

FUMC Newsletter

February 2026

PASTOR LISA'S LETTER

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights" (Matthew 4:1-2a, NRSVUE)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First, on behalf of myself and Patrick, I'd like to begin this month with a heartfelt thank you for all of the prayers and well-wishes you have expressed to both Patrick and myself. I have known you were a loving and welcoming congregation, and I am so grateful that Patrick gets to enjoy that same sense of hospitality. We are truly blessed to be part of such a special congregation! Our next task will be to find housing for all of us here in Slidell. Patrick and his kids will move here this summer after they finish the school year in Ocean Springs. We appreciate all of you and your generous spirits. We are in the process of getting individual thank you notes out, but I wanted to be sure to thank all of you as a group.

I write to you in the middle of Lent, the forty days between Ash Wednesday & Easter. Liturgically speaking, we are in the midst of the wilderness. The forty days of Lent remind us of the forty days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Jesus' period of fasting in the wilderness serves to send us still back farther in the story of our faith to Moses and the Israelites who spent forty years wandering in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. Wilderness times are difficult times. When we are in the wilderness, the sorts of things that usually serve to distract us fall away, and we are left to wrestle with God. However, difficult doesn't mean bad. We need wilderness times to take us out of the noise and bustle of everyday life and help us refocus on what is really important. Richard Rohr writes, "In the desert, all our idols are taken away from us and our security is gone. The desert, the darkness, is the school of surrender, the place for learning total dependence on God."

As we move through the wilderness of Lent, may we grow ever more willing to depend on Christ and Christ alone. May this season of Lent be a blessing to you that you might emerge from the wilderness on Easter Sunday into the glorious light of Resurrection.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Lisa

Welcome! to the FUMC of Slidell Family!



Patrick Young with new wife, Pastor Lisa Young

Mar 8, 2026 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

Turn Clocks Forward 1 Hour

Set Clocks Ahead: Sunday, March 8, 2026
2:00 AM → 3:00 AM

Sunrise & Sunset 1 Hour Later!
More Light in the Evening, Less Light in the Morning

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Feed Dat Ministry

DISTRIBUTION IS NOW EVERY THURSDAY

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.!

As we approach Nathan's final weeks as Director of Music Ministries, come and enjoy a concert of Nathan's favorite hymn arrangements!

Hymns from the Heart

Sunday, March 22 | 4 pm Sanctuary

Nathan D. Sumrall, piano/organ
John Ginn, vocal/instrumental

CHIMES will begin **March 19th** and end either April 23 or 30th. Please text Marlene Rawle at 985.640.0427 if your child would like to participate. You do not need to read music to play!

DRAMA CAMP is **June 15th -19th**. Registration will begin in April. Here are some themes to consider-We may be bees, wasps or birds? Spacemen? Kids on a mission trip? Stay tuned!

Women of First Church

You are invited to join us at our next event!

March 19th we will visit the Slidell Museum and the Director will share some stories of old Slidell.

10:00 a.m.

After his talk we will go to KY's for lunch.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Join Us For Sunday Worship!

Modern Service
9:45 a.m.

Traditional Service
11:00 a.m.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH FROM HOME!



Comfort Room

A comfort room is available in the Sanctuary's foyer for children needing changing, feeding, or to be consoled. You can still hear and see the service!

SERMON SERIES

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

We are spending Lent examining the different reasons scripture gives for the cross of Christ. The sermons will be based on the book by Adam Hamilton. Study group continues!

- MARCH 1ST** PENAL SUBSTITUTION OR SELFLESS OFFERING?
Isaiah 52:13-53:1
- MARCH 8TH** PASSOVER, COVENANT, AND REDEMPTION
Exodus 12:21-28/Jeremiah 31:31-34
- MARCH 15TH** SELFISHNESS OR SELFLESSNESS?
Luke 22:39-43
- MARCH 22ND** THE CRUCIFIXION AND GOD'S LOVE
Romans 5:6-8 and John 15:12-16
- MARCH 29TH** SHOUT HOSANNA!
Matthew 21:1-11

PALM SUNDAY! ONE SERVICE @ 10 A.M.

