



CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Sunday, October 8, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

“Build houses and plant gardens....Pursue the well-being of the city. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.” (Jeremiah 29:5, 7)

God calls us to community - to pray for our community and to work to make it better; to build and to strengthen our roots. Our well-being is tied to its well-being. We are called to make our community - both within the church and outside its walls - better each day.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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.



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

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
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
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Lynn Cooper
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Dr. Steve Rushing
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LeAnn Davis
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

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.*



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2153, vs. 1 - 3

*Call to Worship

Bobbi Marino

We are beloved children of God:

Called to serve, and to bless, and to love.

We are citizens of the world:

Called to care, and to respond, and to generosity.

We are members of a community:

Called to support, and to nurture, and to welcome.

We belong to God and to one another.

**So may our hearts be as one, as we worship our God,
who calls us together in love.**

*Song of Response

People Need The Lord
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2244, vs. 1 & 2

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Children's Moment

Marilyn Damberg

Prayer for Illumination

Bobbi Marino

**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.**

Jeremiah 29:4-7

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.

Message

Pastor Lane

“Love Where You Live”

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

***Hymn of Faith**

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 3, & 4

***Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Lane

Within the strength of community, in the power of silence, we come before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of our Creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other.

Holy God,

We are not meant to live life alone.

We need You and the community of the church.

Forgive us when we try to go it alone;

when we think we can handle it all, without any help;

when we forget to rely on one another and on You.

We need you and our siblings in Christ to live a faithful life.

Help us to reach out to each other and to You,

remembering that a strand of three cords is not easily broken.

(A time for silent prayer and confession.)

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Friends, receive God's forgiveness; know that's grace.

May God's love set you free this day and always. **Amen.**

***Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ**

Stewardship Moment

Mike Creed, Chair
Finance Committee

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 Christ's Table

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.

Prayer After Receiving

Bobbi Marino

O God,

**Just as we are called to this place,
we are also called and sent out into the community,
to proclaim your word with our lives,
to engage your word with our minds and hearts,
and to live your word with our whole selves,
as we seek the well-being of our church and our community.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THE COMMUNITY DEPARTS

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

Song of Hope
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2186

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

WORSHIP NOTES

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Bill and Joyce Perry in memory of Joyce's mother, Helen Hargis-Wiltz, who would have been 100 years old on Tuesday, October 10.

USHERS

Ushers for today's worship service are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

COFFEE TIME

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

After the 8:30 service we offer snacks for children and youth in our newly opened "Upstairs Café" in Room 202 of the Admin Building. Read more about it in the Children & Youth Ministries announcements.

Worship & Music

“CALLED TO COMMUNITY” 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN AND WORSHIP SERIES

Today we launch our 2024 Stewardship Campaign with a new worship series titled, “Called to Community,” in which we affirm the ways that we, here at St. John’s, are making a difference in our community and explore how God is calling us to invest even further in this place we call home. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that when our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness enable our community to thrive, we, as a church, will thrive, too.

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M. ON OCTOBER 29

Our campaign and series culminates on Sunday, October 29, Commitment Sunday, in which we will celebrate the pledges made to the St. John’s community in 2024. We will have one worship service that morning at 10 a.m. with a potluck luncheon to follow.

MEN’S CHORUS

We are putting together a men’s chorus to perform on **Sunday, October 29 in worship**. This is an open invitation for all men to come and sing. We will hold three rehearsals, Tuesday nights (October 10, 17, and 24) from 7 to 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. These rehearsals will prepare us to sing together on Commitment Sunday, which is October 29. We will have one worship service that day at 10 a.m. If you have any questions or would like to recommend some selections for the men to sing, please contact Steve Rushing at stevnrushing@stjohnsbr.org

TODAY - MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room with Dr. Steve. If you missed their performance on September 24 (it was wonderful) you will have a chance to see and hear them on October 22. So, if you have a child in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade bring them to Music Makers so they can explore their faith through music.

ALL SAINTS’ DAY

On Sunday, November 5, we will be observing All Saints’ Day in worship. During the service, we will remember and give thanks for those who have passed away since the previous November 1, by reading their names and lighting a candle, giving thanks for their lives and good witness. If you have a loved one who has died in the past year that you would like us to name aloud in those services, please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) with their name by October 30.

