



Sunday, March 2, 2025

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Often we need to get ready and prepare for a new adventure, a new season in our life. Before Lent begins, we will take this Sunday to prepare our hearts for this holy season - to let go of what we need to leave behind in order to embrace the gift of a grace that overflows with extravagant love. Welcome as we come to be filled with that grace at the Table, with the songs that sustain and share hope, and with a practice that invites us to look at our lives and listen to where our heart desires to grow this season of Lent.

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.



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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.

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

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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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
The United Methodist Hymnal 140, vs. 1

My Life Is in You, Lord
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2032

*Call to Worship

Bobbi Marino

“Even now, declares the Lord,
return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

Roll up your sleeves.

Let down your guard.
Come in from the storm.
Make yourself at home.

Pull up to the table.

Release the tension in your jaw.
Take a deep breath.
Return to God
with all your heart.

May it be so. Amen.

*Response

Lead Me, Guide Me
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2214

Children’s Message

Ben Hartman

Scripture

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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

“An Expansive Life of Faith”

Pastor Lane

*Hymn

Have Thine Own Way, Lord
The United Methodist Hymnal 382, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Prayer of Confession

Bobbi Marino

Our Lord invites us to come in honesty and openness, confessing our shortcomings and our need of grace. In humility and truth, we turn our heart to God now.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we confess that we don't return to you fully.

**We share with you the pieces of our lives
that are convenient.**

We put on different hats in different rooms.

**We forget that we are called, invited, and loved
with all that we are —
including our mess, our beauty, our faith,
and our doubt.**

Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return to you.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Friends,

God sees you. God hears you. God loves you.

You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are.

Rest in that good news.

Thanks be to God!

May the overflowing peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Ministry Moment

Lent Spiritual Formation

Rhonda Tucker

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!

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor Lane

*The Great Thanksgiving

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.

The pastor gives thanks and recalls God's acts of salvation.

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

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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 forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest. (3x)

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.*

Closing Prayer

Bobbi Marino

Holy One,

**Thank you for giving us a taste of an expansive life
that is overflowing with grace.**

**In the moments and days to come,
enable us to embrace the truth deep within us that
your love never runs out,
your hope never runs dry,
your joy never gives up.**

**In all of our living, breathing, and being,
may we find ourselves full to the brim with the Holy Spirit,
may it change our life, so that we might help change
the world. In Christ's name we pray. 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 this our closing hymn.*

***Hymn**

*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven
The United Methodist Hymnal 66, vs. 1 & 4*

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

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

The flowers on the altar are from Carole Cotton Winn in gratitude to her friends who help her get to church.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Jackie Creed & Laurie Williams.

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

Announcements

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will be closed **Tuesday, March 4** for the Mardi Gras holiday. The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, March 3** and **Tuesday, March 4** for the Mardi Gras holiday. They will reopen Thursday, March 6 at 8 a.m. for regular shopping hours.

LENT DEVOTIONAL

The St. John's Writer's Group has created a daily lent devotional featuring reflections from members and friends of the church. The readings begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and end on Easter Sunday, April 20. The devotional will be available for download in the newsletters starting this week and will also be published on our website and posted daily on social media. **We have a limited number of printed copies available today and will have more available on Ash Wednesday and upcoming Sundays.** If you would like to help offset the cost of printing, we are accepting a love offering with a suggested donation of \$5.

SAVE THE DATE - CHURCH WIDE WORKDAY

We will host a Church Campus workday for **Saturday, April 5, 8am - 12pm**. Trustees have identified several indoor and outdoor items that will be included on the work list. Please mark your calendar for this important date - we look forward to great morning of fellowship & work as we prepare our campus for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5, as we begin the season of Lent with reflection, prayer, and worship. From **10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** the Family Life Center will be transformed into a quiet space for self-guided worship. Sit in silence or journey through prayer activities and meditations. We will also have a labyrinth set up for you to experience that ancient prayer practice, and Pastor Lane will be on hand to offer the imposition of the ashes. This experience is open and appropriate for all ages. *St. John's Youth will meet to experience the stations at 1pm.*

There will also be an **Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** that includes the imposition of ashes and Communion. Our Lenten theme, "Full to the Brim," will be woven throughout our evening service, inviting us to receive and share God's abundant, overflowing grace.

"FULL TO THE BRIM" LENT BIBLE STUDY: TUESDAYS DURING LENT

Join us for a five-week Lent Bible Study as we journey through the parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. This study will expand upon the Gospel readings from our Lent worship series, "Full to the Brim," allowing space for further reflection, conversation, and spiritual growth in a small group setting. We will offer two sessions of the study, both starting on March 11: Daytime Study – Tuesdays at 10:30-11:30am and Nighttime Study – Tuesdays at 6-7pm.

The study will be led by a rotating team of facilitators who will guide the discussion. The morning facilitators are Rev. Barbara Duke, Rev. John Gilmore, Jami Prince, Rev. Larry Norman, and Rev. Marie Williams. The evening facilitators are Rev. John Gilmore, Hannah Froehlich, Rev. Larry Norman, Jami Prince, and Steve Rushing.

