



Olympic Faith

“I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward - to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.”

- Philippians 3:14,
The Message translation

Sunday, August 4, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

Today is Back to School Spirit Sunday! We're praying for everyone going back to school, offering a Blessing of the Bags, gifting students entering Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades with new Bibles, and our children and youth are moving up to new Sunday School classes.

As the Olympic games take center stage, we will discover how the values of the summer games teach us biblical values for our lives. Like the Olympic athletes, let's "Go for the Gold," and give God our all, so we can receive the prize Paul tells us about in our scripture for today --- not a perishable crown, but a crown that lasts forever. Join us as we begin this brand new worship series, "Olympic Faith." 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.



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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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Nursery Worker

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 of Praise

Halle, Halle, Halleluja (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2026

To God Be the Glory
The United Methodist Hymnal 98, vs. 1 & 3

*Call to Worship

Danielle Blackwood

At the starting line of this day, we call on your name,
God of grace.

**We are running this race of life –
faster, higher, stronger – together!**

God calls us to Olympic faith.

Our goal is to be more like Jesus each day.

We push forward to win the prize to which God
has called us.

Help us keep the faith as we worship our God.

*Response

Jesus Calls Us
The United Methodist Hymnal 398, vs. 1

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

We can run with endurance the race that God has set before us,
because we know that the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and
the presence of the Holy Spirit goes with us.

May the love and peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you and all others!

Bible Presentation

*Students entering Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades
are given a Bible from the United Women in Faith.*

Children's Message

Blessing of the Bags

Connor Dean

Commissioning Our Teachers, Faculty, & School Staff

*We invite all of our teachers, professors, school administrators,
and employees, along with our youth and children's ministry volunteers
to stand for a prayer.*

School Supplies Blessing

*Thank you for providing school supplies for our neighborhood schools:
Charlie Thomas Head Start, Gardere Community Christian School,
and Wildwood Elementary School.*

Scripture

Pastor Lane

1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Philippians 3:13-14

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

“Going for Gold”

*Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
The United Methodist Hymnal 89, vs. 1, 3, & 4

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!**

*Gathering at God's Table

*To prepare for Holy Communion, we recall the story of the Last Supper
and the pastor invokes the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

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.*

Lord,

**As we run the race You have set before us,
help us keep our eyes on Your goals -
not our own.**

When we falter, give us fresh strength and courage.

When we are fleet-footed, let us give You the glory.

**By Your Spirit, send us out to exercise our faith, growing
faster, higher, stronger - together.**

In Jesus' 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 the closing hymn.

*Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

The United Methodist Hymnal 154, vs. 1, 4, & 6

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

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by Fred & Becky Shearer to celebrate Becky's 71st birthday. Happy birthday, Becky!

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Donnie and Susan Lambert.

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

Connect with Us

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love. Sign up for text/email notifications by texting the word "Connect" to 225-230-1017.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We believe that prayer is a powerful way to connect us to one another and to God. If you have a prayer or joy you want lifted up, please email prayers@stjohnsbr.org. Pastor Lane and Lynn Cooper, our Administrative Assistant, will receive your request and pass it along to the Prayer Team, unless you request it only be shared with Pastor Lane. A group of dedicated volunteers receive prayer requests weekly and then focus on praying for these requests immediately and throughout the week. All of the Prayer Team Members are deeply committed to keeping prayer requests confidential as requested. Prayer Requests are also included in the *Inside St. John's* newsletter, sent on Tuesdays.

Announcements

ADULT SUMMER STUDY HAS CONCLUDED

We had a wonderful response to our TED Talk Theology Adult Summer Study that ended July 28. Many thanks to our facilitators: Pastor Lane, Connie LaBorde, Angeletta Gourdine, Rev. Marie Williams, Phil Sprunger, Molly Means, Rev. Larry Norman, and Steve Rushing.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES - OLYMPIC FAITH

As the Olympic games take center stage this summer, we will discover how the values of the games teach us biblical values for our lives through our new worship series "Olympic Faith," starting today.

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS

There will be a morning session and an evening session of the Immersion Bible Study on the Book of Psalms beginning **Tuesday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. led by Clara Maynard & 6 p.m. led by Guy Johnson**. Choose the time of day that works best for your schedule. (The study will end October 15.) The study books will cost \$15 and can be picked up in the church office. Participants should read Lesson 1 prior to the first class. You may pay for the book by check (made out to St. John's UMC with Bible Study in the memo line) or online at stjohnsbr.org/give/SS Classes and Small Groups/Bible Study.

You may register online at stjohnsbr.org/Immersion-Study-Fall-2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Tucker (by phone or text: 225-270-2193 or parkerhondatucker@gmail.com).

