



SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH JESUS' MOST FAMOUS SERMON.

Sunday, July 23, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today we continue in our worship series based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Welcome to worship!

Jesus gets really practical today with words about how to discover the treasure that God has for us and what gets in our way of finding it.

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the bulletin) so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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

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



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

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
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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.*



CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

Halle, Halle, Halleluja (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2026

Seek Ye First
The United Methodist Hymnal 405

*Call to Worship

Susan Lambert

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that
the way we live and the choices we make
affect our spiritual health and wellbeing.

Tune our hearts and minds to your will.

When we seek the will of God and put God's priorities first,
our hearts are able to receive the treasures God has for us.

May God's heavenly treasure become our earthly reality.

Lord, you are our greatest treasure.

May we treasure this time of worship that unites us with God.

*Song of Response

As the Deer
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2025

LISTENING TO JESUS

Children's Moment

Shawn Walker

Prayer for Illumination

**Bountiful and generous God,
We thank you for giving us this time together
to worship and reflect on Jesus' teachings.
May your Spirit help us treasure his word
so that we may grow richer in faith toward you
and in love toward others. Amen.**

*Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:16 - 7:5

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.

The Message

Pastor Lane

“Finding Your Treasure”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn of Faith

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2146, vs. 1 & 3

*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

We have come this morning with full hearts – hearts that carry sorrow,
and worry, and guilt.

In this time we offer our hearts to God, remembering Christ’s invitation
to notice the birds of the sky and the lilies of the field and how God
cares for them. God does even more for us.

Trusting in that care and love, let us make our confession.

Gracious and loving God,

**Open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness
of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is
hurtful and hateful.**

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We lack self-control.

We hoard our resources.

We love with condition.

We struggle to trust and let worry consume us.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray.

Forgive our sin, and

empower us to be imitators of Christ

in love and service. Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

From Psalm 145:13-14

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious
in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises
up all who are bowed down.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Ministry Moment

Back to School & Promotion Sunday

Connor Dean

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory

Give Yourself to Love

by Kate Wolf

Johnny McWilliams, soloist

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

A Service of Word and Table III

The United Methodist Hymnal 15

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we
praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

**Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the institution
of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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.

Closing Prayer

Susan Lambert

Lord...

**We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word,
that challenges us to do more than sing and pray,
but go out and work as though the very answer to our
prayers depended on us and not upon you.**

**Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine
like the stars and live on through all eternity.**

Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace.

**Help us to walk together,
pray together,
sing together,
and live together**

**until that day when all God's children
will rejoice in one common band of humanity
in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray.**

Amen.

BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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

Take My Life and Let It Be
The United Methodist Hymnal 399, vs. 1 & 3

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS

Ushers for today's service are Susan Johnston and Bobbi Marino.

SCRIPTURE READERS

Our scripture readers are Donnie Lambert, Susan Lambert, Betty Schroeder, Jane Walker, and Rev. Marie Williams.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

COFFEE TIME

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Our closing prayer is adapted from a prayer by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worship

NEW WORSHIP SERIES

"Grace in the Depths: A Series on Jonah" - This August we will take a deep dive into the story of Jonah and see just how far God's grace will go. We take the plunge on August 6.

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES - "SUMMER ON THE MOUNT"

We are spending our, "Summer on the Mount," through our worship series based on Matthew 5-7. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us a sort of theological pep talk, not only to help us feel better about life, but to offer practical ways to help us live as God would have us live, that we might then help create the world as God envisions it. Join us as we spend the summer with Jesus' most famous sermon.

Servanthood

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Opening Doors is collecting school supplies for 3 schools in our area: Charlie Thomas Memorial Head Start Center, Gardere Community Christian School, and Wildwood Elementary School. There will be blue tubs in the Narthex and the hallway of the Education/Admin Building through **Sunday, August 6**. A list of suggested supplies is available in the Narthex or in the Friday newsletter.

FAMILY CAMP THANK YOU

Thank you for all your support of Family Camp. We had a tremendous time learning, growing, and playing together around the theme "Every Living Thing." We could not have done it without your prayers, donations, and time.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH YOUTH & CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each summer, we give our regular and reliable youth and children Sunday School leaders a chance to relax by giving them the summer off. We need your help. In June and July our youth and children Sunday School classes are meeting in the Family Life Center for a combined Sunday School experience. Connor is leading each week's lesson and provides oversight. She is seeking helpers to guide the activities that accompany each lesson for each of the three age groups. All materials are provided.

Please consider the opportunity to create and strengthen intergenerational connections within our church family by volunteering for at least one Sunday in June or July. If you are willing to serve contact Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

CHURCH-WIDE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

All of our adult Sunday School classes are combining for a study on Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" and you are invited, too! You do not need to be a part of a regular Sunday School class to participate. We understand that summers are busy, so come when you can. There is no homework or prep work.

