

# STRANGER THINGS



A SERIES ABOUT  
BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

*Sunday, July 28, 2024  
11 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

God has declared King Saul to be an unfit ruler due to his serial lapses in judgement and an overall lack of righteous decision-making. God has anointed the young David to usurp Saul's throne. The prophet Samuel tells Saul of God's selection of David as the next king of the Israelites. Saul denies this fate initially. After Samuel's death, however, Saul grows more desperate to receive a new fate from God. That is where we pick up in 1 Samuel Chapter 28, as Saul seeks help from the Witch of Endor.

***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](http://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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
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[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

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*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
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*Custodian*  
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Brooklyn Hays  
*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

Natalie Cooper

## Introit

*As the Deer*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2025

## \*Call to Worship

Richard Damberg

As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship –

**We bring the burdens of the week.**

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

**We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.**

We bring our faith - tattered or whole as it may be.

**We bring the fullness of our lives – even life's contradictions.**

We bring all of this to each other and to God,  
whom we worship together now.

**May the worship we share in bring glory to God.**

## \*Hymn

*Holy, Holy, Holy!*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 64, vs. 1, 2, & 4

## \*Confessing Our Sin

Richard Damberg

Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love. Let us pray.

Holy God,

**We are an imperfect people and are in need  
of your grace and forgiveness.**

**Your way is clear, yet we ignore it willfully.**

**We have walked along crooked paths  
strewn with our selfishness and greed,  
our arrogance and our apathy.**

**We live as though the rules do not apply to us.**

**We admonish others for not meeting a particular  
standard, then make excuses when we don't meet  
those same standards.**

**Forgive us for not heeding your will.  
Change us by your grace and for your glory,  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*Receiving Grace**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.

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**

**Children's Message**

Natalie Cooper

**Prayer**

Connor Dean

**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**

1 Samuel 28:8-20

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**

"The Witch of Endor"

Connor Dean

**\*Hymn**

*Seek Ye First*

The United Methodist Hymnal 405, vs. 1 & 2

**\*Affirming Our Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

The United Methodist Hymnal 881

Richard Damberg

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**the third day he arose from the dead;**

he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

Natalie Cooper

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

Offertory: *maya*

By Ian Clarke

Flutists: Mikey Hogan and Dr. Penny Kemler

*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](http://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!**

**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**

*Christ Beside Me*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2166, vs. 1 & 2

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

**\*Postlude**

# Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of David John Henson by his family.

Ushers for the 11:00 service are Fred and Becky Shearer.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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! .

**TODAY SUNDAY JULY 28** will be our last session and will be lead by Steve Rushing with a talk by Robert Waldinger, "What makes a good life? Lessons from the Longest Study on Happiness." Our scripture focuses will be Romans 12:1-21; Acts 2:43-47; Matthew 18:20.

### PICKLEBALL, ANYONE?

Join us for pickleball for adults on **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. No sign up is required, just show up! Beginners are welcome. For more information contact Donnie Lambert at 225-921-0446.

### TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NEEDS LEADERS

We are looking for two or three leaders for our toddler Sunday School class starting August 4. Curriculum and activities are planned and provided in advance. If you are willing to help out, even if it is just for one or two Sundays each month, please contact Connor (225-766-4594 or [connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)).

### UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES - OLYMPIC FAITH

As the Olympic games take center stage this summer, we will discover how the values of the games teach us biblical values for our lives. Join us for this brand new worship series, "Olympic Faith," starting August 4, 2024.

## FALL BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS

There will be two sessions of the Immersion Bible Study on the Book of Psalms beginning **Tuesday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.** in the library. (The study will end October 15.) Registration information will be forthcoming. The study books will cost \$15 and can be picked up in the church office **after Monday, July 29**; 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/SS](http://stjohnsbr.org/give/SS) *Classes and Small Groups/Bible Study*. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Tucker (by phone or text: 225-270-2193 or [parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com](mailto:parkerrhondatucker@gmail.com)).

## JOIN OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

Our Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 7**. We meet in the choir room at 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for anyone to share the gift of their heart, soul, and voice--when one sings, they pray twice. Grace upon grace is bestowed upon those who share their gifts to the glory of God.

## ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Opening Doors is once again sponsoring the annual school supply drive. The drive began last Sunday and will **end Sunday, August 4**. The school supplies will go to students at Wildwood Elementary School, Charlie Thomas Memorial Head Start Center, and Gardere Community Christian School.

Suggested supplies are: pencils, pens (black or blue), Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 24-pack of crayons, colored pencils, spiral notebooks (3 subject or more), standard rulers, folders with clasps and pockets, scissors, boxes of Kleenex, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, dry erase markers, kid scissors, construction paper, copy/computer paper, and kindergarten paper with wide lines.

## YELLOW GROCERY BAGS

Don't forget to pick up a yellow grocery bag for grocery and household items to help stock the shelves of The Shepherd's Market. **Sunday, August 4 is Grocery Bag Sunday.**

# *Upcoming Children's & Youth Events*

## YOUTH SUMMER TOUR

The next stop on our Summer Tour will be hosted by Zachary UMC (4205 Church St., Zachary) on **Wednesday, July 31**. Youth should be at St. John's by 5 p.m. in order to carpool to Zachary. We will arrive back at St. John's at 8:30 p.m. for pickup.

## YOUTH SERVICE WEEK BEGINS MONDAY

St. John's is hosting Youth Service Week again this summer! It will take place during the **week of July 29 - August 2**. Each day, Youth will participate in volunteer activities and will also have a fun fellowship activity. Potential volunteer activities include The Shepherd's Market, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, and Friends of the Animals (animal shelter), and Life Source Hospice. Potential fun activities include Celebration Station, Surge Entertainment, Uptown Climbing (rock walls), and Defy Trampoline Park.

## EVENTS FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADERS

**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 should have replied with an RSVP by 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 going into 6th grade as well as those in 7th - 12th grades 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 28

- 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. Summer Bells, Bells' Practice Room

## Monday, July 29

- 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 30

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

## Wednesday, July 31

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Summer Tour, Zachary UMC
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

## Thursday, August 1

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. River City Quilt Guild, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Library

## Friday, August 2

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Mystery Night, FLC

## Saturday, August 3

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

\*Family Life Center

**BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT SUNDAY**  
★ AUGUST 4TH ★  
Blessing of the Bags  
Prayers for Students, Faculty, & Staff  
Presentation of Bibles  
(for K, 3rd, 6th & 9th graders)  
Everyone wear your favorite school colors!

All students will be “promoted” to the next grade level on **Sunday, August 4**. All children & youth will gather in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. for a brief assembly before breaking into our Sunday School groups for the year. The age groups are divided thusly: Pre-K & younger, Kindergarten - 2nd grade, 3rd - 5th grade, and 6th-12th grade. Students entering Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 6th grade, and 9th grade will be given Bibles on Promotion Sunday as well. If Connor has not already contacted you about receiving a Bible, please email her at [connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org).

The whole congregation is invited to celebrate the new school year on **Sunday, August 4** by wearing the colors of their favorite school! During children's moment on Promotion Sunday, we will bless the bags of students and education professionals. Be sure to show your school spirit and bring a bag for the blessing!