

STRANGER THINGS



A SERIES ABOUT
BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

Sunday, July 7, 2024
11 a.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

In today's story we see Jesus extend compassion and healing to someone who didn't deserve it. As we dive into the story of Jesus reattaching a severed ear, we ask of our own lives: when have we, perhaps, not deserved Jesus' compassion? Who are the people in our lives that we withhold compassion from, because they are "underserving" of it? Welcome to worship, as we ask challenging questions in pursuit of an understanding of our God of compassion and kindness.

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 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.

St. John's Clergy and Staff

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Nursery Worker

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

Introit

O How He Loves You and Me

*Call to Worship

Julian Hartman

People of God, we come to worship the ever-living God!

**We gather with hearts full of praise, wonder,
and thanksgiving!**

Our scriptures tell the stories of God's work in the world.

We listen for echoes of these stories in our own.

The Holy Spirit continues to open our hearts and guide us.

**May the stories of our faith teach us about repentance,
forgiveness, and moving forward as we seek to be people
of compassion and love.**

*Hymn

Jesu, Jesu

The United Methodist Hymnal 432, vs. 1 & 3

Children's Message

Sarah Prevot

Prayer

God of all ages,

Open our ears to hear your voice in the stories of our faith.

Open our minds to understand what they experienced.

Open our hearts to accept what you might be saying to us today.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*Scripture

Luke 22:47-51

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.

Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

"Jesus Reattaches a Severed Ear"

*Hymn

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

The United Methodist Hymnal 273, vs. 1 & 2

***Confessing Our Sin**

We come before God in silence and in prayer,
to open our hearts to our Creator, the one who heals,
loves, and forgives.

So let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

(A silence is held for prayer and confession.)

Let us pray...

**God of love and mystery,
make us whole.**

**Heal the wounds we carry in us,
and heal the wounds we have created in others.**

**Make us strong in the broken places,
that we will know of what we speak when we
offer mercy and hope.**

Forgive us, and enable us to forgive in that same way.

**God of love and mystery, make us whole,
through your Son Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

***Receiving Grace**

Friends hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us,
not to condemn the world but in order that we might
be saved – healed and forgiven – through him.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.**

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

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked

Words by Daniel Twohig; music by Geoffrey O'Hara

Soloist: Jesse Locke

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 Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so in praise and with great thanks, we join our voices to those of the heavenly host who sing to your glory, saying together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*(The congregation is seated and the pastor recalls
the institution of the Lord's Supper.)*

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.

*(The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit
and prays for the Holy Spirit's presence in this act of worship.)*

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.

Prayer After Communion

O God,

**Thank you for meeting us at this table
and reminding us that there is nothing so broken
in our lives that you cannot heal it.**

**United by your grace,
grant us the courage to carry your kindness and
compassion into the world, even when
it feels impossible.**

**For with you, all things are possible.
In Christ's name we pray. 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**

Healer of Our Every Ill

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2213, vs. 1 & 3

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

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Scott Durham and Renee Rodi.

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.

We are grateful for the individuals on our Prayer Team who commit to pray for the concerns and joys that are shared. Would you like to be a part of this team that commits to praying daily/weekly? Send a request to join the Prayer Team to prayers@stjohnsbr.org.

Announcements

ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - TED TALK THEOLOGY

Our adult summer study series is called TED Talk Theology and runs through July 28 (9:55-10:45 am) in the sanctuary. Each Sunday we're watching a TED Talk, reading scripture, and talking about what they say to us about our faith and life. We have a new facilitator each Sunday. Come weekly or come when you can! There's nothing to prep for or to read ahead of time. our next TED Talk session will be Sunday, July 14.

TODAY - SUNDAY, JULY 7 our session will be led by Phil Sprunger with a talk by Shankar Vedantam titled "You Don't Actually Know What Your Future Self Wants."

