



# ***CALLED*** ***TO*** ***COMMUNITY***

Sunday, October 22, 2023

**8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

When Jesus was ascending he said “GO!” He sent the disciples out to invest and give their “all” to the furthering of his message during a peak time of uncertainty. Through them, the church was born! And we are still being called to do the same. We revisit this story today with our third sermon in our “Called to Community” worship series. Welcome to worship.

**STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR**

*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

## 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

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

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*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  
*Lead Pastor*  
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Connor Dean  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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Brooklyn Hays  
*Nursery Worker*

# 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.*



## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

\*Songs of Praise

*We Are Called*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2172, vs. 1 & 2

\*Call to Worship

Danielle Blackwood

We are beloved children of God:

**Called to serve, and to bless, and to love.**

We are citizens of the world:

**Called to care, and to respond, and to generosity.**

We are members of a community:

**Called to support, and to nurture, and to welcome.**

We belong to God and to one another.

**So may our hearts be as one, as we worship our God,  
who calls us together in love.**

\*Song of Response

*Spirit of God*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2117, vs. 4

## COMMUNITY FORMATION

Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

Prayer for Illumination

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our  
redeemer. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-11

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.**

## Message

“Putting Down Roots”

Pastor Lane

# THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

## \*Hymn of Faith

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 2, & 4

## \*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

Covenant-making God,  
you use every possible means to reach us, breathing your Spirit in  
us, calling us by name, showing us symbols of your promise, offering  
us a new way of life.

**We confess that our hearts are hardened.**

**We choose certainty over faith, anxiety over courage,  
independence over compassion.**

**We turn our eyes from our neighbors in need.**

**We get caught up in our own needs and desires, and forget you  
have made us to be your people, together.**

**Forgive us for the times we have valued our preference over  
your purpose for the Church, when we chose comfort  
over communion.**

**Help us pay attention to your call and answer it boldly as we  
prayerfully consider how we personally can be a witness for  
Christ with our lives.**

*(A time of silence for personal prayer and confession.)*

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Friends, receive God's forgiveness; know God's grace.  
May God's love set you free this day and always. **Amen.**

## \*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

## Stewardship Moment

Gray Sexton, Chair  
Staff, Parish Relations Committee

## 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](http://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!**

## Gathering at Christ's Table

### 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.*

### Prayer After Receiving

Danielle Blackwood

**O God,  
Just as we are called to this place,  
we are also called and sent out into the community,  
to proclaim your word with our lives,  
to engage your word with our minds and hearts,  
and to live your word with our whole selves,  
as we seek the well-being of our church and our community.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

# THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS

### 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

*Go, Make of All Disciples*  
The United Methodist Church 571, vs. 1 & 4

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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

# WORSHIP NOTES

## **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar are given by Beth Forester to the Glory of God and in memory of her parents, Eva and Chuck Forester.

The rosebud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Ezra Sayer Adams. Ezra was born on October 14 and is the son of Anna Woods and Justin Adams. Ezra is the grandson of Bryan and Cindy Adams.

## **USHERS**

Ushers for today's worship service are Phil and Jill Slicker.

## **COFFEE TIME**

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our newly opened "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building. Read more about it in the Children & Youth Ministries announcements.

# Worship & Music

## **ONE SERVICE & POTLUCK AT 10 A.M. OCTOBER 29**

We will have one service next **Sunday, October 29, at 10 a.m.** for Commitment Sunday, which is the culmination of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, "Called to Community." Next Sunday we will celebrate the gifts that we all contribute and all the ways we are stewards to each other and to the broader communities that St. John's serves. Our celebration will continue with a potluck luncheon immediately following the service at 10 a.m. Bring your pledge card and a dish to share for the luncheon.

If you would like more information about our goals for 2024, Stewardship Packets are available in the Narthex and Church Office. Please prayerfully consider how you will join us in answering our "call to community" by turning in your pledge for 2024 next Sunday. For your convenience, you may also pledge online at [stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024). We will have additional printed pledge cards available next Sunday.

## **MEN'S CHORUS**

We are putting together a men's chorus to perform on Sunday, October 29 in worship. This is an open invitation for all men to come and sing. We will hold one more rehearsal, **Tuesday October 24 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the sanctuary**. The rehearsals will prepare us to sing together on Commitment Sunday, which is October 29. We will have one worship service that day at 10 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Rushing at [stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org)

## **MUSIC MAKERS RESUMES OCTOBER 29**

Join us for Music Makers on October 29 as we get ready to share music in an upcoming worship service and as we get ready for Advent & Christmas! Music Makers will not meet today because everybody will be at the Fall Fest. If you have a child (or children) in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade bring them to Music Makers on October 29 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and on the first three Sundays of the month so they can explore their faith through music.

