



THE CHALLENGER

APR 2026



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

The week where we walk with Jesus to the cross and to His resurrection has arrived. We have had a fruitful March. We have celebrated legacy giving and been invited to understand how we can continue to participate. Details about following through on a legacy gift are in this newsletter. I can be supportive to help you fulfill what God is calling you to do.

I celebrate with you meeting with the chaplains on Barksdale Air Force base to consider how we can be supportive spiritually of the thousands of people who are employed and stationed there. We made our presence known toward this possibility.

This week we venture out visiting various businesses in our community with Rev. Robert Johnson. I pray great fruit comes of it. I know in visiting people in the community we will be able to better understand the needs of people and respond.

This month on Sunday evening, April 19th, we will launch our ministry to youth and children. We will

be meeting upstairs from the gym beginning at 5:30 pm and ending by 6:30 pm. All youth and children are welcome. This time runs concurrently with our Pickleball Church, where we are consistently seeing youth and children show up with their parents and grandparents. We are excited about resuming ministry to youth and children!

We will resume our sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount Sunday, April 12th. We are on chapter 7. We pause to reach for the resurrection passage this Sunday, April 5th, which is Matthew 28:1-10. Please read Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7 so that we can continue to learn and live out being salt and light in the world as God’s church.

Happy Resurrection Sunday! I pray it’s the best one for everyone! May we continue to grow in our discipleship!

Matthew 28:6

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

With Joy, Pastor Jonathan

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EASTER MESSAGE OF HOPE: Pastor Jonathan’s Easter Message of Hope will air on TV on the following dates and times:

KPXJ (21)

Mon Mar 30 - 9 AM news

Fri Apr 3 - 3 & 4 PM news

KTBS (3)

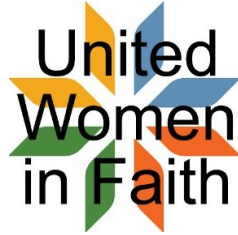
Wed Apr 1 - 11 AM news

Fri Apr 3 - 5 PM news

Be sure to tune in and watch as Pastor Jonathan helps spread the good news to our community!



WHEN: Apr 1 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's on Mansfield
Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion. Our devotion will be given by Rev. Robert Johnson. It's a great way to start off the month! All men are welcome to attend.



WHEN: Apr 1 @ 1:00 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
Grace Circle meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to join United Women in Faith!



WHEN: Apr 6 @ 12 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
AARP meets the first Monday of each month. Come and see what AARP membership has to offer.

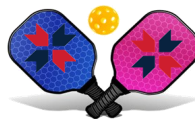


WHEN: Apr 10 @ 9 AM
WHERE: Quilt Room
Prayers and Squares meets this month on April 10 due to the Easter weekend. If you would like to volunteer to help Prayers and Squares, contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400.



WHEN: Apr 14 @ 11 AM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
Christ Seniors in Action meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for a potluck lunch and community-oriented program. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship while you hear an interesting presentation.

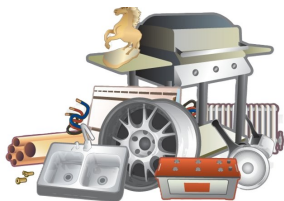
CHRIST UMC PICKLEBALL



WHEN: Thursdays 6 to 8 PM
Sundays 5 to 7 PM
WHERE: Christ UMC Gym
Whether you're a seasoned pro or a curious beginner, all are welcome!



Our pull tab collection for this month was 4.5 pounds, and will support the Ronald McDonald House on the Willis-Knighton South campus. You can bring your tabs to the collection box in the church office or take them to the RMH. Thanks for supporting our local Ronald McDonald House!



SPRING CLEANING? Don't forget that Bill Ward can help you by hauling away any recyclable metal items you may need to get rid of: appliances, old Christmas lights, and more. Give him a call at 318-455-9402 and he will be happy to help.



