



Leviticus 19:33-37

Sunday, September 8, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

As we examine the biblical mandate to respect others - particularly those different from us - we'll address how fear can hinder our ability to show respect and remember God's commands about treating others with dignity. We'll look at strategies for practicing respect in our interactions and encouraging love-based responses over fear-based reactions.

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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

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

*Song of Praise

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2223, vs. 1 - 3

*Call to Worship

Beth Forester

We gather around the Light of Christ.
Christ's love knows no bounds.

Though we are a divided world,
may we be united in our worship.

Teach us Your ways, O Lord,
that we may walk in Your truth.
**Show us the way to do unto others
with respect.**

*Response

Make Me a Servant
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2176

Children's Moment

Rhonda Tucker

Scripture

Leviticus 19:33-37

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.

Pastor Lane

Witness to the Word

"A Little Respect"

Pastor Lane

*Hymn

The Servant Song
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2171, vs. 1 - 4

*Invitation to Reconciliation

Today we gather around this table to remember what true relationship means. All are invited to this Table of Respect.

Jesus broke bread with those whose worldview did not mirror his.

Jesus broke bread with those whose experience and traditions were sometimes not only different, but opposed, to his.

He simply offered a place to be, to sit down at the same table, and see what transformation might happen between people.

Yet, as we prepare ourselves for this feast, we are called to admit the complexity that lies at the edges of our relationships.

*Prayer of Confession

Beth Forester

For all the ways we hurt each other – with harmful expectations, judgments, and our own fear...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we squander right relationship – choosing being “right” over “relationship”...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we abuse our freedom – engaging in hateful speech towards those not on “our” side...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

For all the ways we deny equality and the belovedness of all – deeming some “in” and others “out”...

God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.

A time for silent prayer and confession.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Jesus said, “I have come to set the prisoner free.”

No matter what binds you this day, freedom is yours through new life in Christ.

In the name of the One who came to loose the chains, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and set free.

Glory to God! Amen.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Mission Moment

St. Mark's UMC, New Orleans

Rev. Larry Norman

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!**

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Liberating God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts with joy!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give praise to the Author of Freedom!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and holy thing
to give our praise to you this day,
Liberator of all humanity.

You unleashed your creative power and a world blossomed.

You bestowed upon every living thing life and breath,
color and movement.

No matter how many battles we wage within and
between ourselves and against you, your promise, vision,
and gifts of peace and abundance continue.

And so we lift up our voices in celebration of You!

Holy, holy, holy are You!

We join all the prophets and saints!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

We join the parade for peace and justice!

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord!

We add our cries and exclamations!

Hosanna in the highest!

*(The congregation is seated as the story of God's
redeeming love is shared.)*

Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.

To those who were imprisoned by status, law, illness, poverty, gender,
age, and disease, he said, "Your belief has set you free.

You are a child of God."

He invited disciples, friends, and strangers alike to his tables.

He proclaimed God's grace to all with whom he broke bread.

He proclaimed God's love to all with whom he shared the cup.

And he told us to remember:

You are one at this table, the table of grace.

For Christ has died, Christ has risen,

and Christ comes again in this meal we eat together.

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body so that we
might be free to love without condition,

invite without hesitation,

go without reservation, and

proclaim your respect to all the world!

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.*

Closing Prayer

Beth Forester

Holy One,

**You show us the way to Do Unto Others with respect through
the welcome we experience at your table.**

Send us into the unknown future with hope

that we can not only survive,

but we can thrive, together –

no matter the outcomes of a divided world.

**We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
The United Methodist Hymnal 384, vs. 1 & 4

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of Paul Cooper's 60th birthday, with love from his family. Happy birthday, Paul!

Worship prayers are adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/kindness in collaboration with <https://campaignforkindness.com>.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Bobbi Marino and Rhonda Tucker.

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

"DO UNTO OTHERS" – A CAMPAIGN FOR KINDNESS

This month, join us in a campaign for kindness, as we focus on embodying The Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This teaching from Jesus has the power to heal relationships, bridge political chasms, and transform our community in a world so torn by division. Join us as we discover how this simple, yet profound principle of kindness can be our catalyst for positive change.

