



Sunday, July 30, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today we finish up our "Summer on the Mount" as we listen to the concluding words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and consider how we are to live out Jesus' instructions each and every day. Welcome! We're so glad you're here with us.

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

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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
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Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

WELCOME to the CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2193

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord
The United Methodist Hymnal 352, vs. 1

*Call to Worship

Betty Schroeder

Look around.
Listen carefully.
Peer into your heart.
What do you see?
What do you hear?
What do you find?

(pause for silent reflection)

Let us seek the presence of God in this moment.
And let us worship God.

*Song of Response

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 349

LISTENING TO JESUS

Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One,
Throughout the ages you have journeyed with your people.
May we sense your Spirit stirring us to continue our
journeys, trusting you will not only guide us to the road that
leads to life, but also strengthen us to travel it, following in
the footsteps of our great Teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Scripture Reading**

Matthew 7:6-29

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.

The Message

“Living Into the Kingdom”

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn of Faith**

My Hope Is Built

The United Methodist Hymnal 368, vs. 1, 2, & 4

***Prayer of Confession**

God of life,

**We admit to you and to each other that we have not
always lived lives of love.**

We have lost patience and been rude.

We have been irritable and insisted on our own way.

We have even let love end.

Forgive us and heal us, dear God,

for you are the judge of our thoughts and motivations.

**Move us into action, that we may bear the kind of fruit
that brings you glory.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
your love incarnate. Amen.**

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

From Psalm 145:13-14

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all
who are bowed down.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

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

Ministry Moment

GriefShare

Dee Muenzler

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 III
The United Methodist Hymnal 15

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.

Closing Prayer

Betty Schroeder

Lord...

**We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word,
that challenges us to do more than sing and pray,
but go out and work as though the very answer to our
prayers depended on us and not upon you.**

**Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine
like the stars and live on through all eternity.**

Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace.

**Help us to walk together,
pray together,
sing together,
and live together**

**until that day when all God's children
will rejoice in one common band of humanity
in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray.**

Amen.

BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS for today's are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Belinda Dumas.

COFFEE TIME

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Our closing prayer is adapted from a prayer by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worship

SCHOOL SPIRIT SUNDAY AUGUST 6

- **Blessing of the Bags** - Anyone who desires to have their backpack, work bag, briefcase, or handbag blessed, is invited to bring it to worship on Sunday, August 6. We will have a special Bag Tag for you to hang on your bag to remind you that your St. John's family is praying for you.
- **Wear your favorite school colors!** - Purple and gold; blue and gold; green and gold; red, white, and blue ... whatever your school colors are for high school or college, show your school spirit and wear those colors on Sunday!
- **Prayers for Students, Faculty, & Staff** will be lifted for those returning to school.
- **Presentation of Bibles** - Do you have children entering Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 6th grade, or 9th grade? If you would like them to receive an age-appropriate Bible, please send his or her name to Connor Dean at connordean@stjohnsbr.org by Sunday, July 30.
- **Promotion Sunday** - Students beginning Kindergarten will move up to Mrs. Marilyn's & Mrs. Sarah's class. Students beginning 4th grade will move into Mrs. Natalie's and Mrs. Beth's class. Students beginning 6th grade will move into the youth Sunday School class.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES COMING NEXT SUNDAY

"Grace in the Depths: A Series on Jonah" - This August we will take a deep dive into the story of Jonah and see just how far God's grace will go. We take the plunge on August 6.

RINGING AND SINGING

After a welcome summer break, the Alleluia Ringers and Chancel Choir will begin the fall with rehearsals starting the first week of August.

The **Chancel Choir** will meet **Wednesday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m.** in the choir room and begin the fall season by leading worship Sunday, August 6 for the 11 a.m. service (10:30 arrival in the choir room). All are welcome to join us as we aspire to worthily magnify our Lord through song.

The **Alleluia Ringers** will commence rehearsals on **Sunday, August 13 at 6 p.m.** Ask any experienced bell ringer, counting is a prerequisite for being a member. If you can count to eight and ring a bell, then you can join the Alleluia Ringers--we will teach you the rest.

For more information on either of these music-making opportunities please contact Steve Rushing at stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org or call 225-773-2589.

Servanthood

VOLUNTEER IN CHURCH OFFICE

Some of our staff will be attending a workshop at Broadmoor UMC on **Thursday, August 3 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** We need a volunteer(s) to come and sit in the office for that day. It can be broken up into half days: 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m. Please email Lynn (office@stjohnsbr.org) to let her know if you are available. Thanks so very much.

OUR NEXT ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 8.** This is our next one-day mission to New Orleans to help feed those experiencing homelessness in and around the French Quarter. All ages and abilities are welcome. Text or call Larry Norman (225-933-1881) for more information.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Opening Doors is collecting school supplies for 3 schools in our area: Charlie Thomas Memorial Head Start Center, Gardere Community Christian School, and Wildwood Elementary School. There are blue tubs in the Narthex and the hallway of the Education/Admin Building through **Sunday, August 6.** A list of suggested supplies is available in the Narthex or in the Friday newsletter.

