



Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

All Are Welcome

Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, found in Luke's gospel, outlines the core values of Christian living through a lens of social justice and active love for one's neighbor. Today we dive into a portion of this sermon as we seek ways to live lives of compassion and service.

*Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance and share any prayer requests you have at [stjohnsbr.org](https://stjohnsbr.org)/here or scan the QR code.*



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# 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](http://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 Playground** 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 Playground 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  
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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

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2171, vs. 1 - 4

## \*Call to Worship

Pat Lively

Come and learn the ways of life.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.

**We have come to follow Jesus.**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**As we come to follow Jesus, we learn the ways of life.**

## \*Response

*Change My Heart, O God*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2152

## Children's Message

Natalie Cooper

## \*Scripture

Luke 6:27-38

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

Pastor Lane

"Brave, Brave, Brave"

## \*Hymn

*More Like You*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2167

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Pat Lively

Our Lord invites us to come in honesty and openness, confessing our failures and our need of grace. In humility and truth, let us pray:

**O Lord,**

**you are our shepherd,**

**And yet we want.**

**We lie down when we could act.**

**We stir the pot when we could offer peace.**

**We wander tempting paths instead of following you.**

**We see courage and comfort in earthly things  
rather than in you.**

**We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread  
with them,**

**We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.**

**We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy,  
so that we might dwell in You and in your grace forever.**

**Amen.**

## **\*Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

God's grace overflows and brings us new life. Friends, trust the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **\*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](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 God's Table**

Pastor Lane

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **\*Sharing the Bread & 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**

Pat Lively

**Holy One,**

**You show us the way to do no harm,  
do good, and stay in love with you.**

**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.**

**Send us out to be a presence of love and hope  
to all who despair and fear,**

**so that all may know that they are  
your beloved children.**

**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**

*Freely, Freely*

The United Methodist Hymnal 389, vs. 1 - 2

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**

# *Worship Notes*

The flowers on the altar are in memory of Sydney Perry, February 23, 1950 - April 7, 2024, Mari Walker's mom and Jane & Livia Walker's Gingie.

The Prayer of Confession, based on Psalm 23, was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.'

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Donnie & Susan Lambert.

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

# Announcements

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

As a prelude to Lent, on Sunday, March 2, our worship is designed to prepare our hearts for this upcoming holy season - to let go of what we need to leave behind in order to embrace the gift of a grace that overflows with extravagant love. Join us as we come to be filled with that grace at the Table, with the songs that sustain and share hope, and with a practice that invites us to look at our lives and listen to where our heart desires to grow this season of Lent.

## PREPARE FOR GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

Don't forget to pick up a yellow bag when you are leaving worship. If you are able, please add some things to your buggy for The Shepherd's Market. Some items that are needed are: Jam/jelly, condiments, cereal, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, drinks, pasta, snacks.

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5, as we begin the season of Lent with reflection, prayer, and worship. From **10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** the Family Life Center will be transformed into a quiet space for self-guided worship. Sit in silence or journey through prayer activities and meditations. We will also have a labyrinth set up for you to experience that ancient prayer practice, and Pastor Lane will be on hand to offer the imposition of the ashes. This experience is open and appropriate for all ages. St. John's Youth will meet to experience the stations at 1pm.

There will also be an **Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** that includes the imposition of ashes and Communion. Our Lenten theme, "Full to the Brim," will be woven throughout our evening service, inviting us to receive and share God's abundant, overflowing grace.

## "FULL TO THE BRIM" LENT WORSHIP SERIES

This year's Lenten worship series, "Full to the Brim" is filled with parables and promises of God's overflowing grace, reminding us to live fully. And so, this Lent, let us trust – fully – that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Join us Sundays during Lent, starting March 9, as we discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

## "FULL TO THE BRIM" LENT BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS DURING LENT

Join us for a five-week Lent Bible Study as we journey through the parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. This study will expand upon the Gospel readings from our Lent worship series, "Full to the Brim," allowing space for further reflection, conversation, and spiritual growth in a small group setting. We will offer two sessions of the study, both starting on March 11: Daytime Study – Tuesdays at 10:30-11:30am and Nighttime Study – Tuesdays at 6-7pm.

The study will be led by a rotating team of facilitators who will guide the discussion. The morning facilitators are Rev. Barbara Duke, Rev. John Gilmore, Jami Prince, Rev. Larry Norman, and Rev. Marie Williams. The evening facilitators are Rev. John Gilmore, Hannah Froehlich, Rev. Larry Norman, Jami Prince, and Steve Rushing.

The workbook is \$5 and can be picked up in the church office next week or on the first day of the study. You may pay for the workbook by check or cash (in memo line: "Bible Study") or online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](https://stjohnsbr.org/give) (Select "SS Classes and Small Groups" Fund; "Bible Study" Subfund).

Register online at: [stjohnsbr.org/lent-study-2025](https://stjohnsbr.org/lent-study-2025). If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda T. (by phone or text: 225-270-2193 or [parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com](mailto:parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com)).

## COFFEE TIME SNACKS

If your last name begins with **A - C**, "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is next Sunday, **March 2**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. *Please bring your items to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.*

## HALF DAY PRAYER RETREAT

Friend of St. John's and The Shepherd's Market, retired minister, Rev. Jack O'Dell, will be leading a half day retreat called "Deepening Your Prayer Life" on **Saturday March 8, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Intentionally planned for the first weekend of Lent, this 4 hour retreat is an invitation to begin the season of Lent reflecting on the practice and discipline of prayer. The retreat is free of charge and hosted at First United Methodist Church. You may register online here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc59f6x9>.



