate money you may write a check to St. John's with Cuba Mission in the memo line or to donate online go to stjohnsbr.org/give; click on General Budget and select Missions from the drop down menu; click on Sub Fund and select Cuba Mission. ALL donations will go toward the work at La Catedral Church and the people of Holguin.

HURRICANE RELIEF SPECIAL OFFERING

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the devastation across the impacted areas is heart-wrenching, leaving communities facing a long and difficult road to recovery. Our Bishop Dolores J. Williamston is calling on all of us to take part in this crucial mission of love and solidarity. Donations can be made online at stjohnsbr.org/give (Fund: Missions; Subfund: Disaster Relief/UMCOR) or mark checks/cash with "Hurricane Relief". All monies raised will go directly to supporting the recovery efforts.

NO COFFEE TIME SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

We will **NOT** have Coffee Time on October 27 as we are only having ONE worship service at 10 a.m. So, if your last name begins with **S**, **Sunday, November 3** 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 Children's & Youth Events

MUSIC MAKERS WILL NOT MEET TODAY

Music Makers will NOT meet this afternoon. We hope to see them all at the Fall Fest!

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH TO HOST HALLOWEEN PARTY

The St. John's UMC youth group is hosting a Halloween Party on **Sunday, October 27, 5 - 7 PM**. We will play some Halloween-themed games and have a costume contest. (Students, please use discretion for costumes, nothing too scary or inappropriate.) It's sure to be a good group of students and leaders!

This event is free to attend, but we ask that students please bring a food item to share. Students with last names starting with A-K should bring a salty/savory snack to share. Students with last names starting with L-Z should bring a sweet snack to share. Snacks can be Halloween-themed or simply cookies/chips. Drinks, plates, napkins, and plastic cutlery will be provided.

Bring friends too! There will be a prize for best duo & best trio costumes!

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study **Sunday, November 3, 4 - 5:30 p.m.** Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

For our Bible Study series this fall, we will be using the TrndStr curriculum from Church of the Resurrection.

ST. MARK'S MISSION & LOCK-IN

The St. John's youth group is planning a one-night trip to New Orleans on **November 23-24**. We will be staying in the bunk rooms at the North Rampart Community Center. **The cost to attend is \$30/person, which is due by Sunday, November 10**. Scholarships are available upon request.

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. However, adult chaperons will also need to pay the \$30 fee for themselves. Please contact Connor for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Wednesday Night Live is on the third Wednesday of each month during the school year. For WNL, youth meet in the Upstairs Café for dinner and a fellowship activity.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, October 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Cuba Mission Team Meeting, Narthex
- 4:00 p.m. Fall Fest & Trunk or Treat, FLC & Parking Lot
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Monday, October 21

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, 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

Tuesday, October 22

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Gardere Youth Program, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, October 23

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, October 24

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:30 a.m. Finance Committee, Library

Friday, October 25

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

Saturday, October 26

- 9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

2025 Stewardship Campaign "Our Mission & Money Story"

Each fall, as we budget and begin planning financially for the following calendar year, we invite you to consider how you will support the mission and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church through your financial giving.

The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is "Our Mission & Money Story."

This stewardship season, we are asking ourselves what new story God is inviting us to write that weaves together our mission and money into a narrative of hope and joy. We are guided by the themes of remembering, releasing, reimagining, and restoring found in scripture. Throughout the campaign, there will be an ongoing conversation about how the mission of St. John's UMC is made possible only through your investment in it.

With the rising costs of printing and mailings, our campaign will primarily be digital this year. Each week you will be emailed a Stewardship Newsletter that we ask that you to read as you consider what you will pledge for 2025. You can pledge online at stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025, and we also have printed pledge cards available in the Narthex and church office.

Commitment Sunday, October 27, we will gather for a combined worship service at 10 a.m. followed by a Potluck luncheon. We hope you will make plans to join us that morning as we offer our commitments as an act of worship followed by a time of fellowship and celebration on October 27.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.