



SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH JESUS' MOST FAMOUS SERMON.

Sunday, June 25, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Our "Summer on the Mount" ascent begins today as we read the opening verses from Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." Spanning three chapters in Matthew's gospel, these are some of Jesus' most profound and memorable teachings.

When we live these teachings out, we are building the kingdom of heaven here on earth. The basic building block of the kingdom is love. Without love there is no kingdom. In the "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus gives us concrete practices for daily life, each one of which points us to yet another way to be more loving.

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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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.*



CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
The United Methodist Hymnal 154, vs. 1 & 2

*Call to Worship

Jim Sandifer

In our ancient scriptures,
we read of Jesus teaching his disciples on a mountainside
as a crowd gathered 'round.

We read of Jesus healing and proclaiming good news
of the kingdom of heaven.

There he spoke, "Blessed are..."

There he named the blessed - the saints of the faith.

**O God, call us together as you did so long ago
to discover your blessed people.**

Today, in this place, Christ gathers us.

**Let us remember, confess, celebrate,
and embody the blessed saints of God.**

Christ, come among us.

Christ, inspire us.

Christ, guide us, and lead us to the heart of God.

*Song of Response

Seek Ye First
The United Methodist Hymnal 405, vs. 1

LISTENING TO JESUS

Children's Moment

Heather Durham

O God,

**As your Son gathered disciples to himself
to teach them your ways,
so your Spirit has gathered us
in this time and place.**

**Make us alert and attentive as we read and reflect
on Jesus' words; help us take them to heart and
live into them, so that your will is truly done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**We pray in the name of our true Teacher, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

***Scripture**

Matthew 4:23-5:12

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

“Blessed are...”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn of Faith**

Blest Are They

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2155, vs. 1 - 3

***Prayer of Confession**

Jim Sandifer

Lord Jesus, you taught us that in Your kingdom,
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,”
but we have been rich in pride.

“Blessed are those who mourn,”
but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.

“Blessed are the meek,”
but we are rebellious by nature.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,”
**but we have great desire for evil and little longing for
Your true goodness.**

“Blessed are the merciful,”
but we are harsh and impatient.

“Blessed are the pure in heart,”
but we have impure hearts.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,”
but we have not sought reconciliation.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,”
but our lives do not challenge the world.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me,”
but we have hardly made it known that we are yours.

Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us all of our sins.

**Renew us and lead us by your Holy Spirit so that
we may seek first your kingdom and
Your righteousness and walk joyfully in the way
of Your blessing. Amen.**

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Friends, hear the Good News:
the mercy of God is from everlasting
to everlasting.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
**God’s grace has no bounds.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, 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 stjohsbr.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.

Prayer after Receiving

Jim Sandifer

Jesus our teacher,

**We give you thanks for inviting us to your
table and sharing your feast.**

**We have been fed with
love and grace.**

**Send us out by your Spirit,
that we, whom you graciously call blessed,
may live as blessings in this world.**

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

Let There Be Peace on Earth
The United Methodist Hymnal 431

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS for today's service are Brian and Danielle Blackwood.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Joyce Perry in celebration of Bill Perry's birthday.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the Glory of God in celebration of the wedding of Elizabeth LeBlanc and Jackson Davis.

COFFEE TIME

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

Announcements

PLANNED GIVING TEAM

The Legacy page on our church website is live! You can read about planned giving options by going to stjohnsbr.org/legacy. Planned giving team members are Kathy King, Brian Blackwood, Pat Cobb, Johnny McWilliams, and Mari Walker. They are happy to provide next step information.

FLOWER CHART

Our Flower Chart has some Sundays that just might be the date you want to remember or honor a person or group. Call the office or stop by the bulletin board in the hallway of the Education/Admin Building and add your name to the chart on the date you select. Open dates are:

- July 9 and 30
- September 3, 10, and 24
- October 8, 15, 22, and 29
- November 26
- December 3 and 31

Worship

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES - "SUMMER ON THE MOUNT"

We will spend our, "Summer on the Mount," through our worship series. 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

TODAY: ST. MARK'S MISSION DAYS

The St. John's Youth Group are in New Orleans today serving a meal to the unhoused and those experiencing hunger through St. Mark's UMC. This mission trip marks the beginning of Youth Service Week, June 25-30.

You are also welcome to take part in another mission to St. Mark's on October 8 being led by Rev. Larry Norman.

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.

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY - JULY 2

Don't forget to pick up a yellow bag to bring back to church filled with items for The Shepherd's Market. Some items that we need are pasta, mac & cheese, condiments, and breakfast cereal.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

CHURCH-WIDE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

With nearly 50 people in attendance, we had a great start to our church-wide Bible Study on Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" last week! Join us on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary from 9:55-10:45 a.m. as the study continues.

All of our adult Sunday School classes are combining for this study 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. Marie Williams will lead us today and Dr. Steve Rushing will facilitate next week. We will record 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.

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:

- June 25 - Thanks Seekers Class and Deirdra Matthews
- July 2 - Thanks Seekers class!
- **July 9 through July 30 are open**
- August - Thanks Genesis class!
- **September 3 through September 24 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! 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.



Children & Youth Ministries

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.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

TODAY: St. Mark's UMC, New Orleans

Meet at St. John's at 7:30 a.m.; return to St. John's at approximately 3 p.m.

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. This week, Wednesday, June 28, our youth will head over to University UMC.

Youth Service Week: June 25-20

- June 25 - St. Mark's Mission: See under "Servanthood" in today's bulletin.
- June 26 - The Shepherd's Market Food Pantry
- June 27 - The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank
- June 28 - Summer Tour '23, Week 4, at University UMC, 6 - 8 p.m.
- June 29 - The Shepherd's Market Food Pantry
- June 30 - Shepherd's Garden

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This summer, we will be hosting an event called "Family Camp." It will take place Thursday - Saturday, July 13 - 15. We will meet in the evenings on Thursday & Friday (July 13 & 14) from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and in the morning on Saturday (July 15) from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. We will gather in the Family Life Center each day for food, games, worship, Bible study, and other activities.

There is no cost to attend, but we do ask that you register so we can ensure we have adequate supplies and food. This is an event for the entire family. We'd love for you to participate in all three sessions, but we understand if you cannot. Don't let that stop you from participating in some of Family Camp. For more information, please contact Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org. Registration forms are in the Narthex and there is a link included in the newsletters.

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, there will be opportunities for fellowship and fun activities.

- July 6 there will be an Ice Cream Social & Sock Hop at St. John's, 5 - 7 p.m.
- July 20 there will be Children's Ministry Pool Party at the Toney's, 5 - 7 p.m.
- Plus, we will have a Family Movie Night on August 3 at 5 p.m.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, June 25

- 7:30 a.m. Youth: St. Mark's UMC, N.O.
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells' Room

Monday, June 26

- 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. Youth: The Shepherd's Market
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, June 27

- 7:30 a.m. Youth: Greater BR Food Bank
- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, June 28

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Youth, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth: University UMC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-E
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, June 29

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

Friday, June 30

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Youth: Shepherd's Garden & Garden Party, FLC

Saturday, July 1

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

*Family Life Center