## **DAYS FOR GIRLS MARCH 15 AND 22**

There will be workdays for Days for Girls on the following Saturdays **March 15 and 22 from 9 a.m. - noon**, in the Family Life Center.

Your help is needed to prepare for this ministry by donating the following: Girls colored panties in size 10, 12, or 14 (please no animals or cartoon characters.), colored washcloths, hotel-size soap, and cash donations to purchase fabric (please make check out to United Women of Faith). Your donations can be put in the blue tub on Sundays in the Narthex and during the week in the hallway of the Admin Building.

Thank you for your help in this ministry. Many girls will benefit from these reusable female hygiene kits. For further information, contact Joyce Perry, 225-978-2206 or email: joyce.perry@cox.net.

## **CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED**

The Shepherd's Market is lucky enough to have a free library located by the water fountain in the FLC; however, we are in desperate need of CHILDREN'S BOOKS! Any age is welcome - from board books to young adult - but we do NOT need adult books. Any gently read or brand new book is welcome! There is a blue tub in the Narthex on Sundays and during the week in the hallway of the Admin Building for your donations. Thank you!

## **JOIN THE FLOWER MINISTRY TEAM**

We have a wonderful and dedicated Flower Ministry Team that makes sure the flowers on Sunday's altar continue to brighten the day of others from the congregation who are in need of a bit of cheer.

We invite you to join this incredible ministry delivering cheer and joy. Here are some ways you can serve on the Flower Ministry Team: Once a month on a Saturday morning: Assist in making a flower arrangement with Pat Cobb to guide you; Once a month on a Sunday afternoon: Assist in breaking down the Altar Flowers into smaller bouquets for sharing with others; Once a month on a Sunday afternoon or Monday morning: Deliver the flower bouquets; Periodically serve as a backup team member when needed

No prior floral arranging experience is required! This is a great ministry opportunity for someone who works during the week and would like to serve once a month for a couple of hours on the weekend. If you are interested in serving with the Flower Ministry Team, please contact Harriet Walters via text 225-620-5777 or email harriet.walters@att.net.

## **JOIN US FOR SERVICE SUNDAY!**

On **Sunday, March 30, at 10am in the Family Life Center**, we invite you to be part of Service Sunday - a unique worship experience where we will put our faith into action through hands-on mission projects.

We'll begin with a short time of worship, including communion, before moving into our mission as an act of service. Our primary project will be assembling **Cleaning Kits for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief)**, which are essential for wildfire and hurricane relief efforts. The final Sunday of March is **UMCOR Sunday**, making this a meaningful and tangible way to support this vital outreach. Additional hands on service opportunities will also be available, with more details coming soon. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages (including children) to come together and make an impact as we offer ourselves in service to God.

To support this effort, we are collecting items for the **UMCOR Cleaning Kits** throughout March. We also need volunteers who can deliver the completed kits to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA. A full list of needed supplies can be found online at [umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit](http://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit), and printed copies are available at the church. Take a list with you when you shop and bring donated items to the church anytime this month. We will also share an Amazon Wish List soon if you'd like to buy those items online.

**Service Sunday** will also include plenty of time for fellowship, along with light refreshments. We encourage you to bring a Coffee Time-style snack to share. Please note that this 10am worship and mission experience will **replace our regular worship services** for the day, and Sunday School will not meet on March 30. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume the following week. Come ready to serve, connect, and embody Christ's love in action. Let's worship with our hearts—and with our hands!

# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, February 23**

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  
4:00 p.m. King Cake CHAOS, FLC  
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

## **Monday, February 24**

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

\*Family Life Center

## **Tuesday, February 25**

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC  
7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC  
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, February 26**

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

## **Thursday, February 27**

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

## **Friday, February 28**

7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC  
8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

## **Saturday, March 1**

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

# *Children's & Youth Ministries*

## **KING CAKE C.H.A.O.S. IS THIS AFTERNOON!**

Our February C.H.A.O.S. event is today, **February 23, from 4 - 6 p.m.** to bake and deliver King Cakes to local first responders - firefighters and healthcare workers. This is an act of service to share the love of Jesus Christ with hard-working members of our community. All participants should meet at the St. John's FLC at 4 p.m. After all deliveries have been completed, we will return to the FLC to share a meal together. Please let Connor know via email or text if you plan to join us for this event, as it will require more intentional preparations than some of our other C.H.A.O.S. events. We would love to see you there!

## **NO MUSIC MAKERS THIS AFTERNOON**

There will be no Music Makers this afternoon because we will all be at King Cake CHAOS! Join us there from 4 - 6 p.m. Music Makers will resume next **Sunday, March 2 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room.

## **YOUTH AND CHILDREN SUNDAY FLOW**

We offer faith formation for children and youth of all ages during Sunday School.

**Upstairs Café opens at 9:30 a.m.** - Students start in the Upstairs Cafe (Room 202 of the Admin building) helping them get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their age specific Sunday School groups.

**Sunday School Classes** - Children 2 yrs to 4 yrs are in the Pre-K Room on the first floor of the Admin building; students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are in Room 204; students in 3rd through 5th grades are in Room 207; students in 6th through 12th grades are in the Youth Sunday School class Room 201.

## **YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)**

**First Sundays:** The St. John's youth group gathers on the first Sunday of each month from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities.

**Third Wednesdays:** Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for Wednesday Night Live.