

A stylized illustration featuring a dark blue whale's tail on the left, set against a background of green, jagged mountain peaks. A red, flame-like shape is positioned above the whale's tail. The entire scene is set against a light beige, textured background.

GRACE IN THE DEPTHS

A series on Jonah

A stylized illustration of a small white fish swimming in a green body of water. In the foreground, there are several dark green, vertical reeds or grass blades.

Sunday, August 27, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today we wrap up our worship series “Grace in the Depths” about the prophet Jonah. In this final chapter of his story, Jonah’s anger at God comes to the forefront as he realizes that God opens circumstances for all of us to experience God’s mercy and love, including the Ninevites, who Jonah despises. Will we hold on to our anger like Jonah? Or will we allow ourselves to forgive and perhaps, even model God’s mercy and love for others?

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

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
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

Gabe Guillory
Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

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.
You may scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



GRACE GATHERS US IN

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

Freely, Freely
The United Methodist Hymnal 389, vs. 1 & 2

*Call to Worship

John Toney

The word of God came to Jonah...
The word of God comes to us:

Go...
Despite your fears.

Speak..
the truth of God.

Love...
your neighbor and your enemy.

Forgive...
as you have been forgiven.

Receive...
**grace upon grace,
overflowing from the fullness of God.**

*Song of Response

Grace Alone
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2162, refrain

GRACE IN GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Natalie Cooper

Prayer for Illumination

John Toney

God of New Life,

Speak to us in the rich, ancient words of scripture.

Send us your Holy Spirit so that we will hear your call,

leave behind our old ways,

and follow Jesus Christ,

your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jonah 4:1-11

John Toney

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

“Why Jonah *Really* Ran Away”

Pastor Lane

SHARING IN MEANS OF GRACE

***Hymn of Faith**

Lord, Speak to Me

The United Methodist Hymnal 463, vs. 1, 4, & 5

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that there are days

we just don't want to be your people.

We don't want to love our neighbors.

We don't want to give up our time.

We don't want to put in the effort.

We don't want to answer your call.

Be patient with us, Lord.

We'll come around, with your spirit

to breathe new life into us,

and your love to surround us,

and your grace to forgive us.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

Savior and friend.

Amen.

Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Hear, O Children of God, this Good News:

No amount of avoiding or running can separate you from the love of God. God's steadfast love will pursue you to the end of time and the depths of the sea. Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you by God's grace.

Amen.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory
You Are Near
by Dan Schutte
Natalie Cooper, vocalist

*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

Everyone has a place at this table!

Everyone has a place at this table!

So come to the table of grace!

We come to be fed at God's table of grace.

Let's sing that affirmation together now...

**Come to the table of grace,
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.**

Friends, God is ever present with you!

And also with you!

The peace of Christ is always with you!

The peace of Christ is always with you!

Turn to someone around you – or text this message to someone –
and tell them this Good News:

“The peace of Christ is always with you!”

Share words of peace with someone else.

As close as breath, the Holy Living One is present with us.

So we lift up our hearts and give thanks to God

because it is the right thing to do – not only now, but always.

For “always” is when God is with us.

We thank you God for breathing into us the breath of life.

Even when we turn away, you remain with us.

When it seems that all hope is lost, your grace finds us.

When we are frightened, hesitant, still you are patient.

Time and again you reach out your hand to free us,
for your promise is steadfast.

Claim God's unconditional love for yourself!

**God loves me no matter what I *have ever done*,
no matter what I *am doing*,
no matter what I *will ever do*.**

Blessed is your Son, Jesus – Love Incarnate.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and sat down at the table to eat with those others
considered “unworthy.”

He journeys with us now and invites us to his table of grace.

Let us remind ourselves by saying:

“The Lord is present with every one of us.”

The Lord is present with every one of us.

*You may be seated as we recall Jesus’ invitation to Holy Communion and
the pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit.*

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

John Toney

Gracious God,

**We have come today to see, and touch,
and know your presence among us.**

At your table, we have been fed spiritually and physically.

**Send us into the world to share your grace with others,
and to accept the grace that is offered to us,
all in your holy name.**

Amen.

PUTTING GRACE INTO ACTION

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**

The Gift of Love

The United Methodist Hymnal 408, vs. 1 & 3

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Beth Forester and Rhonda Tucker.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Parker and Rhonda Tucker and the Tucker family in honor of Ron and Peg Tucker's 65th wedding anniversary.