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 14 our session will be lead by Molly Means with a talk by Chimamanda Adichie titled "The Danger of a Single Story." Our scripture focus will be James 2:1-8.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are looking for volunteers to serve as "table leaders" to help lead each age group within our one-room Sunday School class for our children & youth during the summer. Please carefully review the available slots at stjohnsbr.org/sumer-ss or contact Connor if you have any issues or questions.

COFFEE TIME REMINDER

Just a reminder that **if your last name begins with O - R, next Sunday, July 14**, is your Sunday to bring a treat to Coffee Time! And also remember that this is NOT an obligation, just a suggestion! You don't have to cook or bake – in these days of prepared foods, any grocery store has plenty to choose from.

Please have your item to the FLC before 9:30 am.

LOVE FEAST THANK YOU

Many, many thanks to all who planned, served, shared their gifts, and helped make Sunday's Love Feast possible. It was such a marvelous worship service and Love Feast.

PRIME TIMERS SATURDAY BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 13 is Prime Timers Second Saturday Dutch-treat Buffet Breakfast. Phew, that is quite a title! The buffet breakfast is at Drury Inn & Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave. at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$10.99.

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

GLOW PARTY

Invite your friends and get your glow on at this fundraiser for our Children's Ministry. The Glow Party will take place in the St. John's Family Life Center on **July 12 from 6-8 p.m.** Admission is \$20. Any children in middle school and younger are welcome to join us. Music, food, drinks, and plenty of fun will be provided!

Register now by visiting: stjohnsbr.org/glow-party-2024

Deadline to register is end of day, Sunday, July 7

POOL PARTIES

Youth Pool Party - Parker & Rhonda Tucker are hosting our youth students (6th-12th grade) for a pool party on **Sunday, July 7 from 6-8 PM**. Be sure to wear secure swimsuits and bring towels. Students should also bring a drink of choice to share (soda, juice, etc.).

Children's Pool Party - Pam & John Toney are hosting our children (5th grade & younger) for a pool party on **Sunday, July 21 from 4-6 PM**. Be sure to wear secure swimsuits and bring towels. Students should also bring a drink of choice to share (soda, juice, etc.).

YOUTH SUMMER TOUR

The next stop on our Summer Tour will be hosted by Baton Rouge **First UMC** and held near the U.S.S. Kidd (300 S. River Rd.) on **Wednesday, July 10**. Youth should be dropped off near The Kidd at 6 p.m. and picked up at 8. The Youth Summer Tour meets each Wednesday in June & July from 6 - 8 p.m. A different church will be hosting each week.

YOUTH SERVICE WEEK

We are hosting Youth Service Week again this summer! It will take place during the **week of July 29 - August 2**. We are currently contacting local charities to schedule an assortment of exciting and varied volunteer opportunities. Each day, we will also have an engaging fellowship activity like laser tag, bowling, go karts, and more!

SAVE THE DATES

Youth Mystery Night - The St. John's youth group is hosting a Mystery Party for students entering 6th-12th grades in the 2024-25 school year. Students will need to RSVP no later than July 21 to ensure they receive a formal invitation with further instructions for the event. The Mystery Party will take place in the Family Life Center on **Friday, August 2 from 6-9 p.m.**

Grub Sunday - Join us for messy games at St. John's UMC on **Sunday, August 4 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Let's celebrate the start of the new school year by making new connections with other youth! Students should meet at the St. John's Family Life Center (the building located furthest from Highland Road) at 4:00 p.m. We will then move to the yard to play MEGA Kickball and other messy games. Students should bring towels and an extra change of clothes. We will finish around 6:00 p.m.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, July 7

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Youth/Children's Sunday School, FLC
- 9:50 a.m. Adult Summer Study, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Pool Party, Tucker Residence

Monday, July 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 Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, July 9

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, July 10

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Summer Tour, USS Kidd
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, July 11

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. River City Quilt Guild, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

Friday, July 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
- 6:00 p.m. Glow Party, FLC

Saturday, July 13

- 8:00 a.m. Giving Quilts Sew Day, FLC
- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Drury Inn
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.