

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9
Favorite of: V. Kinsey

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 8:38-39
Favorite of: K. Matranga

1 Corinthians 13
Favorite of: S. Stokes

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29:11
Favorite of: M. Alonzo

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- Romans 8:28
Favorite of: K. Kinsey

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- Philippians 4:13
Favorite of: L. Gambrell and J. Heyerdale

FUMC
2024 APRIL
NEWSLETTER

April Showers



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Welcome to First Church



Join Us For Sunday Worship!

9:45 a.m.
Modern Service

11:00 a.m.
Traditional Service



Watch From Anywhere!
www.youtube.com/@fumclidell7370

*Welcome to the First Church Family
Betti Lullo!*



Betti (far right with Tiffanie & Paul Lyon)

Betti joined the First Church family on Palm Sunday. She first attended FUMC when visiting her daughter, Rev. Tiffanie Lyon, while Tiffanie was serving as an associate pastor here. Please welcome her to her new church home!

Memorandums

Art Paquette from Carol S. Broussard
Art Paquette from Debbie McArn
Art Paquette from Julie Kronlage
Art Paquette from Michael & Cindy Cochran
Butch Levy from Carol Broussard
Butch Levy from Julie Kronlage
Butch Levy from Michael & Cindy Cochran
Elodie P. Gomez from Carol Broussard
Patti Paquette from Ginny Payne
Sarah West from Michael & Cindy Cochran

Honorariums

Jeff & Kathy Huse from Mike & Cindy Cochran

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES



What is one of the first things our Parents try to teach us? It's the Golden Rule, isn't it? Do unto others..., but how many of us really live this way? This series will explore how we can grow in following Jesus' example in forming and maintaining healthy relationships.

April 7

Key 1- The Gold Standard

Mathew 7: 12-14

April 14

Rev. Penn Morgan

Guest Pastor

April 21

Rev. Karli Pidgeon

Guest Preacher

April 28

Key 2: The Key Words of Life

Matthew 5: 23-24; Colossians 3: 13

May 5

Key 3: The Key to Overcoming Challenges

2nd Corinthians 4: 8-9; Philippians 4: 6-7

May 12

Key 4: The Key to My Father's World

Genesis 1: 31; Romans 8: 19-21

May 19

Key 5: The Keys to Winning Well

Ecclesiastes 2: 9-11; Matthew 16: 24-27

May 26

Rev. Tiffanie Lyons

Guest Preacher

June 2

Key 6: The Key to a Long Life

Philippians 3: 10-16



** To submit information for the Newsletter please Email Brandi Benson at: fumclidell.marketing@gmail.com **



Dear Friends,

Isn't it funny how easily we get distracted from prayer. Last week I invited you to memorize the prayer Jesus prayed on the cross: "Lord, into your hands I commit my spirit." I invited you to pray it daily, to pray it when all is going well and to pray it when you're going through a rough patch. It reminds us that God loves us and wants us to live fully, and that's something we can only do if we, as the rules of Methodism tell us, "stay in love with God."

I also like this little pray because it's a breath prayer, a prayer you can say in one breath. You can say this prayer anywhere, while you're driving, at work, while you cook. This takes away the excuse that I'm too busy to pray. I know I often let my "busyness" keep me from taking time to talk to the Lord. Has that ever happened to you?

I think all of us are challenged by our busy lives, without meaning to, we often allow our spiritual lives to be pushed aside by all the things we have to do. I have to take care of my children, be prepared for work, help at school, care for my loved ones, how could I possibly have time for prayer? I think we are mistaken when we allow this to happen. Prayer is such a wonderful thing. It allows us to talk to and be guided by the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. Then why don't we pray?

Leonard Sweet says, "The greatest longing in the heart of God is to talk to his children. Then why don't we pray? Nothing is impossible to those who pray. Then why don't we pray? Every sin is forgiven, every stain is washed clean, all guilt diminished to those who pray. Then why don't we pray? Everyone can pray, the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the strong, the weak, the sinner, the prisoner, in any nation, in any language, all can pray. Then why don't we pray?"

Ever wonder about the acronym ASAP? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives: "AS Soon As Possible." Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we'll begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet, you've got no time to spare, but as you hurry and scurry, ASAP: "Always Say A Prayer." In the midst of family hustle and bustle, quality time is rare. Do your best; let God do the rest, ASAP: "Always Say A Prayer." It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear. Slow down and take a breather, ASAP: "Always Say A Prayer." God knows how stressful life is, he wants to ease our cares, and he'll respond to all our needs, ASAP: "Always Say A Prayer."

