



Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

On Easter morning, Jesus, mysteriously appearing to Mary as the gardener, asks her, "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" In her haze of grief she can only see what is right before her - or in this case, what is not before her. It is only when Jesus calls her by name that the veil is lifted and she finds herself in the presence of the resurrected Jesus. On Easter, Mary is found by God's divine love in the form of her risen Lord.

God's divine love is desperately seeking us out, and we can experience that love fully when we, like Mary, dare to be found.

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

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

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 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
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Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
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Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
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Dr. Terry Byars
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker

seeking community

**Please stand as you are comfortable.*

Bold indicates congregational response.

Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.



Prelude

*A musical medley featuring our
Children & Youth Music Makers Ensemble.*

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Procession of Light & New Life

*We welcome the Light of Christ
followed by a parade of flowers which
we will place on our Resurrection Cross.*

Easter Proclamation

Pastor Lane & Rev. Bernie Johnson

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

*Call to Worship

Rev. Bernie

What are you looking for?

The light of a new day dawning.

What are you looking for?

A reason to hope.

What are you looking for?

Joy after grief and flowers after winter.

What are you looking for?

We are looking for the Messiah.

Good news! Love is alive!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen, and in him, you are fully known.

You are found. You are loved.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Alleluia! Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
The United Methodist Hymnal 302, vs. 1 - 4
Featuring the Alleluia Ringers

seeking insight

Children's Message

Pastor Lane & Connor Dean

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Marie Williams

As we prepare to retell the Easter story,
a story of love powerful enough
to rewrite our endings with the promise of new life,
let us pray...

O God,

**Move through this space until the walls echo
with the sound of "Alleluias!"**

**Roll back the stones that might prevent us from
drawing closer to you.**

Calm our hearts.

Say our names.

Awaken us to your presence in our midst.

We are here.

We are listening.

We are seeking you.

Alleluia. Amen.

Scripture

Rev. Bernie, Dr. Steve Rushing, &
Rev. Marie

John 20:1-18

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.

Sermon

"Seeking and Being Found"

Pastor Lane

seeking wholeness

***Hymn of Faith**

Hymn of Promise

The United Methodist Hymnal 707, vs. 1 - 3

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Bernie

The joy of this Easter Sunday reminds us of God's resurrecting power.
Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace
of new life through Christ.

The Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

God of Resurrection,

**Forgive our life-alienating ways,
our exclusion and judgment of others,
the way we evaluate and compare.**

**Forgive our habits that demean and degrade,
our addiction to violent and destructive behavior.**

**Forgive us for seeking after worldly things,
for forgetting to seek you.**

**Speak to us. Call us by name,
that we might recognize you in our midst.**

Redeem us. Restore us.

Resurrect us and make us whole. Amen.

***Words of Forgiveness and Grace**

Rev. Bernie

Family of faith,

No matter how many times we lose sight of God,

God never loses sight of us.

We might spend our whole days seeking,
but we are always found.

So hear, believe, and claim the good news of the gospel,
the good news proclaimed in the resurrection:

What once was lost is found.

**We are held in God's loving embrace -
forgiven, claimed, and sent out to serve.**

Alleluia! Amen.

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

seeking gratitude

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

The Day of Resurrection

Arranged by Valerie Stephenson

Alleluia Ringers

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!

seeking grace

*Invitation to the Table

Pastor Lane & Rev. Bernie

Friends,

it would have been easy on that Easter morning for Jesus to roll away the stone, walk to the city center, and declare that death had not won.

Instead, Jesus waited in the garden.

He waited for the people who needed him most.

He waited for Mary.

He called her by name.

He stopped her crying.

He gave her a reason to hope.

So if you have ever doubted that God's love for you is personal and specific, may the truth of this day remind you otherwise. The God you seek will meet you in the garden on your hardest days. And that same God has a seat saved at this Table, specifically for you.

So, come.

Come, whether you are dancing for joy, or like Mary,
still feeling a little lost.

Come with your questions.

Come with your hunger.

Come, whether this is your first time or your hundredth.

Come, because this feast is a reminder that God's Table
is big enough for all of us.

Jesus Christ is risen today and he rose for you.

So, come.

All are welcome.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of the lost and the found,

surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise;

for day after day we look for you,

and day after day we find you and you find us:

in the laughter of children,

in the sun rising over the horizon,

in the flowers of spring.

