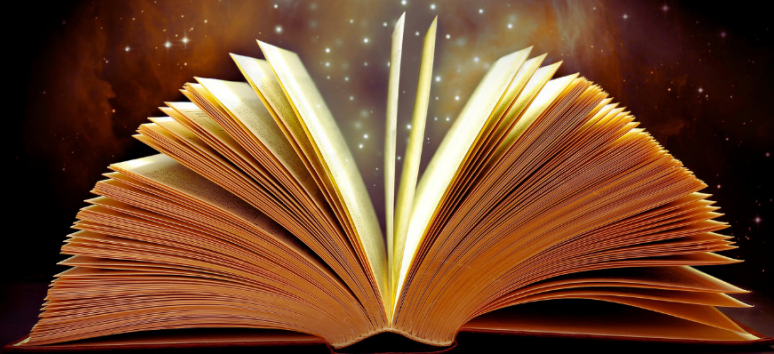


# STRANGER THINGS



A SERIES ABOUT  
BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

*Sunday, June 23, 2024*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

The phrase, “see the writing on the wall” is often used to talk about sensing or seeing an impending disaster, knowing the eventual outcome of something in a negative sense. Did you know it originated from a little-known story in the book of Daniel? What message might God be trying to send you about your life? Let’s all try to listen more closely for God so we can read the writing on our own lives and respond faithfully. 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](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  
*Lead Pastor*  
[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

Connor Dean  
*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
[connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
[office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)

Dr. Steve Rushing  
*Choir Director*  
[stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org)

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Cheryl Roubique  
*Nursery Coordinator*

Gabe Guillory  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
[billputzig@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:billputzig@stjohnsbr.org)

Brooklyn Hays  
*Nursery Worker*

# 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

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 454, vs 1

*People Need the Lord*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2244, vs. 1 & 2

## \*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

We gather this day, and much is visible:

**Our smiles may share our joy;  
our eyes may show our pain.**

We come to this place, seeking signs of the living God:

**May we sense something holy here;  
May we be ready to receive.**

Will we see God today?

Will our living make God's love visible?

**Let us worship God - Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.  
Amen.**

## \*Response

*God Is Here Today*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2049

## Children's Message

Gabe Guillory

## Scripture

Daniel 5:1-9

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

"The Handwriting on the Wall"

## \*Hymn

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2128, vs. 1 & 2

## \*Confessing Our Sin

Natalie Cooper

The act of confession is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in God's abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

*(Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.)*

Let us pray...

**O God,**

**We come with humble hearts, confessing  
our shortcomings and failures:**

**We don't always listen to you when you reach out to us.**

**We get so caught up in the busyness of life that we often  
ignore your gentle whispers and nudges.**

**We make idols of our lives.**

**We put our trust and faith in possessions, success, and  
worldly pleasures, rather than placing our full devotion in  
you, the one true God.**

**Open our eyes to see that our choices have consequences.  
Forgive us and guide us, Lord.**

**May we learn from our mistakes and grow closer to you  
each day.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## \*Receiving Grace

Friends hear the good news:

God sees us, hears us, and loves us.

In Christ, you are forgiven and  
thus freed to love and serve.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Sharing God's Grace

**Ministry Moment: Vacation Bible School**

Connor Dean

## 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 the Table

*To prepare for Holy Communion, we recall the story of the Last Supper and the pastor invokes the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

## 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.*

## Prayer After Receiving

Natalie Cooper

**Eternal God,**

**We give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

*Be Thou My Vision*

The United Methodist Hymnal 451, vs. 1 & 2

### \*Blessing and Sending Forth

### \*Postlude

## *Worship Notes*

The flowers on the altar are given by Joyce Perry to the Glory of God and in celebration of Bill Perry's birthday. Happy Birthday, Bill!

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

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.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

We believe that prayer is a powerful way to connect us to one another and to God. If you have a prayer or joy you want lifted up, please email [prayers@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsbr.org). Pastor Lane and Lynn Cooper, our Administrative Assistant, will receive your request and pass it along to the Prayer Team, unless you request it only be shared with Pastor Lane. A group of dedicated volunteers receive prayer requests weekly and then focus on praying for these requests immediately and throughout the week. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested. Prayer Requests are also included in the *Inside St. John's* newsletter, sent on Tuesdays.

We are grateful for the individuals on our Prayer Team who commit to pray for the concerns and joys that are shared. Would you like to be a part of this team that commits to praying daily/weekly? Send a request to join the Prayer Team to [prayers@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsbr.org).