PICKLEBALL, ANYONE?

Join us for pickleball for adults on **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. No sign up is required, just show up! Beginners are welcome. For more information contact Donnie Lambert at 225-921-0446.

JOIN OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

Our Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room. This is an opportunity for anyone to share the gift of their heart, soul, and voice--when one sings, they pray twice. Grace upon grace is bestowed upon those who share their gifts to the glory of God.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Opening Doors is once again sponsoring their annual school supply drive. **The drive ends this week.** After today, supplies may be dropped off in the church office until Thursday, August 8 at 4 p.m. The school supplies will go to students at Wildwood Elementary School, Charlie Thomas Memorial Head Start Center, and Gardere Community Christian School.

Suggested supplies are: pencils, pens (black or blue), Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 24-pack of crayons, colored pencils, spiral notebooks (3 subject or more), standard rulers, folders with clasps and pockets, scissors, boxes of Kleenex, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, dry erase markers, kid scissors, construction paper, copy/computer paper, and kindergarten paper with wide lines.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

Thanks so much for all of your generous coffee time contributions over the summer! We all ate very well! In fact, we ate so well we are going to continue into the fall with this new concept! Look for reminders in the Sunday Bulletin and weekly newsletters.

(Actually today was the first Sunday and was for A - C last names.) However, if your last name begins with **D - G, Sunday, August 11** is "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. You don't have to cook or bake – in these days of prepared foods, any grocery store has plenty of delicious items to choose from.

Please bring your snack to the FLC by 9:30. THANK YOU!

DAYS FOR GIRLS ASKING FOR DONATIONS

Days for Girls is a mission of St. John's United Women of Faith Circle of the Heart to help provide reusable feminine hygiene products for girls in developing countries. For our Fall Workdays, we will meet in the Family Life Center on **Saturday, September 7 and 14 from 9 a.m. – noon**. We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and folding panties and washcloths. All helpers are welcome and needed!

To help alleviate the cost of making the kits, we are asking for donations of:

- new girls' cotton panties (briefs) sizes 10, 12, or 14, solids or flowers, no characters or animals
- new colored washcloths, and
- cash donations for supplies.

For more information contact Joyce Perry (home: 225-763-6613 or cell: 225-978-2206 or joyce.perry@cox.net). Also, you might be interested in checking out their website at www.daysforgirls.org.

ST. MARK'S UMC MISSION

Our fall mission to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans will be **Sunday, September 22**, when we will join St. Mark's in the French Quarter serving the unhoused. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful day of mission (from approximately 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.), please contact Larry Norman at 225-933-1881.

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

TODAY - PROMOTION SUNDAY

All students will be "promoted" to the next grade level today. All children and youth will gather in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. for a brief assembly before breaking into our Sunday School groups for the year. Our Sunday School classes are: Pre-K & younger; Kindergarten - 2nd grade; 3rd - 5th grade; and 6th-12th grade.

TODAY - GRUB SUNDAY

Join us for messy games at St. John's UMC on **Sunday, August 4 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Let's celebrate the start of the new school year by making new connections with other youth! Students going into 6th grade as well as those in 7th - 12th grades should meet at the St. John's Family Life Center (the building located furthest from Highland Road) at 4 p.m. We will then move to the yard to play MEGA Kickball and other messy games. Students should bring towels and an extra change of clothes. We will finish around 6 p.m.

UPSTAIRS CAFE REOPENING AUGUST 11

The Upstairs Cafe will re-open on **Sunday, August 11** with a new routine for supplying the Cafe with snacks.

For the month of August, to give parents time to adjust to this new routine, Connor and the Sunday School leaders will provide all the Cafe snacks. Beginning in September, the Sunday School leaders will provide snacks on the first Sunday of each month. Families are being asked to provide snacks for remainder of the month, following this schedule:

- First Sunday - Sunday School Teachers
- Second Sunday - K - 2nd Families
- Third Sunday - 3rd - 5th Families
- Fourth Sunday - Youth Families
- Fifth Sundays will be dealt with separately.

MUSIC MAKERS RESUMES

Music Makers will begin rehearsals on **Sunday, August 18 at 4:30 p.m.** in the Choir Room. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergarten through 5th grade students as well as Youth (6th - 12th grades) to be introduced to songs and hymns of the United Methodist Church and a variety of instruments. Drop them off and pick them up in the choir room. They will have a wonderful time with Dr. Steve.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, August 4

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Grub Sunday, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Bells' Practice Room

Monday, August 5

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

Tuesday, August 6

- 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, August 7

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

Thursday, August 8

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. Federation of Churches, Library

Friday, August 9

- 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
- 10:30 a.m. Gardere Initiative Meeting, FLC

Saturday, August 10

- 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



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.