HOLDING SPACE

For Intention & Action

CHECK-IN & PRAYER REQUESTS →

We all have good intentions. We want to follow Jesus. We mean well. But when Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem, he asks a harder question: Do you want to follow me in name or in practice?

Today is Yellow Bag Sunday!

Take a yellow grocery bag today and fill it with our most needed items at the Shepherd's Market client choice pantry: **snacks, drinks, and dried beans**. Ongoing needs include peanut butter, cereal, pasta, condiments, paper products, detergent, and hygiene items.

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 **Prayground** is a child-friendly space at the front of the sanctuary where children and their families are welcome to participate in worship in a way that works for them.
- 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. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

Todays ushers are Susan Johnston and Bobbi Marino

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Bingo
Pick up a Lent Bingo card and join us in a shared Lenten practice. Each square offers a simple way to stay present and open as we practice faith in the in-between. Choose one square each day (excluding Sundays). Bring your card with you on Easter Sunday for a little Easter joy — no perfect score required. Scan the QR Code to download or pick up a card (and stickers) in the narthex and office.

"Holding Space" — Lent Worship Series Begins Today
Begins February 22 This Lent, we resist rushing toward easy answers and instead follow Jesus into the sacred in-between, trusting God's presence even when clarity feels unfinished. A simple daily Lenten practice will accompany the series.

Lent Book Study: An Altar in the World
Begins February 25 (evenings at 5:45 p.m.) and February 26 (mornings at 10:30 a.m.)
Join us for a Lenten book study exploring everyday spiritual practices that help us notice holiness woven into ordinary life. Led by Jami Prince and offered on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings. If the church is purchasing your book, it may be picked up in the Library during regular office hours. Registration is available online.

Vile-tality Workshop
February 28 The Annual Conference invites you to a free workshop (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) with Dr. Ashley Boggan exploring John Wesley's call to "submit to be more vile" and its impact on the Methodist movement today. The retreat will be at The Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA, and lunch is provided; registration is through the Annual Conference website: la-umc.org

Ways to Make a Difference: Shepherd's Market Ongoing Donations
Most needed this week: snacks and dried beans. Ongoing needs include pasta, peanut butter, cereal, condiments, drinks, household items, and personal hygiene items.

Days for Girls Work Day | Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. 12 p.m.
Save the date to come help provide supplies for girls in developing countries. More info to follow. Hosted in the Family Life Center.

Flower Dedications
Honor or remember someone special by sponsoring the altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday. To reserve a date and make your contribution, email office@stjohnsbr.org or sign up on the flower chart in the Education & Administration Building hallway.

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 M-Z, 3/1

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sundays
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide for All Ages

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 Cafe Fruit: Teachers, 3/1
3:30 p.m. Music Makers (K-5th grades)
4:30 p.m. Music Makers (Middle School)
5:00 p.m. Youth Group (6th-12th grades)

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

WELLNESS
Mondays
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

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

Tuesdays
7:00 p.m. Pickleball
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

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET
A client choice food pantry
Mon 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. FLC
Tues & Thurs 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. FLC
shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

CONTACT stjohnsbr.org/contact-us

ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

HOLDING SPACE

For Intention & Action

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

St. John's Mission
Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

St. John's Vision
Love. Grow Together. Serve Our Neighbors.

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

WELCOME

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

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

CHECK IN & PRAYER REQUESTS

Gathering Music — Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome — Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Sing Together* — U.M. Hymnal #593 vs 1, 3
Here I Am, Lord

Invitation to Worship* — Pat Lively

Between ashes and alleluia,
we stand in the sacred middle.
Between good intentions and faithful action,
we linger, wondering if we are ready.
Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem. He does not turn away from rejection. He does not delay difficult love.
Teach us to set our faces toward you.
This is the season to align what we say with how we live.
This is the season to hold space —
for grief and growth,
for doubt and courage,
for intention and action.
Come. Let us follow Christ — not just in word, but in life.
We come ready to love, grow together, and serve our neighbors.

We Sing Together* — The Faith We Sing #2129 v. 1
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

We Encourage Our Children — Pastor Lane

We Read the Word* — Pastor Lane
Luke 9:51–62
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 — Pastor Lane
Holding Space for Intention & Action

We Sing Together* — The Faith We Sing #2130 vs 1, 5
The Summons

We Name Our Need For Grace* — Pat Lively
Merciful God,
We have good intentions,
but we do not always become faithful in action.
We say we will follow you,
yet we hesitate when the road is uncertain.
We speak of love,
yet avoid what is uncomfortable or costly.
Too often we say, "Not yet."
Forgive our delay.
Align our hearts with your kingdom.
Give us courage to begin today. Amen.

We Hear Words of Grace & Forgiveness* — Pat Lively
Hear the good news:
Jesus calls us not because we are ready, but because we are willing.
God meets us in the space between intention and action
and gives us grace to begin again.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God.
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Greet One Another with Joy & Peace*

We Offer God's Tithes and Our Gifts

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 Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

We Prepare for Communion* — Pastor Lane
We give thanks for God's grace, hear Jesus' words spoken at the table, and ask the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. In this holy meal, we are joined with Christ and with one another, reminded that there is always room at God's table for all.

We Pray the Lord's Prayer — U.M. Hymnal #895

We Partake in Communion*

All are welcome to receive Communion.
We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged and 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
Gracious God,
You have met us at this table and given us strength for the journey.
As Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem, set our faces toward faithful action.
May our lives proclaim your kingdom — in love, justice, and peace. Amen.

We Receive This Week's Call To Action — Pastor Lane

We Sing Together* — U.M. Hymnal #398 vs. 1, 4 & 5)
Jesus Calls Us

We Share in a Blessing* — Pastor Lane

We Go Out into the World* — Dr. Terry Byars
Music sends us out, but our worship continues as we go forth to love, grow together, and serve our neighbors.