

BOTH SIDES NOW

CHECK-IN & PRAYER REQUESTS



Tonight we gather for Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent with prayer, reflection, and the imposition of ashes. Together, we step into this sacred season with humility and hope, remembering that even from dust, God is always shaping new life.

Serve by Preparing Sandwiches

We're looking some helpers to make sandwiches for Unity in the CommUNITY lunch on Saturday, February 21. Please come to the FLC between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to help with preparing lunch or stay after the 10:00 a.m. program to help with cleanup.

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.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Bingo

Pick up a Lent Bingo card and join us in a shared Lenten practice. Each square offers a simple way to stay present and open as we practice faith in the in-between. Choose one square each day (excluding Sundays). Bring your card with you on Easter Sunday for a little Easter joy — no perfect score required. Scan the QR Code to download or pick up a card (and stickers) in the narthex or office.



Unity in the CommUNITY

February 21 10:00 a.m. Join us for a joyful worship service with the children and families of the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center, celebrating the relationships St. John's nurtures year-round. A simple sandwich lunch with our community friends will follow in the Family Life Center, hosted by United Women in Faith.

"Holding Space" — Lent Worship Series

Begins February 22 This Lent, we resist rushing toward easy answers and instead follow Jesus into the sacred in-between, trusting God's presence even when clarity feels unfinished. A simple daily Lenten practice will accompany the series.

Lent Book Study: An Altar in the World

Begins February 25 (evenings at 5:45 p.m.) and February 26 (mornings at 10:30 a.m.) Join us for a Lenten book study exploring everyday spiritual practices that help us notice holiness woven into ordinary life. Led by Jami Prince and offered Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings. If the church is purchasing your book, it may be picked up in the Library during regular office hours. Registration is available online.



Vile-tality Workshop

February 28 The Annual Conference invites you to a free workshop (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) with Dr. Ashley Boggan exploring John Wesley's call to "submit to be more vile" and its impact on the Methodist movement today. The retreat will be at The Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA and lunch is provided; registration is through the Annual Conference website: la-umc.org

Ways to Make a Difference: Shepherd's Market Ongoing Donations

Most needed this week: snacks and dried beans. Ongoing needs include pasta, peanut butter, cereal, condiments, drinks, household items, and personal hygiene items.

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 H-L may bring snacks on 2/22

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: Last Names Q-Z 2/22
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

BOTH SIDES NOW

6:00 PM Worship Celebration

Ash Wednesday, February 18 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.

stjohnsbr.org | [@stjohnsbr](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbr) | office@stjohnsbr.org

225-766-4594 | 230 Renee Drive BR, LA 70810



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

WELCOME

6:00 PM Worship Celebration

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



Gathering Music Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome Rev. Larry Norman

Opening Prayer Rev. Larry Norman

Invitation to Worship* Rev. Larry Norman

If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,
then you are in the right place.
If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,
then you are in the right place.
If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,
then you are in the right place.
God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.
So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.
With God’s help, may it be so.
Let us worship our all-loving God.
“Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

We Sing Together* The Faith We Sing #2138 vs. 1, 2, 3
Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes

Invitation to the Lenten Journey Rev. Kathy Schaffhauser

We Read God’s Word Rev. Kathy Schaffhauser
A Responsive Reading From Psalm 51
Create in me a clean heart, Of God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Enfold me in the arms of love, and fill me with your Holy Spirit.
Restore in me the joy of your saving grace,
and encourage me with a new spirit.
Then I will teach others your ways, and prisoners of fear will return to You.
O Gracious God, open my lips and my mouth shall sing forth your praise.

For you do not want sacrifice; You delight in our friendship with you.
A sacrifice most appropriate is a humble spirit;
a repentant and contrite heart,
is the gift You most desire.
O most gracious and compassionate God, melt our hearts of stone, break through the fears that lead us into darkness, and guide our steps into the way of peace.

We Sing Together* The Faith We Sing #2106
Give Me a Clean Heart

We Read the Word Rev. Larry Norman
Genesis 3:19

We Meditate on the Word Reverend Larry Norman
Both Sides Now: Sin, Repentance and Life’s Fragility

We Sing Together* The Faith We Sing #2152
Change My Heart, O God

We Name Our Need For Grace Rev. Kathy Schaffhauser
Holy God, we confess that we do not always return to you fully. We give you the manageable parts of our lives, but keep the rest guarded. We move quickly past what is uncomfortable. We avoid what feels uncertain. We hide the parts of ourselves that feel too messy, too fragile, or too unfinished. Yet you call us – all of us. You love us – all of us. Hold space for us, O God, even when we struggle to hold space for ourselves. Forgive us. Slow us down. Turn our hearts back toward you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

We Hear Words of Grace & Forgiveness
Friends, hear this good news:
God meets you exactly where you are.
Not when you are polished.
Not when you are certain.
Not when you are finished.
God meets you in the dust.
In the questions. In the longing.
In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
We are claimed.
You are held in mercy and love. Rest in that grace.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes Rev. Larry Norman
From Genesis 3:19, we read: “...you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

“Together, let us pray:

Expansive God of grace, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Dust of the earth whose very elements originated from exploding stars in an ever-expanding galaxy. We are limited and mortal, yes—and we are so much more. Grant that these ashes may be a sign to us, that in our limited nature, we are also embraced by your eternal and expansive grace. Bless these ashes that they may remind us, we are humble dust abundantly loved by You. Amen.

We Receive a Blessing with Ashes Rev. Larry Norman
You are invited to come down the center aisle to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead. If you would like, you are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for as long as you wish for a time of personal prayer before returning to your seat.

We Pray for Others Rev. Larry Norman
As we pray, our response will be: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

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

We Sing Together* U.M. Hymnal #405 vs 1, 2
Seek Ye First

We Share in a Blessing* Rev. Larry Norman

We Go Out into the World* Dr. Terry Byars