



THE CHALLENGER

FEB 2026



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

I pray you and your home fared well through this recent winter storm. The church buildings and the parsonage seem to be fine. Blessings as we assist one another to recover.

We had a great time meeting with Rev. Robert Johnson on Wednesday January 21st. He was very encouraging and he challenged us to continue inviting our friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors to come to church with us. I want to continue to pass along that challenge to you.

We had to reschedule our gathering about Legacy Giving to Sunday, March 15th due to the winter storm. The UM Foundation will provide lunch for our whole congregation after church. We do need to know if you plan on being at the lunch so that the food can be adequate to support the gathering. Please let the church office know or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. I think it will be a great time of food, fellowship, and learning. Everyone is welcome to attend. You don't have to plan on making a legacy gift to the church in order to attend.

The season of Lent will arrive soon. We will be doing drive-through imposition of ashes from 11 am-1 pm Wednesday, February 18th and we will have our Ash Wednesday service at 5 PM. I will be preaching

through the Sermon on the Mount during Lent. I encourage you to read Matthew chapters 5-7 throughout the season of Lent.

I will be leading a study on Sunday mornings in the season of Lent beginning Sunday, February 22nd. We gather in the Joy classroom at 9:45 am. We will be using the book *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. Please let the church office know or sign up in the narthex by Sunday, February 15, so we can order the correct number of books. The study lasts six weeks.

I pray this month continues to be fruitful in ministry as we share the love of Christ with everyone. I pray that journeying through the Sermon on the Mount and continuing to invite others to come to church with us will help us grow in our discipleship.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

With Joy and Care, Pastor Jonathan

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WHEN: Feb 6 @ 9 AM
WHERE: Quilt Room
Prayers and Squares meets on the first and third Fridays of each month. If you would like to volunteer, contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400.



WHEN: Feb 2 @ 12 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
Bring a dish to share for potluck lunch. Come and see what AARP membership has to offer.



WHEN: Feb 4 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's Mansfield Rd
Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion. It's a great way to start off the month! All men are welcome to attend.



WHEN: Feb 4 @ 1:00 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
Come find out more about Heart of Hope in Keithville, and what this amazing organization does to provide the physical, emotional and spiritual help to young girls dealing with unplanned pregnancies. All ladies are invited to attend our UWF circle meeting on Wednesday, February 4, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall to hear about the difference made in the lives of the girls that go through their program.



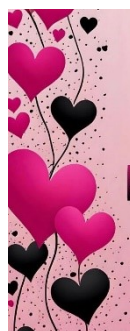
WHEN: Feb 10 @ 11 AM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall

Our program will be presented by Chris Brown, Director of the Centenary College and UMC of Louisiana Archives. The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections collects, preserves, and makes available the historic records of the College and the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

CHRIST UMC PICKLEBALL

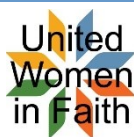


Juan, Zach, and Cheryl clear a path after Winter Storm Fern to make a way for the Pickleball Church community to gather after being inside for days. We gathered 29 people who were eager to reconnect with community. The Pickleball Church is a ministry here at Christ that feels a connection to our church family and shares their time and talents with the church. They are a special way we can introduce everyone to the love of Christ! Pickleball Church meets every Sunday evening at 5 PM in the gym. Everyone is welcome!



CELEBRATING FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 1 RALPH FINDLEY	FEBRUARY 25 BETTYE HAMPTON JACKIE MOORE
FEBRUARY 12 MARIAN MUSE	FEBRUARY 27 BECKY POWERS
FEBRUARY 21 VICTOR BRUCE	

UWF Sunday**February 15**

This year we celebrate UWF Sunday on February 15. At this special service, the women of the UWF will conduct the entire service from start to finish. Our speaker will be Rev. Sherry Zehner, who will be speaking on the UWF Sunday theme of *Joy*. Mark your calendars now and plan to be with us on this Sunday when we celebrate the women of the UWF as they lead us in worship!



Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy

1 Peter 1:18

North District Lay Servant Courses**February 28, 2026**

The North District upcoming Lay Servant workshop is February 28, 2026, at Asbury UMC in Bossier City. The Courses offered will be:

- **Basic Course:** This course is designed to be the foundation for all servant ministry certification and an introduction to lay servant ministry. It is very useful for any persons new to the United Methodist Church (UMC).
- **Living Our Methodist Beliefs:** This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that the UMC brings as the body of Christ. You will learn how we got here and our relevance in the 21st century church.
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- **Teaching Biblical Faith – Leading Small Group Bible Studies:** This course will help participants lead small groups through ten thoughtful approaches to scriptural study.

Completion of the basic course is not necessary to take either of the other courses but is needed for lay servant certification. The registration and event description links are ready for the Bossier City Workshop and are available below. Check your calendars and don't miss these outstanding opportunities with instructors who have prepared the courses for you! If you need help registering, call or come by the Christ UMC office and we can help.

Reg Link: louisiana-reg.brtapp.com/LayServantTrainingFeb28

Event Link: <https://www.la-umc.org/eventdetail/19543677>

**Subsequent Workshops are scheduled at Pineville FUMC, March 21, 2026.



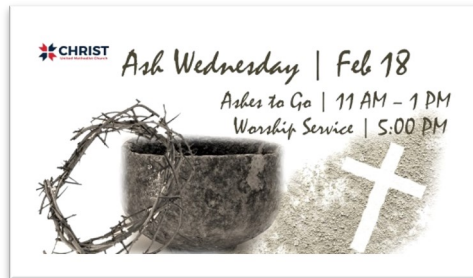
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 18

This year there are two ways to commemorate Ash Wednesday. We will continue to offer Ashes to Go to the community on the morning of Ash Wednesday. Rev. Dr. Jonathan King and Rev. Willis Dear will provide ashes and a blessing between the hours of 11 and 1 PM. This community ministry provides a continued connection with our

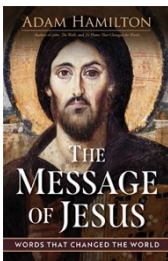
church for those who may not be able to attend our traditional Ash Wednesday services due to their work schedule, child care concerns, or mobility problems due to health concerns, and reflects our mission of introducing everyone to the love of Christ as they receive the blessing and grace of Christ's presence.

