



Sunday, November 26, 2023

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

All Are Welcome

Welcome to worship at the start of a week of Thanksgiving! In today's scripture reading we witness an incredible act of gratitude coming from an unlikely source, reminding all of us to express thanks to God for the many healings, blessings, and gifts we've been given.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

*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.*



# 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

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

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



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

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*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  
*Lead Pastor*  
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean  
*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
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LeAnn Davis  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

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.*



## O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

**\*Advent Proclamation**

Pastor Lane

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.  
The carols we sing, the prayers we pray,  
the words we say are not our songs, or our prayers, or our words.  
**They are a gift, inspired by the Giver Of All Words,  
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us,  
God with us, Emmanuel.**

He was indeed the long-expected one, the Messiah, our Lord -  
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace...

**In this Season we proclaim, again, the birth of Christ,  
who comes to show us everything we will ever need to know  
about God.**

We anticipate the gift of Christmas in this time of worship.  
**We come, longing to be as close to the source of hope, love,  
joy, and peace as possible, on this day and always. Amen.**

**\*Songs of Praise**

*We Will Glorify the King of Kings*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2087, vs. 1 & 2  
*King of Kings (3x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2075

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Hal Holloway and  
Bobby Johnson

The Advent season starts with expectancy;  
as we anticipate the coming of our long-promised Messiah.  
We light this first candle as a reminder that we live by Hope.

*(The candle of Hope is lit.)*

Let us pray:

**Christ be with us in this Light of Hope.  
Hope for your presence,  
Hope for your peace,  
Hope for your promise,  
Hope for all the world.**

**This we ask in the name of Christ our King.  
Amen.**

## Prayer Response

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2107

# LET US BE OPEN

## Children's Moment

Connor Dean

## Prayer for Illumination

**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 Reading

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.**

## Message

“The Royal Names for Jesus”

Pastor Lane

## \*Hymn of Faith

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 203, vs. 1 & 4

# LET US BE HONEST

## \*Call to Confession

**Holy Lord,**

**In this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by  
the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment,  
and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true  
meaning of Christmas.**

**We confess we also often prefer being sentimental  
to being sacrificial.**

**Forgive us**

**for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst,  
for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and  
for all the times we have failed to hold the  
holidays as holy days.**

**Pour Hope into our lives and let us be bearers of  
Your Hope to others.**

**Remind us that this is a season of waiting and  
preparation for the greatest Gift of all.**

**In the holy Name of Christ the King we pray. Amen.**

## \*Prayer of Confession

Holy Lord,

In this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas.

We confess we also often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial.

Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days.

Pour Hope into our lives and let us be bearers of Your Hope to others.

Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all.

In the holy Name of Christ the King we pray. Amen.

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News!

God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment.

You are *that* beloved.

So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

**We are loved, we are forgiven.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

# LET US GIVE

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

Betty Schroeder, violin; John Toney, guitar

*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!**

# LET US RECEIVE

## \*Invitation to the Feast

If you are yearning for hope, come to the table.  
If you are thirsty for love, life-changing love, come to the table  
If you are hungry for joy in your heart, come to the table.  
If you are longing for a sense of peace, come to the table.  
Come and meet Christ your King  
    who welcomes you as his guest.  
Come to the table of grace.

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Praise to you O God, who created the heavens and the earth.  
You have been faithful to your ancient promises to your  
    people, whom you guided out of slavery and into freedom  
    and fullness of life.

When your people turned away from you,  
    you gave your prophets courage to speak words of your  
    righteousness and justice.

You comforted your people in their time of suffering and  
    oppression, promising us that you are Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Therefore we praise you and give you thanks!

As we prepare for your coming again this Christmas,  
    we join voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the  
    faithful of every time and place, who forever sing  
    to the glory of your name:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

The United Methodist Hymnal 211, refrain

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

In time you visited your people with a new Word,  
    a living Word,  
    a Word made flesh to live among us.