# Announcements

## VBS THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who made Vacation Bible School possible! The support you've shown through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness have had a direct impact in our ability to host all our VBS participants this year. We cannot do it without you!

## STRANGER THINGS: A SERIES ABOUT BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

In our current worship series, we are delving into some of the more bizarre passages in the Bible. Each week we are exploring an unusual story from scripture - some of which you may not have even heard before! Along the way, we'll see how even the strangest parts of the Bible reveal God's nature to us and encourage and strengthen our faith. The series includes a talking donkey, a tent peg, a floating hand, and a severed ear. As we read a few of the odd legends of the Bible, we are asking the question: What is the good news here?

## LOVE FEAST JUNE 30 AT 10AM

June brings summer, lazy days, and something else this year ... a fifth Sunday! What a perfect day to have a different experience for worship!

So, on **Sunday, June 30, we are celebrating the fifth Sunday by hosting a "Love Feast" worship experience in the FLC at 10 a.m., in lieu of our regular worship times.** This will be a celebratory service featuring music, prayer, and testimonies as we enjoy a potluck brunch. Everyone is invited to bring a breakfast or brunch item to share.

The early Christians met and broke bread together to signify their union, fellowship, and love. In 1727, the Moravian Church in Germany revived this practice, calling it a "Love Feast." John Wesley, co-founder of Methodism and an Anglican priest, experienced a Moravian Love Feast during his time in Georgia, and it quickly became part of early American Methodism. Our own celebratory Love Feast will be a great way to remember our history while spending time in fellowship with our church family!

*We will resume our regular Sunday morning schedule the following Sunday, July 7, with worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Coffee Time and Summer Sunday School in between services.*

## **TODAY - UPDATE ON UMC CONFERENCES**

Join us between services today for updates about General Conference and the Louisiana Annual Conference. Pastor Lane and Natalie Cooper (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference) will share highlights from the global General Conference and the local Louisiana Annual Conference. Our conversation will start at 10am on June 23 in the sanctuary.

## **SUMMER BELLS**

Have you thought about joining the Alleluia Ringers and learning how to play handbells? Do you want to be a part of a group that serves the church community in a unique way? Then come to rehearsals in the bell room for the month of **June on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm**. We will teach you how to play and when to play. All you have to do is count. All are welcome!

## **YOUTH SUMMER TOUR**

The next stop on our Summer Tour will be **First UMC of Gonzales (224 W. Constitution St., Gonzales) on Wednesday, June 26**. Youth should be dropped off at Gonzales' First UMC at 6 p.m. and picked up at 8.

The Youth Summer Tour meets each Wednesday in June & July (except for the week of July 4th) from 6 - 8 p.m. A different church will be hosting each week. The Summer Tour will not meet Wednesday July 3.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are looking for volunteers to serve as "table leaders" to help lead each age group within our one-room Sunday School class for our children & youth during the summer. Please carefully review the available slots at [stjohnsbr.org/sumer-ss](http://stjohnsbr.org/sumer-ss) or contact Connor if you have any issues or questions.

## **ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - TED TALK THEOLOGY**

Our adult summer study series is called TED Talk Theology and runs through July 28 (9:55-10:45 am) in the sanctuary. Each Sunday we're watching a TED Talk, reading scripture, and talking about what they say to us about our faith and life. We have a new facilitator each Sunday. Come weekly or come when you can! There's nothing to prep for or to read ahead of time. After a two-week break, our next TED Talk session will be Sunday, July 7.

**SUNDAY, JULY 7** our session will be led by Phil Sprunger with a talk by Shankar Vedantam titled "You Don't Actually Know What Your Future Self Wants."



# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday, June 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. Youth/Children's Sunday School, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. Update on UMC Conferences, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Summer Bells Practice, Bells Room

## Monday, June 24

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

## Tuesday, June 25

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Wednesday, June 26

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. UWF Sew Day, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Summer Tour, First UMC, Gonzales
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

## Thursday, June 27

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

## Friday, June 28

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
- 10:30 a.m. Gardere Initiative Meeting, Library

## Saturday, June 29

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

\*Family Life Center

## LOVE FEAST

...in the Wesleyan tradition

SUNDAY, JUNE 30 @10AM  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

A 5th Sunday worship experience featuring music, prayer, and testimonies as we enjoy a potluck brunch.



## ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*