



**Embracing the**  
*“Good Enough”*  
**of life & faith**

*Sunday, March 3, 2024*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*  
All Are Welcome

As we continue our look at what it means to release oppressive expectations about perfection in our lives and in our faith, today we will turn away (repent) from the harmful idea that the solution to our fear of failure is to simply work harder. This Lent, we are taking some time to stop climbing the endless achievement ladder and to instead tend our souls slowly and lovingly and embracing our holy, “good enough,” lives. 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



# 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

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*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. 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 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.

*Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.*

## ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
*Lead Pastor*  
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Connor Dean  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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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.*



## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## Gathering Music

*Good Enough*  
Terry Byars, soloist

## Prayer

Margaret Sprunger

**Holy God, our Balm and our Salvation,  
we call out to you,  
in need of your healing touch,  
thirsting and hungering for more of you.  
Your steadfast love is better than life.  
Open us this day to your nourishment  
in the songs of our faith,  
in the joy of community,  
in the beauty of creation, and  
in the simple and “good enough” moments  
that fill our days. Amen.**

## \*Hymns

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 139, vs. 1 & 5  
*Clap Your Hands*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2028

## Children’s Message

Connor Dean

## Prayer

Margaret Sprunger

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our  
redeemer. Amen.**

## \*Scripture

Luke 13:1-9

A Word of God that is still speaking,  
**Thanks be to God.**

“Repent and Flourish”

**\*Hymn**

*It Is Well With My Soul*

The United Methodist Hymnal 377, vs. 1 & 2

**\*Prayer**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Compassionate Response**

Know that already, God is offering us enough love - no matter what. We are invited to release oppressive expectations of ourselves and others so that we might recognize the true worth that's afforded to all.

And know that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God! Amen.**

**\*Sharing Love and Peace**

**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](http://stjohnsbr.org/give).*



**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Invitation to Holy Communion**

## **\*Holy Communion**

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.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*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.**

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:*

By your Spirit open us to each other. Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

**Amen.**

## **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.*

## **Prayer**

Margaret Sprunger

**Loving Lord,**

**You have looked upon us with love and said, "You are welcome at my table."**

**Thank you for creating a place where we need not be perfect,  
we need not be sure of ourselves or our faith,  
and we need not feel whole and right with the world.**

**Send us out to share that same grace and compassion  
with others.**

**In the name of the One who accepts us and transforms us.**

**Amen.**

*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**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 138, vs. 1, 3, & 6

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

**\*Blessing**

"A Blessing for Slowing Down"

"...blessed are we who stop -  
okay, maybe not stop entirely, who are we kidding -  
but who slow down.

We who discover rest and new life and renewal  
when we step off the treadmill (or at least turn it down).

We who remember that the world keeps spinning without us.

And thank God for that.

We who remember we are loved, loved, loved.

Just being us."

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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

## *Worship Notes*

**FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar are from Rev. Marie Williams in honor of her sister-in-law Joyce Palmer on her 79th birthday, February 24.

**USHERS**

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Theresa and Jim Sandifer.

**COFFEE TIME**

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

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Most Liturgy written by Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/) goodenough; used and adapted with permission.

Theme Song. "Good Enough" theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

Blessing. "A Blessing for Slowing Down" from *Good Enough: 40-ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

# Announcements

## SPRING FORWARD SUNDAY MARCH 10

It's time to change our clocks, so don't forget to SPRING FORWARD on **Sunday, March 10**. Do all of the clock changing before going to bed so you don't miss church!

## PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

Prime Timers are looking forward to their Second Saturday Buffet Breakfast on March 9 and are hoping some of us will join them at 8:30 a.m. at Drury Inn and Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave. The good food at this Dutch-treat gathering costs \$8.99.

# Worship

## LENT WORSHIP SERIES "EMBRACING THE GOOD ENOUGH"

The companion for our Lent worship series "Embracing the Good Enough" is the book *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche. Each week we highlight a concept from the book that ties into the scripture reading for that Sunday. If you want to go deeper, you can purchase your own copy of the book and move through the devotions on your own or simply as you feel led. For those who have elected to read the devotions on a daily basis, there is a copy of a suggested reading list in the Narthex and in the hallway of the Admin/Edu Building.