"Do Unto Others" is a grassroots movement launched by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in the Kansas City area, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, that encourages intentional acts of kindness and fosters civility and respect, countering the polarization in our society.

COFFEE TIME SNACKS BY LAST NAME CONTINUES!

If your last name begins with **T - Z**, **Sunday, September 15** 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 items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.**

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.

An anonymous donor has offered to match the first \$500 of donations we raise for our one-day mission to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans! You may donate online by going to stjohnsbr.org/give, then from the pull down General Budget menu, select Sub Fund, then Missions, then St. Mark's. You may also give by check made out to St. John's UMC with St. Mark's in the memo line and put it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church.

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS STARTING THIS WEEK

Imagine a life of true happiness, a life of complete honesty with God. Through our upcoming Bible Study on the Psalms, you learn how to live a life of gratitude while producing actions that honor God. This 6-week study meets weekly, **beginning Tuesday, September 10**, with an **evening session at 6pm**, led by Guy Johnson. (The study will end October 15.) The study book, *Immersion Bible Study on the Book of Psalms*, 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, then from the General Budget pull down menu select SS Classes and Small Groups, then from the Sub Fund pull down menu select Bible Study. In the For: line put Immersion Psalms.

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 parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com).

DAYS FOR GIRLS MISSION

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 final Fall Workday, we will meet in the Family Life Center on **Saturday, September 14 from 9 a.m. – noon**. We have many jobs such as applying snaps, inserting ribbons, and folding panties and washcloths - no sewing involved. All helpers are welcome and needed!

To help with 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. There is a blue tub in the narthex and in the hallway of the Admin Building for your donations.

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

SAVE THESE DATES!

September 29, 3:30-5:30 PM the St. John's Food, Fun & Fellowship team is hosting **Trivia** in the Family Life Center. You can show up with or without a pre-decided team. However, please limit teams to no more than 6 people. Questions will be appropriate for adults & youth, but this activity may not be suitable for students younger than 4th grade. Childcare can be provided upon request. (Please notify no later than September 22.)

October 20, 4-5:30 PM. Save the date for a freaky good time this October for **Fall Fest and Trunk-or-Treat**. Candy donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 20. A Signup Genius will be made available September 10 for those interested in hosting a trunk or working an activity booth.

UWF CIRCLE OF THE HEART

The United Women in Faith Circle of the Heart will meet **Wednesday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m.** in The Founders' Parlor. Clara Maynard will present the program, "Food Justice;" Beth Forester will present the devotional. All women are invited to attend.

COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge is holding their annual Community Prayer Breakfast on **Thursday, September 12 at 7 a.m.** at Boudreaux's, 2647 Government Street. Seats are limited; to purchase tickets please call 225-267-5600.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, September 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, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 2:30 p.m. Nominations Committee, Library
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, September 9

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

Tuesday, September 10

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, September 11

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Circle of the Heart, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, September 12

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

Friday, September 13

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

Saturday, September 14

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 9:00 a.m. Days for Girls Workday, FLC
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

UPSTAIRS CAFE IS NOW OPEN

The Upstairs Cafe is now open with a new routine for supplying the Cafe with 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 the remainder of the month, following this schedule: 1st Sunday - Sunday School Teachers; 2nd Sunday - K - 2nd Families; 3rd Sunday - 3rd - 5th Families; 4th Sunday - Youth Families; 5th Sundays will be dealt with separately.

JOIN MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers rehearse on **Sundays 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.

SAVE THE PLAYDATE - SEPTEMBER 22

Our families with children are invited to join us for a Park Playdate on **Sunday, September 22 4-6 p.m.** at Highland Road Community Park. We are hoping the weather will be clear for us.

If the weather does not cooperate, we have a rain-out plan that involves an indoor picnic and games in the St. John's FLC. If we end up needing to use the rain-out plan, I invite families to bring a picnic blanket to help us recreate the essence of a picnic, but inside. *To stay better connected with us, please text "Connect" to (225) 230-1017. We will send text updates on September 22 through this phone number.*



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.