

STRANGER THINGS



A SERIES ABOUT
BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

Sunday, July 21, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration

All Are Welcome

In our scripture reading for today, we explore how Jesus equips and calls us to do God's will in the world. Christ wants us, with all of our doubts and faults, to help build God's Kingdom by sharing how God has worked and continues to work in our lives. We welcome Rev. John Gilmore as our guest preacher, and we also welcome you to this time of worship, as together we take a deep dive into better understanding our call as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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.



stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr | 230 Renee Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70810
office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Connor Dean
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
connordean@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

Gabe Guillory
Youth Intern
youth@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

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

*Songs of Praise

We Are Called

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2172, vs. 1

Shine, Jesus, Shine

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2173, vs. 1

*Call to Worship

Susan Lambert

Called by God, we have come to worship.

Called by Christ, we have come to follow.

Called by the Spirit, we have come to rejoice.

Called together, we come ready to listen and pray.

Will you answer Christ's call to a life of service and love?

Yes! Equip us, Lord.

We are ready to love and service in your name.

*Response

Here I Am, Lord

The United Methodist Hymnal 593, refrain

Children's Message

Marilyn Damberg

*Scripture

Rev. John Gilmore

Luke 5:1-11

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

Rev. Gilmore

"Fishing Deep"

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn

Christ For the World We Sing
The United Methodist Hymnal 568, vs. 1 & 4

*Confessing Our Sin

Susan Lambert

Within the strength of community, and in the sacredness of silence, we come before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of our Creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other, first in silence and then responsively.

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

O Lord,

forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

Through your Spirit we stand in the assurance of your acceptance.

Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose.

Through your Spirit we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.

Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling.

Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future.

Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship.

We stand together as your disciples.

We seek renewed and renewing faith.

Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord.

Touch us now with your grace. 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

Mission Moment - Opening Doors

Connie LaBorde

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Because He Lives*
Words by Bill and Gloria Gaither; music by Bill Gaither
Vocalist: Molly Means

*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**

Rev. Gilmore

The peace of 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 God thanks and praise.

(Prayers are lifted and the story of the Last Supper is recalled.)

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

Susan Lambert

Eternal God,

**We give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which we encounter Jesus,
hear his call, and are equipped for service.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to love and serve others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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**

Bring Forth the Kingdom
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2190, vs. 1 & 2

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

Rev. Gilmore

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Brian and Danielle Blackwood.

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.

Announcements

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.

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 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 T - Z, next Sunday, July 28**, 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.

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).

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 an Immersion Bible Study on the Book of Psalms taught by Guy Johnson beginning **Tuesday, September 10 at 6 p.m.** in the library. (The study will end October 15.) Registration information will be forthcoming. The study books will cost \$13 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 *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).

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.

Upcoming Children's & Youth Events

TODAY - CHILDREN'S POOL PARTY

Pam & John Toney are hosting our children (5th grade & younger) for a pool party **today, 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 Denham Springs First UMC (316 Centerville St. NW, Denham Springs) on **Wednesday, July 24**. 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 21

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Children & Family Pool Party, Toney Residence
- 6:00 p.m. Summer Bells, Bells' Practice Room

Monday, July 22

- 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 23

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

Wednesday, July 24

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

Thursday, July 25

- 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. Finance Committee Meeting, Library

Friday, July 26

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. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

Saturday, July 27

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

*Family Life Center

All students will be "promoted" to the next grade level on **Sunday, August 4**. All children and 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.**

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!