



Sunday, January 8, 2023

**8:30 & 11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

*- Isaiah 60:1*

*Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) 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

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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*  
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
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Dr. Steve Rushing  
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Connor Dean  
*Interim Director of Youth and  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
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Bill Putzig  
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez  
*Nursery Worker*  
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# SCENE ONE: *Glorifying God*

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.  
**Bold** indicates congregational response.*

## Prelude

11 a.m. Prelude  
*Allemande*  
by J.S. Bach  
Alexander Ilcheva, violin

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
-Isaiah 60:1*

## \*Song of Praise

*We Three Kings*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 254, vs. 1, 2, & 5

## \*Call to Worship

Connor Dean

They came from afar to offer their gifts of gold,  
frankincense, and myrrh.

**What have we to offer that could match such gifts?**

We are not asked to match their gifts but to give what we have.

**Then let us our costliest treasures bring –  
our faith, our hope, and our love.**

## \*We Sing a Song of Response

*The First Noel*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 245, refrain only

# SCENE TWO: *Feeding Our Spirits*

## Children's Message

Connor Dean

## \*We Pray for Insight

**Holy Mystery,**

**You twinkle and shimmer like the stars in the heavens above,  
and it feels like anything could happen.**

**We pause here with you to contemplate the stars and to wonder  
what brought us here to this moment, this time, this place.**

**Guide us with words that will give us meaning.**

Show us how your light reflects the truth  
of who we hope to be.  
There is so much possibility.  
Orient us with your radiance.  
In the name of the Light of the World, we pray.  
Amen.

**\*We Celebrate the Witness of Holy Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**We Receive the Spoken Word**

Pastor Lane

“Treat Every Day Like Christmas”

## SCENE THREE: *Responding As Disciples*

**\*We Sing a Hymn of Faith**

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 383, vs. 1, 3, & 4

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lane

Epiphanies alter our path.  
New understanding shifts our direction, but too often  
we think that nothing extraordinary ever happens.

**Forgive us.**

Too often, we fail to notice your revelation.

**Forgive us.**

Too often, we miss the amazing ways you become manifest.

**Forgive us.**

Too often, we ignore the guiding lights you have sent to intercede.

**Forgive us.**

*(A silence in kept.)*

**\*We Receive Forgiveness and Grace**

The extraordinary wonder is that God loves us.  
God sends another beacon - and then another - until it stops and  
becomes the epiphany we need.  
Be assured: Emmanuel.

**God is with us.**

**Always.**

God's grace and love is without end. We are forgiven.

**Always.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*We Offer Signs of God's Peace and Grace**

**Ministry Moment: Disciple Fast Track Bible Study**

Susan Lambert

**We Offer Ourselves and Resources**

11 a.m. - Chancel Choir Anthem

*Songs of the Star*

by Joseph M. Martin

*We appreciate your generosity.*

*Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.*

*You may give online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://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!**

## SCENE FOUR: *Celebrating At God's Table*

**\*Our Journey to Christ's Table**

When extraordinary things happen in the sky, we stop and notice.

We look for comets, shooting stars, full moons.

We watch for rocket launches, satellites drifting in space, and the space station circling our orbit.

The magi were paying close attention to the sky when they saw something different –

a star that shone so brightly they were compelled to follow it.

Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people.

May our journey this year lead us closer to Jesus the Christ.

*Together, we lift our voices.*

We are seekers - just like the Magi.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

We are looking for hope, love, joy, peace,  
and so much more that Christ brings.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May the journey to Christ's table fill us to the brim.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May the Star Word we receive be one of encouragement and enlightenment.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May this word guide our intentions in the days to come.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

In all of life, may we pay attention to where God is present.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

Show us, Radiate Redeemer, how to live and love in the world.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

*The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

## **We Say The Lord's Prayer**

### **We Share In the Bread and Cup**

As we give each other gifts in this season,  
let us remember that this Bread is a gift.

**“Given by the one who gave us the sun and the moon and the stars and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans and all that lives and moves upon them and within them.”**

As we give each other gifts in this season,  
let us remember that this Cup is a gift.

**“Given by the one who has given us all that grows and blossoms and bears fruit; and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused; and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, God comes and dwells among us.”**

*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.*

## **Our Communion Response**

Connor Dean

**God of Light,**

**Like the Magi so many years ago,  
we are here, seeking you.**

**Step by step, we wandered into worship  
with the hope of feeling you in our midst.**

**And step by step, you claimed us, loved us, and fed us.**

**As a new year dawns,**

**we pray that you be in our dreams and in our waking.**

**Allow us to use our star words as a tool to see you in our  
everyday life.**

**May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi.**

**May they illuminate our path, as light always does.**

**And in a year from now, may we find ourselves here,  
together again, with hearts full of praise**

**for the ways in which you have been present to us.**

**Together we pray, Amen.**

# SCENE FIVE:

## *Departing To Serve*

### Call to Action

Pastor Lane

*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.*

### \*We Sing a Hymn of Discipleship

*There's a Song In the Air*

The United Methodist Hymnal 249, vs. 1 & 3

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

### \*We Receive a Blessing

Radiate Redeemer,

Guide our thinking and doing, and help us remember:

