



# Uniquely UMC

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

*Sunday, June 2, 2024  
11 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

To be United Methodist is to be connectional. We work to be intentionally “connected” with United Methodist Christians around the world in the sharing of God’s grace for the transformation of the world through mission, service, teaching, and preaching. As we wrap up our “Uniquely UMC” worship series today, we’ll hear Jesus’ call to his disciples to work together to spread his good news and how we uniquely live that out as a denomination.

***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

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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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## Introit

*The Servant Song*

## \*Call to Worship

Pat Cobb

We gather as people brought together by grace and bound together in the family of God.

**May God draw us together in love.**

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, a movement dedicated to prayer, worship, study, and service.

**May we never stop seeking the heartwarming Spirit of God.**

We are part of the people called *United Methodists*, Yes!  
But more than that, we are God's people, connected to every Jesus-follower through the body of Christ.

**May the love of Christ unite us this day and always. Amen.**

## \*Hymn of Praise

*We Are Called*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2172, vs. 1 & 2

## Children's Message

Rhonda Tucker

## Prayer

O God,  
we invite you into our fellowship,  
into our minds, and into our hearts.  
Deepen our questions, guide our answers,  
and let us gather in your name. Amen.

## \*Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

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.**

**\*Hymn**

*All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord*  
Written by Charles Wesley, 1747  
The United Methodist Hymnal 554, vs. 1 & 2

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace  
with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you  
with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

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**

**Ministry Moment: Summer Bells**

Dr. Steven Rushing

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
Words by Charles Wesley, 1747  
Chancel Choir Anthem

*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!**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

With sung responses 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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

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, the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled,  
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.*

### **Prayer After Receiving**

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but thine.**

**Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. 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**

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 3, & 4

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

### **\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

### **\*Postlude**

## *Worship Notes*

The flowers on the altar are in honor of the dedicated servants at St. John's, the hands and feet of God, who help make our church a Unique UMC.

Call to Worship adapted from prayer by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2024.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer by John Wesley, first used in worship on August 11, 1755, in London.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Joyce Perry 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.

## *Announcements*

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**

VBS is only 2 weeks away and we still need lots of people to serve if we're going to be able to host all the children we are anticipating!

Areas that need helpers include Snacks, Games, Storytime, Crafts. The best part is – everything is already planned, and all the materials will be provided. We also only have 1 person signed up to help with set up on Friday (June 14, 1-4pm) and 1 person signed up to help set up on Sunday (June 16, 2-6pm). If you can't come the entire time for setting up or for VBS, just come when you can, but please sign up! We are just asking for your time. If you do not have other commitments during that week or have a flexible work schedule that allows you to volunteer for a day or two, please consider serving.

Some slots only require 30 minutes of your time, some require 2 hours, and some require 4 hours. For many of the spots, you can choose if you volunteer for a single day or multiple days. All of that to say, there are many ways to get involved, and we have tried to make this as flexible and volunteer-friendly as possible. **You can visit [stjohnsbr.org/vbs-volunteers](http://stjohnsbr.org/vbs-volunteers) to get more information and sign up.** If you have any questions, please contact Connor ([connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)).

### **VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

Children who have completed fifth grade and younger are invited to join us for VBS! You can register online at [stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024](http://stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024).

### **COFFEE TIME REMINDER**

Just a reminder that **if your last name begins with D – G, next Sunday, June 9**, 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 JUNE 30 AT 10AM**

June brings summer, lazy days, and something else this year ... a fifth Sunday! What a perfect day to have a different experience for worship!

