



*Sunday, September 22, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Today we continue our campaign for kindness with a reading that reminds us that though we have disagreements with others, there are likely things we can find common ground about. Love is one of those things that unites us. God doesn't care how "right" we are as much as God cares about how much or how well we love. Welcome to worship!

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.



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

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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Betsy Adams
Fall Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
The United Methodist Hymnal 557, vs. 1 & 2
Bind Us Together
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2226

*Call to Worship

Bobbi Marino

We gather around the Light of Christ.

Christ's love knows no bounds.

Though we are a divided world,
may we be united in our worship.

Teach us Your ways, O Lord,
that we may walk in Your truth.

**Show us the way to Do Unto Others
with love.**

*Response

Make Us One
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2224

Children's Moment

Ben Hartman

Scripture

Acts 17:22-28

Pastor Lane

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

"Finding Common Ground"

Pastor Lane

*Hymn

Jesus, United By Thy Grace
The United Methodist Hymnal 561, vs. 1, 2, & 6

*Invitation to Reconciliation

Bobbi Marino

Today we gather around this table to remember what true relationship means. All are invited to this Table of Love.

Jesus broke bread with those whose worldview did not mirror his.

Jesus broke bread with those whose experience and traditions were sometimes not only different, but opposed, to his.

He simply offered a place to be, to sit down at the same table, and see what transformation might happen between people.

Yet, as we prepare ourselves for this feast, we are called to admit the complexity that lies at the edges of our relationships.

***Prayer of Confession**

Bobbi Marino

For all the ways we hurt each other – with harmful expectations, judgments, and our own fear...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we squander right relationship – choosing being “right” over “relationship”...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we abuse our freedom – engaging in hateful speech towards those not on “our” side...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we deny equality and the belovedness of all – deeming some “in” and others “out”...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

A time for silent prayer and confession.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Jesus said, “I have come to set the prisoner free.”

No matter what binds you this day, freedom is yours through new life in Christ.

In the name of the One who came to loose the chains, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and set free.

Glory to God! Amen.

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

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.



***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 Liberating God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts with joy!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and holy thing

to give our praise to you this day,

Liberator of all humanity.

You unleashed your creative power and a world blossomed.

You bestowed upon every living thing life and breath,

color and movement.

No matter how many battles we wage within and
between ourselves and against you, your promise, vision,
and gifts of peace and abundance continue.

And so we lift up our voices in celebration of You!

Holy, holy, holy are You!

We join all the prophets and saints!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

We join the parade for peace and justice!

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!

We add our cries and exclamations!

Hosanna in the highest!

*(The congregation is seated as the story of God's
redeeming love is shared.)*

Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.

To those who were imprisoned by status, law, illness, poverty, gender,
age, and disease, he said, "Your belief has set you free.

You are a child of God."

He invited disciples, friends, and strangers alike to his tables.

He proclaimed God's grace to all with whom he broke bread.

He proclaimed God's love to all with whom he shared the cup.

And he told us to remember:

You are one at this table, the table of grace.

For Christ has died, Christ has risen,

and Christ comes again in this meal we eat together.

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body so that we
might be free to love without condition,

invite without hesitation,

go without reservation, and

proclaim your call to kindness and love to all the world!

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.*

Closing Prayer

Bobbi Marino

Holy One,

**You show us the way to Do Unto Others with love
through the welcome we experience at your table.**

**Send us into the unknown future with hope
that we can not only survive,**

**but we can thrive, together –
no matter the outcomes of a divided world.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. 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

Jesu, Jesu
The United Methodist Hymnal 432, vs. 1 & 3

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by Susan Teddlie in memory of her father, Edward Kochan, who would have been 104 on September 23.

Worship prayers are adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness in collaboration with <https://campaignforkindness.com>.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Phil and Jill Slicker.

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.

Announcements

"DO UNTO OTHERS" – A CAMPAIGN FOR KINDNESS

This month, join us in a campaign for kindness, as we focus on embodying The Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Together we will discover how this simple, yet profound principle of kindness can be our catalyst for positive change.

"Do Unto Others" is a grassroots movement launched by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in the Kansas City area, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, that encourages intentional acts of kindness and fosters civility and respect, countering the polarization in our society.

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONAL ACTS OF KINDNESS

This month we are on a campaign for kindness as we focus on living out the Golden Rule! Each week we invite you to practice Intentional Acts of Kindness. We are focusing on Intentional Acts because we want there to be thoughtfulness and planning that goes into our actions.

