



Uniquely UMC

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

Sunday, April 21, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

Our identity is rooted in The United Methodist Church, but what does that mean for us today? Our United Methodist history, theology, beliefs, and practices are not just a part of who we are; they are the foundation upon which our faith is built. Welcome as we explore the possibilities and practices of being United Methodist through our “Uniquely UMC” worship series.

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

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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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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

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2223, vs. 1 & 2

Bind Us Together
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2226

*Call to Worship

Jim Sandifer

We gather as people brought together by grace and bound together in the family of God.

May God draw us together in love.

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, a movement dedicated to prayer, worship, study, and service.

May we never stop seeking the heartwarming Spirit of God.

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, Yes!
But more than that, we are God's people, connected to every Jesus-follower through the body of Christ.

May the love of Christ unite this day and always. Amen.

*Response Song

Make Us One
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2224

Children's Message

Connor Dean

Scripture

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

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.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

"Streams of Love"

***Hymn**

Help Us Accept Each Other
The United Methodist Hymnal 560, vs. 1 & 4

***Prayer of Confession**

Jim Sandifer

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God.

Forgiving God,

We confess that we have allowed fear and distrust to place distance between us and our siblings in the Body of Christ.

Forgive us for our failures of love, goodness, and generosity in the church and in our lives.

We have made idols of our own thoughts, voices, and opinions - instead of trusting in your divine will.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In a culture driven by self-interest, you call us to follow your path of peace, justice, and humility.

Forgive, Lord, when the focus shifts from the good news of Christ and division stirs in your church and in our lives.

Thank you for forgiving us and for your perfect love that casts out all fear.

Amen.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: forgiveness is found in Jesus.

In Christ, our hopes are realized; and through Christ, true love is shown.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

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

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: A Celtic Medley

The Praise Band

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

With sung responses from The Faith We Sing Songbook 2257

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's gift of salvation.

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. (3x)**

**Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*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.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. 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

Jesus, United By Thy Grace

Written by Charles Wesley

The United Methodist Hymnal 561, vs. 1, 2, & 6

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

Call to Worship adapted from prayer by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2024.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer by John Wesley, first used in worship on August 11, 1755, in London.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

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. Prayer Requests are also included in the Inside St. John's newsletter, sent on Tuesdays. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested.

We are grateful for the individuals on our Prayer Team who commit to pray for the concerns and joys that are shared. Would you like to be a part of this team that commits to praying daily/weekly? Send a request to join the Prayer Team to prayers@stjohnsbr.org.

Announcements

TODAY - ST JOHN'S TO HOST GENERAL CONFERENCE PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, April 21 at 5 p.m., St. John's will host a Prayer Service for the General Conference, which begins on April 23 in North Carolina. We are inviting neighboring churches to join us for this time of prayer and communion. Our thoughts and prayers are with the delegates to the General Conference.

It's no accident that our worship series, "Uniquely UMC," begins right before the upcoming General Conference, the decision-making body for The United Methodist Church. The series, "Uniquely UMC" will serve as a primer in United Methodism.

GENERAL CONFERENCE DAILY PRAYER PROMPTS

As General Conference approaches, please consider adding prayers for our Louisiana Conference delegates, our Bishop, and all others who will take part in General Conference into your prayer time. To help focus our collective prayer efforts, Pastor Lane invites you to join her in using our daily prayer prompt, which gives you suggestions for what to lift in prayer. The calendar begins April 21 and ends May 4. **Printed prayer prompts can be found in the Narthex. It is also linked in the newsletter.**

United Methodists will gather in Charlotte, NC for the postponed 2020 United Methodist General Conference April 23-May 3. The General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination. The 862 delegates, half clergy and half lay, will come together to consider revisions to church polity, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. The General Conference will also approve plans and budgets for church-wide ministry for the next four years. Delegates will worship, pray, debate, and vote as one body. For more information about General Conference, visit: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>.

TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS TIME CHANGE

Music Makers will meet today from 4 - 4:30 p.m. This change is for today only.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee will meet on **Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Library.

MISSION TO INDIA

Retired pastor, Reverend Larry Norman, former Director of Louisiana Volunteers in Mission (VIM), will be participating in a Medical Mission to India June 21-30. The team of 20 doctors, nurses, other medical personnel, and non-medical volunteers will be sharing God's love in five different villages in the Hyderabad area of India.

The St John's Finance Committee would like to give you the opportunity to help Larry with his mission costs. The cost of the Mission, per person, is just over \$3500. If you would like to help, gifts to Larry's mission to India can be made online at stjohnsbr.org/give, under Fund>Mission, Sub Fund>India. Checks should be made out to St. John's with "India Mission" in the memo line. We also encourage you to be in prayer for Larry and the team as they seek to serve the underserved of India.

Upcoming Events for Youth & Children's Ministries

YOUTH GROUP

First Sunday Bible Study: 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.

Wednesday Night Live: Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Cafe for dinner and fellowship activities.

Summer Tour: Each Wednesday in June and July (except July 3), a different UMC in the Baton Rouge area hosts an activity for students.

Youth Week - July 29 - August 2: Youth week is full of service opportunities and fun activities, such as laser tag, go karts, large group games, and more!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

C.H.A.O.S. - Christ Here And Other Spaces - Park Playdate: Join us for a playdate at Highland Road Community Park, **Sunday, April 28, 4 - 6 p.m.** as we build stronger relationships with God and one another by playing in His creation.

Summer Pool Parties: Members of St. John's host pool parties for children throughout the summer. We invite you to join in on the fun on **Friday, May 24, 6 - 8 p.m.** and **Sunday, July 21, 4 - 6 p.m.**

Vacation Bible School, June 17 - 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Children who have completed fifth grade and younger are invited to join us for VBS! You can register online at stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024.

Glow Party, Friday, July 12, \$20 admission: Invite your friends and get your glow on with us at this fundraiser for our Children's Ministry. Music, food, drinks, and fun are provided.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 21

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. Music Makers, Choir Room
5:00 p.m. General Conf. Prayer Service, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, April 22

7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry, FLC
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, April 23

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, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

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

Friday, April 26

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

Saturday, April 27

7:00 a.m. General Election, FLC
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

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