We remember the life of that Christ-child:

    born in a stable amidst the poor and the outcast;  
    driven from his homeland by cruel leaders and frightened  
    parents; returning to grow into a teacher, a healer, and a friend.  
Jesus ate with sinners and brought sight to the blind,  
    reclaiming lost and scattered people in your name.

Crucified by those he had come to save,  
    Jesus rose again to prove that no sin, no shame, no fear,  
    not even death can halt God's plan of love.

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

*Then the pastor continues:*

Remembering how you sent the light of the world into our darkness,  
we take from your creation these gifts of bread and cup,  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await with hopeful hearts the day of his coming.  
With thanksgiving we offer all that we are to you as a holy sacrifice,  
to be your servants, your light to shine for all the world, as we proclaim  
the truth of the depths of your love.

*He Came Down*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2085

**He came down that we may have hope  
He came down that we may have hope;  
He came down that we may have hope;  
Hallelujah, forevermore.**

*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 forevermore.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Sharing in the Gifts of Communion and Anointing**

*Those who would like to be anointed are invited forward during Communion.  
Oil will be traced on your forehead or hand in the sign of the cross.*

*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.*

## **Our Communion Response**

**Holy One,**

**In awe and wonder, we have met you at this table.**

**Nourished by your holy food, send us out to prepare the way  
for your kingdom.**

**Filled with your grace, show us how to live as disciples  
of your hope, so that all may know your hope, your love,  
your joy, and your peace.**

**This we pray in the sacred name of Jesus.**

**Amen.**



# DEPARTING TO SERVE

## **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**

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 327, vs. 1 & 4

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**

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

# Worship Notes

## **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar "are in honor of my amazing friend Lenni Stickles by Rev. Marie Williams."

## **USHERS**

Ushers for today's worship service are Sandra Kuykendall and Bobbi Marino.

## **COFFEE TIME**

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building.

# Stewardship Update

We have already seen such a great response to our Stewardship Campaign! Thank you to those who have made a pledge for 2024. We celebrate the following:

- **98** individuals & families have pledged a total of **\$499,898**, so far.
- **57** households have increased their pledge for next year.
- **15** are first time pledged givers.

Can you help us reach 100 pledges and exceed \$500,000? If you have not yet pledged, please consider joining your fellow St. John's family members who have increased their pledge from this year to next. Our 2024 budget includes a Spirit-led 13-14% increase, and your increased pledge will get us closer to our goal. You can complete a pledge card and turn it in during the offering or to the church office, or you can pledge online at: [stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2024).

## Worship & Music

### UPDATES FOR MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers next performance will be Sunday December 17. For this performance, there will be an additional rehearsal on **Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m.**

**Youth** interested in joining the Music Makers performance on December 17 should plan to join Music Makers practices (for about 30 minutes of the practice).

*There will be no Music Makers rehearsal today, Sunday, November 26, as we will meet for C.H.A.O.S. at that time.*

### ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES BEGINS NOVEMBER 26

We know him by the name of Jesus. But he was also called other names, like Messiah, Lord, Savior, and Emmanuel. He is the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, and the Word made flesh. Each of these names reveals a little bit more of the story around who the person of Jesus was and still is today. Join us on November 26 as we celebrate the beginning of Advent with our new worship series, "The Gift of Many Names" in which we will explore some of the many names of Jesus and what they can tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

# Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL**

Members and friends of St. John's have written daily reflections that will guide us throughout the Advent season. The readings start on November 26 and continue through Epiphany, January 6. Copies are available in the Narthex and also in the church office during the week. It is also available online at: [stjohnsbr.org/advent-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/advent-2023). Thank you to all who made contributions to this year's devotional.

## **JOY FEST - SUNDAY DECEMBER 10**

Join us on **Sunday, December 10, at 5 p.m.** for an evening of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire! We'll have a potluck supper (of course!), followed by a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and Christmas carol singing ... karaoke-style! We know you won't want to miss THAT!