Take Care, *Pastor John*

Kid & Youth Ministries



KIDS CLUB | 9:45 a.m.

- Pre-K 3/4 & Kindergarten Room 501
- Grades 1-6 Treehouse Room



KIDS CHURCH | 11:00 a.m.

- Gather in Sanctuary, then to the Treehouse Room



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SMALL GROUP | 6:30 a.m.

- Media Room

thank
you

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Easter egg hunt & picnic a success! A special thanks to our Youth group for always helping when we need them!

Kids Club will be learning about Patience, from our friends on the So & So show.

Stay tuned for VBS info, that will look a little different this year.

PRESCHOOL IS FULL FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR!

For More Information:



Lisa Carlton
985.966.8660



YOUTH SUNDAY CLASS | 11:00 a.m. **YOUTH SUNDAY EVENING CLASS | 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

- Youth Room (Back of Gym)

As April showers bring May flowers, this month begins a season of growth and renewal.

We were off the last 2 weekends in March for Palm Sunday and Easter and are looking forward to seeing all of the students again! It was so good to see everybody at the Palm Sunday picnic. Thank you to all of those that made it possible.

With the warm weather we will start going outside more often for our games and devotionals.

We are getting really excited about our upcoming trip to Gatlinburg in June to do some mission work and have some fun.

If you or someone you know is going into the 6th - 12th grade, we would love for you to join us!

For More Information:



crossroads@firstumcslidell.org

1 Timothy 4:12 – “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

No!
NO PRAISE
BAND OR CHOIR
REHEARSAL ON
APRIL 3RD!



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HYMN OR PRAISE SONG?

Drop Nathan a line, and we will make sure it is part of a worship service.
Nathand.sumrall@gmail.com



**Do you or your kids love music?
Join our MUSIC MINISTRIES!**

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation! - Psalms 95:1

Adult Chancel Choir
• REHEARSAL
WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS
7 PM | SANCTUARY



Adult Praise Team
• REHEARSAL
WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS
5:30 PM
SANCTUARY
• REHEARSAL
SUNDAY
MORNINGS
9:00 AM
SANCTUARY

Nathan
(601) 297-8061
nathand.sumrall@gmail.com



Chimes Is Coming Back April 11th!

OPEN TO STUDENTS
2ND-6TH GRADE!

Cherubim Chime Choir resumes
April 11th and ends May 2nd.
Thursdays | 4:30-5:30
Sanctuary

No musical experience is necessary. You do not need to know how to read music! This will be a 5 week session. Come join us for some musical fun. Contact Marlene for information!

Marlene
(985) 640-0427



"GREAT DAY OF RINGING"

Join us for a great day to ring bells!
Thursday, April 4th | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Music Suite

Have you rung in the past? As a youth? At another church? Maybe you just want to come hold a bell to see how they ring?

We will have a chance to ring multiple sizes of bells, do an "everyone" activity, and then read some easy music.

We will also plan to have lunch.

Contact Director Barbara Williams! (985) 768-2407
Text or leave a message



barbara.williams10@gmail.com

Around First Church

3.22.24



Palm Sunday

3.24.24





ENDOWMENTS/LEGACY GIFTS

Q: Endowments aka Legacy Gifts! What are they?

A: Gifts from the Past, Investments to Blast us into the Future!!

Q: But what are they??

A: Gifts to the church to provide Long Term funding for FUMC ministries through investments.

Q: But what are they?

A: Well they're like savings accounts at the United Methodist Foundation, earnings from the investments are used for doing ministry like Feed Dat or Mission projects or Bible Studies.

Q: Can you be more specific?

A: Sure. Some funds target high priority Children and Youth spiritual development programs. For instance, there's the 3rd Grade Bible Fund which was established by Elementary School teacher Ms. Emily Magee, to make sure 3rd Graders would always receive their very own Bible.

Q: Now you're talking! What else are they?

A: Well, for the Youth program, there is the Mayfield Youth Fund which provides funds for Crossroads ministry and mission trips like going to Big Stuff or TeamEffort Mission Trip and other fun places like Dollywood in TN.

There's also the Buster & Lois Baker Memorial fund and the Dyer Family fund which provides annual funding for the Confirmation Class, Youth and Children's programs including field trips to events at the Conference Center with the Bishop and bunches of other kids. Children's Ministry activities like Sunday School, Drama Camp and VBS in the summer also benefit.

And the FUMC Preschool also has an investment account to cover unexpected needs should they arise. That provides peace of mind for all the teachers and parents of the children attending preschool, knowing that their children are well cared for and having fun learning things.