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of Stevie Irene Schroeder, granddaughter of first time grandmother, Betty Schroeder! Stevie was born on August 22 and her parents are Luke and Anna Black Schroeder.

COFFEE TIME

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our newly opened "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building. Read more about it in the Children & Youth Ministries announcements.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Call to Worship was written by Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com.

Love Offering

LOVE OFFERING FOR BILL PUTZIG

After many years of dedicated service, Bill Putzig, our Custodian, has expressed a desire to transition from a full-time role to a part-time position, effective September 1. We fully support his decision and are grateful for the nearly 7 years of dedicated service he has provided.

On Sunday, September 10 we will honor Bill during Coffee Time. To express our appreciation, we are collecting a Love Offering which we will present to him that morning. If you would like to contribute to the Love Offering, you may write a check to St. John's, marking your check in the memo line with "Bill's Love Offering" or make a cash donation using the offering envelopes in the pews, identifying the purpose on the outside of the envelope. Both checks and cash in envelopes may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, or you may want to leave your donation in the church office. If you prefer to give online at stjohnsbr.org/give, select the "Staff Appreciation" Fund, followed by the "Bill's Love Offering," Sub fund.

During Coffee Time, we will also have a basket for collecting cards and gifts if you would like to show your appreciation that way.

Though Bill will no longer be on campus every day, you can still expect to see him on Sunday mornings. Bill will also come twice a week for two 3-hour shifts to tidy up and do light housekeeping. With the reduction of Bill's hours, the Trustees will be contracting with a professional cleaning service, who will do a thorough cleaning of our facilities once a week.

We are grateful for Bill's commitment and contributions over the years. Bill will continue to be a part of our lives, yet on a different basis. He is certainly still part of the St. John's church family.

Worship & Music

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES - INNER INSIGHTS

Scripture calls us to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our *mind*. Caring for our minds, therefore, is a spiritual practice. Our mental health matters to God and is part of caring for our whole selves. Our September worship series, "Inner Insights: A Series About Our Mental Health" invites us to see mental health as part of our faith life. Each week we will talk about the different ways that mental health struggles can present themselves and will offer insights from our faith about how to support ourselves and others. *This series about our mental health begins on September 3.*

NO MUSIC MAKERS TODAY

Music Makers, our elementary children's music program, meets on the first three Sundays of the month, which means they will **NOT** be making music together today. They will resume their regular schedule of rehearsals on **September 3 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

Servanthood

DAYS FOR GIRLS MISSION WORK DAYS

We are getting ready for 3 more workdays for Days for Girls, a mission of United Women in Faith. We will prepare and assemble 100 kits containing reusable feminine hygiene projects for girls in developing countries who are missing school because of a lack of available products.

We will meet in the Family Life Center on **September 16, 23, and 30.** from 9 a.m. – noon. We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and counting supplies. All are welcome and needed! You don't need to know how to sew to take part in this mission.

We are asking for the following donations: (1) new girls cotton panties (briefs) sizes 10, 12, or 14, solids or flowers, no characters or animals; (2) new colored washcloths; and (3) cash. Also, if you are available for sewing bags prior to the work days, please let Joyce know. For more information contact Joyce Perry, home 225-763-6613 or cell 225-978-2206 or joyce.perry@cox.net

MEALS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

Help us provide meals for the St. John's youth group for their evening fellowship on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month.** Students meet from 6-8 p.m.; meals should be delivered between 5:45 - 6 p.m. to the Admin Building. The meal should include an entree, side dish, and dessert for 8-10 people. You are welcome to bring a home-cooked meal or order fast food (pizza, chicken fingers, tacos, etc.). We will have drinks, plates, and cutlery. You can signup by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals.



SERVE ON THE FLOWER MINISTRY TEAM

One of the bright spots of worship each Sunday morning is the fresh floral bouquet in the sanctuary. A new bouquet appears each week, thanks to those congregation members who sign up to sponsor the flowers. But after worship, those bouquets continue to brighten the day of others from the congregation who are not able to enjoy them in person – our members who are home-centered, facility-bound, ill, hospitalized, suffering a loss, or are otherwise experiencing hardship and in need of a bit of cheer. Flowers don't magically get rearranged and transported to those receiving them. It takes a team working behind the scenes to organize and implement the flower deliveries each week and during holidays. We invite you to join in this incredible ministry of delivering cheer and joy.

