

STRANGER THINGS



A SERIES ABOUT
BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

Sunday, July 14, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

As we continue our “Stranger Things” worship series, we read the bizarre story of Jael, an unknown yet courageous woman whose boldness, resourcefulness, and decisive action won a significant victory for God’s people. Where in your life is God calling you to act more courageously? As we see from Jael’s story, even when the course of action seems impossible or the outcome is unknown, God is with us every step of the way.

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

*Song of Praise

Standing on the Promises
The United Methodist Hymnal 374, vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Call to Worship

Rev. Larry Norman

Welcome to this community of faith.

We come seeking hope and courage for the future.

Here you will find peace, hope, love and joy.

We come weighed down by difficulties in our lives.

Here you will find Jesus, who will take your burdens on himself.

**Lord, we come to you this day in need of your mercy
and love.**

*Response

All I Need Is You
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2080

Children's Message

Sarah Prevot

Scripture

Judges 4:17-22

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

"Death by Tent Peg"

*Hymn

Be Still My Soul
The United Methodist Hymnal 534, vs. 1 & 2

*Confessing Our Sin

Rev. Larry

New every day is God's love for us, and so new every day is our opportunity to come to the Creator who loves us with the truth of our lives. Trusting in God, in God's grace and mercy, in God's desire for wholeness and healing, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

(A silence is kept for personal prayer and confession.)

Holy God, we can be so full of fear at times –

**afraid of the unknown;
afraid of what is beyond our control;
afraid of what is strange to us.**

**And we know that fear stops us in our tracks,
hinders our action,**

**and gives excuses for not doing
what you call us to do
and what you empower us to do.**

So we pray that you will give us courage, O God.

**Give us strong hearts and open hands,
that we might set aside our fear,
and walk confidently into this world you have made.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Receiving Grace

Friends this is the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

And we are not only forgiven, we are also freed.

Let us greet the world as people made new in Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

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!

Gathering at the Table

*To prepare for Holy Communion, we recall the story of the Last Supper
and the pastor invokes the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

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 for Courage to Do Justice

Rev. Larry

O Lord,

**Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
open my ears that I may hear their cries;
open my heart so that they need not be without help.**

Let me be not afraid to defend the weak

because of the anger of the strong,

Nor afraid to defend the poor

because of the anger of the rich.

**Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
and use me to bring them to those places.**

And so open my eyes and my ears and my heart

that I may be able to do some work of peace for thee.

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

O God Our Help In Ages Past
The United Methodist Hymnal 117, vs. 1 - 3

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Postlude

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in praise for this day that He has made.

"Prayer for Courage to Do Justice," by Alan Paton, South Africa, 20th century, adapted. Published in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, page 456.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Jim and Theresa Sandifer.

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

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 21.

TODAY 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.

NEXT SUNDAY JULY 21 our session will be lead by Rev. Larry Norman with a talk by Shane Koyczan titled "To This Day...for the bullied and beautiful." Our scripture focus will be Matthew 5:43-48.

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 S, next Sunday, July 21**, 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.

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.

GRIEF SUPPORT & FELLOWSHIP

Good Grief Fellowship, the monthly grief support and fellowship group will meet on **Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Founders' Parlor. If you are dealing with any kind of grief, you are welcome. Contact Susan Johnston (call or text 225-773-9563) if you have any questions.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The church office will be closed on Fridays in July. Office hours Monday through Thursday remain 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday office hours of 9 a.m. - noon will resume August 2.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The United Women in Faith Circle of the Heart is having a fundraiser by selling lunches to the ladies who are attending the regional meeting of the Gulf States Quilting Association being held here at St. John's on **Saturday, July 20**. The UWF is asking for volunteers to help with baking brownies or cookies and bring them to the kitchen on Saturday morning. Volunteers are also needed to help plate and serve the meal. Please contact Joyce Perry (joyce.perry@cox.net or 225-978-2206). Thanks go to Phil LeBlanc for preparing his delicious jambalaya for the event.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Opening Doors is once again sponsoring the annual school supply drive. The drive begins today and will **end Thursday, August 8**. 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.

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

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 Broadmoor UMC (10230 Mollylea Dr.) on **Wednesday, July 17**. Youth should be dropped off 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 hosts 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 14

- 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 15

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:30 a.m. Quilt Sew Day, FLC-E
- 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 16

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 1:00 p.m. Gardere Summer Program, FLC
- 5:30 p.m. Good Grief Fellowship, The Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, July 17

- 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. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, July 18

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. River City Quilts, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors Meeting, Library

Friday, July 19

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Gulf States Quilting Association, FLC

Saturday, July 20

- 8:00 a.m. Gulf States Quilting Association, FLC
- 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.

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!