Register online at: stjohnsbr.org/lent-study-2025. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda T. (by phone or text: 225-270-2193 or parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com).

The workbook is \$5 and can be picked up in the church office next week or on the first day of the study. You may pay for the workbook by check or cash (in memo line: "Bible Study") or online at stjohnsbr.org/give (Select "SS Classes and Small Groups" Fund; "Bible Study" Subfund).

COFFEE TIME SNACKS

If your last name begins with **D - G**, "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time is next Sunday, **March 9**. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. *Please bring your items to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.*

"MIRABELLE," A NEW OPERA BY TERRY BYARS

Terry's new, inspiring one-act opera "Mirabelle," will be presented on **Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 16 at 3 p.m.**, admission is free. The opera will be performed at First Presbyterian Church, 763 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, 70802. Admission is free. The plot unfolds as the child Mirabelle and a cruel maid-servant have taken refuge in an isolated cave, following a shipwreck. Mirabelle's miraculous rescue will warm your heart in this season of Eastertide--the season which gives us remember that we are all, indeed, in need of Rescue.

DAYS FOR GIRLS MARCH 15 AND 22

There will be workdays for Days for Girls on the following Saturdays **March 15 and 22 from 9 a.m. - noon**, in the Family Life Center.

Your help is needed to prepare for this ministry by donating the following: Girls colored panties in size 10, 12, or 14 (please no animals or cartoon characters.), colored washcloths, hotel-size soap, and cash donations to purchase fabric (please make check out to United Women of Faith). Your donations can be put in the blue tub on Sundays in the Narthex and during the week in the hallway of the Admin Building.

Thank you for your help in this ministry. Many girls will benefit from these reusable female hygiene kits. For further information, contact Joyce Perry, 225-978-2206 or email: joyce.perry@cox.net.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED

The Shepherd's Market is lucky enough to have a free library located by the water fountain in the FLC; however, we are in desperate need of CHILDREN'S BOOKS! Any age is welcome - from board books to young adult - but we do NOT need adult books. Any gently read or brand new book is welcome! There is a blue tub in the Narthex on Sundays and during the week in the hallway of the Admin Building for your donations. Thank you!

JOIN THE FLOWER MINISTRY TEAM

We have a wonderful and dedicated Flower Ministry Team that makes sure the flowers on Sunday's altar continue to brighten the day of others from the congregation who are in need of a bit of cheer.

We invite you to join this incredible ministry delivering cheer and joy. Here are some ways you can serve on the Flower Ministry Team: Once a month on a Saturday morning: Assist in making a flower arrangement with Pat Cobb to guide you; Once a month on a Sunday afternoon: Assist in breaking down the Altar Flowers into smaller bouquets for sharing with others; Once a month on a Sunday afternoon or Monday morning: Deliver the flower bouquets; Periodically serve as a backup 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 once a month for a couple of hours on the weekend. 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.

JOIN US FOR SERVICE SUNDAY!

On **Sunday, March 30, at 10am in the Family Life Center**, we invite you to be part of Service Sunday - a unique worship experience where we will put our faith into action through hands-on mission projects.

We'll begin with a short time of worship, including communion, before moving into our mission as an act of service. Our primary project will be assembling **Cleaning Kits for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief)**, which are essential for wildfire and hurricane relief efforts. The final Sunday of March is **UMCOR Sunday**, making this a meaningful and tangible way to support this vital outreach. Additional hands on service opportunities will also be available, with more details coming soon. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages (including children) to come together and make an impact as we offer ourselves in service to God.

To support this effort, we are collecting items for the **UMCOR Cleaning Kits** throughout March. We also need volunteers who can deliver the completed kits to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA. A full list of needed supplies can be found online at umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit, and printed copies are available at the church. Take a list with you when you shop and bring donated items to the church anytime this month or shop from our Amazon Wish List here: stjohnsbr.org/cleaning-kit-wishlist.

Service Sunday will also include plenty of time for fellowship, along with light refreshments. We encourage you to bring a Coffee Time-style snack to share. Please note that this 10am worship and mission experience will **replace our regular worship services** for the day, and Sunday School will not meet on March 30. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume the following week. Come ready to serve, connect, and embody Christ's love in action. Let's worship with our hearts—and with our hands!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, March 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
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Monday, March 3

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, March 4

THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, March 5

- 10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Opportunities, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Prayer Stations, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Community Connection, Bonjour Ice Cream & Desserts
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 6

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Library

Friday, March 7

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

Saturday, March 8

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 9:00 a.m. River City Quilt Workshop, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

Children's & Youth Ministries

NO MUSIC MAKERS THIS AFTERNOON

There will be no Music Makers this afternoon. Music Makers will resume next **Sunday, March 9 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room.

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: Typically 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. Due to the Mardi Gras holiday, Youth will not meet today.

Third Wednesdays: Youth also meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Youth Room for Wednesday Night Live. Next WNL is **March 19, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

YOUTH COUNCIL

The next Youth Council meeting is **Sunday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m.** We will be planning Youth Sunday and talking about our summer mission trip.