

LEGACY

of hope



Sunday, April 30, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Scripture is filled with intriguing characters who left profound legacies. As we look closer, we find that they were not that different from us. They too, experienced challenges, heartaches, successes, and failures. Their lives knew fear, doubt, and worry, and yet their lives bear witness to the everlasting story of God's hope and love for God's people. The Holy Spirit is hoping to do the same thing in our day and age through people just like us. During our "Legacy of Hope" series, we will talk about the importance of leaving a positive spiritual legacy. What will be your legacy?

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the bulletin) so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
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Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

Connor Dean
*Director of Youth and
Children's Ministries*
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

GATHERING

**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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
The United Methodist Hymnal 557 (v. 1, 3, & 4)

*Call to Worship

We come to take our place in God's unending story.

We did not begin God's work, nor will we complete it;
yet while we are here, we have a beautiful chapter to write.

We come to worship God, who carries us through this life,
and tends our legacy long after we are gone.

Let us worship our eternal God!

*Song of Response

Make Us One
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2224

LISTENING

Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

Prayer for Illumination

God of all ages,

Give us open ears to hear your voice
in the voices of our ancestors.

Give us open minds to understand what they
experienced and believed.

Give us open hearts to accept
what you might be saying to us today.

As we leaf through the stories of our faith,
guide us into writing new chapters for the future!
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Acts 2:42-47

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.

“Keeping the Flames of Hope Alive”

RESPONDING

*Hymn

Jesus, United by Thy Grace
The United Methodist Hymnal 561 (v. 1, 2, & 6)

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,
upon whom we build our life,
forgive us for our sins.
We have trusted in our own efforts,
and failed to trust in yours.
We have loved control,
and shied away from hope.
We look to the future with fear,
as if you are not already there.
Rebuild our trust in you, O Lord,
our Rock and our Redeemer,
that we might walk in your paths
and place our legacy in your hands alone.
Amen.

*Words of Forgiveness & Grace

Friends, hear the good news!
Sin has always been at work in the world,
yet God's grace is unending.
We believe that when the story is over,
it is forgiveness that will have the last word.

In Christ, we are forgiven.
Today, tomorrow, and as often as we come before him.
Alleluia! Amen.

*Sharing the Love & 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!

*The Great Thanksgiving

A Service of Word and Table
The United Methodist Hymnal 15

Our sung communion responses are 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.

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 for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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.

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God,

we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which
you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

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

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2223 (v. 1, 2, & 4)

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS for today's service are Sandra Kuykendall and Chris Stubbs.

COFFEE TIME

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments. Coffee time hosts are members of the Sojourners Sunday School Class.

Worship

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATIONS & GRADUATIONS ON YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 7, St. John's will celebrate its graduating seniors as well the Confirmation of seven of our Youth. Our Youth will lead us at both worship services that morning and we will witness the Confirmation of our students during the 11 a.m. service that morning. We will host a luncheon after the 11 a.m. service in the Family Life Center. Seniors and their families are strongly encouraged to join us for this celebration. Please RSVP with Connor (connnordean@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594).

LEGACY OF HOPE SERIES

Scripture is filled with intriguing characters who left profound legacies. As we look closer, we find that they were not that different from us. They too, experienced challenges, heartaches, successes, and failures. Their lives knew fear, doubt, and worry, and yet their lives bear witness to the everlasting story of God's hope and love for God's people. The Holy Spirit is hoping to do the same thing in our day and age through people just like us. During our "Legacy of Hope" series, we will talk about the importance of leaving a positive spiritual legacy. What will be your legacy?

Stewardship

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE

from Mike Creed, Finance Committee Chair

In the first quarter of 2023, revenues were \$167,088 representing 30% of our annual budget, with the majority of the excess amount coming from annual Pledges that were paid in January. This means approximately \$22,350 was prepaid for the year. On the expense side, all expenses were in line with the budget, with the exception of a couple of small items that are paid annually in the first quarter. Our excess of revenues over expenses for the quarter stood at \$22,810, so a quick analysis indicates that if the pledges of an additional \$22,350 would not have been paid, we would have been right at a neutral position on the budget, which is outstanding, given that our budget for the year was approved with an approximate \$23,146 deficit for the year or \$5,787 for the quarter.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship and your gifts to St. John's. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please reach out to Mike Creed, the Chair of the Finance Committee (mlcreed51@gmail.com) or LeAnn Davis, Manager of Finance and Facilities (leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org).