Here are this week's Intentional Acts of Kindness suggestions:

- Connect with someone who has different religious views
- Visit a business or organization you don't normally connect with (seek out someplace that's owned by a woman, African American, or minority)

At the end of the week, reflect back on the acts you did or didn't perform. If you didn't perform an intentional act of kindness, consider why. Was it a lack of opportunity? Did you forget? Were you self-conscious? Consider any opportunities you might have missed. Share your experience - successes and failures - with us on social media with the hashtag #kindnessatstjohnsbr or email your story and picture to Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

NO PICKLEBALL TUESDAY

There will be NO pickleball on Tuesday, September 24; the Gardere Youth Program will be using the FLC that evening. Pickleball will resume Tuesday, October 1 at 7 p.m. in the FLC.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

If your last name begins with **D - G**, **Sunday, September 29** is “your” day to bring a snack for Coffee Time. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. You don’t have to cook or bake – in these days of prepared foods, any grocery store has plenty of delicious items to choose from. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

GOOD GRIEF ST. JOHN’S FELLOWSHIP

Good Grief! Fellowship has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m.** in The Founders’ Parlor.

TRIVIA - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 3:30 - 5:30 P.M.

The St. John’s Food, Fun & Fellowship team is hosting *Trivia* in the Family Life Center. We will have 6 rounds of trivia, with each round focused on a different category. Questions will be appropriate for adults & youth, but this activity may not be suitable for students younger than 4th grade. You can show up with or without a pre-decided team. However, please limit teams to no more than 6 people. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place teams. Childcare can be provided upon request. (Please notify no later than September 22.)

DISCOVER ST. JOHN’S

Are you a new or long-time visitor to St. John’s who is looking to learn more about the church and/or church membership? Join Pastor Lane on **Sunday, October 6 at 9:45 a.m.** in her office to discover more about St. John’s, meet others, ask questions, and get to know one another. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to office@stjohnsbr.org if you are able to attend so that we can prepare.

FALL FEST AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

St. John’s is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community on **Sunday, October 20, 4-5:30 p.m.**, and we need your help! We will have a trunk-or-treat, carnival-style games, and a snack station. We are so excited for this opportunity to connect with those in our community. Please join us by signing up to volunteer at www.stjohnsbr.org/FallFestVolunteer/.

We are also receiving donations of candies, fall and Halloween decorations, and small prizes for games. Donations will be accepted until noon on October 20. Please use the blue tubs located in the Admin building and Narthex for your donations.

METHODIST MISSION TO CUBA

Donnie and Susan Lambert will be participating in a mission to Cuba, **October 22 - 29**. The primary objective is to share the love of Christ through actions and interactions. The Cuba 2024 mission team will be working on La Catedral Church in Holguin, which was built before the revolution.

If you would like to support the Cuba 2024 mission team, you can through both prayers and donations. A list of items that are not readily available to most people in Cuba is available in the Narthex and newsletters. We will have blue tubs in the narthex for the next several weeks for your donations. To donate money you may write a check to St. John’s with Cuba Mission in the memo line or to donate online go to stjohnsbr.org/give; click on General Budget and select Missions from the drop down menu; click on Sub Fund and select Cuba Mission. ALL donations will go toward the work at La Catedral Church and the people of Holguin.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, September 26: Finance Committee, 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Library. Main agenda item will be discussion of 2025 preliminary budgets.

Thursday, October 3: Church Council, 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Library. Main agenda item will be approval of Charge Conference paperwork.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, September 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Writers' Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 4:00 p.m. C.H.A.O.S. Park Playdate, Highland Road Park
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, September 23

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

Tuesday, September 24

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief, St. John's, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, September 25

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

Thursday, September 26

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors, The Founders' Parlor

Friday, September 27

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Saturday, September 28

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

*Family Life Center

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

UPSTAIRS CAFE IS NOW OPEN

The Upstairs Cafe is now open with a new routine for supplying the Cafe with snacks. Beginning in September, the Sunday School leaders will provide snacks on the first Sunday of each month. Families are being asked to provide snacks for the remainder of the month, following this schedule: 1st Sunday - Sunday School Teachers; 2nd Sunday - K - 2nd Families; 3rd Sunday - 3rd - 5th Families; 4th Sunday - Youth Families; 5th Sundays will be dealt with separately.

MUSIC MAKERS WILL NOT MEET TODAY

Music Makers will not meet this afternoon. We hope everyone will join us at Highland Road Community Park for a fun time for families with children, **today, Sunday, September 22 4-6 p.m.**

TODAY - PARK PLAYDATE, SEPTEMBER 22

Our families with children are invited to join us at Highland Road Community Park for a Park Playdate **today, Sunday, September 22 4-6 p.m.** We are hoping the weather will be clear for us.

If the weather does not cooperate, we have a rain-out plan that involves an indoor picnic and games in the St. John's FLC. If we end up needing to use the rain-out plan, I invite families to bring a picnic blanket to help us recreate the essence of a picnic, but inside. *To stay better connected with us, please text "Connect" to (225) 230-1017. We will send text updates on September 22 through this phone number.*



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.