



Micah 6:8

*Sunday, September 29, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Choosing kindness isn't about avoiding our differences but navigating them with respect and compassion. Kindness has the power to strengthen relationships, neighborhoods, and communities. It helps us find common ground instead of taking sides. It allows us to disagree and remain friends. It builds bridges instead of walls. Let's respond to the call for kindness spoken from the prophet Micah in today's reading with one intentional act of kindness at time. Welcome to worship!

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 | 230 Renee Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70810
office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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.

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.

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

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

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

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Betsy Adams
Fall Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

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

*Song of Praise

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

*Call to Worship

Danielle Blackwood

We gather around the Light of Christ.
Christ's love knows no bounds.

Though we are a divided world,
may we be united in our worship.

Teach us Your ways, O Lord,
that we may walk in Your truth.
**Show us the way to Do Unto Others
with kindness.**

*Response

Bring Forth the Kingdom
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2190

Children's Moment

Connor Dean

Scripture

Micah 6:6-8

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.

Pastor Lane

Witness to the Word

"The Power of Justice and Kindness"

Pastor Lane

*Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other
The United Methodist Hymnal 560, vs. 1 & 4

*Invitation to Reconciliation

Today we gather around this table to remember what true relationship means. All are invited to this Table of Kindness.

Jesus broke bread with those whose worldview did not mirror his.

Jesus broke bread with those whose experience and traditions were sometimes not only different, but opposed, to his.

He simply offered a place to be, to sit down at the same table, and see what transformation might happen between people.

Yet, as we prepare ourselves for this feast, we are called to admit the complexity that lies at the edges of our relationships.

***Prayer of Confession**

Danielle Blackwood

For all the ways we hurt each other – with harmful expectations, judgments, and our own fear...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we squander right relationship – choosing being “right” over “relationship”...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we abuse our freedom – engaging in hateful speech towards those not on “our” side...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we deny equality and the belovedness of all – deeming some “in” and others “out”...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

A time for silent prayer and confession.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Jesus said, “I have come to set the prisoner free.”

No matter what binds you this day, freedom is yours through new life in Christ.

In the name of the One who came to loose the chains, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and set free.

Glory to God! Amen.

***Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ**

Mission Moment

Mission to Cuba

Susan Lambert

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

I Have Chosen You

By Ann Trufant

Vocalist: Molly Means

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**

The Liberating God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts with joy!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and holy thing
to give our praise to you this day,
Liberator of all humanity.

You unleashed your creative power and a world blossomed.
You bestowed upon every living thing life and breath,
color and movement.

No matter how many battles we wage within and
between ourselves and against you, your promise, vision,
and gifts of peace and abundance continue.

And so we lift up our voices in celebration of You!
Holy, holy, holy are You!

We join all the prophets and saints!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

We join the parade for peace and justice!
Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!

We add our cries and exclamations!
Hosanna in the highest!

*(The congregation is seated as the story of God's
redeeming love is shared.)*

Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.
To those who were imprisoned by status, law, illness, poverty, gender,
age, and disease, he said, "Your belief has set you free.
You are a child of God."

He invited disciples, friends, and strangers alike to his tables.
He proclaimed God's grace to all with whom he broke bread.
He proclaimed God's love to all with whom he shared the cup.

And he told us to remember:
You are one at this table, the table of grace.

For Christ has died, Christ has risen,
and Christ comes again in this meal we eat together.

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body so that we
might be free to love without condition,
invite without hesitation,
go without reservation, and
proclaim your call to kindness to all the world!

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.*

Closing Prayer

Danielle Blackwood

Holy One,
**You show us the way to Do Unto Others with kindness
through the welcome we experience at your table.**

**Send us into the unknown future with hope
that we can not only survive,
but we can thrive, together –
no matter the outcomes of a divided world.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. 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**

Let There Be Peace on Earth
The United Methodist Hymnal 431

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of the 11th wedding anniversary of Ted and Lenni Stickles. Congratulations, Ted and Lenni!

Worship prayers are adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness in collaboration with <https://campaignforkindness.com>.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Beth Forester and Rhonda Tucker

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.

Announcements

"DO UNTO OTHERS" – A CAMPAIGN FOR KINDNESS

This month, join us in a campaign for kindness, as we focus on embodying The Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Together we will discover how this simple, yet profound principle of kindness can be our catalyst for positive change.

"Do Unto Others" is a grassroots movement launched by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in the Kansas City area, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, that encourages intentional acts of kindness and fosters civility and respect, countering the polarization in our society.

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONAL ACTS OF KINDNESS

We are continuing to reach out in kindness this week with a focus on service. Here are this week's suggestions for engaging in an intentional act of kindness:

- Volunteer to serve in some capacity at the church,
- donate to the Shepherd's Market Food Pantry (next week is Grocery Bag Sunday),
- visit someone in a nursing home or long term care facility (contact the office for some suggestions on who to visit),
- support a school or teacher.

