

LEGACY

of hope



Sunday, May 21, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

In today's scripture reading, Moses learns that he will not make it to the Promised Land. God asks Moses to demonstrate the hard faithfulness of trusting God to ensure his legacy continues beyond his own life by appointing, empowering, and commissioning Joshua to continue in caring for the Israelites.

Do we trust God to carry our legacies into the future, beyond our own control and even beyond our own sight?

Do we have the faithfulness to put our plans in others' hands?

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

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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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Custodian
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WELCOME to the CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

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



GATHERING

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

Father, I Adore You
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2038, vs. 1 & 2

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 462, vs. 1 & 3

*Call to Worship

Donnie Lambert

We come to take our place in God's long story;
we did not begin God's work, nor will we complete it;

yet while we are here, we have a beautiful chapter to write.

We come to worship God, who carries us through this life

and tends our legacy long after we are gone.

Let us worship our God -

who was,

and is,

and is to come.

Amen.

*Song of Response

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 462, vs. 4

GROWING

Children's Moment

Barbara Benton

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

God of All Ages,

**Give us open ears to hear your voice
in the voices of our ancestors.**

**Give us open minds to understand
what they experienced and believed.**

**Give us open hearts to accept
what you might be saying to us today.
As we leaf through the stories of our faith,
guide us into writing new chapters for the future!
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Scripture

Numbers 27:12-20

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.

The Message

"A Future That Is Not Our Own"

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING

***Hymn of Faith**

Trust and Obey
The United Methodist Hymnal 467, vs. 1 & 3

***Prayer of Confession**

Donnie Lambert

**Merciful Lord,
upon whom we build our life,
forgive us for our sins.
We have trusted in our own efforts,
and failed to trust in yours.
We have loved control,
and shied away from hope.
We look to the future with fear,
as if you are not already there.
Rebuild our trust in you, O Lord,
our Rock and our Redeemer,
that we might walk in your paths
and place our legacy in your hands alone.
Amen.**

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Hear the Good News!
Hope does not disappoint,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit, given to us in baptism.
Believe this Good News and give thanks.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.**

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Legacy Moment

Planned Giving Team

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Standing on the Promises
Will the Circle Be Unbroken
I'll Fly Away*
Praise Team Medley

*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 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.

Blessed are you, God of creation and new creation,
God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah,
God of Ruth and David,
God of the priests and the prophets,
God of Mary and Joseph,
God of the apostles and the martyrs,
God of our mothers and our fathers,
God of our children to all generations.

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.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The congregation is seated.

Truly holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ.
Through his life, death, and resurrection, he demonstrated the full extent of your love for humankind.

The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

Therefore, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we gratefully offer to you our whole selves - heart, mind, soul, and strength - as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, spur us on into acts of everyday faithfulness as a legacy of hope for those around us and for future generations, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, until he comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Now hear our prayers, which we name before you in the silence of our hearts.

(Offer your own silent prayers.)

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.

Litany of Commitment

Pastor Lane

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

**The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts;
it is even beyond our vision.**

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

**Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.**

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water the seeds already planted, knowing
that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

**We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that.**

This enables us to do something and to do it well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an
opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

**We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.**

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

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

God Will Take Care of You

The United Methodist Hymnal 130, vs. 1 & 3

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS for today's service are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Barbara Benton in memory of her husband, Ronnie, for his birthday on May 24; he would have been seventy-three.

COFFEE TIME

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments. Coffee time hosts are members of the Connections Sunday School Class.

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Our "Litany of Commitment" is adapted from The Romano Prayer written by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw in 1979.

PLANNED GIVING TEAM

As announced in today's service, the Legacy page on our church website is live! You can read about planned giving options by going to stjohnsbr.org/legacy. Planned giving team members are Kathy King, Brian Blackwood, Pat Cobb, Johnny McWilliams, and Mari Walker. They are happy to provide next step information.

Worship

LEGACY OF HOPE SERIES

Scripture is filled with intriguing characters who left profound legacies. As we look closer, we find that they were not that different from us. They too, experienced challenges, heartaches, successes, and failures. Their lives knew fear, doubt, and worry, and yet their lives bear witness to the everlasting story of God's hope and love for God's people. The Holy Spirit is hoping to do the same thing in our day and age through people just like us. During our "Legacy of Hope" series, we are talking about the importance of leaving a positive spiritual legacy. Join us on the Sundays in May. What will be your legacy?