Our seeking does not go unanswered,

and for that we are grateful.

And so together, we proclaim our praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One
God of love and new life,
heaven and earth are full of your wonder!
Hosanna, among us!**

*The congregation is seated and
The story of the Last Supper is shared.*

As a way to remember Christ's perfect love and life, we joyfully and thankfully give back to you our lives as holy, living sacrifices.

Receive this gift, together with Christ's gifts for us, as we speak the Truth about our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again.

A prayer of consecration and blessing is shared.

The Lord's Prayer

***Sharing in Holy Communion**

The Holy City
Soloist: Rev. Jack O'Dell

Everyone is welcome to share in Holy Communion.

*Our ushers will direct you forward for communion
starting from the back of the Sanctuary.*

*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.

*If you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements as well as
a gluten-free option which are available at the two serving stations on the left.*

*If you are a person with limited mobility, please let an usher know and
someone will gladly bring communion to you.*

Prayer Song

Alleluia, Alleluia (repeat)
The United Methodist Hymnal 186

**may God bless you
in your seeking**

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.*

***Hymn of Discipleship**

Sing With All the Saints in Glory
The United Methodist Hymnal 702, vs. 1 - 3

worship notes

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Paul Ivey, Sandra Kuykendall, Susan Johnston, and Rhonda Tucker.

PRELUDE

Thank you to Ben Hartman for heralding the day with the sounds of trumpet.

COFFEE TIME

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

LITURGY AND PRAYERS

Some of our liturgy and prayers were written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Easter lilies

In memory of ...

Bevelyn Yonts *by Pam and John Toney*

George and Frances Lindsley *by Jim and Norma Thomason*

James and Hilda Thomason *by Jim and Norma Thomason*

My sister, Joan Williams Wallace *by Susan Williams Dunbar*

Our parents *by Carol and Don Gordon*

Jesse and Valentine Sexton *by Gray and Suzanne Sexton*

Pearl and Walter Fournet *by Gray and Suzanne Sexton*

Keith Hartman *by the HartWinn's (Hartman & Winn families)*

Dan Winn *by the Winn Family*

Jere Johnton *by Susan Johnston*

Carl Renfro *by Kris Renfro*

Betty and Ed Kochan *by your daughter, Susan*

Kaitlin and Riley Hunt *by Kathy Vandifer and Lauren White*

Gilbert McMurry *by James G. McMurry, Jr., and Jeanette McMurry*

In honor of ...

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn *by St. John's Staff*

Jane Walker *by Mari and Shawn Walker*

Livia Walker *by Mari and Shawn Walker*

My children and grandchildren *by Susan Johnston*

My children and grandchildren *by Mom and Nina (Lynn Cooper)*

*Thank you to all who placed an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one.
After adorning our sanctuary today, you may take your Easter lily home
following the 11:00 service.*



MANNA BAGS AVAILABLE

Thank you for your contributions to the Manna Bags mission project. We assembled over 125 Manna Bag care packages, some of which have already been distributed. Extra Manna Bags are located in the blue tubs in the Narthex, so feel free to grab one or several after worship today. Filled with food, water, and socks, Manna Bags are a tangible gift you can offer to someone in need. This mission is just one of the ways we continue to live out our vision of feeding people spiritually and physically within our community.

ST MARK'S MISSION

St John's will return to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal on **Sunday, April 30**. We will need about eight volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal after the 10:00 service there. Our team will leave the parking lot of St John's on April 30 at 7:30 a.m. Two vehicles will be needed to provide transportation for the team and for the meal supplies. Please let Larry Norman know if you will be among the volunteers and/or can provide one of the vehicles. You may text or call Larry at 225-933-1881.

COOKIES FOR KAIROS

Johnny McWilliams is serving on staff at the Kairos Prison Ministry Retreat #49 April 27-30. Kairos works to establish strong Christian communities in prisons worldwide. Please be in prayer for Kairos #49 and all Kairos Prison Ministry weekends happening all over the world. Cookies are needed for this event as well as volunteers for the kitchen.