**2023** will be kinder,  
**if I am kinder.**

**2023** will be healthier,  
**if I practice good health guidelines.**

**2023** will be more compassionate,  
**if I show more kindness.**

**2023** will be less anxious,  
**if I offer more grace.**

**2023** will be more just,  
**if I advocate for more justice.**

**2023** will be less contentious,  
**if I listen with attention and speak with intention.**

**2023** will be less violent,  
**if I more actively work for peace.**

**2023** will be more loving,  
**if I demonstrate love more freely.**

Guide us by your Light, O God,  
**that we may bring your Light to the world. Amen.**

### \*Postlude

11 a.m. Postlude

*Loure*

by J. S. Bach

Alexander Ilcheva, violin

Terry Byars, organ



# WORSHIP NOTES

## **USHERS**

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Chris and Darren Stubbs.

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Scott Durham and Renee Rodi.

## **COFFEE TIME**

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

## **COMMUNION LITANY**

Our quoted responses are attributed to Sigrid Undset, novelist, 1882-1949, born in Denmark, who lived mostly in Norway. In 1928 she was the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1924 she converted to Roman Catholicism and became a lay Dominican.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **FUN BY THE FIRE**

All Children, Youth, their Families and Family Ministry Volunteers are invited to come hang out, do some activities, eat, and meet Connor Dean, our new interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at Fun by the Fire **TODAY from 5-7 p.m.** We've got a great "Rain plan" in place, since it looks like it will be wet. Connor will lead us in a New Years activity and devotion that's great for the whole family!

Due to this event **Music Makers will not meet today.**

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Our 2022-23 Confirmation will meet **this afternoon** in the Parlor from 3 - 5 p.m.

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MARY MARTHA CIRCLE**

The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

## **DISCIPLE FAST TRACK NEW TESTAMENT**

Disciple Fast Track will begin **Monday, January 23 from 6 - 7:15 p.m.** in the Library. This 12-week study covers the entire New Testament. The class will be facilitated by Guy Johnson, Rhonda Tucker, and Danielle Blackwood. You may register with the form in the Narthex or online at [stjohnsbr.org/disciple-jan-23](http://stjohnsbr.org/disciple-jan-23). Student books cost \$18; there are scholarships available.

## **PANTRY AND OFFICE CLOSED FOR MLK**

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, January 16** in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The church office will reopen Tuesday at 9 a.m., The Shepherd's Market at 8 a.m.

## **PRIME TIMERS**

Prime Timers invite you to join them for their Second Saturday Breakfast Buffet on **Saturday, January 14 at 8:30 a.m.** at Drury Inn and Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave.

## **UNDECORATING CHRISTMAS**

As the Christmas season comes to a close it is time to put all our decorations away. We need some helping hands (and maybe some muscle) to help take down the beautiful decorations on **Tuesday, January 10 at 10 a.m.** If you volunteer in the Shepherd's Market, please consider staying after the market closes to serve. Renee Rodi will be so thankful for your support and help.

## **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

The Financial Peace University course has been canceled due to low enrollment.

# WELCOMING CONNOR DEAN

We are pleased to welcome Connor Dean to the St. John's staff. Connor is assuming the role of our full-time interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries. She starts today, Sunday, January 8. Please help share a warm St. John's welcome with Connor! Connor shares a word of greeting in her own words below.

If you would like to be in touch with Connor, her email is [connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org).

## GREETINGS FROM CONNOR

Hey everyone! My name is Connor Dean, and I am excited about becoming the new Director of Youth and Children's ministries at St. John's UMC. I'm originally from Sulphur and grew up going to church at Henning Memorial UMC. My experience leading in youth ministry started in high school when I took on various leadership roles at the local, district, and conference levels. I also worked summers as a counselor-in-training at Uskichitto Retreat Center for all of high school. I was a full-time counselor there during summer 2021.

While attending Northwestern State University, I volunteered with the youth group and worship team at FUMC Natchitoches. I also served in leadership at the NSU Wesley as the Worship Chair and Missions Chair. In March 2021, I was hired as one of the Youth Interns at FUMC Natchitoches. In addition to coordinating and leading youth studies and activities, part of my duties involved leading the youth band. Upon graduating in May with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Minor in Spanish, I moved back to the Lake Charles area, where I work as the Contemporary Worship Director at Henning Memorial UMC. I am also using my psychology background working part time for an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Clinic at a special needs private school. In July 2023, I will graduate from Louisiana State University-Shreveport with a Master's in Nonprofit Administration.

I am super excited to bring my gifts to St. John's and get to know all of the young people and families.

# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## Sunday, January 8

### GROCERY BAG SUNDAY

- 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. Confirmation Class, *Parlor*
- 5:00 p.m. Fun By the Fire, *FLC*

## Monday, January 9

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 1:30 p.m. UWF Executive Committee, *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, *Parlor*
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## Tuesday, January 10

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

## Wednesday, January 11

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, *Choir Room*

## Thursday, January 12

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors, *Library*

## Friday, January 13

- 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, January 14

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

\*Family Life Center