

OVERCOME THE NEED FOR CERTAINTY

CHECK-IN &
PRAYER REQUESTS
VIA QR CODE



Even when fear tempts us to hold tightly to control and certainty, God invites us to trust. Like Gideon in today's scripture, we learn that releasing what we cannot control and focusing on gratitude and the present moment allows us to rest in God's peace and care.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Plastic Grocery Bags are needed!

The Shepherd's Market needs your plastic grocery bags. You may bring them to the pantry Mondays from 3:30–5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00–10:00 a.m. or to the office M–F, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing prayers@stjohnsbr.org or visiting stjohnsbr.org/here.

All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here


Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

For Newcomers

Restrooms & Welcome **Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

For Families with Children

- The **St. John's Playground** is in the front of the sanctuary during services. Children are welcome to spend **the entire service** here.
- The **Nursery** serves infants – preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- **Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months – 12th grade from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

 *The flowers are given with love to celebrate Lane's birthday (9.21), the anniversary of the day Lane and Ben met (9.22), and Ben's birthday (9.23). With love from Mom (aka CC; aka Carole Cotton Winn). Happy birthday, Lane and Ben!*

Our ushers are Donnie & Susan Lambert.

📅 UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids Night – Tonight!

Kids Night for K–5th graders is tonight, Sunday, September 21 from 4:30–6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center, and dinner is included. Come join us for a bunch of fun! *Music Makers will still gather from 4:30–5:30 p.m. for middle school students.*

Embracing the Prophets Bible Study – it's not too late to join!

A 6-week study of Dr. Brueggemann's *Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture* **Tuesdays at 6 p.m.** Our first session was great, but it's not too late to join us! **Register** at stjohnsbr.org/prophets or email office@stjohnsbr.org. *Due to lack of interest, the morning session has been cancelled.*

Days for Girls with UWF, Sept. 27 & Oct. 4

Join us 9 a.m.–noon to help make hygiene kits for girls in developing countries. Donations welcome (St. John's UMC/UWF, memo: "Days for Girls"). Contact Joyce Perry (225-978-2206 or joyce.perry@cox.net) or learn more at daysforgirls.org.

Safe Sanctuaries Training, Sept. 28, 4:30pm

All those serving in Family Ministries – including with the Nursery, Children and Youth – are asked to attend this important training. Together, we'll ensure that our church continues to be a safe and nurturing environment for everyone. Please RSVP to Kate Bouchillon (katebouchillon@stjohnsbr.org) by September 25.

Save the Date: Church-Wide Work Day

Mark your calendars! The Trustees invite everyone to join our next Church-Wide Workday on Saturday, October 18, from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole congregation to come together, care for our church home, and enjoy fellowship while we work side by side. Stay tuned—specific projects and details will be shared in October. We hope you'll plan to be there!

Adopt A Bird

\$25 provides a turkey for a family through the Great Turkey Giveaway. This year, funding is reduced and we are hoping to match or exceed our donations of last year to over 500 families. Donate at stjohnsbr.org/give (Select Shepherd's Market fund & put Adopt a Bird in the note)

📍 EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S FLC = Family Life Center

Worship Services

Sundays
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Coffee Time

Sundays
9:30 a.m. FLC
Last Names D–G may bring snacks on Sept 28

Sunday School

Sundays
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide

Music Ministries

Sundays
6:00 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room
Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Children & Youth

Sundays
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
Upstairs Café Fruit – Last Names Q–W Sep 28

4:30 p.m. Music Makers

Serve

Fridays
10:30 a.m. Holy Helpers, Church Office

Wellness

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Tuesdays

7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC–E

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Ladies AA Meeting, FLC–C

Saturdays

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC–C
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

