



THE CHALLENGER

AUG 2026



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

We had a successful Christmas in July collecting items for children at the Ronald McDonald house! I really enjoyed our July 4th celebration that we held on July 5th! The Parsonage Project to address some concerns with the exterior is almost complete. We need your donations above and beyond your tithe to take care of the \$9700 cost. The sign project will soon be underway. I also invite your donations above and beyond your tithe towards the cost of repair for the sign. The total cost for the sign repair is \$19,530.72

I really can't believe how much rain we have had this summer. It's been devastating for some in our area and definitely for folks in Avoyelles parish. I want to thank you for your donations to Simmesport United Methodist Church as it continues to support the area in recovery!

Looking ahead into August, I am looking forward to our hymn sing on Sunday morning, August 30th, and our ice cream social that same day at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you respond to the bulletin insert to write down your favorite hymn and put it in the offering plate. Also, you can email your

favorite hymn to Janice at churchadmin@christ-umc.com

Remember, as Christians you are evangelists. Maybe you aren't the kind that travel from town to town preaching sermons in tents. However, you can be the kind to 1) share an experience of God's love in your life with someone else; 2) give the person you are sharing with an invite card; 3) invite who you are sharing with to an event on the invite card and make sure you will be there to welcome them. I challenge you to do this at least once a week. Evangelism means good news. We are all to share the good news of God's love with others.

Acts 4:29

"Now, Lord... enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."



With Care, Pastor Jonathan

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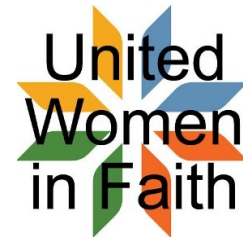
WHEN: Aug 7 @ 9 AM
WHERE: Quilt Room
 If you would like to volunteer to help Prayers and Squares, contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400.



WHEN: Aug 3 @ 12 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 AARP meets the first Monday of each month. Come and see what AARP membership has to offer.



WHEN: Aug 5 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's on Mansfield
 Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion.



WHEN:
WHERE:
 Grace Circle will not meet June through August. They will resume their regular meeting schedule in September.



CHRIST UMC PICKLEBALL



WHEN: Aug 11 @ 11 AM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 Christ Seniors in Action will meet on the 2nd Tuesday this month for a potluck lunch and community-oriented program. Our speaker is Alan Prater whose presentation will be "Resting in God's Quiet Presence: A Simple Practice for Inner Peace." Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship while you hear an interesting presentation.

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!



The pull tab total for July was 5.6 lbs. Thanks to Bill Ward for his contribution of 4.4 lbs. Our pull tab collections are given to 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!



August 4

Alan Mathison

August 7

Piper Koll

August 9

Les Michaelis

Brent Schuckers

August 12

Harold Sater

Christ Seniors in Action Presentation—Centering Prayer



Christ Seniors in Action is excited to welcome Alan Prater on August 11th at 11:00 a.m. as our speaker for the meeting. Mr. Prater is a commissioned presenter for Contemplative Outreach, an international organization of Centering Prayer practitioners and workshop leaders. His presentation will be "Resting in God's Quiet Presence: A Simple Practice for Inner Peace." In a world filled with noise and hurry, Centering Prayer offers a quiet space to rest in God's love. This session will guide us into a simple practice that nurtures inner peace and strengthens our walk with Christ.

Please plan to join us as Alan presents us with a way of being open to God's presence and action in our lives and in the world.

Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social

Join us for our upcoming Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing on Sunday August 30th as a part of our worship service. Be thinking about your favorite hymn, and let us know by email, or fill out the form that is in the narthex and put it in the offering plate. You may also respond by emailing your response to the church office at churchadmin@christ-umc.com. Then at 4 PM, we're having A Sweet Time of Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall! There is nothing like a cold scoop of ice cream on a warm day to bring people together. Join us on Sunday, August 30th, 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social. Enjoy delicious ice cream and great conversation with your church family.



Thank You from Common Ground



Dear Rev Dr. King & Good Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$85.00. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and your belief in our mission.

It is a busy and exciting time as we prepare for summer. Our summer programming kicked off on June 1 and will provide more than 70 children with education, enrichment activities, and field trips. From daily meals and creative activities to mentoring and encouragement, summer at Common Ground is about helping children feel safe, valued, and connected.

Attendance at our Thursday evening Community Meal and Food Pantry continues to be strong, and we also distribute approximately 50 boxes of emergency food each month to families facing immediate needs.

We sincerely appreciate your financial support, which allows us to continue serving our community in these meaningful ways.