Servanthood

FALL FEST 2023

St. John's is hosting a Fall Fest for families in our community on **Sunday, October 22 from 4 - 6 p.m.** -- and we need your help! Fall Fest will be a community celebration involving activity stations, a trunk-or-treat, food, and an inflatable slide. We are so excited for this opportunity to engage more families in our area, but we need donations and volunteers to make sure Fall Fest runs smoothly.

WAYS TO SERVE:

- Trunk or Treat (decorate your car and hand out candy)
- Lead an Activity Station (all supplies provided)

Sign up for trunk-or-treat or an activity station at stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-volunteers.

- Donate candy (individually wrapped and nut free)
- Donate small prizes for games
- Shop from our Amazon Wish List at stjohnsbr.org/fall-fest-wishlist

Thank you for supporting this community outreach event!

HELP MAKE NEW CHRISMON TREE ORNAMENTS!

Can you believe Advent begins in 8 Weeks! The United Women in Faith is planning to refurbish the Chrismon ornaments which we have been using since the mid 1980's. As you may know our sanctuary tree is decorated with gold and white ornaments called Christ monograms or Chrismons (Christ and Monograms).

We will have two workshops, one on **Wednesday, October 18** and another on **Wednesday, November 1**, meeting in the library from 9 - 11 a.m. Kits will be provided with all the supplies you need to make an ornament. If you are unable to meet with us and want to create an ornament, please see Pat Lively for kits to make counted-cross stitch ornaments and/or Joyce Perry for kits to make beaded ornaments.

MEALS FOR ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

Help us provide meals for the St. John's youth group for their evening fellowship on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month**. Students meet from 6-8 p.m.; meals should be delivered between 5:45 - 6 p.m. to the Admin Building. The meal should include an entree, side dish, and dessert for 8-10 people. You are welcome to bring a home-cooked meal or order fast food (pizza, chicken fingers, tacos, etc.). We will have drinks, plates, and cutlery. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting this link: tinyurl.com/StJohnsYouthMeals.



FOOD PANTRY CLOSED MONDAY

The Food Pantry will be closed Monday in celebration of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.

PRAYERS FOR ST. MARK'S MISSION

St. John's has a team serving at St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans this morning to help feed the hungry and those experiencing homelessness. Please keep them in your prayers for a meaningful mission.

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

WOULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL?

The St. John's Writer's Group is curating a publication to enrich our Advent journey this year, and we invite anyone in our congregation to submit a reflection. Our theme for the year is "The Gift of Many Names," to follow with our Advent worship series. For more information, please email silvermari@gmail.com. Submissions are due to Mari no later than Friday, November 3.

GOOD GRIEF FELLOWSHIP

Our next fellowship gathering will be on **Tuesday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m.** We will share dinner at Albasha's restaurant, 5454 Bluebonnet Blvd. Our fellowship and companionship is open to all who journey the road of grief. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: Due to the upcoming major holidays our fellowship will meet on the **SECOND Tuesday of the month** for the rest of this year. For more information contact Susan Johnston 225-773-9563 or sbjohnston@gmail.com.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The UWF Mary Martha Circle will meet on **Wednesday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

Children & Youth Ministries

FALL DISCIPLESHIP SERIES - C.H.A.O.S.

Our fall discipleship series for children & families is called C.H.A.O.S., which is an acronym that stands for...

Christ Here And Other Spaces

SUNDAY MORNING CAFE TIME AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-9:50 Cafe time for youth & children (K-12th) in Room 202

9:50-10:50 Children's & Youth Sunday School time

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

In addition to our Sunday School times, the St. John's youth group (6th-12th grades) meets for Bible study on 1st and 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, and for fellowship activities on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm. Dinner is provided on Wednesday nights.

Charge Conference

St. John's will be hosting one of two Baton Rouge District Charge Conferences on **Sunday, October 15, 6 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. The Charge Conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the Church Council, but anyone can attend as an observer. Representatives from churches across the Baton Rouge district will gather in our sanctuary for this time of holy conferencing. The gathering will include a brief time of worship as well as the approval of each church's nominations report, clergy compensation, and candidates for ordained ministry, including a reaffirmation of St. John's own, Tori Lambert, as a candidate for ministry, and Natalie Cooper, as a Certified Lay Servant. We invite you to join us as we host area churches for this annual meeting.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, October 8

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, October 9

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

Tuesday, October 10

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Program, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief! Fellowship, Albasha's
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 11

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

Thursday, October 12

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

Friday, October 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, October 14

- 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