HOLDING SPACE

CHECK-IN & PRAYER REQUESTS →

For Light & Darkness

We are taught to chase the light and avoid the dark. But scripture tells a different story. Even the darkness is not dark to God. Today we explore how faith holds both light and darkness together. What if the dark is not something to escape, but a place where God is already at work? What if resurrection is forming even when we cannot see it?

Most Needed Food Pantry Items

Most needed: drinks (water, boxed drinks, juice), dried beans, and cereal (regular size please, not large)
Ongoing needs: pasta, peanut butter, snacks, condiments, household items, and personal hygiene items

Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing prayers@stjohnsbr.org or visiting stjohnsbr.org/here.

All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here

Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

For Newcomers

Restrooms & Welcome **Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

For Families with Children

- The **Prayground** is a child-friendly space at the front of the sanctuary where children and their families are welcome to participate in worship in a way that works for them.
- The **Nursery** serves infants - preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- **Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months - 12th grade from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

The flowers on the altar are given by **Reverend Marie Williams** in honor of her grandson, **John Brian Shoup**, on his 16th birthday.

Today's ushers are **Phil and Jill Slicker.**

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Hospitality Team
Join our Memorial Hospitality Ministry Team and help provide food, hospitality, and care for families during Celebrations of Life. If you've served in this ministry before, please sign up again to express your continued interest. Scan the QR code to sign up and be part of this meaningful ministry at St. John's.

Circle of the Heart — Wednesday, March 11 | 9:30 a.m.
United Women in Faith invite all women to Circle of the Heart, a time for fellowship, reflection, and encouragement together. Judy Gilmore will present the program, Holy Meanderings. Join us in the Founders Parlor.

Days for Girls Work Day — Saturday, March 14 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
Help assemble sustainable hygiene kits for girls around the world in the Family Life Center. Donations are also needed: new girls cotton panties (briefs) sizes 10, 12, or 14 (solids or flowers only), new colored washcloths, and cash donations for fabric and supplies.

Kids Night — Sunday, March 15 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.
All K–5th graders are invited for Kids Night as we learn about Holy Week, the story at the very heart of our faith, through games, crafts, and play. Dinner is included.

Church-wide Work Opportunities — Saturday, March 21 | 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Join us for a morning of caring for our shared church spaces. There will be projects for all ages and skill levels. Make plans to join us caring for our church campus.

Palm Sunday — Sunday, March 29 | 9:00 a.m. Coffee Time | 10:00 a.m. Worship
On Palm Sunday we will gather for one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m., with extended coffee time beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Note time change for Coffee Time for this Sunday only.) All are invited as we begin Holy Week together.

Trustees Request — Borrow a Tiller
The Trustees are hoping to borrow a tiller to help beautify several areas around our campus as we care for our shared spaces. If you have one we might borrow, please contact Kathy Vandiver at kavandiver@gmail.com. Thank you!

EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

FLC = Family Life Center

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

COFFEE TIME
Sundays
9:30 a.m. FLC
Last Names D-G, 3/15

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sundays
9:45 a.m. Campus Wide for All Ages

MUSIC MINISTRIES
Sundays
6:00 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room
Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

CHILDREN & YOUTH
Sundays
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
Upstairs Cafe Fruit: I-P, 3/15
3:30 p.m. Music Makers (K-5th grades)
4:30 p.m. Music Makers (Middle School)
5:00 p.m. Youth Group (6th-12th grades)

SERVE
Fridays
10:30 a.m. Holy Helpers, Church Office

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

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

Tuesdays
7:00 p.m. Pickleball
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. Ladies AA Meeting, FLC-C

Saturdays
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET
A client choice food pantry
Mon 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. FLC
Tues & Thurs 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. FLC
shepherdsmarket.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

CONTACT stjohnsbr.org/contact-us

HOLDING SPACE

For Light & Darkness

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Sunday, March 8th, 2026

St. John's Mission
Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

St. John's Vision
Love.
Grow Together.
Serve Our Neighbors.

225-766-4594 | 230 Renee Drive BR, LA 70810
stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr | office@stjohnsbr.org

ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

WELCOME

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.

CHECK IN & PRAYER REQUESTS

Gathering Music — Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome — Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Sing Together* — U.M. Hymnal #369 vs 1, 2, 3
Blessed Assurance

Invitation to Worship* — Daniel Csaszar

In the light of day and in the darkness of night,
God is with us.
When the path is clear and when we cannot see the way,
God is with us.
Let us worship the God whose presence never leaves us.
We come to worship the God of light, shadow,
and everything between.

We Sing Together* — The Faith We Sing #2235b
We Are Marching

We Encourage Our Children — Darlene Dickson

We Pray Together — Pastor Lane
Prayer by John Winn

O God,
Light the dark corners of our minds,
Warm the cold places in our hearts,
Fill the empty chambers of our spirits,
Heal the brokenness in our lives.
Amen.

We Read the Word — Pastor Lane
Psalm 139:7-12
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.

We Reflect on the Word — Pastor Lane
Holding Space for Light and Darkness

We Sing Together* — U.M. Hymnal #206 vs 1, 2
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

We Name Our Need For Grace* — Daniel Csaszar

Holy God,
We confess that we often chase the light and fear the dark.
We rush past silence,
avoid what is uncomfortable,
and turn away from what asks us to grow.
We fill our lives with noise and brightness
so we do not have to sit with what is hidden.
Forgive us.
Teach us to trust that you are present in every season –
in joy and sorrow,
in clarity and uncertainty.
Give us courage to walk faithfully in both light and shadow.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Amen.

We Hear Words of Grace & Forgiveness* — Daniel Csaszar

Hear the good news:
There is nowhere we can go that God's love does not reach.
Not the brightest day.
Not the deepest night.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, held, and never alone.
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Greet One Another with Joy & Peace*

Ministry Moment — Mary Madalyn St. Pierre
Memorial Hospitality Ministry Team

We Offer God's Tithes and Our Gifts — Julian Hartman & Jane Walker
How Great Thou Art
Carl Boberg

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit stjohnsbr.org/give to give online.

GIVING

We Sing Together* — U.M. Hymnal # 94
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

We Prepare for Communion* — Pastor Lane
We give thanks for God's grace, hear Jesus' words spoken at the table, and ask the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. In this holy meal, we are joined with Christ and with one another, reminded that there is always room at God's table for all.

We Pray the Lord's Prayer — U.M. Hymnal #895

We Partake in Communion*
All are welcome to receive Communion.
We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the elements. Pre-packaged and gluten-free options are available.
You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need Communion brought to you, please let an usher know.

We Pray Together — Daniel Csaszar
Gracious God,
Thank you for meeting us at this table.
Strengthen us to trust
that your presence goes with us
into every place we go.
Send us now to live as people of hope,
in the light and in the dark. Amen.

We Receive This Week's Call To Action — Pastor Lane

We Sing Together* — U.M. Hymnal #707 vs 1, 2, 3
Hymn of Promise

We Share in a Blessing* — Pastor Lane

We Go Out into the World* — Dr. Terry Byars
Music sends us out, but our worship continues as we go forth to love, grow together, and serve our neighbors.