



# EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 7, 2024

**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 scan the QR code to register your attendance 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

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

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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

Connor Dean  
*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
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Lynn Cooper  
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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.



## Coming Into Awareness of the Star

### Prelude

### 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*

### \*Carol of Praise

*We Three Kings*

The United Methodist Hymnal 254, vs. 1, 2, & 5

### \*Call to Worship

8:30 - Jim Sandifer  
11:00 - Grace Idikwu

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.**

### \*Carol of Response

*Star Child*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2095, vs 1 & 5

## Embarking on the Journey

### Children's Message

Connor Dean

### Prayer for Illumination

8:30 - Jim Sandifer  
11:00 - Grace Idikwu

**Holy One,**

**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.**

**\*Scripture**

8:30 - Jim Sandifer  
11:00 - Grace Idikwu

Matthew 2:1-12

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.**

**\*Carol**

*The First Noel*

The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs 1 & 2

*Guided by the Star*

**Star Word Introduction**

Pastor Lane

**Star Word Reflection**

Journey

Darlene Dickson

**Carol**

*The First Noel*

The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs 3

**Star Word Reflection**

Believe

Cindy Carter

**Carol**

*The First Noel*

The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs 4

**Star Word Reflection**

Spirit

Natalie Cooper

**Carol**

*The First Noel*

The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs 5

# Sharing of Ourselves in Response

## Prayer of Honest Reflection

Pastor Lane

Epiphanies alter our path.

New understanding shifts our direction,

but too often we think that nothing extraordinary ever happens.

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

**Always.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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.)*

## Words of Affirmation

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.**

## \*Sharing the Light of Love & Peace

### Ministry Moment: Youth Ministry Grant

Connor Dean

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

11:00 Offertory: *How Great Thou Art*  
Steve Rushing, soloist

*We appreciate your generosity.*

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

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

A Service of Word and Table  
The United Methodist Hymnal 15

*Our sung communion responses are from The Faith We Sing Songbook 2257*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)  
Blest is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:*

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

## 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.*

## Star Word Blessing Litany

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.**

## Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lane

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.

*Bless*

## Call to Action

Connor Dean

*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

*There's a Song In the Air*

The United Methodist Hymnal 249, vs. 1, 3, & 4

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



## \*Benediction

Radiate Redeemer,

Guide our thinking and doing, and help us remember:

**2024 will be kinder,**

**if I am kinder.**

**2024 will be healthier,**

**if I practice good health guidelines.**

**2024 will be more compassionate,**

**if I show more kindness.**

**2024 will be less anxious,**

**if I offer more grace.**

**2024 will be more just,**

**if I advocate for more justice.**

**2024 will be less contentious,**

**if I listen with attention and speak with intention.**

**2024 will be less violent,**

**if I more actively work for peace.**

**2024 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

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

*Worship Notes*

## USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Phil and Jill Slicker.

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Zach Isenhower and Dianne Stilley.

## COFFEE TIME

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

# Announcements

## **EPIPHANY AND STAR WORDS**

Epiphany is the Sunday celebrated as the day the magi reached baby Jesus. And it's become a tradition at St. John's, on Epiphany, for each person to be offered a special word for the year printed on a star. These "Star Words" are a symbol of the star the magi followed on their way to the Christ Child. Selecting a Star Word to meditate on throughout the year can deepen your self-reflection and prayer practices. During both services, Cindy Carter, Natalie Cooper, and Darlene Dickson will reflect on their Star Word from last year.

## **MUSIC MAKERS AND ALLELUIA RINGERS**

Music Makers and the Alleluia Ringers will resume practice **today, January 7**. Music Makers will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room with Mr. Steve and the Alleluia Ringers will meet with Mr. Steve at 6 p.m. in the Bells Practice Room.

## **YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER**

**First Sundays:** The St. John's youth group will gather on the first Sunday of each month from **4 - 5:30 p.m., beginning today, January 7**. Throughout the spring semester, they will meet at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities. Today Youth will meet at the home of Seth Robertson, 286 Stanford Ave.

**Third Wednesdays:** Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for Wednesday Night Live. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)) if you did not receive one.

## **TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

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 9 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.

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

The United Women in Faith will meet **Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. Officers will be elected and installed. The 2024 budget will be presented. This is the first meeting of the combined circles. All women are invited to attend.

## **MEDIA DESK TRAINING**

On **Wednesday, January 10 from 6 - 8 p.m.** in the Sanctuary, our media tech, Ben Balsler, will be offering a run through of operations and procedures of running media on sanctuary screens, running our live stream, basic hardware functions, and basic software operations, including a general overview of preparing media in ProPresenter. If you are interested in helping out on Sundays at the Media Desk, please let Ben ([benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org)) know and plan to attend the run through on the 10th.

## **PRIME TIMERS**

Prime Timers invite you to join them for their Dutch-treat Second Saturday Breakfast Buffet on **Saturday, January 13 at 8:30 a.m.** at Drury Inn and Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave.

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

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, January 15** 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.



# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday, January 7

### 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\*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Robertson's House
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

## Monday, January 8

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' 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, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Tuesday, January 9

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. Take Down Christmas Decorations, Narthex and Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Support, Founders' Parlor
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Wednesday, January 10

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Circle, Founders Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Opening Doors, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Media Desk Training, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA Meeting, FLC-C

## Thursday, January 11

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

## Friday, January 12

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UWF Planning Meeting, Founders Parlor

## Saturday, January 13

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 5:00 p.m. Lagniappe Country Walk to Emmaus Gathering, FLC and Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center