



Sunday, February 2, 2025
8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION
All Are Welcome

Jesus' very first sermon was delivered in his hometown of Nazareth. In it, he proclaimed that the wideness of God's mercy and love is for everybody. This didn't sit well with the home crowd and they sought to put Jesus in his place. It takes courage to speak the truth. Are we willing to step out and follow in the path of Jesus? What are we willing to risk?

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance and share any prayer requests you have at stjohnsbr.org/here or scan the QR code.



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

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

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
The United Methodist Hymnal 57, vs. 1 - 4

*Call to Worship

Rev. Larry Norman

With powerful words and dramatic gestures,
with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,
**we respond to God's call to offer
mercy and hope to our world.**

With courage to face the injustices around us,
with the willingness to go into the brokenness,
**we fulfill the call of Jesus
to engage in faithful obedience.**

With willing hearts, as we gather for worship,
make us ready to be true disciples,
full of hope and compassion.
**May we become the Spirit's refuge
for all who live in worry and fear.**

*Response

Be Glorified
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2150, vs. 1 & 4

Children's Message

Connor Dean

*Scripture

Luke 4:21-30

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

*Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
The United Methodist Hymnal 121, vs. 1 - 3

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Larry

Merciful God,

In love You made us, in love You call us.

**But we confess we do not live as the people
You made and meant us to be.**

**We have not loved You with our whole hearts;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of Your Son, our Savior,
forgive us our sins.**

**Free us from being centered on ourselves
and give us grace to live our lives in love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

Amen.

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

God acts with grace; we respond with gratitude.

**God claims us as beloved children;
we proclaim God's saving love.**

God redeems us from sin and death;
we rejoice in the gift of new life.

**Through the Christ our Lord, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.**

May the peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

***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 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!**

God Calls Us to the Table

Pastor Lane

The Lord's Prayer

***Sharing the Bread & 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.*

Claiming Our United Methodist Social Creed

Rev. Larry

“And so shall we.”
A Companion to Our Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth’s goodness.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world’s warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.
And so shall we.

**Today is the day God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.**

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**

Christ for the World We Sing
The United Methodist Hymnal 568, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Please bring donations for The Shepherd’s Market forward
during the singing of this our closing hymn.*

*Benediction

*Postlude

Worship Notes

"God Calls Us" words for Communion by M. Jade Kaiser.

The flowers on the altar are in honor of Carol Gordon, given by the Shepherd's Market Intake Ladies, to thank her for her dedicated leadership and continued patience with all of us!

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Brian and Danielle Blackwood.

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

Announcements

COUNCIL KICKOFF: A MORNING OF ORIENTATION & COLLABORATION

The Church Council will gather on **Saturday, February 8, from 8:30 to 11:30 AM** in the library for a morning of orientation and collaboration. During this session, we will take time to reflect on our accomplishments and experiences from 2024, as well as look ahead to opportunities and goals for this year. We will also take care of some beginning-of-the-year business, including the adoption of the 2025 budget. Though this is designed for the 2025 Church Council, anyone who is interested in attending is welcome to come. Please let us know in the church office (office@stjohnsbr.org) that you're coming so we can plan accordingly.

2025 CHURCH LEADERS INSTALLATION AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

Our worship on Sunday, February 9 will include an installation of the members and officers of our committees for this year. That time in worship will include a blessing to those who have been called to serve in leadership and as members of our boards and committees of the church.

Additionally, we will celebrate the milestones and highlights of 2024 with our message and through a video presentation. Join us as we give God glory and seek God's guidance for the year ahead.

2025 LENT REFLECTION GUIDE

The St. John's Writers' Group is creating a 2025 Lent reflection guide, and we are seeking submissions. Our theme is "Full to the Brim." The devotional will serve as a reflection guide throughout the season of lent.