At the end of the week, reflect back on the acts you did or didn't perform. If you didn't perform an intentional act of kindness, consider why. Was it a lack of opportunity? Did you forget? Were you self-conscious? Consider any opportunities you might have missed. Share your experience - successes and failures - with us on social media with the hashtag #kindnessatstjohnsbr or email your story and picture to Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

YELLOW GROCERY BAG

Don't forget to pick up a yellow grocery bag and fill it with items for The Shepherd's Market. **Grocery Bag Sunday is October 6.** Suggested items are: peanut butter, jelly, condiments, pasta (no Mac & Cheese, please), canned meat, canned veggies (no green beans or corn, please), snacks, and drinks.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

Your last name begins with **H - K, Sunday, October 6** is "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. You don't have to cook or bake – in these days of prepared foods, any grocery store has plenty of delicious items to choose from. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

TODAY - TRIVIA! SEPTEMBER 29, 3:30 - 5:30 P.M.

The St. John's Food, Fun & Fellowship team is hosting *Trivia* in the Family Life Center. We will have 6 rounds of trivia, with each round focused on a different category. Questions will be appropriate for adults & youth, but this activity may not be suitable for students younger than 4th grade. You can show up with or without a pre-decided team. However, please limit teams to no more than 6 people. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place teams.

UPCOMING CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet on **Thursday, October 3 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Library. The main agenda item will be approval of Charge Conference paperwork.

DISCOVER ST. JOHN'S

Are you a new or long-time visitor to St. John's who is looking to learn more about the church and/or church membership? Join Pastor Lane on **Sunday, October 6 at 9:45 a.m.** in her office to discover more about St. John's, meet others, ask questions, and get to know one another. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to office@stjohnsbr.org if you are able to attend so that we can prepare.

DAYS FOR GIRLS RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 19

The United Women in Faith Circle of the Heart has scheduled the final Fall Mission workday for Days for Girls for **Saturday, October 19, 9 am-12pm** in the FLC. All helpers are welcome and needed! We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and folding panties and washcloths. No sewing skills needed. There is still time to donate new girls' cotton panties (brief) in solid colors or with flowers, no characters or animals, in sizes 10, 12, or 14 and new colored wash cloths. Monetary donations are accepted to buy supplies; make checks out to UWF Circle of the Heart with Days for Girls in the memo line.

FALL FEST AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

St. John's is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community on **Sunday, October 20, 4-5:30 p.m.**, and we need your help! We will have a trunk-or-treat, carnival-style games, and a snack station. We are so excited for this opportunity to connect with those in our community. Please join us by signing up to volunteer at www.stjohnsbr.org/FallFestVolunteer/.

We are also receiving donations of candies, fall and Halloween decorations, and small prizes for games. Donations will be accepted until noon on October 20. Please use the blue tubs located in the Admin building and Narthex for your donations.

METHODIST MISSION TO CUBA

Donnie and Susan Lambert will be participating in a mission to Cuba, **October 22 - 29.** The primary objective is to share the love of Christ through actions and interactions. The Cuba 2024 mission team will be working on La Catedral Church in Holguin, which was built before the revolution.

If you would like to support the Cuba 2024 mission team, you can through both prayers and donations. A list of items that are not readily available to most people in Cuba is available in the Narthex and newsletters. We will have blue tubs in the narthex for the next several weeks for your donations. To donate money you may write a check to St. John's with Cuba Mission in the memo line or to donate online go to stjohnsbr.org/give; click on General Budget and select Missions from the drop down menu; click on Sub Fund and select Cuba Mission. ALL donations will go toward the work at La Catedral Church and the people of Holguin.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, September 29

- 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. TRIVIA, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers Bells, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, September 30

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders Parlor
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, October 1

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, October 2

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

Thursday, October 3

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. River City Quilt Guild, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Church Council, Library

Friday, October 4

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

Saturday, October 5

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

*Family Life Center

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

UPSTAIRS CAFE IS NOW OPEN

The Upstairs Cafe is now open with a new routine for supplying the Cafe with snacks. Beginning in September, the Sunday School leaders will provide snacks on the first Sunday of each month. Families are being asked to provide snacks for the remainder of the month, following this schedule: 1st Sunday - Sunday School Teachers; 2nd Sunday - K - 2nd Families; 3rd Sunday - 3rd - 5th Families; 4th Sunday - Youth Families; 5th Sundays will be dealt with separately.

MUSIC MAKERS WILL MEET TODAY

Music Makers will meet this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth in grades K - 12 are invited to this fun, learning experience with Dr. Steve.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY OCTOBER 6

All youth in grades 6 - 12, are invited to Bible Study **Sunday, October 6, 4 - 5:30 p.m.** at the home of Beth and Stephen LaCour, 12530 Lazy K Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810. For our Bible Study series this fall, we will be using the TrndSttr curriculum from Church of the Resurrection. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE OCTOBER 16

Wednesday Night Live is on the third Wednesday of each month during the school year. For WNL, youth meet in the Upstairs Café for dinner and a fellowship activity.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.