Missions and Outreach

MANNA BAGS AVAILABLE

Thank you for your contributions to the Manna Bags mission project. We assembled over 125 Manna Bag care packages, some of which have already been distributed. Extra Manna Bags are located in the blue tubs in the Narthex, so feel free to grab one or several after worship today. Filled with food, water, and socks, Manna Bags are a tangible gift you can offer to someone in need. This mission is just one of the ways we continue to live out our vision of feeding people spiritually and physically within our community.

UMCOR SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE

We will continue to collect donations to support the relief efforts to help those impacted by the severe weather across the country. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR's Disaster Response. Through UMCOR, every penny donated goes to helping those in need. To make a financial donation, we have set up a special Disaster Relief Fund on our website at stjohnsbr.org/give. Choose the Missions Fund, and then the Disaster Relief Fund / UMCOR. Checks written to St. John's should have UMCOR in the memo line or on the cash envelope.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Johnny McWilliams is serving on the Kairos Prison Ministry this weekend and he said, "We have plenty of cookies thanks to the great response of our wonderfully supportive congregation and I am grateful." If you were unable to bake cookies, Johnny is still accepting monetary donations. Your check should be made payable to KPML and brought to the church or mailed to Johnny McWilliams, 10067 Mollylea Dr., Baton Rouge 70815. Prayers are also appreciated for Johnny and the participants in Kairos #49.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. Diane Roark will present a program titled "Bold Women of Faith." All women are invited to attend.

Children & Youth Ministry

Music Makers (1st-12th grades) continue to meet at 4:30 on Sunday afternoons as we prepare for worship on May 14, Mother's Day. The Easter Ensemble made such a fun and meaningful contribution to the service and we will once again join voices, flutes, clarinet, violin, tambourine and whatever other young musicians we can add to the mix for praising God through word, rhythm, melody and harmony. Hope to see all of our music makers this coming Sunday.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

Youth Meet Today - Youth will meet this afternoon, Sunday, April 30 from 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Youth Switching to Wednesday Nights in May - Starting on May 3, our Youth will gather on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. for fellowship.

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Collaborative youth ministry programming with other United Methodist Youth in and around Baton Rouge.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This year, in place of Vacation Bible School, St. John's will be hosting a Family Camp July 13-15. Family Camp will include a dinner Thursday & Friday nights, worship, Bible study, games, music, and service projects to promote community building among the families with children at St. John's. More details will come soon, but mark your calendars now because you do not want to miss out!

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, starting June 8, 5 - 7 p.m., activities to be announced. More information coming soon.

Job Opportunities

ANNOUNCING 2023 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Youth Intern position. This 13-week internship spans the summer months and is a great opportunity for young adults with a passion for youth ministry to gain valuable leadership and ministry experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 20 hours per week.

We are looking for someone who has a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome. Visit stjohnsbr.org/summer-intern-2023 for more information and application instructions.

HIRING A NURSERY WORKER

We are seeking qualified candidates to staff our church nursery on Sunday mornings, with the possibility of additional hours during the week in the evening for meetings and choir rehearsal. Nursery Workers provide dependable, safe, secure, and nurturing care to the children while at our Church, ages 0-4 years in a clean environment. They work as a team, with at least two nursery workers serving together at all times. Sunday morning hours are 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and pay is guaranteed even if there are no children.

Hourly pay is \$13-\$15/hour. We are looking for someone who is available to start immediately. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required. Interested applicants should send their resume to jobs@stjohnsbr.org.

Upcoming Church Meetings

TRUSTEES

There will be a Trustees meeting on **Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. If you were wondering exactly what our trustees do, come to a meeting! They are all open to members of St. John's.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 30

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Room
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, May 1

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

Tuesday, May 2

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. Ruth Circle UWF, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Program, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, May 3

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-E
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, May 4

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Library

Friday, May 5

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

Saturday, May 6

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

*Family Life Center