Ways you can serve on the Flower Ministry Team:

- Saturday mornings: Assist in making a flower arrangement once a month on a Saturday morning with Pat Cobb to guide you
- Sunday afternoons: Assist in breaking down the Altar Flowers into smaller bouquets for sharing with others once a month
- Sundays afternoons or Monday mornings: Deliver flower bouquets once a month
- Periodically serve as a back up team member when needed

No prior floral arranging experience is required! This is a great ministry opportunity for someone who works during the week and would like to serve for a couple of hours on the weekend once a month. When the altar flowers leave the church each week, they are more than something beautiful to look at. They are God's love being delivered by those who are Christ's hands, gladly bringing with them a bit of joy and connection!

If you are interested in serving with the Flower Ministry Team, please contact Harriet Walters via text 225-620-5777 or email harriet.walters@att.net.

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3

Don't forget to pick up a yellow bag today on your way out of worship. If you are able, please add some items to your grocery buggy when shopping. Some things we need on the pantry shelves are: jelly/jam, condiments, snack food, canned meat, cereal, canned spinach, greens, or corn (PLEASE no peas, carrots, or green beans).

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

FALL 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Immersion Bible Study: Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians

Journey with others through three New Testament Epistles, letters written to the early church by its leaders. Guy Johnson will be leading a 6-week Bible Study this fall on the Epistles of Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians, using the Immersion Bible Study program, which offers a refreshing plunge into God's Word, your life, and your life with God. We will offer two sessions of this study. Choose the one that works best for you!

DAYTIME: Mondays at 10 a.m. (First session is September 11)

EVENING: Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (First session is September 12).

Register online at stjohnsbr.org/sept-study-2023

Participants will need a workbook and a Bible. Workbooks are \$16 and will be handed out at the first class session. If you do not have a Bible, the church can provide one for you. A nursery as well as scholarships are available upon request. Please contact the church office (office@stjohnsbr.org; 225-766-4594) for assistance. You can pay for your workbook online at stjohnsbr.org/give (Select "SS Classes and Small Groups" Fund; "Bible Study" Subfund) or by placing a check in the offering plate made out to St. John's, with Bible Study in the memo.

GRIEFSHARE WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP & PROGRAM

A 13-week grief and loss support group and program using the recently updated GriefShare materials is being held on **Tuesdays, 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).

Children & Youth Ministries

TODAY - JOIN US FOR C.H.A.O.S.

We are launching a new series of ministry/discipleship events for Fall 2023 called "C.H.A.O.S.!" This is an acronym which stands for...

Christ Here And Other Spaces

C.H.A.O.S. is all about finding unique and creative ways to apply the teachings of Jesus to the lives of today's children, youth, and families. These discipleship events will include a group Bible lesson, meal, creative activities, music, and more fun. This ministry model is designed to show children, youth, and families how the teachings of Jesus can be applied outside the walls of the church and into our everyday lives.

Join us for C.H.A.O.S. from 4 - 6 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month this fall: August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 26!

We will rotate which C.H.A.O.S. events are designed for full-family engagement and which events are drop-off. Adults are expected to stay with students and participate during the full-family engagement events. During drop-off events, though, adults are welcome to leave after students are checked in.

August 27th - Full-Family Engagement

September 24th - Drop-off

October 22nd - Fall Fest/Full-Family Engagement

November 26th - Drop-off

During our C.H.A.O.S. event today, we will focus on how we can bring Christ to other spaces by living out the teachings of Jesus through our actions. What does the Word of God say about how we should act? How do our actions lead others toward Christ and invite Christ into any space we might enter? We will explore these questions through fun and engaging activities and lessons designed for the whole family.

To close out our first session, around 5:30 p.m., we will be serving a meal of barbecue chicken, baked beans, potato salad, and green salad. We can't wait to see everyone there!

OUR FALL INTERN

We are pleased to announce that Gabe Guillory will continue serving as our Youth Intern for the 2023 fall semester. He will primarily help out with Youth Sunday School and the weekly gatherings for Youth, which are on the first and third Sundays and the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Be sure to thank Gabe for his service and welcome him back for the fall!

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

YOUTH SCHEDULE

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.

There will be **no Youth Group on Sunday, September 3** so the students can get the most out of their Labor Day break.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, August 27

- 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, August 28

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 1:30 p.m. UWF Executive Committee, 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, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, August 29

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, August 30

- 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, August 31

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

Friday, September 1

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

Saturday, September 2

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

*Family Life Center