



Uniquely UMC

OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES

Sunday, May 26, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

A sign out front does not tell much about a church. Rather, the signs within the church tell the true story. The Apostle Paul points to some of these signs in our scripture reading. We continue our worship series, "Uniquely UMC" today with a message about the importance and vitality of the local church and the role we fill as church members.

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 Prayground** 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 Prayground 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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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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Arranged by Kevin McChesney

Alleluia Ringers

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Hymns

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2031 (2x)
When Morning Gilds the Skies
The United Methodist Hymnal 185, vs. 1 & 2

*Call to Worship

John Toney

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.

*Response

When Morning Gilds the Skies
The United Methodist Hymnal 185, vs. 4

Children's Message

Molly Means

Scripture

Selected verses from 2 Corinthians 3 & 4

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

“Signs of a Vital Church”

*Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Written by Charles Wesley, 1740
The United Methodist Hymnal 173, vs. 1 & 3

*Prayer of Confession

John Toney

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God that not all rests easy in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession responsively, first in silent prayer.

O God,

We come before You acknowledging our shortcomings and failures in living out our commitment to You and to our church community.

We confess that we have not fully participated with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as we should.

Forgive us for neglecting to lift up our prayers to You, failing to seek Your guidance and wisdom in all aspects of our lives.

Help us to be more diligent in our prayer life, to intercede for others, to pray for our church, and to cultivate a deeper relationship with You through prayer.

We confess that we have not always been fully present in the life of our church community.

Grant us the desire and commitment to be actively engaged and present in the life of our church family.

Forgive us for withholding our gifts and resources, whether they be financial, time, or talents.

Help us to give joyfully and sacrificially, knowing that all we have comes from You.

We confess that we have not always been eager to serve others in love and humility. Forgive us for our selfishness and self-centeredness, for failing to reach out and meet the needs of those around us.

Give us the heart of a servant, willing to serve others with compassion and grace as an expression of Your love.

Lord, we ask for Your forgiveness for the times when we have not been bold in our witness for Christ in the world.

Grant us the courage and the words to be effective witnesses for You, shining Your light in the darkness.

Help us, O God, to renew our commitment to You and to our church community, to be faithful in our prayers, present in our fellowship, generous in our giving, serving in love, and bold in our witness.

May Your grace and mercy cover us, and may Your Spirit empower us to live out our faith with sincerity and dedication. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, know this:

the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. You are forgiven, and thus are free to go and live in the light of love.

Alleluia! Amen.

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Great Is Thy faithfulness
Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski
Alleluia Ringers

*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

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**

Christ Is the World's Light

The United Methodist Hymnal 188, vs. 1 & 2

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes

The flowers on the altar are given by Barbara Benton in memory of her husband, Ronnie, for his 74th birthday.

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 Beth Forester and Rhonda Tucker.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking willing servants for Vacation Bible School **June 17-21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.** There are plenty of ways to help out. The best part is – everything is already planned, and all the materials will be provided. 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 volunteering.

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 to get more information and sign up.** If you have any questions, please contact Connor (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.

NEW COFFEE TIME IDEA!

In order to give our Sunday School classes a little break for June and July, we're going to do something different for the next 8 weeks. Here's how it works: Look at the chart below and find the beginning letter of your last name to know which Sunday is "yours" – and bring something then. 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.

Please understand that this is not in ANY way meant to be an obligation! If you're going to be out of town, if you're not going to be at church for whatever reason, if you just don't want to participate, you are OFF THE HOOK! On the other hand, if you want to bring something even when it's not your "letter", please feel free to help out. Anything is appreciated ... and eaten! Thanks so much!

Sunday, June 2: A – C

Sunday, June 9: D – G

Sunday, June 16: H – K

Sunday, June 23: L – N

Sunday, July 7: Anyone, red, white, blue treats

Sunday, July 14: O – R

Sunday, July 21: S

Sunday, July 28: T – Z

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.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 26

- 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

Monday, May 27

OFFICE CLOSED

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, May 28

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

Wednesday, May 29

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, May 30

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client-Choice Food Pantry, FLC

Friday, May 31

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

Saturday, June 1

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

*Family Life Center

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

Both the church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Monday, May 27** for the Memorial Day holiday. The church office will reopen Tuesday, May 28 at 9 a.m., The Shepherd's Market at 8 a.m.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

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.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are in need of a volunteer to serve in the church office on **Wednesday, May 29** in the morning between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. while Lynn Cooper has a procedure on her neck. Your time will consist of answering the phone, greeting visitors, and we may have a few administrative tasks to work on, as well. There will be some unstructured time as well so you may want to bring something to keep yourself occupied. Please let Lynn (office@stjohnsbr.org) know if you will be willing to help out.

ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - TED TALK THEOLOGY

Today we begin TED Talk Theology, a Sunday School experience for adults, which runs from May 26-July 28 (9:55-10:45 am). Each Sunday we will watch a TED talk, read scripture, and discuss what they say to us about our faith and life. Pastor Lane will lead today's session using a TED Talk by Drew Dudley called "Everyday Leadership," in which Dudley talks about the impact we have on people in our ordinary everyday lives, even when we aren't aware of our influence. The scripture that will frame our discussion is Mark 12:28-34, in which Jesus gives us the Greatest Commandment. A team of facilitators will rotate leading each week, with Connie LaBorde leading next Sunday.

STRANGER THINGS: A SERIES ABOUT BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

Starting June 9, we will delve into some of the more bizarre passages in the Bible - the ones that make us think, "What on earth?" 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.