With sincere gratitude, Lisa Cronin

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY POTLUCK

Saturday, Aug 15 @ 2:00 PM



Ladies, get prepared for our annual “Afternoon Tea Party potluck” on Saturday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend along to join us in the fun. We will be serving finger sandwiches, pastries, tea, and all the other goodies that go along with a fancy tea party! Dress in your prettiest, comfortable dress or pants. Hats are optional!

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or RSVP to Jen Lowe at 318-349-0825 by August 9 so we will know how many to plan for. We will have a list of suggested tea party food that you can pick from or if you would prefer not to bring food, you can donate money for us to purchase what else we need. Hope to see you at our Par-Tea!

Update on James Hills



Our former custodian, James Hills, has been having some health issues lately and we took him a prayer quilt. He was our custodian for over 40 years! You couldn't ask for a nicer, more helpful Christian person who truly loves the Lord. He was as excited to see us as we were to see him! He kept saying he could feel the Jesus love and wanted me to let everyone know he appreciates all the prayers and the quilt. He would love to hear from everyone, so send him a card or give him a phone call. (If you need his number, let Jen Lowe know.)



Christmas in July for Ronald McDonald House

Our Christmas in July to support the Ronald McDonald House was a great success! Ronald McDonald House is a wonderful ministry right in our own neighborhood on the campus of Willis-Knighton South. When families with children come to stay at RMH due to the serious illness of a child, each sibling is given a brand new toy when they arrive to help them feel loved and make their stay a little easier. Through your generosity, we are able to take them with an amazing donation of toys, which will be presented to them on Thursday, August 6. Your support of the children and families at Ronald McDonald House is very much appreciated!



Legacy Giving



A Bequest in Your Will:

- Allows you to maintain control of your assets throughout your lifetime
- Enables you to fully provide for your spouse and family first
- Creates a legacy of faith, love and hope
- Costs you nothing now, yet makes an eternal difference

Christ UMC Prayer Lists

Members

Jerry Bruce
Kay Dixon
Henry Hutson
Don Jackson
Faye Jackson
Vivian Locking

Jackie & Les Michaelis
Ann Marrs
Jackie Moore
Susan Musgrove
Joseph Orban
Mary Ann Page

Mary Sue Rich
Family of Ed Thomason
Bill Ward
Family of Jean Wisinger

Shut-Ins, Rehab, Nursing Home

Louise Brandt
Carole Cragon
Clara Lathrem
Ann Maxwell
Ray Mitchell
Beth Roblow
Rita Schuckers

**"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

John Andrews
Charles & Janet Bradley
Bunny Buttermann
Leslie Collins
Linda Colvin
Johnnie Covington
Wanda Cunningham
Lorraine Desporte
Millie Diaz
Marilou Dillehay
Kenny Farrell
Wayne Floyd
Mary Griffin
Robin Grubbs

Patti Hartsell
James Hills
David Houston
Rev. Tom Howe
Kathy & Jerry Humphries
Amanda S. Jackson, Jr.
Family of Paula Linn
Ed Long
Michael Mayence
James & Pat McClure
Laurie McCrocklin
Dale Miers
Leanne Moore
Lynn Murphree
Carl Pendley

Rosemary Short
Alan Tennille
Lacye Tennille
Richard Tennille
Crew Tidwell
Gard Wayt
Mark Wilburn
Jeff Zeagler

Christ UMC upcoming Capital Expenses



Our Leadership Board has approved two upcoming repair projects for Christ UMC. Our electronic sign is in need of repair with a total cost of \$19,530.72. This was the least expensive option for the sign repair. Another project involves repair of several items at the parsonage, which will total \$9700.00. We invite you to give above and beyond your tithe to support these repairs.

Financial Report

JUNE 2026

JUNE INCOME	\$ 44,423.62	YTD INCOME	\$ 215,115.17
JUNE EXPENSES	47,669.17	YTD EXPENSE	222,704.04
JUNE NET INCOME :	\$ -3,245.55	YTD NET INCOME	\$ -7,588.87

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



August Communion Offering

NWLA FOOD BANK

The mission of the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana is to serve as the primary resource for fighting hunger in Northwest Louisiana. Our vision is to ultimately end hunger in Northwest Louisiana by ensuring a consolidated network of effective food collection and distribution, which will provide universal access to food for the needy in our communities.

Local food donations from businesses, individuals and food drives play a large role in supplying the food needed to provide the 15 million pounds that we distributed last year to 75,000 individuals.



**Food Bank of
Northwest Louisiana**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



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 July 2026

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
July 5	61	3	20	18
July 12	61	5	20	20
Jul7 19	41	3	20	26
July 26	53	4	21	16

I CAN
DO *all things*
through Christ
who STRENGTHENS ME

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

(NKJV)