## **ALL SAINTS' DAY**

On **Sunday, November 5**, we will be observing 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 and good witness. 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](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)) with their name by October 30.**

# Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

## **WOULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL?**

The St. John's Writer's Group is curating a publication to enrich our Advent journey this year, and we invite anyone in our congregation to submit a reflection. Our theme for the year is "The Gift of Many Names," to follow with our Advent worship series, but you are encouraged to share anything from the heart related to Advent or Christmas. For more information, please email [silvermari@gmail.com](mailto:silvermari@gmail.com). Submissions are due to Mari no later than Friday, November 3.



# Servanthood

## TODAY IS FALL FEST!

We are so excited to welcome families in our community to Fall Fest **today from 4 - 6 p.m.** Fall Fest will be a community celebration involving activity stations, a trunk-or-treat, food, and an inflatable slide. We are so excited for this opportunity to engage more families in our area. Thank you for supporting this community outreach event!

### NOTES:

- volunteers, please be here by 3:30 p.m.
- trunk or treaters, please be here by 3:30 p.m.
- we are accepting candy donations until 3:30 p.m.

## HELP MAKE NEW CHRISMON TREE ORNAMENTS!

The United Women in Faith is refurbishing the Chrismon ornaments which we have been using since the mid 1980's. As you may know our sanctuary tree is decorated with gold and white ornaments called Christ monograms or Chrismons (Christ and Monograms).

We will have an informational and instructional workshop on **Wednesday, November 1**, meeting in the library from 9 - 11 a.m. Kits will be provided with all the supplies you need to make an ornament. If you are unable to meet with us and want to create an ornament, please see Pat Lively for kits to make counted-cross stitch ornaments and/or Joyce Perry for kits to make beaded ornaments.

## MEALS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

Help us provide meals for the St. John's youth group for their evening fellowship on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month**. Students meet from 6-8 p.m.; meals should be delivered between 5:45 - 6 p.m. to the Admin Building. The meal should include an entree, side dish, and dessert for 8-10 people. You are welcome to bring a home-cooked meal or order fast food (pizza, chicken fingers, tacos, etc.). We will have drinks, plates, and cutlery. You can signup by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: [tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals](https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals).



# Youth & Children's Ministries

## FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

### *Christ Here And Other Spaces*

This month's C.H.A.O.S. is FALL FEST! Join us **TODAY from 4-6 p.m.** for this family-friendly community wide event.

We will meet again, next month, for C.H.A.O.S. on **Sunday, November 26 from 4- 6 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. The lesson will focus on how we can make and prepare spaces for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us. To accompany this lesson, we will work on Chrismons (Christian ornaments) with guidance from some of the members of the St. John's United Women in Faith. Dinner will be included. We hope to see you all there.

## SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY SERIES - BIBLICAL LAMENT

The study series we are following for Sunday School from now until Advent is called "Biblical Lament." This series is designed to help teenagers navigate complex feelings and experiences by finding Biblical examples of the same feelings and experiences. The series covers topics such as sadness, fear, joy, surprise, anger, and even issues facing LGBTQ youth.

## YOUTH GROUP

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

### **Youth Halloween Party**

We are hosting a Halloween Party on **Sunday, October 29 from 4-6 p.m.** in the St. John's FLC. Other UMC youth groups in the greater Baton Rouge area have been invited to join in on the fun, too!

We will play some halloween-themed games and have a costume contest. (Students, please use discretion for costumes, nothing too scary or inappropriate.)

**Snacks:** 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.

### **Junior High Retreat**

Junior High Retreat is just around the corner! The Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA (where we gathered for Fusion Fest back in September) is hosting an overnight, weekend-long retreat for students in **6th-8th grades**. The retreat will start in the evening on Friday, November 3, and students will return in the afternoon on Sunday, November 5. Students are only required to pay \$35 to secure their spot for the trip. St. John's will cover the rest! Cash/check payments can be turned in to the church office, and credit/debit card payments can be submitted online. **The deposits and completed initial registration form (found at [stjohnsbr.org/jr-high-retreat](http://stjohnsbr.org/jr-high-retreat)) are due by noon on October 20.**



# This Week at St. John's

## **Sunday, October 22**

- 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. FALL FEST, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, October 23**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Tuesday, October 24**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## **Wednesday, October 25**

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

## **Thursday, October 26**

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

## **Friday, October 27**

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

## **Saturday, October 28**

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

\*Family Life Center