About our theme: The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Our Lenten theme, "Full to the Brim," is an invitation into a radically different Lent - into a full and abundant life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

Each submission should be 300 - 500 words plus a verse or short passage of scripture and a prayer. We've shared short stories and poems in the past - so you don't have to stick to any format or strict word count. Find out more or send your submissions by email to Mari Walker at silvermari@gmail.com. **Deadline for submissions is February 17.**

2025 FLOWER CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart is up in the hallway of the Admin/Education Building. This is a wonderful way to remember or honor someone in your family, a very good friend, a group, or to the Glory of God, to name a few. Lynn will contact you during the week to remind you your Sunday is coming up and will ask you for a dedication to be printed in the bulletin.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS

If your last name begins with **O-R**, "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is next Sunday, **February 9**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. *Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.*

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT LSU

The Wesley Foundation at LSU has begun their campaign for meals to be brought or delivered to the Foundation after Wednesday night prayer service for college students. If you as an individual or your Sunday School class is interested in this mission you may sign-up at <https://takethemameal.com/WKLU0298>.

PRIME TIMERS SECOND SATURDAY BREAKFAST

Prime Timers will meet for their buffet breakfast at Drury Inn & Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave., **Saturday, February 8, at 8:30 a.m.** The Dutch Treat buffet breakfast is \$10.99.

Children's & Youth Ministries

YOUTH AND CHILDREN SUNDAY FLOW

We offer faith formation for children and youth of all ages during Sunday School.

Upstairs Café opens at 9:30 a.m. - Students start in the Upstairs Cafe (Room 202 of the Admin building) helping them get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their age specific Sunday School groups.

Sunday School Classes - Children 2 yrs to 4 yrs are in the Pre-K Room on the first floor of the Admin building; students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are in Room 204; students in 3rd through 5th grades are in Room 207; students in 6th through 12th grades are in the Youth Sunday School class Room 201.

YOUTH GROUP (6th-12th Grades)

First Sundays: The St. John's youth group gathers on the first Sunday of each month from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities. **This month we will meet at the home of Shawn and Mari Walker, 1627 Stoneliagh Dr., on Sunday, February 2, 4:30 - 6 p.m. (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME.)**

Third Wednesdays: Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for Wednesday Night Live.

NEW YOUTH COUNCIL

If you are an adult or youth student who would like to help create & plan various events and programs for our students in 6th - 12th grades, consider joining our new Youth Council. The Youth Council is a team that will meet regularly to collaborate and answer different questions about the youth ministry at St. John's: Do we want to plan a lock-in? What activities should we include? What are some community service projects we should be involved in? Where and when do we want to go for a summer mission trip? Let's meet to envision together and come up with creative youth programming for the next season of St. John's Youth. Please contact Connor if you or your student is interested in serving on Youth Council.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, February 2

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study, Walker Residence
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Monday, February 3

- 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, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

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

Friday, February 7

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Saturday, February 8

- 8:30 a.m. Council Kickoff, Library
- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

More Children's & Youth Announcements

JOIN TEAM ORANGE

At our meeting for families with Youth & Children back in the fall, there was discussion about starting up a committee focused on working closely with the Director of Children's Ministry to envision what types of Family Ministry events and programming we want at St. John's. Team Orange seeks to be the resolution to this suggestion.

For Team Orange to be most effective, we need many voices in the room. Whether you have children or grandchildren in preschool, elementary school, or even middle and high school, your perspective is needed and will be appropriately valued in the Team Orange meeting space. Even if you don't have children in your household but you are passionate about creating an effective ministry program for younger generations, we invite you to join Team Orange. Please email Connor to indicate your interest in being a part of this group.

KING CAKE C.H.A.O.S.

Our next C.H.A.O.S. event will be **Sunday, February 23 from 4 - 6 p.m.** to bake and deliver King Cakes to local first responders -- firefighters and healthcare workers. This is an act of service to share the love of Jesus Christ with hard-working members of our community. All participants should meet at the St. John's FLC at 4:00 p.m. Depending on how many participants arrive, we will split into different groups to take turns baking or writing notes to the first responders. Connor will also lead a brief devotional during our time together. We will need at least 5 drivers who can transport others in their personal vehicles for the King Cake deliveries. After all deliveries have been completed, we will return to the FLC to share a meal together. Please let Connor know via email or text if you plan to join us for this event, as it will require more intentional preparations than some of our other C.H.A.O.S. events. We would love to see you there!