

FUMC Newsletter

October 2026

PASTOR LISA'S LETTER

"You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the Day of Atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family." (Leviticus 25:8-10, NRSVUE)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are familiar with the concept of a weekly Sabbath that is based on God's resting on the seventh day after creation. According to Scripture all humans and working animals are to rest each Sabbath. In Leviticus, God prescribes a Sabbath for the land—every seventh year the land is to remain fallow. The people may gather what grows naturally, but they are not to plant crop. The year after seven cycles of seven sabbatical years, the fiftieth year, God proclaims a Jubilee year. In the Jubilee year, all debts are forgiven, slaves are set free, and those who have sold family land to pay off debts get to return to their land. Scholars aren't sure whether this was ever fully practiced in biblical times, but it is an amazing concept. Grace is given to everyone.

Here at First UMC Slidell, we are entering into our year of Jubilee. We were notified last week that the Louisiana Annual Conference is beginning a new program—the Jubilee Initiative. As a part of the program the conference is pouring \$15 million into the local churches -- \$5 million for debt forgiveness and \$10 million for deferred maintenance and ministry innovation. On Monday, we were told that our church was part of the debt forgiveness plan. Here is what is happening.

Prior to Monday, we owed \$340,000 to the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana, most of which was borrowed to help restore our church campus after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Half of that debt has been forgiven as of Monday. As of Thursday, October 1, we are no longer to make loan payments. Our payments were nearly \$2,900/month. We will be participating in a program with Horizons Stewardship to help improve our financial foundations. Once that program is completed, probably in the first quarter of 2027, the remaining \$170,000 will be forgiven.

This could not come at a better time for us. We will celebrate our 140th anniversary next year in a better place financially than we are now. I am grateful to Bishop Williamston and the good stewardship of the Annual Conference. This initiative is being funded by moneys that were invested as a result of churches that disaffiliated. God has brought an enormous good out of what was a very difficult situation.

The debt forgiveness gives a clean slate and frees up some money each month. Unfortunately, our financial struggles are bigger than just the indebtedness. We are experiencing very tight cash flow right now. Please do not assume that the church does not need your money since our debt was forgiven. We are still responsible for all of our other bills. We are grateful to you for your continued faithful stewardship.

I do have one thing to ask of all of you. I have challenged the church council to pray daily for the health of our church, including its financial health. Pray that we would have the wisdom to make good decisions for the church. Pray that those who are able to give will do so with joyful hearts. Give thanks for the generations that have gone before us and brought us to this point. And pray that we might still be a beacon of God's love and light for another 140 years. I am praying for the church and for all of you. We will share more information about the program ahead as we have it. If you have questions in the meantime, please feel free to talk to me.

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Lisa*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please fill out a prayer request card and place into the offering plate.

SCAN TO GIVE TO FUMC



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

Series: Three Simple Rules

In October we kick off our 140th year of mission and ministry with a closer look at the roots of Methodism as we explore the General Rules of the Church as explained by Bishop Rueben Job.

OCT. 4TH WHY ARE THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODIST?
Luke 24:28-35

OCT. 11TH DO NO HARM
Galatians 5:13-16

OCT. 18TH DO GOOD
Acts 10: 37-43

OCT. 25TH STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD
John 21:15-19 and Colossians 2:6-7

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 5:00 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

PASTOR
APPRECIATION
MONTH





Women of First Church are on the Road again!
We will go to Mississippi for a day of Halloween fun on **Thursday, October 15th!**

Details will be available at our meeting on **Oct. 7th!**

You can sign up for the trip at that time or call the office to confirm your attendance!

Senior Luncheon

Oct. 14th | 11:15 a.m.

Family Life Center

WE ARE PLAYING BINGO!!



nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Oct. 6th • 7:00 p.m. • Gathering Place

Saturday, October 17th, 2026, we will come together as a community to celebrate the lives of our children. We will gather at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary, and the service will begin at 10:00 am.

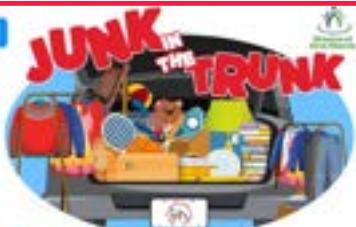


After the service, we will walk to Heritage Park, have refreshments, and fellowship. Please come join us in remembering and honoring our children who are with our loving Father.



Come Shop Our Event!

Vendors will be selling garage sale type items!



10/24/26
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Vendor Spaces Starting at \$25!

We have 40 Vendor Spaces available!

To rent a spot(s) for this event, please call/text the event coordinator Nicole Smith at 985-640-1552 or email nicolemaddoxsmith@yahoo.com.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND IN NARTHEX OF THE CHURCH, GATHERING PLACE OR CHURCH OFFICE.

Inquirer's Sunday School Nut Sales

PRE-ORDER

Nuts are available in November.

Payment is due on delivery.

Cash or Check Only

Return to Office or put in Offering Plate

Contact Kathy Huse 985-707-3108,

Carol Broussard 504-231-3100 or

Sara Hoppe 601-347-6481



thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped unload pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch! We could not do it without our volunteers and we appreciate you so much!

IT'S TIME TO GET NUTTY!



	\$15.00	# of Bags	Total \$
Pecan Halves			
Pecan Pieces			
NEW Roasted & Salted Pecans			
	\$13.00	# of Bags	Total \$
Praline Pecans			
NEW Dark Chocolate Pecans			
Glazed Pecans			
Cashews			
Pistachios			
TOTALS		#	\$
Name			
Phone Number			

Confirmation begins October 11! Contact Lisa or Abby to get registered or with questions!

Lisa: lisaforlinton@charter.net or (985)966-8660

Abby: abbywright0315@gmail.com or (985)503-4953

SIGN UP TODAY!

WE NEED TRUNKS!

1st - 3rd Place Awarded!

Contact Lisa Carlton at lisaforlinton@charter.net!



PUMPKIN PATCH HOURS

Mon. - Thurs.

1:00 p.m. - Dark

Fri. & Sat.

10:00 a.m. - Dark

Sunday

12:00 - 6:00 pm

FUNC HANDBELL MINISTRIES:



Did you know?

The beautiful resounding tones from the handbell come from the castings (sides of the bell) rather than the opening?

We learned this at our recent handbell workshop—experienced ringers and brand-new ringers alike!

Watch and listen next time the bells are rung in church!

Interested in ringing? We are especially looking for youth and guys to help us in the ministry—large bells available for MUSCLES! Flexible scheduling, too!

If interested, please contact:

BARBARA WILLIAMS barbara.williams110@gmail.com (985) 766-2407

New Beginnings Class

We invite you to join us in our study of the book of II Kings—

Who were these kings?

What were their strengths and weaknesses?

How did God work through them to lead His people?

What can we learn from them for our lives today?



Join us on Sunday mornings for "breakfast" and coffee in the Room 204 in the Fellowship Hall building, and stay for class at 9:45!

Led by Raymond Williams
985-705-7268