Shepherd's Market

A client choice food pantry

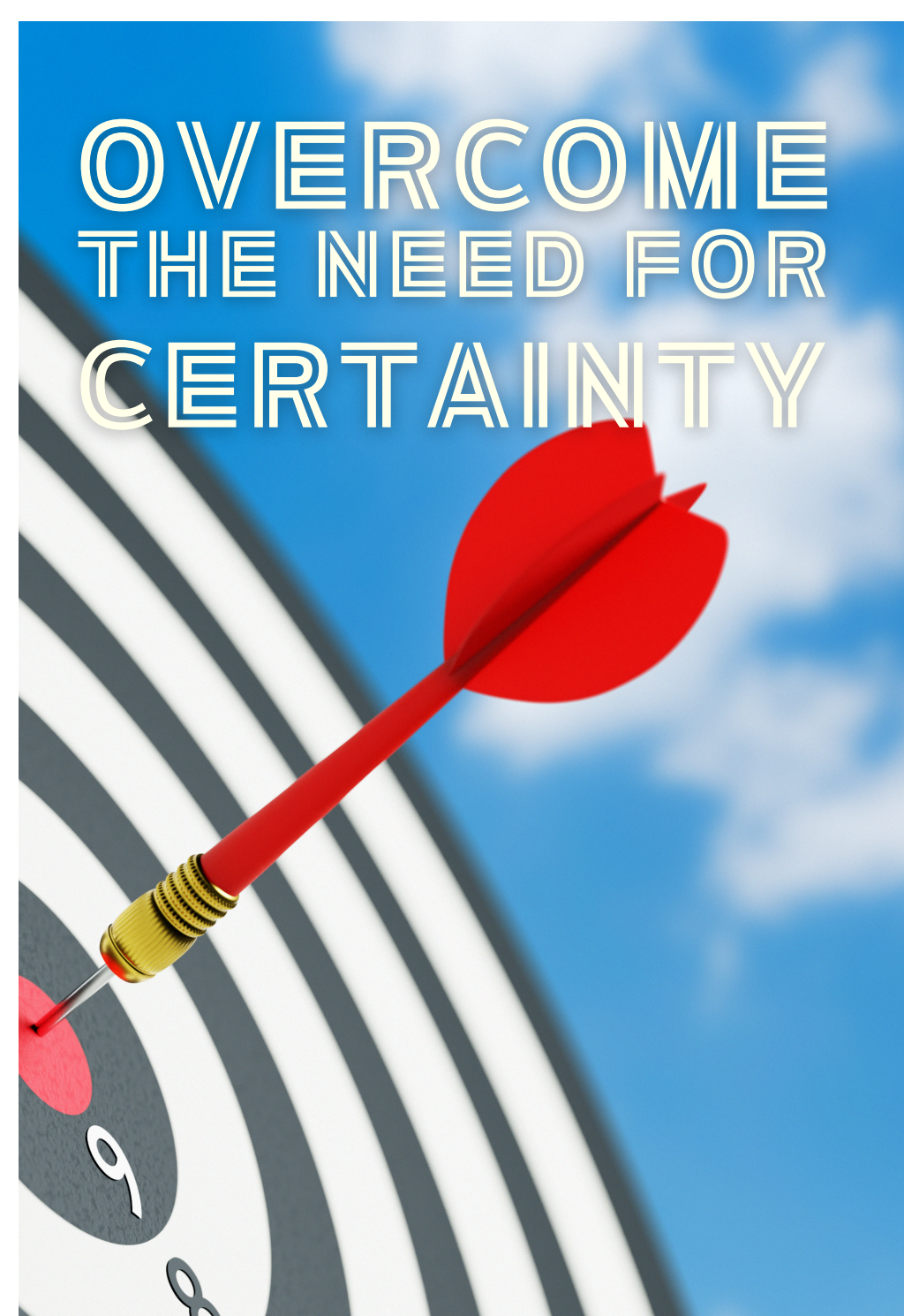
Mondays 3:30 p.m. FLC
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m. FLC
shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9 AM – 12 NOON
Monday – Friday

CONTACT

stjohnsbr.org/contact-us



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Sunday, September 21st 2025

stjohnsbr.org | [@stjohnsbr](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbr) | office@stjohnsbr.org

225-766-4594 | 230 Renee Drive BR, LA 70810

WELCOME



CHECK IN
& PRAYER
REQUESTS

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.

Gathering Music

Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Welcome in the Light of Christ*

U.M Hymnal # 526 vs 1, 2, 3

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Invitation to Worship*

Rev. Larry Norman

Come, all who seek certainty in a world full of unknowns.
We come with questions, doubts, and hopes, longing for reassurance.
God meets us not in our need for control, but in our willingness to trust.
We come ready to let go of worry, and to receive God’s peace.
God calls us to live in the present, to act in faith, and to follow where the Spirit leads.
We worship the God who guides us through uncertainty, who strengthens us to overcome fear, and who fills us with courage and hope.

We Sing Together*

The Faith We Sing #2213, refrain

Healer of Our Every Ill

We Encourage Our Children

Jennifer Csaszar

We Read the Word

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Judges 6:1–6, 11–18, 36–40

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.

We Reflect on the Word

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Overcome the Need for Certainty

We Sing Together*

U.M.Hymnal #462 vs 1, 4

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

We Name Our Need for Grace*

Rev. Larry Norman

Holy God, we confess that we are often like Gideon – hesitant, doubting, and seeking signs before we act.
We want certainty in our lives, Lord – certainty in our work, our families, our futures, and our faith.
Forgive us for clinging to control and for letting fear and worry rule our decisions.
Forgive us for asking for signs instead of trusting Your presence, for hesitating when You call us to act.
Yet, God, Your patience is greater than our doubts.
Your grace meets us where we are.
Even when we falter, You guide us. Even when we are afraid, You are with us.
Today, we lay down our need for certainty.
We release our fear, and we open our hearts to Your Spirit, trusting that You will equip us for every step.
Help us to act in faith, to live with courage, and to embrace Your peace. We place our lives in Your hands. Amen.

We Hear Words of Grace & Forgiveness*

Rev. Larry Norman

Friends, hear the good news: God is patient with our doubts.
God’s grace is stronger than our fear, and God’s Spirit guides us even when the way is unclear.
Thanks be to God! We are forgiven, held, and empowered to trust and act.
So, let us release our need for certainty and trust in God’s faithful presence.
May the peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Ministry Moment

BJ Cobb & Margaret Sprunger

Mission & Vision Revision

We Greet One Another with Joy & Peace*

We Offer our Tithes and Gifts to God

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit stjohnsbr.org/give to give online.



GIVING

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #94

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

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!

We Prepare for Communion*

We give thanks, remember God’s saving acts, and call on the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. Together, we join in a holy meal that connects us with Christ and one another.

We Pray the Lord's Prayer

U.M. Hymnal #895

We Celebrate in Communion*

All are welcome to receive Communion.
We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged & gluten-free options are available. You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

We Pray Together

Rev. Larry Norman

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this holy meal and for the assurance of your presence in our lives. Help us to let go of our need for certainty, trusting that your love and guidance are always with us. Strengthen us to walk in faith, to embrace your peace, and to live each day courageously in your Spirit. Amen.

We Receive This Week’s Call To Action

We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John’s and invite you to come forward and stand with Pastor Lane during the singing of the next song.

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #133 v 1, 3

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

We Share in a Blessing*

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Go Out into the World*

Dr. Terry Byars

The service ends, but our worship continues as we go forth to love and serve the Lord.