Each week will be led by a different facilitator. Rev. Bernie Johnson will lead us today and Rev. Larry Norman will facilitate next week. We are recording the sessions so if you happen to miss the class, you can watch it online. We will send a link to each week's session through the *Inside St. John's* newsletter.

Join us on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary from 9:55-10:45 a.m. as the study continues.

COFFEE TIME UPDATE

Special thanks go to those who have answered the call! So far, we have enjoyed Sunday Coffee Time with delicious snacks! Continuing through the summer up through September we will need individuals or classes to sign up. So far the schedule looks like this:

- **July 30 is open.**
- August - Thanks Genesis class!
- **All Sundays in September are open.**

We have changed the signup format so that you can sign up as an individual or a family and still just bring a couple of things. You don't have to be in Sunday School class to sign up. Members of the congregation can sign up! The Chancel Choir can sign up! The Alleluia Ringers can sign up! Covenant Groups can sign up! Anyone can offer to bring something. To sign up you can go to <https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeTimeSignup> or use the QR code shown at right.



GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP

A 13-week grief and loss support group using the recently released GriefShare New Edition materials will begin on **Tuesday, August 22, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the parlor. To join the class you must register through the GriefShare website, www.GriefShare.org. There is a \$20 charge for class materials, there are scholarships available. Please contact Dee Muenzler for more information (225-933-1668 or deemuenzler@gmail.com).

SPIRIT SUNDAY AUGUST 6

- **Blessing of the Bags** - Anyone who desires to have their backpack, work bag, briefcase, or handbag blessed, is invited to bring it to worship on Sunday, August 6. We will have a special Bag Tag for you to hang on your bag to remind you that your St. John's family is praying for you.
- **Prayers for Students, Faculty, & Staff** will be lifted for those returning to school.
- **Presentation of Bibles** - Do you have children entering Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 6th grade, or 9th grade? If you would like them to receive an age-appropriate Bible, please send his or her name to Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org by Sunday, July 30.
- **Promotion Sunday** - Students beginning Kindergarten will move up to Mrs. Marilyn's & Mrs. Sarah's class. Students beginning 4th grade will move into Mrs. Natalie's and Mrs. Beth's class. Students beginning 6th grade will move into the youth Sunday School class.
- **Wear your favorite school colors!** - Purple and gold; blue and gold; green and gold; red, white, and blue ... whatever your school colors are for high school or college, show your school spirit and wear those colors on Sunday!

Children & Youth Ministries

BIBLE PRESENTATION

In honor of those heading back to school, on Sunday, August 6, students going into Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th and 9th grades will be presented Bibles. If your student is moving up into one of those grades, please email Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) by July 30 so we can have an age-appropriate Bible ready.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

This is when St. John's will recognize the students moving up to the next grade level. On August 6, students starting Kindergarten, 4th grade, and 6th grade will move into their new Sunday School classes - how exciting! Students beginning Kindergarten will move up to Mrs. Marilyn's & Mrs. Sarah's class. Students beginning 4th grade will move into Mrs. Natalie's and Mrs. Beth's class. Students beginning 6th grade will move into the youth Sunday School class.

YOUTH & CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday in June and July, our children in Kindergarten - 12th grade, have a wonderful opportunity to meet together in a one-room Sunday school for Bible study, singing, activities, and snacks, led by Connor Dean. We will meet in the FLC from 10 - 10:45 a.m. Come early to enjoy some fellowship at Coffee Time. We do hope you will bring your children and youth to this experience.

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Our collaborative youth ministry program is in full swing. Each week a different United Methodist Church will host youth from the Baton Rouge area. Next week St. John's Youth will be joining other Baton Rouge area Youth Groups near the USS Kidd on July 19, 6 - 8 p.m.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Movie Night. Bring the whole family to watch a movie with us in the FLC on **Thursday, August 3 at 5:00 p.m.** We will provide popcorn and drinks.

You are welcome to bring your favorite movie snacks with you! To help us decide which movie to watch, please use the QR code to go to the survey form at stjohnsbr.org/SelectMovie.



MUSIC MAKERS RETURNS!

Music Makers will begin making music on **Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m., beginning August 13**, in the Choir Room with Dr. Steve. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade will meet every Sunday and the youth will join whenever special music is planned. Music Makers will participate in four worship services this fall and the Youth will join us for special music during the season of Advent leading into Christmas. Our children have so much musical talent and we are planning a fun and spirit-filled time through singing and playing instruments. Children may be dropped off and picked up from the Choir Room.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, July 23

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School, FLC
- 9:55 a.m. Sermon on the Mount, Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, July 24

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

Tuesday, July 25

YOUTH LEAVE FOR DAYTONA BEACH

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 5:45 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, July 26

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Sumr Tour, Broadmoor UMC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-E

Thursday, July 27

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC

Friday, July 28

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

Saturday, July 29

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

*Family Life Center