Q: Sounds like plenty of kid's ministries are taken care of. Is there anything for older, grown-up people?

A: Sure! Lots!! Besides Feed Dat! There's Fix Dat! There's Pumpkin Patch! Seasonal Advent and Lent Bible Studies, Sunday morning Adult Sunday School Classes, Disaster Relief projects, Summertime Wednesday Summer Nights dinner and study events. But wait! There's more!!

Looking for your best new ministry idea? The JK Sunny Day fund is a Kick Starter Fund to help you start a new ministry to serve our local community. The people served by Feed Dat will tell you it works with a Big Thank You!! But wait! There's more!!

The Campus Maintenance, Trustee's Fund and the Organ Console funds provide funds for facility repairs and upkeep. These ministry areas need capable young men and women to manage construction /rehab projects. The Organ Console upgrade and rehab project is Kicking Off. Will you be an Organ Donor?

Q: You mean, I can be an Organ Donor?

A: Yes! Anyone can make a gift to these Endowments, Sometimes, they are called legacy funds, especially if they are established as a memorial or "in honor of" fund. Examples are the Mayfield Youth Fund, The Buster & Lois Baker Memorial Fund, The Dyer Family Fund, The JK Sunny Day Fund, and the Richard & Marilyn Jeppesen Fund. Some funds are general purpose, like the Campus Maintenance fund, Specials, Budget Support, Preschool, 3rd Grade Bible and the Organ Console funds established by many gifts from church members over the years.

One last thing. Maybe two. Our Church, meaning, We Are the Church, is over 135 years old.

Q: Aren't you happy to be a part of a church family with an investment time horizon of another 135 years or more?

A: Yes!! It's wonderful we are Blessed with Legacy Endowments!!

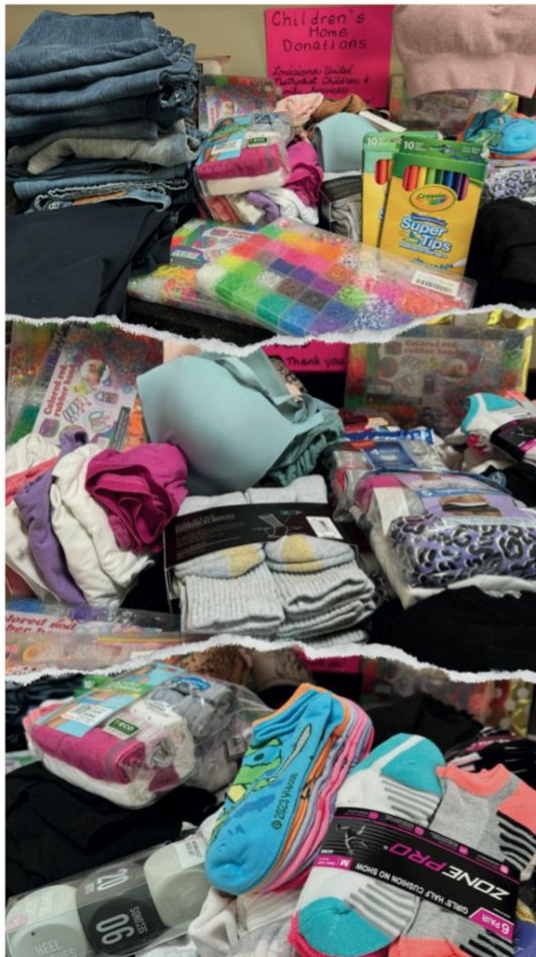
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY THE LORD HAS MADE! LET US REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS!

First Church Missions

LAUMCFS Donation Drive



Sadly, Louisiana has an average rank of 49th in the nation for child well being. **The Missions Committee thanks you for your generous support of the three United Methodist residential therapeutic care homes in Louisiana.** Because of your donations of currently needed items, the recent collection drive was a great success. *You have made the life of a child brighter because of your thoughtful contributions.*



LIVING HOPE MINISTRIES (LHM)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND

5:30-6:30 P.M. | THE GATHERING PLACE

Living Hope Ministries is a welcoming, caring Christian group which offers love, support, comfort and education for people living with mental illness and their families.



**Family
Support Group**

**Free In-Person &
Online Support**

TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND

7:00-8:30 P.M. | ROOM 302

This group is facilitated by NAMI trained individuals who have family members with mental illness. The group draws on collective experience and wisdom as they discuss mental health issues and find solutions in a confidential setting.

Please contact Carol Broussard for more information.



(504) 231-3100



Barnabas Writing Ministry

The name Barnabas means 'Son of Encouragement'. Throughout the New Testament Scriptures, Barnabas is credited for having encouraged numerous men and women in the faith.

