



GRACE IN THE DEPTHS

A series on Jonah

Sunday, August 6, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today is Back to School Spirit Sunday! We're praying for everyone returning to school, offering a Blessing of the Bags, gifting students entering Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades with new Bibles, and diving into our Jonah inspired worship series, "Grace in the Depths." Thanks for joining us.

In today's scripture reading we see how when Jonah is called to Nineveh, he has no intention or desire to go. In fact, he runs in the other direction, as far away from God's plans as possible. Still, in Chapter 1 we see that even when we head in the wrong direction, God uses our life to witness and share with others in surprising ways.

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

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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
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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.*



GRACE GATHERS US IN

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

***Song of Praise**

The Summons
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2130, vs. 1, 2, & 5

***Call to Worship**

Gray Sexton

The word of God came to Jonah...

The word of God comes to us:

Go...

Despite your fears.

Speak..

the truth of God.

Love...

your neighbor and you enemy.

Forgive...

as you have been forgiven.

Receive...

**grace upon grace,
overflowing from the fullness of God.**

***Song of Response**

Give Me a Clean Heart
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2133

GRACE IN NEW BEGINNINGS

Bible Presentation

*Students beginning Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades
will receive an age-appropriate Bible from the United Women in Faith.*

Children's Moment

Blessing of the Bags

Connor Dean

Commissioning Our Teachers, Faculty, & School Staff

Pastor Lane

We invite all of our teachers, professors, school administrators, and employees, along with our youth and children’s ministry volunteers to come forward.

School Supplies Blessing

GRACE IN GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

**God of New Life,
Speak to us in the rich, ancient words of scripture.
Send us your Holy Spirit so that we will hear your call,
leave behind our old ways,
and follow Jesus Christ,
your Living Word. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Pastor Lane

Jonah 1:1-16

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

Pastor Lane

“How to Run From God”

SHARING IN MEANS OF GRACE

***Hymn of Faith**

Grace, Greater Than Our Sin
The United Methodist Hymnal 365, vs. 1 & 2

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory
Grace Alone
by Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

*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

Everyone has a place at this table!

Everyone has a place at this table!

So come to the table of grace!

We come to be fed at God's table of grace.

Let's sing that affirmation together now...

Come to the table of grace,

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Friends, God is ever present with you!

And also with you!

The peace of Christ is always with you!

The peace of Christ is always with you!

Turn to someone around you – or text this message to someone –
and tell them this Good News:

“The peace of Christ is always with you!”

Share words of peace with someone else.

As close as breath, the Holy Living One is present with us.

So we lift up our hearts and give thanks to God

because it is the right thing to do – not only now, but always.

For “always” is when God is with us.

We thank you God for breathing into us the breath of life.

Even when we turn away, you remain with us.

When it seems that all hope is lost, your grace finds us.

When we are frightened, hesitant, still you are patient.

Time and again you reach out your hand to free us,

for your promise is steadfast.

Claim God's unconditional love for yourself!

**God loves me no matter what I *have ever done*,
no matter what I *am doing*,
no matter what I *will ever do*.**

Blessed is your Son, Jesus – Love Incarnate.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and sat down at the table to eat with those others

considered “unworthy.”

He journeys with us now and invites us to his table of grace.

Let us remind ourselves by saying:

“The Lord is present with every one of us.”

The Lord is present with every one of us.

You may be seated as we recall Jesus’ invitation to Holy Communion and the pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit.

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

Gray Sexton

Gracious God,

**We have come today to see, and touch,
and know your presence among us.**

**At your table, we have been fed spiritually and physically.
Send us into the world to share your grace with others,
and to accept the grace that is offered to us,
all in your holy name.**

Amen.

PUTTING GRACE INTO ACTION

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**

Stand By Me

The United Methodist Hymnal 512, vs. 1 - 3

During the singing of the hymn, we invite you to bring forward donations for The Shepherd’s Market.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

WORSHIP NOTES

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Darren and Chris Stubbs.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Fred Shearer in honor of Becky on her 70th birthday. Happy birthday, Becky!

The flowers on the altar are given by Dee and Larry Muenzler in celebration of their 14th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Dee and Larry!

COFFEE TIME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Call to Worship was written by Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com.

Worship

NEW WORSHIP SERIES STARTS TODAY

"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.