April 7
Vicki Baughman
Genny Middlebrooks

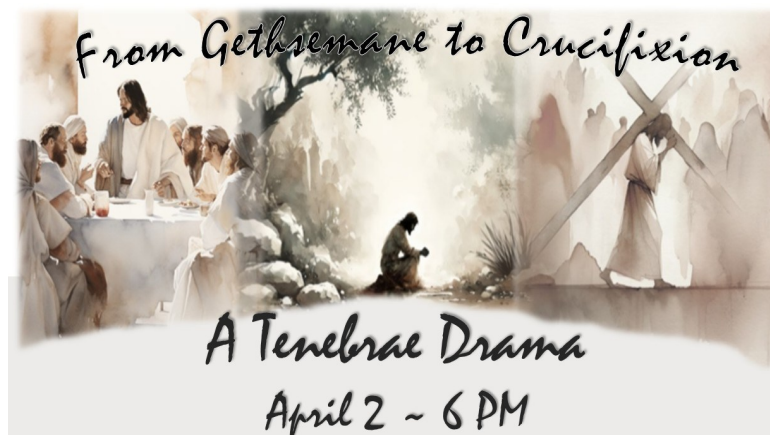
April 11
Jimmy Barnhill
Beverly Sater

April 26
Janet Walton

April 10
Fred Wright

April 18
Don Jackson

Holy Week Activities



Christ UMC is excited to bring to life this drama of the journey of Jesus: his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his preaching to the multitudes, his last supper with his disciples, and his prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane. The drama depicts how he underwent unexpected betrayal, arrest by Roman soldiers, and crucifixion on the cross at Golgatha. What seems like a terrible and tragic ending to a wonderful life of faith, hope, love, and fulfilling his God-given purpose ultimately resulted in what God did for him a few days later—EASTER.

This story is shared by witnesses from the Gospel of John wearing the clothing of the day. Hymns, anthems, and the Biblical account from John's Gospel share this story of Jesus on his last days on Earth. This journey is called Tenebrae, which means darkness, and represents Jesus's darkest days during his life.

You are invited to share Jesus's journey from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Cross. You must have tickets to attend, but the tickets are FREE. You will find them in the narthex and in the church office. We encourage you to give tickets to friends and family to come and share Jesus's journey with us. It's not too late to come by and get or reserve tickets—call the church office at 318-686-2553 today or drop by the office from 9 AM to 2 PM!

Resurrection Sunday



He is Risen! Christ UMC will celebrate Christ's resurrection during our Resurrection Sunday service beginning at 11 AM in the sanctuary. This service will also include communion as another way we celebrate Christ in our lives and the remember the sacrifice he made for us.

After the service, the congregation will proceed to the front lawn of the church to decorate the cross with flowers to symbolize new life in Christ. All are welcome to join us in worship on Resurrection Sunday and share in the celebration!



Community Easter Worship Opportunities

Annual Holy Week of Churches

Christ UMC members are invited to shared Holy Week services between Round Grove, Fellowship, Fairfield, and St. James United Methodist Churches. A Lenten Revival will be held on Tuesday, March 31 and Wednesday, April 1 at St. Paul UMC beginning at 6:00 PM, featuring guest preacher Rev. Robert Johnson. A Good Friday service will be held at St. James UMC conducted by Rev. Neva Joseph, beginning at 6:00 PM. If you are unable to attend, please pray with them for a powerful time in the Lord, and they will be praying the same for us.

Sunrise Service at Centenary

If you would like to attend a sunrise service, Centenary College presents their service at 6:00 AM in the Hargrove Amphitheater featuring the Centenary College Choir.

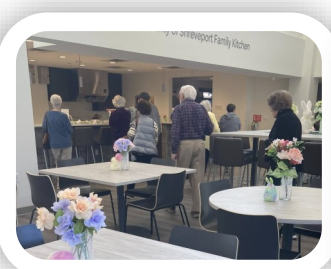


Christ UMC in Community

A group from Christ UMC took our favorite Easter songs out to our homebound members and friends to share the joy of the season!



A group from Christ UMC toured the new Ronald McDonald House facility on the Willis-Knighton South campus.



Blessings and Gratitude

Caddo Parish Sheriff's South Substation

From all of us to all of you, we pray that He gives you a fresh anointing and bless your ministry with good results. The Lord is pleased with you and has placed His name upon your forehead. We bless you in Jesus's Name! Amen!