WEAR RED ON PENTECOST

We encourage you to wear red and other fiery colors to worship on **Sunday, May 28** in celebration of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples like fire!

Missions

BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET LIBRARY

The free "library" in The Shepherd's Market needs donations of gently used and/or new adult and children's books. If you are down-sizing your library, they are gladly accepting fiction and non-fiction books. Bins are available for book donations in the Narthex and Church Office.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. MARK'S MISSION DAYS

The St. John's Youth Group will be serving a meal to the unhoused and those experiencing hunger through St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans on **Sunday, June 25**. If you would like to participate in this one-day mission, please contact Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org. Anyone is welcome to serve - whether you are Youth or not.

You are also welcome to take part in another mission to St. Mark's on October 8 being led by Rev. Larry Norman.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT

Join us for a game night for all ages on **Thursday, June 1, 5 - 7 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. We will have board games, card games, and trivia games. We will also provide finger foods for everyone to grab as a snack supper. You are more than welcome to bring your favorite finger food to share and favorite game to teach everyone! People of all ages are encouraged to join. We hope to see you there.

TODAY - ST. JOHN'S WRITERS' GROUP

Do you enjoy writing? Do you write poetry, fiction, drama, essays, or any other genre? Do you sometimes feel the need for a little support from others who also work with words? If you do, join us for The St. John's Writers' Group at our Zoom gatherings. You will find a place where ideas can be shared, new pieces tested, and friendly back-up provided. We will be meeting today, **Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m. on Zoom**. Contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for the Zoom information.

Children & Youth Ministries

TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS END OF YEAR PARTY

Music Makers will meet today, **Sunday, May 21 at 4:30** for an END-OF-THE-YEAR celebration of making music with a pizza and ice cream party! Anyone who has been a part of our Sunday afternoon MUSIC MAKERS is invited to attend. This will be our final Sunday before summer break so please join us for some fun, food, and musical games as we celebrate God's gift of music in our lives. Please write Mr. Steve at stevenerushing@stjohnsbr.org if you plan to attend.

YOUTH & CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each Summer, we give our regular and reliable youth and children Sunday School leaders a chance to relax by giving them the summer off.

This summer, our youth and children Sunday School classes will meet in the Family life Center from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. The age groups included in this group are students who recently completed Kindergarten-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades, and 6th-12th grades. Connor will be leading each week's lesson and will provide oversight. She is seeking helpers to guide the activities that accompany each lesson, for each of the three age groups. All materials will be provided.

Please consider the opportunity to create and strengthen intergenerational connections within our church family by volunteering to lead with one of these three age groups for at least one Sunday in June or July.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

Youth Switching to Wednesday Nights in May - Our Youth are now gathering on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We are asking anyone who would like to volunteer to help out on any of these evenings to please get in touch with Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594).

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Our collaborative youth ministry program will begin **Wednesday, June 7 at 6 p.m.** Each week a different United Methodist Church will host youth from the Baton Rouge area. St. John's will host the first gathering on June 7 in the Family Life Center.

Youth Service Week: June 25-20 - More information coming soon.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This summer, we will be hosting an event called "Family Camp." It will take place Thursday - Saturday, July 13 - 15. We will meet in the evenings on Thursday & Friday (July 13 & 14) from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and in the morning on Saturday (July 15) from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. We will gather in the Family Life Center each day for food, games, worship, Bible study, and other activities. Registration will be required for the event, but there is no cost to attend. For more information, please contact Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org.

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, there will be opportunities for fellowship and fun activities. On June 8, our first family activity will be swimming at the Magnolia Woods Swimming Pool, followed by a pool party (location TBA) on June 22. On July 6 there will be an activity at St. John's, and on July 20 there will be a pool party at the Toney's. Plus, we will have a Family Movie Night on August 3 at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library. This is an open meeting and all members of St. John's are invited to attend.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 21

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Writers' Group, Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers Party, Choir Room

Monday, May 22

- 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, May 23

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, May 24

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

Thursday, May 25

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

Friday, May 26

- 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, May 27

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

*Family Life Center