GET YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY INVOLVED AT FUMC!

KIDS & YOUTH SUNDAY CLASSES

- Infant/Toddler 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Room 502/Family Life Center
- Kids Club
 - Pre-K 3/4 & Kindergarten 9:45 a.m. | Room 501
 - Grades 1-6 Treehouse Room
- Kids Church 11:00 a.m.
Gather in Sanctuary, then go to the Treehouse Room.
- Youth
 - Grades 6-12 5 - 7 p.m. | Family Life Center

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS, KIDS & YOUTH

- Chancel Choir Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m.
Music Suite
- Praise Band Sundays | 8:45 a.m.
Sanctuary
- Welkin Bells Thursdays | 7:00 p.m.
Music Suite
- J.A.M. Session Youth Band Tuesdays | 6:30 p.m.
Music Suite
- Children's Cherubim Chimes Date/Time listed in Spring.

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

- 9:30 a.m. Seekers Media Room
- 9:45 a.m. Inquirers Room 107
- 9:45 a.m. New Beginnings Room 224

CONTACTS

- Kids Club and Kids Church**
Lisa Carlton 985.966.8660
- Welkin Bells**
Barbara Williams 985.768.2407
- Youth (6-12th Grade)**
Danny Carlton or Abby Carlton Wright
crossroads@firstumcslidell.org
- J.A.M. Session Youth Band (6-12th Grade)**
Sarah Malasovich 985.707.3363
- Chancel Choir and Praise Band**
Nathan Sumrall nathand.sumrall@gmail.com
- Children's Chime Choir**
Marlene Rawle 985-640-0427

433 Erlanger Ave. Slidell, La 70458
985.643.6437
firstumcslidell.org @FUMCslidell

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Our in-person support group draws on collective experiences and wisdom as we discuss mental health issues and find solutions.

nami Family Support Group
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Free In-Person & Online Support

You are invited to join us at our next meeting.

March 3rd 7:00 p.m. FUMC Campus 433 Erlanger Ave. Gathering Place

Mental Health Matters

This confidential group is facilitated by NAMI TRAINED individuals!

PROM

The kids at the Methodist Children's home will be celebrating prom very soon! They would like the kids to have the fun appropriate things to choose from to make their prom experience complete. They are asking for donations of **prom dresses, any size, men's sport coats, dress shoes for both boys and girls (teen age sizes), dress pants and shirts any size, jewelry accessories, all the things that make a prom experience fun!**

Barbara Miller will collect the items and see that they are sent up to Ruston. We need to act quickly as they would like the things by mid March.

504.258.7765 • bkjm3@yahoo.com

WELKIN HANDBELL NEWS

Rehearsals: Every Thursday, 7:00, Music Suite

Ring in worship:

- Handbell Duet rang February 14
- Handbell Sextet rang February 22
- Welkin Choir will ring at the Maundy Thursday service, April 2.

Things to know: Anyone is welcome—any time!!! Please contact Barbara if you are interested—there is always room for one more at rehearsals, and you're not required to ring in church until you're ready!

"Believers"—We would like to resume **handbells for youth** in the near future. The format and schedule are to be determined by the members! Please let me know if you are interested!

Barbara Williams barbara.williams110@gmail.com
(985)768-2407 or leave a message in the church office (mailbox)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE, BUT DUE TO A FAMILY EMERGENCY OUR NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PICTURES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND WILL NEED TO BE RESCHEDULED!

WE ARE NOW SCHEDULING FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES:
SUNDAY, MARCH 8 • 3 - 7 P.M.
MONDAY, MARCH 9 • 1-8 P.M.
TUESDAY, MARCH 10 • 1-8 P.M.

ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS, SO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY BY CALLING 1-877-896-9667 EXT. 360.

If you'd like to be in the directory and were not able to make an appointment, email your photo to Angela Davis acw4105@yahoo.com or text 985-707-3218

E-GIVING UPDATE

Electronic giving offers a convenient way to support our ministries. Our online portal (on our website) allows secure donations using credit or debit cards, and ACH (bank) transfers. We do not use Venmo or Zelle.