From all of us at Caddo Parish Sheriff's office South Substation, we thank you for the goodies and we appreciate you for thinking of us. May God's blessings rest upon you this day!



On behalf of Faith and Fostering, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$187.00. Faith and Fostering young adults continue to rise to new levels due to prayer, guidance, and community volunteers. This is only possible by the Grace of God and our partners! We are expecting God to do even greater things as we step into this new season.

Faith and Fostering's mission is to foster homeless young adults through community and connections to live a life of hope and purpose. Community volunteers are utilized as teachers for these young adults by providing prayer, relationships, and guidance while partnering with them to maneuver through life.

Once again, we appreciate your support of Faith and Fostering. Your partnership allows us to continue to reach homeless young adults in crisis in our community.

Sincerely, Christi Robinson, Executive Director



Dear Christ UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$69 to the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana on January 21, 2026. Your donation enables us to continue our crucial work making food and household staples available to residents of Northwest Louisiana year-round. Your donation helps feed neighbors who are facing food insecurity and supports our goal to end hunger in Northwest Louisiana. Your support brings hope and relief to families, children, and seniors who rely on our services and it reminds them that their community cares.

With gratitude, Martha Marak, Executive Director

Blessings and Gratitude



Dear Rev. Dr. King and Good Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$115.00. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and belief in our mission. Our Youth Program boys had a great time playing in the winter YMCA basketball league, and our Chargettes Cheer Team has been there cheering them on and lifting spirits. At the same time, our Community Meal and Food Pantry remain busy, serving neighbors who continue to face food insecurity. Your generosity helps ensure that families have access to nutritious meals and a welcoming place for support. We also participated in the Black History Parade, and had our first detailed planning session for our upcoming summer camp.

Thank you once again for making this work possible. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children, families, and neighbors we serve.

With sincere gratitude, Lisa Cronin

Christ UMC/Becky Houston Scholarships Now Taking Applications



The Christ UMC and Becky Houston Scholarships are now taking applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Applicants should be a qualifying member or have a relative who is a qualifying member of Christ UMC. To qualify, the applicant should participate in Sunday School and/or be involved in a Fellowship group a minimum of two times per month and/or attend worship services a minimum of two times per month during the school year prior to the awarded scholarship. Applicants should have a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher. Applications are not restricted to graduating high school seniors, but scholarships are not available to persons already holding a degree. If you have applied before and you have not yet graduated, you are eligible to apply for another school year. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 27, and scholarships will be presented during the worship service on Sunday, May 17th.

Congratulations to Addi Koll!



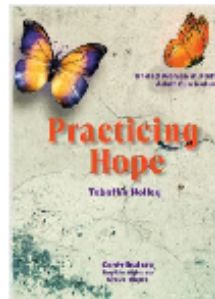
Addi Koll, a member of Christ UMC and a previous Christ UMC/Becky Houston scholarship winner, made the President's List at Louisiana Tech for the winter quarter with a 3.8 grade-point average! We are grateful for the privilege of helping Addi achieve this honor through her scholarship. Congratulations Addi—we look forward to seeing what else you accomplish as you journey through college and out into the world!

UWF Study Opportunity



**North District United Women in Faith
presents a Mission Study**

Practicing Hope ***Tabatha Holley***



Saturday, April 18, 2026
Broadmoor United Methodist Church
3715 Youree Drive
Shreveport, LA 71105
8:30 A.M – 2:00 P.M.
In the Pearce Hall

**A light breakfast will be provided. Lunch will be catered from
Honey Baked Ham. Cost is \$15.00.**

For more information, contact:

**Sue Ottesen at sue2ottesen@aol.com 318-423-2160
or Peggy Evans at plschenk@yahoo.com 318-245-6910**

What Will Happen to Your Pledge After You're Gone?

Your financial commitment to Christ UMC reflects your faith and your love for its ministries—but it doesn't have to end with your lifetime.

Through a planned gift, you can ensure the ministries you care about continue to grow and impact future generations. You've supported the church today—now you can help sustain it forever.

Because someone gave, we are here today.

**Because you give,
the church will be here tomorrow.**

Talk with us about setting
up a lasting legacy.