PICK UP YELLOW BAG

Don't forget to pick up a yellow bag after worship and bring it back next Sunday with items to help stock the shelves for Grocery Bag Sunday. Some suggested items are Jam/jelly, condiments, snack food, canned meat, cereal, canned spinach, greens, or corn (PLEASE no peas, carrots, or green beans).

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

MOVIE NIGHT IN FLC THURSDAY

Bring the whole family to watch a movie with us in the FLC on **Thursday, August 3 at 5 p.m.** The votes from our children and families have been tallied and we will be showing... **Ferdinand!** This 2017 animated movie follows the adventures of Ferdinand, the peace-loving bull, as he rallies a misfit team of friends to help him find his way back home. Bring your family and friends and watch this endearing and fun-filled comedy that all ages will enjoy. You are welcome to bring blankets and camp chairs, or enjoy one of our comfy seats in the Family Life Center. We will provide popcorn and drinks. You are welcome to bring your favorite movie snacks with you!

CHURCH-WIDE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

All of our adult Sunday School classes combined for a summer study on Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." Each week was led by a different facilitator. Rev. Larry Norman will lead us today in our final session, "Living into the Kingdom." We are recording the sessions so if you happen to miss the class, you can watch it online. We will send a link to each week's session through the *Inside St. John's* newsletter.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING

The UWF Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Pat Lively will present the program. All women are invited to attend.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP

A 13-week grief and loss support group using the recently released GriefShare New Edition materials will begin on **Tuesday, August 22, 2 - 3:30 p.m.** in the parlor. To join the class you must register through the GriefShare website, www.GriefShare.org. There is a \$20 charge for class materials, there are scholarships available. Please contact Dee Muenzler for more information (225-933-1668 or deemuenzler@gmail.com).

Children & Youth Ministries

BIBLE PRESENTATION

In honor of those heading back to school, on Sunday, August 6, students going into Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th and 9th grades will be presented Bibles. If your student is moving up into one of those grades, please email Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) by July 30 so we can have an age-appropriate Bible ready.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

This is when St. John's will recognize the students moving up to the next grade level. On August 6, students starting Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 6th grade will move into their new Sunday School classes - how exciting! Students beginning Kindergarten will move up to Mrs. Marilyn's & Mrs. Sarah's class. Students beginning 3rd and 4th grades will move into Mrs. Natalie's and Mrs. Beth's class. Students beginning 6th grade will move into the youth Sunday School class.

Children and Youth Sunday School classes will start the morning off in the Sanctuary at 9:45am before attending the GRAND OPENING of the Upstairs Cafe together and then visiting their classrooms. Students can be picked up in their classrooms in the Admin Building when Sunday School ends at 10:45 a.m. And kids, don't forget to wear your favorite school's colors.

YOUTH & CHILDREN SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today is the final session of our one-room Sunday School for our children in Kindergarten - 12th grade. They will meet in the FLC from 10 - 10:45 a.m. See the Promotion Sunday announcement for information about Sunday School during the school year.

MUSIC MAKERS RETURNS!

Music Makers will begin making music on **Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m., beginning August 13**, in the Choir Room with Dr. Steve. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade will meet the first three Sundays of every month and the youth (6th - 12th grades) will join whenever special music is planned. Music Makers will participate in up to four worship services this fall and the Youth will join us for special music during the season of Advent leading into Christmas. Our children have so much musical talent and we are planning a fun and spirit-filled time through singing and playing instruments. Children may be dropped off and picked up from the Choir Room. For more information or to help serve with Music Makers, contact Steve Rushing at stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org.

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mystery Night. The youth group will be having a mystery night on **August 2, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.** We will meet at St. John's first before heading out on a mystery activity.

Grub Sunday. Grub Sunday is an event for grades 6th-12th. During Grub Sunday, University UMC will also be joining us to play messy games like Color Wars, paint games and Mega kickball. It will take place on **August 6, 4-6 p.m.** We will meet at St. John's Family Life Center.

UPSTAIRS CAFE

We will have an "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth starting August 6 in Room 202 of the Admin Building. The cafe will be open during Coffee Time and will serve primarily as a check-in point for our Sunday School classes, helping our students get settled, enjoy a snack, and have a time of fellowship with one another before separating into their smaller Sunday School groups. If you prefer for your student to spend fellowship time with you in the FLC during Coffee Time, that is totally okay as well. We offer this as another option. It is a space that is intentionally crafted to foster greater community among our children and youth age groups.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, July 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. Children's Sunday School, FLC
- 9:55 a.m. Sermon on the Mount, Adult Bible Study, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, July 31

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, August 1

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

Wednesday, August 2

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 3:30 p.m. Youth: Mystery Night
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-E

Thursday, August 3

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. Movie Night, FLC

Friday, August 4

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

Saturday, August 5

- 9:00 a.m. Gardere Back to School Extravaganza, Hartley-Vey Park
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center