Home-baked cookies are a tangible expression of Christian love and one the inmates at LCIW (Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women) look forward to. Look for the guide, "Cookies for Kairos," in the Narthex as there are specific rules to follow in baking and packaging the cookies, or you may find the guidelines online. You may bring your cookies to Johnny here at church on Sunday, April 16.

If you are unable to help with cookies or in the kitchen, you may also make a monetary donation. Make your check out to KPML. It can be put in the collection plate or brought by the office. For more information contact Johnny McWilliams at 225-270-1307 or johnny70817@gmail.com.

UMCOR SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE

We will continue to collect donations to support the relief efforts to help those impacted by the severe weather across the country. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR's Disaster Response. Through UMCOR, every penny donated goes to helping those in need. To make a financial donation, we have set up a special Disaster Relief Fund on our website at stjohnsbr.org/give. Choose the Missions Fund, and then the Disaster Relief Fund / UMCOR. Checks written to St. John's should have UMCOR in the memo line or on the cash envelope.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

The United Women in Faith would like to thank the members of St. John's and visitors for their generosity and support for our Spring Craft and Bake Sale on April 2.

The Mary Martha Circle will be meeting on **Wednesday, April 12 at 10 a.m.** in the Parlor. PLEASE NOTE this is a new day and time for the Circle. All women are invited to attend.



Spiritual Growth

ONE DAY STUDY ON "LIVING OUR UMC BELIEFS"

A study that aims to examine the role of doctrine within the United Methodist Church will be held on **Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at First UMC downtown.** The class will be facilitated by Rev. Brady Whitton. The cost for the class is \$20, which includes lunch. Additionally, in advance of the class, participants are required to purchase and read *Living Our Beliefs The United Methodist Way* by Bishop Kenneth L. Carder. The book is currently available on the Upper Room and Amazon web sites for \$13. Scholarships are available for the course and book. (Please contact the church office for scholarship assistance.) To register go to la-umc.org/umcbeliefscourse.



Children & Youth Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

Spring Lock-in, Friday, April 21, \$10 to attend, due by April 16. Students will meet at 7 p.m. at Main Event. Parents: Pick up students at 8 a.m., April 22.

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Collaborative youth ministry programming with other United Methodist Youth in and around Baton Rouge.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This year, in place of Vacation Bible School, St. John's will be hosting a Family Camp July 13-15. Family Camp will include a dinner Thursday & Friday nights, worship, Bible study, games, music, and service projects to promote community building among the families with children at St. John's. More details will come soon, but mark your calendars now because you do not want to miss out!

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, starting June 8, 5 - 7 p.m., activities to be announced. More information coming soon.

ANNOUNCING 2023 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Youth Intern position. This 13-week internship spans the summer months and is a great opportunity for young adults with a passion for youth ministry to gain valuable leadership and ministry experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 20 hours per week.

We are looking for someone who has a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome.

Visit stjohnsbr.org/summer-intern-2023 for more information and application instructions.



Sunday, April 9

8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
 8:20 a.m. Line up for Flower Processional
 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
 10:50 a.m. Line up for Flower Processional
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, April 10

OFFICE CLOSED

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

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
 6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Library
 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, April 11

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
 2:00 p.m. Grief Program, Parlor
 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

NO PROGRAMS TODAY & MONDAY CLOSURES

There will be no Youth Fellowship, Music Makers, or Alleluia Ringers bell practice this afternoon or evening in celebration of Easter. All programs and rehearsals resume next Sunday. The church office and the Shepherd's Market will be closed on Monday, April 10, giving our staff and volunteers a break following Holy Week and Easter observances. The office and Shepherd's Market will reopen on Tuesday, April 11.

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

On April 16 we will fill our worship services with joy, laughter, and smiles for Holy Humor Sunday.

Often celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, the custom of "Bright Sunday," says that we can laugh in the face of death because of what Christ has done for us by rising from the dead.

We invite you to come wearing the wackiest outfit you can put together from your closets (stripes with plaids, mismatched color schemes, two different shoes, funny hats, etc.). And bring jokes (only good clean humor, please) to share during our worship services. Plan to attend Holy Humor Sunday, April 16 at the 8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. to laugh, smile, and remember what Jesus has done for us in the Resurrection!

Wednesday, April 12

7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
 10:00 a.m. Mary Martha Circle, Parlor
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, April 13

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

Friday, April 14

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, April 15

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center