So, on **Sunday, June 30, we are celebrating the fifth Sunday by hosting a “Love Feast” worship experience in the FLC at 10 a.m., in lieu of our regular worship times.** This will be a celebratory service featuring music, prayer, and testimonies as we enjoy a potluck brunch. Everyone is invited to bring a breakfast or brunch item to share. The early Christians met and broke bread together to signify their union, fellowship, and love. In 1727, the Moravian Church in Germany revived this practice, calling it a “Love Feast.” John Wesley, co-founder of Methodism and an Anglican priest, experienced a Moravian Love Feast during his time in Georgia, and it quickly became part of early American Methodism. Our own celebratory Love Feast will be a great way to remember our history while spending time in fellowship with our church family!

*We will resume our regular Sunday morning schedule the following Sunday, July 7, with worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Coffee Time and Summer Sunday School in between services.*

### **YOUTH OLD/USED MAGAZINE DRIVE**

The St. John's youth are asking for donations of your old magazines. The magazines will be used for a collaborative youth ministry event on Wednesday, June 12. If you have magazines you would like to donate, please drop them off in the church office no later than 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12.

### **UPDATE ON UMC CONFERENCES**

Join us between services on Sunday, June 23 for updates about General Conference and the Louisiana Annual Conference. Pastor Lane and Natalie Cooper (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference) will share highlights from the global General Conference and the local Louisiana Annual Conference. If you have topics you'd like them to include or questions you'd like considered, you can submit those at [stjohnsbr.org/gc-ac-update](http://stjohnsbr.org/gc-ac-update) by June 19. Our conversation will start at 10am on June 23 in the sanctuary.

### **STRANGER THINGS: A SERIES ABOUT BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES**

Starting June 9, we will delve into some of the more bizarre passages in the Bible with our new worship series, “Stranger Things.” Each week we will explore an unusual story from scripture - some of which you may not have even heard before! Along the way, we'll see how even the strangest parts of the Bible reveal God's nature to us and encourage and strengthen our faith. The series will include a talking donkey, a tent peg, a floating hand, and a severed ear. We'll start the series off with the story of Lot's wife turning into a pillar of salt. As we read a few of the odd legends of the Bible, we will ask the question: What is the good news here?

# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday, June 2

- 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
- 9:55 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Pool Party, LaCour Residence
- 6:00 p.m. Summer Bells Practice, Bells Room

## Monday, June 3

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## Tuesday, June 4

- 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, June 5

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Summer Tour, Broadmoor UMC
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

## Thursday, June 6

- 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 Meeting, FLC

## Friday, June 7

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. River City Quilt Sew Day, FLC-E

## Saturday, June 8

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

\*Family Life Center

## TODAY - SUMMER BELLS

Have you thought about joining the Alleluia Ringers and learning how to play handbells? Do you want to be a part of a group that serves the church community in a unique way? Then come to rehearsals in the bell room for the month of June beginning **Sunday, June 2 at 6:00 pm.** We will teach you how to play and when to play. All you have to do is count. All are welcome!

## TODAY - 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/summer-ss](http://stjohnsbr.org/summer-ss) or contact Connor if you have any issues or questions.

## TODAY - ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - TED TALK THEOLOGY

Last Sunday we launched a summer study series called TED Talk Theology, which runs from May 26-July 28 (9:55-10:45 am). 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.

**TODAY'S SESSION** will be led by Connie LaBorde, using a TED Talk by swimmer Diana Nyad called "Never, Ever Give Up." The scripture that will frame our discussion is the 23rd Psalm.

**NEXT SUNDAY** Angeletta Gourdine will lead our session with a talk by Lizzie Velasquez called "How Do You Define Yourself?"

## YOUTH THIS WEEK

The first youth pool party of the summer is today (June 2, 6-8 p.m.) at the home of Stephen and Beth LaCour. (12530 Lazy K Ave.) Don't forget to bring your towel plus a drink and dessert to share. Hope to see you there!

Summer Tour kicks off this week with a gathering at Broadmoor UMC. Summer Tour will meet each Wednesday in June & July (except for the week of July 4th) from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. A different church is responsible for hosting each week. Students should be dropped off and picked up at Broadmoor UMC, 10230 Mollylea Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70815.