The Barnabas Writing Ministry began in 2009 following the death of a teenage boy in Slidell. By sending hand written notes, each Barnabas Writer prayerfully offers words of comfort and hope, strength and encouragement to those facing a time of crisis, loss, grief or challenge.

Contact Jane Moore to volunteer!



(404) 895-0277



janepaints@bellsouth.net

NEW **COIN JAR**
for Missions

LOOK UNDER THOSE SOFA CUSHIONS!

BREAK THAT PIGGY BANK!

SHAKE OUT YOUR PURSE!

Drop Your Coins in Our Jar Because...

COINS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Located in the Narthex!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7



THREE BRANCHES

Thank you



THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER NOW HAS A NEW CART!

First of all we wish to send a great big THANK YOU to everyone that supported and helped with the Fist Fry on March 22. We had a great time and fellowship as well. Funds will be split between the Faith Believers and our great FIX DAT group. As mentioned in our first publication the Serving Cart has been received and was placed in the Family Life Center!

1 **THE CRAFTERS/ PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

We are working hard on bringing to the Slidell Cancer Center their first donation of items for the cancer patients. Our talented group of 7 would love to have more members in this class.

2 **THE BIBLE STUDY**

Carol Hopson is wrapping up "Why Easter Matters" and will complete the "Gideon" study. Their next study will be "Book of Ruth" led by Rita Floberg. This class normally has 10-13 members each Wednesday.

3 **THE LUNCH GROUP**

We meet the second Wednesday of the month and average 20 - 30 visitors for a time of guest speakers or activities along, with fellowship and a very nice meal prepared by Claire Batiste. We have two more months before taking a summer break. Our April Luncheon will be April 10th beginning at 10:30. Speaker will be a Physical Therapist speaking on Senior Balance.

A Faith Believer's Committee is in the process of being formed to help locate information and activities for our wonderful Group. We are open to any ideas or suggestions you may have for this group. Always know that you can invite friends and neighbors to all of these groups. We are working hard on having a schedule of speakers and/or activities listed at the beginning of a quarter when we resume in September. With this schedule maybe we can draw more interest in all areas of the Faith Believers Group.

Scout Corner

TROOP 562

has been busy! We recently finished the Welding Merit badge. Our Troop also has 2 new Eagle Scouts! We are gearing up for our Eclipse trip to Arkansas and the Council's 100 year anniversary camporee the following weekend. Check out our calendar for more upcoming events.



Now is a great time to join the troop! Troop 562 is the only linked male and female Scouts BSA Troops in Slidell and the surrounding areas. We are recruiting All Youth ages 10-17! Email SlidellTroop562@gmail.com for more information.

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS!



Troop 562B/G Calendar

First United Methodist Church, Slidell, LA

Mar 1-3:	Optional Activity – N.O. Home and Garden - Show Service Hrs
Mar 4:	Meeting – Rank Adv. Prep for ECOH Practice/speaking roles distributed.
Mar 8:	ECOH set up 6pm-8pm
Mar 9:	Eagle Court of Honor. Gather at 4pm. Potluck Banquet follows.
Mar 10:	Fundraiser – St Patrick's day Parade 11am
Mar 11:	Meeting – Merit Badge
Mar 16:	Optional Activity – St. Tammany Trace Bike Rodeo
Mar 18:	Meeting – Merit Badge
Mar 19:	Optional Activity – Council Recognition Banquet
Mar 23:	Day Trip – First Aid/CPR @ Council Office. Free. 7:45-5pm
Mar 23-24:	Fundraiser MANDATORY – Slidell Street Fair
Mar 25:	Meeting – Merit Badge
Apr 1:	No Meeting (Spring Break)
Apr 5/6-8:	Camping – ELIPSE TRIP! @ Gus Blass Scout Reservation, Arkansas
Apr 6:	Optional Activity – Pelican District Merit Badge College
Apr 8:	No Meeting
Apr 12-14:	Camping – SELA 100 Yr. Anniversary CamperAll. \$40/person (Includes Shirt)
Apr 15:	No Meeting
Apr 21:	Optional Activity - District Award No Host Banquet 7pm @ El Paso
Apr 22:	Meeting – Rank Advancement
Apr 29:	Meeting - Merit Badge. Camping Prep
May 3-4:	Camping – Shoot, Swim, Climb @ Camp Vbar
May 6:	No Meeting
May 13:	Meeting - Rank Advancement

DISCIPLESHIP



During the Lenten season, there were five opportunities to study Why Easter Matters over four weeks. Through the video messages Andy Stanley looked “at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion,” and through discussion we shared similarities in our own lives and actions.

