



# Uniquely UMC

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

*Sunday, April 28, 2024*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*  
All Are Welcome

As United Methodists, we are called, as with all Christians, to grow and connect our faith in God to our present reality. We ask ourselves, "What can I say and do that is faithful to scripture as it has been passed down through tradition, and that makes sense in light of human experience and reason?" (The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016, p.81) Today we unpack that question together as we are reminded of the ever-present Holy Spirit that continues to reveal in us a connection to faith and life.

***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.***



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# 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*  
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Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
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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

*Jesus Be Praised (2x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2079

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 334

## \*Call to Worship

Sandra Kuykendall

We gather as people brought together by grace and bound together in the family of God.

**May God draw us together in love.**

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, a movement dedicated to prayer, worship, study, and service.

**May we never stop seeking the heartwarming Spirit of God.**

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, Yes!  
But more than that, we are God's people, connected to every Jesus-follower through the body of Christ.

**May the love of Christ unite this day and always. Amen.**

## \*Response Song

*Where the Spirit of the Lord Is*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2119

## Children's Message

Natalie Cooper

## Scripture

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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

**"Theology as a Way of Life"**

## \*Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
Written by Charles Wesley  
The United Methodist Hymnal 384, vs. 1, 2, & 4

## \*Prayer of Confession

Sandra Kuykendall

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, to admit our faith and our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession together.

### Holy God,

**We open our hearts to you this day, and offer  
the truth of our lives:**

**We do not love You with our whole heart and  
mind and strength.**

**We do not love our neighbor as ourselves.  
Like a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal,  
our words hurt others.**

**By not sharing our gifts, we do greater harm.  
So we pray, in all humility,  
that You will change our hearts and minds,  
that You will show us again how to love others  
the way You love us,  
that You will put power and courage in our hearts  
to do your will.**

**This we pray in Jesus' name and for His sake.**

**Amen.**

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Friends, hear this Good News:

The love of God is beyond measure, and you are  
included in that love.

Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

### Ministry Moment

Lay Servant Ministry Training

Natalie Cooper

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Wesley Prayer: Come Like a Fire*

By Mark Swayze  
Connor Dean, 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](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!**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

With sung responses from The Faith We Sing Songbook 2257

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

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, the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled, 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 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**

Sandra Kuykendall

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but thine.**

**Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. 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

*The Gift of Love*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 408, vs. 1 - 3

### \*Blessing and Sending Forth

### \*Postlude

## *Worship Notes*

Call to Worship adapted from prayer by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2024.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer by John Wesley, first used in worship on August 11, 1755, in London.

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

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. Prayer Requests are also included in the Inside St. John's newsletter, sent on Tuesdays. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested.

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

**TODAY - C.H.A.O.S. - Christ Here And Other Spaces - Park Playdate:** Join us for a playdate at Highland Road Community Park, **today, April 28, 4 - 6 p.m.** The current weather forecast predicts a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. We are hoping the weather will be clear for our 4-6 PM time frame. However, we have a rain-out plan that involves an indoor picnic & games in the St. John's FLC. If we end up needing to use the rain-out plan, I invite families to bring a picnic blanket to help us recreate the essence of a picnic, but inside.

## **PICK UP A YELLOW GROCERY BAG**

Grocery Bag Sunday is May 5; 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.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 17 - 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

We need volunteers for Vacation Bible School. There are plenty of ways to help out. The best part is – everything is already planned, and all the materials will be provided. We are just asking for your time. If you do not have other commitments during that week or have a flexible work schedule that allows you to volunteer for a day or two, please consider volunteering.

Some slots only require 30 minutes of your time, some require 2 hours, and some require 4 hours. For many of the spots, you can choose if you volunteer for a single day or multiple days. All of that to say, there are many ways to get involved, and we have tried to make this as flexible and volunteer-friendly as possible. You can visit [stjohnsbr.org/vbs](http://stjohnsbr.org/vbs)-volunteers to get more information and sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Connor ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)).

Children who have completed fifth grade and younger are invited to join us for VBS! You can register online at [stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024).

## **LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ONE-DAY WORKSHOP**

Join with other United Methodist laity in a one-day workshop about Lay Servant Ministries on **May 18 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, This course is recommended for every person involved in any lay ministry or holding a leadership position. Participants will use scripture and engage in exercises designed to help better understand and employ your gifts, learn about servant leadership and developing future leaders, and discuss spiritual practices to keep you grounded in your faith.

Registration for the course is \$25, which includes lunch and refreshments. Participants are responsible for acquiring course materials, completing the reading, and completing an assignment based on the materials prior to the course date. Natalie Cooper, who is on the leadership team, is happy to assist you in getting prepared. Register online here: <https://www.la-umc.org/lsm>. For more information, please contact Natalie at [natalie@piaoflouisiana.com](mailto:natalie@piaoflouisiana.com).

## **MISSION TO INDIA**

Retired pastor, Reverend Larry Norman, former Director of Louisiana Volunteers in Mission (VIM), will be participating in a Medical Mission to India June 21-30. If you would like to help, gifts to Larry's mission to India can be made online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give), under Fund>Mission, Sub Fund>India. Checks should be made out to St. John's with "India Mission" in the memo line.

## **EVAN GAGER SUMMER MISSION**

Evan Gager, our former ministry intern, will be part of a team going to Indonesia for 7 weeks to share the gospel with unreached Indonesian college students. Evan is asking us to consider donating to his upcoming trip. To donate online go to <https://app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/evangager1>. For more information contact Evan at [evanleegager@gmail.com](mailto:evanleegager@gmail.com).

# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, April 28**

- 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. Park Playdate,  
Highland Road Community Park
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, April 29**

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

## **Tuesday, April 30**

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

## **Wednesday, May 1**

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

## **Thursday, May 2**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client-  
Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. River City Quilt Guild FLC

## **Friday, May 3**

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

## **Saturday, May 4**

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

\*Family Life Center