All electronic transactions have a cost associated with them which reduces your gift by a small amount, but, cumulatively, are a significant cost to the church. These transaction costs are higher for credit and debit cards than ACH (bank account transfers); using the latter increases the amount of money the church receives.

If you have a recurring e-gift and you change your pledge, please remember to update your e-gift on the portal, only you can change the amounts on your portal account.

The Finance Committee is considering changing our e-giving platform to improve functionality and/or lower costs. Please let the Finance Committee know if you have any feedback (positive or negative) on our current platform. As always, we thank you for your continued generosity.

MARCH EVENTS

3/3	7:00 p.m. Gathering Place	NAMI Support Group
	1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Media Room	Music Appreciation
3/4	5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place	Why Did Jesus Have To Die Lenten Study
3/10	1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Media Room	Music Appreciation
3/11	5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place	Why Did Jesus Have To Die Lenten Study
3/17	1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Media Room	Music Appreciation
3/18	5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place	Why Did Jesus Have To Die Lenten Study
3/19	10:00 a.m.	Women of First Church Outing
	Chimes Begin!	
3/22	4:00 p.m. Sanctuary	Hymns from the Heart
3/23	Peace Lily Orders Due!	
3/24	1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Media Room	Music Appreciation
3/25	5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place	Why Did Jesus Have To Die Lenten Study
3/27	4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Family Life Center	Fish Fry Fundraiser Dinner
3/29	PALM SUNDAY • 10:00 a.m. Easter egg hunt and picnic style lunch to follow on the front lawn!	
3/31	1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Media Room	Music Appreciation

PEACE LILY SALE

Cost: **\$15 each**

Peace Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday In Memory Of or In Honor Of your loved ones and may be picked up following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 3/23/26!

Visit the church off to pick up and order form and place your order. 433 Erlanger Ave.

Please call the church office at 985.643.6437 with any questions.

**** PLEASE NOTE ** NO ORDERS ACCEPTED AFTER THE 26TH!**

KIDS & YOUTH NEWS

KIDS CLUB AND CHURCH NEWS

Please join us on March 29, Palm Sunday, after our service for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Picnic style lunch to follow on the front lawn!

There will be no Children's Sunday School or Children's Church on March 29 or April 5. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, please join us for our family friendly services as we celebrate our Risen Savior!

A look a head, **VBS dates July 6-9!** Sign up will begin soon!

CROSSROADS YOUTH NEWS

March is a season of growth and new life. It's a reminder of what God wants to do in us. Our prayer is that our students be rooted in Jesus and not in the everyday, worldly, distractions. We invite you to pray for them to grow deeper in their faith and find their identity in Christ. Paul writes in Colossians 2:6-7: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." This month we will be helping with our Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt and lunch.

If you would like more information, please reach out to Danny Carlton via email at crossroads@firstumcslidell.org or Abby Carlton Wright at abbymae27@charter.net

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."

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

PLAN NOW TO BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS TO THE FUMC OF SLIDELL'S 3RD ANNUAL FISH FRY SUPPER!

Friday, March 27th | 4:30 - 7:30
Dine-In the Family Life Center or Take Out
3 catfish fillets, Clair's fabulous macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, bread and your choice of homemade dessert!
Tea and water will be provided for dine-in.

\$14 per ticket

TICKETS WILL BE FOR SALE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE AND IN THE BREEZEWAY ON SUNDAYS!

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 29TH PALM SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. FUMC of Slidell	APRIL 2ND MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m. FUMC of Slidell	APRIL 3RD GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 p.m. Aldersgate UMC
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Lunch and an egg hunt following the service!

APRIL 5TH - EASTER

We will be offering the following Easter Sunday services.

SUNRISE SERVICE FUMC of Slidell Prayer Garden TIME TBD.	9:45 a.m. MODERN SERVICE FUMC of Slidell Sanctuary	11:00 a.m. TRADITIONAL SERVICE FUMC of Slidell Sanctuary
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Communion will be served at all three services.