Our traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held at 5:00 pm In the CUMC sanctuary. Both Ashes to Go and the Ash Wednesday worship service will include the imposition of ashes. Please be sure to invite anyone that you may meet to share the Ash Wednesday blessings, either through Ashes to Go or our Ash Wednesday Worship service.



CHRIST UMC LENTEN STUDY

Begins February 22



Pastor Jonathan will be leading a Lenten study from Adam Hamilton, *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World*, looking at the story of Jesus's last week on earth as told in each gospel. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex this morning. If you would like to attend the study, please sign up so we can order enough books. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 15.

First Responder Goodie Baskets

February 22

We will be making the first responder's goodie boxes on Sunday, February 22. Since they get a lot of goodies around Christmas, we decided to move ours to February to help spread the love a little more! Boxes will be taken to the first responders that serve our area: Willis Knighton South Emergency Room, labor and delivery, and the fourth floor nurses' station; Fire Stations #6 & #17; Caddo Parish Sheriff's substation; and the Shreveport Police substation.

Please help us show these people how much we appreciate them always being there when we need them, especially after the recent ice storm we had. Please bring individual wrapped snacks such as granola bars, chips, popcorn, peanut butter or cheese crackers, cookies, trail mix, pretzels, nuts, bags of fruit, or anything else you would like to bring. You can put the items in the Narthex or in the Fellowship Hall. We will pack the boxes after church on February 22. If you would like to help deliver one of the boxes, please let Jen Lowe know. Thanks for helping us recognize these important people and all that they do to help us and our families!



Easter Lily Sales Coming Soon



It will soon be time to purchase your Easter lilies! Check your bulletin for updates on when they will be available for purchase. The lilies are used to decorate our Sanctuary as we approach Resurrection Sunday, and may be purchased in memory or in honor of someone. They are a great way to commemorate a loved one or to honor someone in your church family.

Just a reminder . . . Set your clocks ahead 1 hour

Get ready—Daylight Savings Time will return on Sunday, March 8 this year!



UMF Legacy Giving Workshop

March 15

Look in the March Challenger for more details about the rescheduled Legacy Giving workshop! The entire congregation is invited to come and learn how your legacy gift can ensure that our church continues to introduce everyone to the love of Christ! Lunch is graciously provided by the United Methodist Foundation.

SPECIAL EVENT at CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

What Legacy Will You Leave?

Join Chris Spencer and Britney Winn Lee from the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana for a helpful and inspiring conversation about Legacy Giving.

Sunday, March 15
12:00 Noon
Fellowship Hall



Chris Spencer



Britney Winn Lee

Christ UMC Prayer Lists

Jerry Bruce
Kay Dixon
Sue Elliott
Henry Hutson

Faye Jackson
Jackie & Les Michaelis
Jackie Moore
Susan Musgrove

Mary Ann Page
Mary Sue Rich
Ed Thomason
Bill Ward

Members

Shut-Ins, Rehab, Nursing Home

Louise Brandt
Kathy Corliss
Carole Cragon
Clara Lathrem
Marjorie Letsinger
Ann Maxwell
Ray Mitchell

Beth Roblow
Rita Schuckers
Jerry Talley
Charles Wilson
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
Janie Chapman
Linda Colvin
Johnnie Covington
Wanda Cunningham
Lorraine Desporte
Millie Diaz
Kenny Farrell
Angelo Governale
Mary Griffin
Robin Grubbs

Patti Hartsell
Rev. Tom Howe
Kathy & Jerry Humphries
Bob Kendrick
Dave and Penny Kendrick
Ed Long
James & Pat McClure
Dale Miers
Leanne Moore
Lynn Murphree
Carl Pendley
Rosemary Short

Alan Tennille
Lacye Tennille
Richard Tennille
Crew Tidwell
Lori Winderweedle
Willene Wyatt

Memorials and Honoraria

Renda King

Charlotte Bean
Donna Camp
Leslie A. Cornelius
Christ UMC Choir Members
Carole and Ed Hartfield

Diane and Wayne King
Janet Schoonmaker

Flower Fund

Pat and James McClure

Financial Report

December 2025

DEC INCOME	\$ 26,826.45	YTD INCOME	\$ 455,331.61
DEC EXPENSES	40,058.02	YTD EXPENSE	423,033.82
DEC NET INCOME : \$	-13,231.57	YTD NET INCOME	32,297.79

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



February Communion Offering

February 1

Our Communion offering this February will support FREE Coalition of Northwest Louisiana. This organization raises awareness about human trafficking through education programs offered to individuals, organizations, and law enforcement, giving them the knowledge and tools to identify, prevent, and combat human trafficking in our community. Caddo Parish remains one of the highest parishes in Louisiana for reported human trafficking cases. Victims are often hidden in plain sight, living in our communities and attending our schools and churches. Traffickers target vulnerable individuals, using force, fraud, or coercion, and they often blend into society, appearing as ordinary people. You can read more about this organization by clicking the link below or type it into your browser: <https://freecoalitionnwla.com/>

You can also make your donation through Vanco as listed above — click on the communion offering picture to give on-line!



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 January 2026

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
January 4	53	5	24	20
January 11	50	6	24	30
January 18	50	5	20	36
January 25	CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER			

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6:7-8