And most importantly, this will be a time of JOY with your church family, before the hustle and bustle of the season gets the best of us. Let's celebrate the season together!

## **ELF NIGHT, FRIDAY DECEMBER 1**

A gift to families raising children, Elf Night provides a free night of childcare for children ages 2 years through 5th grade. Children will enjoy Christmas activities together, led by the United Women in Faith. They can be dropped off and picked up in the Admin/Education Building. Snacks will be provided. You may sign your child/children up on Sunday during Coffee Time or email Sherri Artecona at [iama225secfan@yahoo.com](mailto:iama225secfan@yahoo.com).

If you are interested in helping, please contact Sherri at 985-320-3018 or email at address noted above.

## **UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE FOR LOCAL MISSIONS**

Swing by the Family Life Center throughout the morning on **Sunday, December 17** to purchase delicious holiday baked goods and take home some wonderful handcrafted Christmas gifts. All proceeds will go to local missions supported by the United Women in Faith (UWF).

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE!**

If you love to bake or you have a craft you love to do, please consider donating to the upcoming United Women in Faith Winter Craft and Bake Sale. Text Beth Forester at 225-405-9324 or email to [bethforester@yahoo.com](mailto:bethforester@yahoo.com) if you have a donation to make.

## **TODAY - CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS**

Opening Doors is offering us a chance to help brighten Christmas for children from two of our neighborhood schools, Wildwood Elementary School and Gardere Community Christian School, through their new mission: Neighborhood Friends.

Choose a child's name from our Christmas tree during Coffee Time **today, Sunday, November 26**. You are being asked to purchase two gifts for each student you choose: an item of clothing and a fun item (toy). Each gift should cost between \$20 and \$30. Wrap each gift separately following the directions on the instruction sheet you receive. Please bring the gifts back to the church office on or before Sunday, December 3.

# Servanthood

## **THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY**

The 13th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 16** and takes place in the church parking lot. Once the drive-through starts, it goes fast. Not only will it be a fun and uplifting time for you, but you will be helping our pantry shoppers have a wonderful Christmas dinner with their turkey and all the fixings.

**Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m.**

While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, The Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$25 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Monetary gifts can be made to St John's by check with Turkey Giveaway in the memo line, on Sunday in an offering envelope marked with your name and Turkey Giveaway, or online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give), selecting the Shepherd's Market Fund.

## Holiday Closures & Meetings

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Finance Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 28 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. The Finance Committee is an open meeting and any St. John's member is welcome to attend.

# Youth & Children's Ministries

## **TODAY - FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.**

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

### ***Christ Here And Other Spaces***

We will meet for C.H.A.O.S. **TODAY Sunday, November 26 from 4- 6 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. The lesson will focus on how we can make and prepare spaces for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us. To accompany this lesson, we will work on Chrismons (Christian ornaments) with guidance from some of the members of the St. John's United Women in Faith. Dinner will be included. We hope to see you all there.

## **SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

## **UPSTAIRS CAFE**

The "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

## **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY SERIES - BIBLICAL LAMENT**

The study series we are following for Sunday School from now until Advent is called "Biblical Lament." This series is designed to help teenagers navigate complex feelings and experiences by finding Biblical examples of the same feelings and experiences. The series covers topics such as sadness, fear, joy, surprise, anger, and even issues facing LGBTQ youth.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

## **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Christmas Party for United Methodist Youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 17 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Tacky Christmas sweaters are encouraged. We will play some games, then do a white elephant gift exchange. (Each student should bring a gift that costs no more than \$10 to exchange.) Pizza will be served for dinner and we will decorate Christmas cookies for dessert.

# This Week at St. John's

## **Sunday, November 26**

- 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, November 27**

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Tuesday, November 28**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, November 29**

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

## **Thursday, November 30**

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

## **Friday, December 1**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Elf Night, Admin/Education Bldg.

## **Saturday, December 2**

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

\*Family Life Center