United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana
225.346.1535 information@umf.org www.umf.org

Christ UMC Prayer Lists

Members

Jerry Bruce
Kay Dixon
Sue Elliott
Henry Hutson
Faye Jackson

Liz Meek
Jackie & Les Michaelis
Jackie Moore
Susan Musgrove
Mary Ann Page

Mary Sue Rich
Ed & Susi Thomason
Bill Ward

Shut-Ins, Rehab, Nursing Home

Louise Brandt
Carole Cragon
Clara Lathrem
Ann Maxwell
Ray Mitchell

Beth Roblow
Rita Schuckers
Jerry Talley
Jean Wisinger

**"THE PRAYER OF
FAITH WILL SAVE THE
SICK, AND THE LORD
WILL RAISE THEM UP,
AND ANYONE WHO HAS
COMMITTED SINS WILL
BE FORGIVEN.**

JAMES 5:15

Relatives and Friends

Bunny Butterman
Jill Carroll
The Corliss Family
Linda Colvin
Johnnie Covington
Wanda Cunningham
Lorraine Desporte
Millie Diaz
Kenny Farrell
Angelo Governale
Mary Griffin

Robin Grubbs
Patti Hartsell
Brian Hope
David Houston
Rev. Tom Howe
Kathy & Jerry Humphries
The Letsinger Family
Ed Long
James & Pat McClure
Dale Miers

Leanne Moore
Lynn Murphree
Carl Pendley
Rosemary Short
Alan Tennille
Lacye Tennille
Richard Tennille
Crew Tidwell
The Wilson Family
Willene Wyatt

Memorials and Honoraria

Be sure to pick up your Lily Dedication List on Easter Sunday morning to see the list of lilies given in memory or in honor of someone.

Financial Report

February 2026

FEB INCOME	\$ 34,606.65	YTD INCOME	\$ 79,141.95
FEB EXPENSES	38,947.97	YTD EXPENSE	75,242.75
FEB NET INCOME :	\$ -4,341.32	YTD NET INCOME	\$ 3,899.20

On-line Giving with Vanco

Through our website or the Vanco smartphone app, you can:

- Pay your monthly tithe
- Give a memorial or honoraria gift
- Make donations to organizations that Christ UMC supports
- Pay your communion offering

- Pay for special events or purchases

To log in and create an on-line account, you can click this link:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJE2/home>

You can also use this QR code to set up your Vanco account.

If you have any questions about using Vanco, please call the office at 686-2553 and Vivian Locking can help you get started.



PAY ONLINE WITH
VANCO



April Communion Offering

SB Rescue Mission



The April communion offering will support the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission. Operating since 1955, the mission has transitioned from providing overnight shelter and a gospel service for men passing through Shreveport, to a 154-bed facility that provides a complete healing program of body, spirit, and soul. Under the Life Recovery Program, guests are given courses in Christian foundation, essential life skills, addiction recovery, and case management. In addition, Pastor Larry Otwell established the Mission's first Vocational Training Program to prepare their guests for the workforce. You can read more

about the SB Rescue Mission by clicking this link: <https://www.sbrescuemission.com/mission/history/>

You can make your donation through Vanco as listed above, or scan the QR code to donate using your smart phone. Thank you for supporting the important work of the Rescue Mission!



1204 Crabapple Dr.
Shreveport LA 71118-4097

CHURCH STAFF

Dee Williamston Bishop
 Ramonalynn Bethley District Supt
 Jonathan King Lead Pastor
 Willis Dear Senior Adult Pastor
 Dianne Wilkinson Treasurer
 Vivian Locking Finance Secretary
 Donnie Walpool Custodian
 Janice Flannery/Jen Quick Ofc Administrator
 Ronnie Crawford Music Director
 LaWanda Blakeney Organist
 Alan Mathison Sound Technician
 Joseph Orban Sexton

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: (318) 686-2553

Email: churchadmin@christ-umc.com

Web: www.christ-umc.com



Attendance March 2026

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
March 1	60	7	24	16
March 8	44	3	18	22
March 15	39	5	21	10
March 22	47	3	19	21
March 29	59	4	22	23



The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’”

Matthew 28:5-7