# Easter Eggstravaganza

This year we are celebrating Palm Sunday in an extra special way. We will be hosting our annual children's Easter event on **Sunday, March 24 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** This event will be similar to last year's Bunny Breakfast, but on a Sunday afternoon rather than a Saturday morning. We are so excited to welcome the children and families at St. John's and in our community -- but we need your help.

## *Here are a few ways you can serve*

**Donate candy & other supplies:** We are asking for generic donations of plastic Easter eggs, fine-tip permanent markers, small prizes for games, and nut-free, individually-wrapped candy. You can also donate more specific supplies from our Amazon wish list by going to [stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist](http://stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-wishlist).

## **Monetary Donations:**

- **Cash/Check:** You can make monetary donations on Sunday in the collection plate or by mailing or delivering a check or cash to the church office. Checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with "Easter Event" on the memo line.
- **Card/Online:** You can also send a monetary donation online. Visit [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give). For "Fund", select "Family Events" in the drop-down menu. Please include "Easter Event" in the notes section. Then enter and submit the amount you would like to contribute.

**Volunteer:** In addition to the supplies needed for this event, we also need at least 30 volunteers to help ensure everything runs smoothly with our various craft and activity stations as well as the Easter egg hunt. Go to [stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers](http://stjohnsbr.org/easter-event-volunteers) to sign up your Sunday School class, Bible study, covenant group, or as an individual to work an activity booth for the Eggstravaganza on Sunday, March 24.



Volunteers will need to meet at the FLC at **3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24** to receive instructions on the activity they will be running. Activity booths will run on March 24 from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. For some activities, supplies will be provided. For others, the group will need to provide materials. Please read carefully on the activity you sign up for.

## Servanthood

### **ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION - SAVE THE DATE!**

St. John's United Methodist Church will return to St Mark's United Methodist in the New Orleans French quarter on March 17. We will again be partnering with St Mark's to provide a meal for the unhoused immediately following their 10:30 AM worship service. Our caravan will leave St. John's at 7 AM in order to arrive there in time to make last-minute preparations and prepare for serving the meal. **If you are interested in volunteering for this mission, please call the church office (22-766-4594).** Additional vehicles may be needed; please let me know if you are willing to drive to New Orleans and back. Good news for those who went with us last time, Phil Diz has agreed to share his beautiful voice for the Sunday morning worship service and there may be other musical guests as well!

### **COFFEE TIME NEWS!**

Good news! The Genesis class has generously signed up for ALL of 5-Sunday March, so Coffee Time is covered until the beginning of June! Of course you are always welcome to just bring something any time you want without signing up. Thank you, St. John's, for once again stepping up to provide!

### **LSU WESLEY CENTER**

**Tuesday Night Meal and or Devotion.** The LSU Wesley Center is asking for our help in providing a meal and or devotion on a Tuesday night. It would be served after their prayer service to a group of 8 - 10 students. It could be a home cooked meal or a bought meal (tacos, pizza, etc.). They ask that there be a vegetarian and a gluten free option. To sign up go to [signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#/](http://signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEA929AAF9C25-47295000-dinner#/).

## Youth & Children's Ministries

### **YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER**

**First Sundays:** The St. John's youth group will gather on the first Sunday of each month from **4 - 5:30 p.m.** Throughout the spring semester, they will meet at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities. Today they will meet at the Prevots. The lesson will be on Matthew 26:47-56; the game will be Taboo.

**Third Wednesdays:** Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Wednesday Night Live*. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)) if you did not receive one.

### **C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES**

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

**March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

**April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** We hope to have a park playdate at Highland Road Community Park on Sunday, April 28 -- pending good weather!





# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, March 3**

- 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, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Prevot Residence
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## **Monday, March 4**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 10:00 a.m. UWF Executive Committee, Founders' Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Tuesday, March 5**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support Group, Founders Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, March 6**

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

## **Thursday, March 7**

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

## **Friday, March 8**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

## **Saturday, March 9**

- 8:00 a.m. Quilt Guild Workshop, FLC
- 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