The feedback from the more than 60 participants has been very positive and plans are being made to offer the companion study, Who Needs Christmas, during Advent.

Thank you to Barbara Williams, Rick Rawle, Sara Hoppe and Carol Hopson for facilitating/organizing a group.

Summer Nights at First Church is returning!

Plans are being made for the return of this incredible summer event not to be missed. Several people have already agreed to offer a class or group, and like last year, we hope to provide a variety of choices in arts and education for all ages. We’d love to start the evening off with dinner and fellowship, but to make it all happen your help will be needed. Please consider how you might lend a hand with greeting, dinner prep, cleanup, or offering a class.

The Discipleship Team will begin detailed planning soon. Please contact Leslie Landeche, llandeche@firstumclidell.org, to say how you can help.



Now is the time to embark on a journey of spiritual leadership with Lay Servant Ministry courses, offered by Lay Servant Ministries and the Board of Laity of The Louisiana Conference.

Whether it's the Introduction to Lay Ministry course, where you'll discover your gifts which can lead to effective leadership in your community or Leading Worship, an offering for those called to guide worship, you'll be ready to pioneer HōPE in your community.

Course Descriptions

Introduction to Lay Ministry (Basic Course)

This is a foundational course recommended for every person involved in any lay ministry or holding a leadership position. Participants use scripture and engage in exercises designed to help them understand and employ their gifts, learn about servant leadership and developing future leaders, and discuss concepts of Christian conferencing and decision making and the importance of remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices.

Prior to attending, participants must purchase and complete Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book

Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders (Advanced Course)

This course is recommended for people who lead in lay ministries in or outside of the church or who hold leadership positions. The United Methodist Church needs Christian Transformational leaders to accomplish its stated mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In this course, we will explore scriptural foundations of Christian transformational leadership, develop principles and skills for organizational effectiveness, and learn how to lead movements of hope in our congregations and communities.

Prior to attending, participants must purchase and read Lay Servant as Christian Transformational Leaders

Leading Worship (Advanced Course)

This course is recommended for people who regularly or who may be called on occasionally to lead a group or congregation in Worship. It is also one of the required courses for those individuals who wish to receive certification as a Certified Lay Speaker. The materials used in this course are written for use by both pastors and lay worship leaders. Whether you lead worship every week or just want to be able to assist or fill in when your pastor is out, this course covers the fundamentals of Christian worship as well as how to use United Methodist resources to plan and execute engaging worship.

Prior to attending, participants must purchase and read "Worshiping with United Methodists"











Locations & Details

All classes are in-person and will be offered in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, and the New Orleans district on May 18th and in the Shreveport district on June 1st from 8:30-5:00.

Registration is \$25.00, which includes lunch and refreshments. Participants are responsible for acquiring course materials, completing the reading, and completing an assignment based on the materials prior to the course date. To register go to www.la-umc.org and click on the *Lay Servant Ministry Training link*.

April Events

<p>April 1st  APRIL FOOL'S DAY!</p>	<p>April 2nd  5:30 p.m. Gathering Place</p>	<p>April 2nd  7:00 p.m. Room 302</p>	<p>April 4th  Welkin Handbells Great Day of Ringing 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary</p>
<p>April 10th  "The Story of Ruth" starts! 10:00 a.m. Gathering Place</p>	<p>April 10th  Luncheon! 10:30 a.m. Gathering Place</p>	<p>April 11th  Cherubim Chime Choir resumes! 4:30 p.m. Sanctuary</p>	<p>April 13th  Fellowship Breakfast/Work Day 8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall</p>

Make Plans Now for these Upcoming Events!

Save The Date
Friday, May 10th | 7:00 p.m.
 You are invited to join us in the First Church Sanctuary for a piano recital performed by our talented musical director, Nathan Sumrall.



DRAMA CAMP 2024!
June 3rd - 7th
 9:00-2:30
 Monday through Friday
Performance:
June 7th @ 7 p.m.
Theme?
We may be climbing a sycamore tree!
 Ages finished Kindergarten-6th grade are invited to attend!
 Text Marlene at 985-640-0427 for more information!



**433 Erlanger Ave.
Slidell, LA 70458**



985.643.6437



fumc@firstumcslidell.org



@FUMCslidell

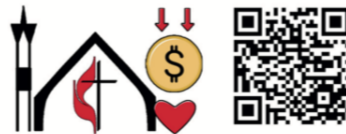


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SCAN TO GIVE TO FUMC



**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for
the Transformation Of Our Community**