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** has resumed rehearsals on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** 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

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. Tomorrow, August 7, is the final day to donate. Please bring donations to the church office.

COMMUNION COMPANIONS MEETING

Our Communion Companions will have a meeting on **Sunday, August 13 at 4:30 p.m.** to offer support and encouragement to one another in this caring ministry role. Our 17 Communion Companions make monthly visits to 19 of our church members who are home-centered or facility-centered to offer Holy Communion and fellowship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

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.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING

The UWF Mary Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, August 9 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST BUFFET

Prime Timers will be meeting for their monthly Second Saturday Breakfast Buffet on **Saturday, August 12 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Drury Inn & Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave. The Dutch-treat breakfast is still only \$8.99 and the fellowship is still free!

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP

A 13-week grief and loss support group using the recently released GriefShare 4 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

PROMOTION SUNDAY

TODAY St. John's will recognize the students moving up to the next grade level. Children and Youth Sunday School classes will start the morning off in the Sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. before attending the GRAND OPENING of the Upstairs Cafe together and then visiting their classrooms. A parent or guardian of each child or youth should stay with their student(s) until they are checked in at the Cafe. Students can be picked up in their classrooms in the Admin Building when Sunday School ends at 10:45 a.m.

Students starting Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and 6th grade will move into their new Sunday School classes Sunday School classes upstairs in the Admin Building. Students beginning Kindergarten will move up to Mrs. Marilyn's & Mrs. Sarah's class (Room 204). Students beginning 3rd and 4th grades will move into Mrs. Natalie's and Mrs. Beth's class (Room 207). Students beginning 6th grade will move into the youth Sunday School class (Room 201).

UPSTAIRS CAFE

TODAY is the Grand Opening of our "Upstairs Cafe" for our children and youth in Room 202 of the Admin Building. The cafe will be open during Coffee Time (9:30 - 9:45 a.m.) 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.

TODAY IS GRUB SUNDAY FOR YOUTH

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 **TODAY August 6, 4-6 p.m.** We will meet in St. John's Family Life Center and will also be outside. Wear clothes you don't mind getting stained and/or something that washes easily.

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.

MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We are hosting a meeting for families raising children (infant through 5th grade) on **Sunday, August 13 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** We will review the fall schedule and update our records (emergency information sheets and photo release forms) for children and their families. Families will also have an opportunity to share feedback on the areas of St. John's children's ministry that are thriving and which areas need improvement. We will meet in the new Upstairs Cafe. *Childcare will be provided for those not attending Music Makers.*

NEW YOUTH SCHEDULE

As we enter and head into a new school year, St. John's Youth is making some changes to our fellowship and Bible Study times. This school year we will meet for worship and Bible study on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 4-6 p.m.** Also, we will meet on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 6-8 p.m.** for a time of fun and fellowship. This schedule is designed to hopefully accommodate the busy schedules of our students. We also hope this will allow our students to re-prioritize the time we have together, since we will not be meeting every week. We begin this schedule today.

MEETING FOR FAMILIES WITH TEENAGERS

We will dedicate the first 30 minutes of Youth Group on **Sunday, August 20** to hosting a meeting for families raising teenagers (6th-12th grades). We invite Youth and their grown-ups (parents, grandparents, guardians) to attend. We will go over the fall schedule and update our records (emergency information sheets and photo release forms) for the school year. It will also be an opportunity to share feedback on the areas of St. John's Youth ministry that are thriving and which areas need improvement. We will meet from 4-4:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Following the meeting, our Youth will gather from 4:30-6 p.m.

C.H.A.O.S. IS COMING!

We are launching a new series of ministry/discipleship events for Fall 2023 called "C.H.A.O.S.!" This is an acronym which stands for...

Christ Here And Other Spaces

C.H.A.O.S. is all about finding unique and creative ways to apply the teachings of Jesus to the lives of today's children, youth, and families. These discipleship events will include a group Bible lesson, meal, creative activities, music, and more fun. This ministry model is designed to show children, youth, and families how the teachings of Jesus can be applied outside the walls of the church and into our everyday lives.

Join us for C.H.A.O.S. from 4 - 6 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month this fall: August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 26!

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, August 6

- 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. Youth: Grub Sunday, FLC

Monday, August 7

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Gardere Initiative, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, August 8

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, August 9

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. UWF Mary Martha Circle, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, August 10

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC

Friday, August 11

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

Saturday, August 12

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center