



Embracing the
“Good Enough”
of life & faith

Sunday, February 25, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

Today we continue our Lenten worship series, Embracing the “Good Enough,” with an encounter in which Jesus gets sidetracked by challenges and threats. In this story we see both his humanity and divinity as he stands up to the bullying Pharisees and promises to protect his people, like a mother hen protects her chicks. In life, we face so many challenges and things that threaten us. What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be “just so” and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control?

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



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

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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. 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 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.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

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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.*



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Gathering Music

Good Enough
Terry Byars, soloist

Prayer

Donnie Lambert

**Holy God, our Light and Salvation,
we call out to you,
sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.
Shelter us in days of trouble and lead us onto level paths.
Open us this day to your grace and peace.
Transform our frustrations into simple and “good enough”
moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

*Hymn

Trust and Obey
The United Methodist Hymnal 467, vs. 1 - 3

Children’s Message

Ben Hartman

Prayer

Donnie Lambert

**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

Donnie Lambert

Luke 13:31-35

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

“The Illusion of Control”

***Hymn**

I Need Thee Every Hour
The United Methodist Hymnal 397, vs. 1, 4, & 5

***Prayer**

Loving Savior,

**It frustrates us that so much in life is out of our control.
Sometimes we're tempted to believe that
if we just "think positively," we can turn it all around.**

**We run in so many directions,
trying to create a semblance of a perfect life.
Help us let go of needing all things and all people
to be "just so," and instead learn to nurture "what is,"
and embrace our holy, "good enough," lives.**

Silent Reflection

***Compassionate Response**

Know that despite our sometimes faltering steps,
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

***Sharing Love and Peace**

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;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Invitation to Holy Communion**

Christ looks upon each one with love and says,
"You are welcome at my table."

Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,
"Whatever troubles you, bring it here."

Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,
"Whatever you'd like to leave behind, do it here."

So come to this table that's full of love, compassion and grace.
You are welcome.

***Holy Communion**

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.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*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.

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

By your Spirit open us to each other. Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

Amen.

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

Loving Lord,

You have looked upon us with love and said, "You are welcome at my table."

**Thank you for creating a place where we need not be perfect,
we need not be sure of ourselves or our faith,
and we need not feel whole and right with the world.**

**Send us out to share that same grace and compassion
with others.**

In the name of the One who accepts us and transforms us.

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

Through It All (2x)
The United Methodist Hymnal 507

*Blessing

"A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone is Struggling"

Blessed are you who see things clearly,
where struggle is everyone's normal.

You walk among the fellowship of the afflicted,
a club no one wants to join.

And while this life isn't shiny,
it does come with superpowers.

Superpowers of ever-widening empathy and existential courage
that gets you back up after another fall and a deepened awe
at the beauty and love that can be found amid life's rubble.

Like flowers that grow from the cracks in the sidewalk.

These virtues blossom in you. And thank God for you.

Blessed are all of us who struggle, for we are in good company,
and we'll never walk alone.

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

Worship Notes

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Betty and Ed Kochan given by their daughter Susan and her husband, Charles Teddlie.

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Susan Johnston and Bobbi Marino.

COFFEE TIME

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

Most Liturgy and leader parts. By Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/ goodenough. Used and adapted with permission.

Theme Song. "Good Enough" theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

Benediction. "A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone is Struggling" from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

Announcements

TODAY - C.H.A.O.S. BEAD CRAFT NIGHT

Do you have any Mardi Gras beads you would like to get rid of? Bring them with you to our Bead Craft Night, 4 - 6 p.m. in the FLC. This will be fun for the whole family. Dinner will be provided.

PICK UP A YELLOW GROCERY BAG

Grocery Bag Sunday is March 3; don't forget to pick up a yellow grocery bag after worship today and bring it back next Sunday filled with groceries. Some items that are needed are canned peas, carrots, and mixed vegetables, pasta, snacks, condiments, and hot or cold cereal.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2024 is now available in the hallway of the Edu/Admin Building. Beginning in April, there is almost a blank slate for you to choose a date to honor or remember a loved one, friend, or group. Sign up now to keep the beautiful flower arrangements on the altar.

Worship

LENT WORSHIP SERIES "EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH"

Join us on a Lenten journey where we will discover what it means to know that we are "good enough," where we give ourselves grace, and we accept that life is imperfect and that's ok. What if we stopped striving for unattainable ideals and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives.

We are using the book *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche, as the companion for our Lent worship series. Each week we highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of the book and move through the devotions on your own or simply as you feel led. You may wish to use the suggested reading list found in the Narthex and in the hallway of the Admin/Education Building.

Servanthood

ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION - SAVE THE DATE!

St. John's United Methodist Church will return to St Mark's United Methodist in the New Orleans French quarter on March 17. We will again be partnering with St Mark's to provide a meal for the unhoused immediately following their 10:30 AM worship service. Our caravan will leave St. John's at 7 AM in order to arrive there in time to make last-minute preparations and prepare for serving the meal. If you are interested in volunteering for this mission, please call Rev. Larry Norman at 225-933-1881. Additional vehicles may be needed. Please let me know if you are willing to drive to New Orleans and back. Good news for those who went with us last time, Phil Diz has agreed to share his beautiful voice for the Sunday morning worship service and there may be other musical guests as well!

YOUTH MEALS NEEDED

Help is needed to feed our Youth once a month! Yes, it is only for the third Wednesday of each month for 8 - 10 people. ***The meal can be as simple as picking up several pizzas, a party pack from Taco Bell, or a couple of family meals from KFC.*** Of course, you can bring a home-cooked meal as well. The meal should be brought to the Admin Building between 5:45 and 6 p.m. Sign up to help at stjohnsbr.org/YouthMeals. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) for more information.

COFFEE TIME NEWS!

A big thank you goes to all of you who continue to donate goodies for Coffee Time so faithfully! The Connections class has been scheduled for April, and I'm happy to report that the Sojourners Sunday School has volunteered to provide for the month of May!

This means that March is still available! It's a 5-Sunday month, so if your group or class wants to just sign up for one or two Sundays, that is fine!

Or if you want to just sign up individually to bring something, that

would be welcome, too! Thanks for your help! To sign up use

stjohnsbr.org/coffee-time to sign up or click on the QR code!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

We look forward to hosting VBS again this year! This 5-day program will run from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on June 17 - 21, 2024. More information will be decided soon for VBS -- with regards to what curriculum we'll be using, registration, and cost of attendance. For the time being, mark your calendars!

LSU WESLEY CENTER

Tuesday Night Meal and or Devotion. The LSU Wesley Center is asking for our help in providing a meal and or devotion on a Tuesday night. It would be served after their prayer service to a group of 8 - 10 students. It could be a home cooked meal or a bought meal (tacos, pizza, etc.). They ask that there be a vegetarian and a gluten free option. To sign up go to signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#.

Youth & Children's Ministries

YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER

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

Third Wednesdays: Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Wednesday Night Live*. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) if you did not receive one.

C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

TODAY - February 25, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Bring your leftover Mardi Gras beads and join us for a craft night using upcycled beads! Dinner will be included.

March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Save the date for this event... More info coming soon!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 25

- 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. C.H.A.O.S., FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, February 26

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' 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, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, February 27

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, February 28

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

Thursday, February 29

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

Friday, March 1

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

Saturday, March 2

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

*Family Life Center