



THE CHALLENGER

JULY 2026



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

We are enjoying welcoming our new members Andrea, Gary, Carolyn, and Elizabeth! I am thankful that we share such a great place of hospitality! I encourage you to share how the love of Christ impacted your life with someone today, hand them an invite card, and invite them to a specific event that you are planning on attending.

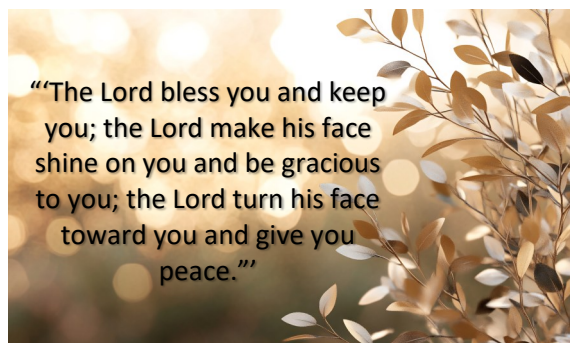
This Sunday, July 5th is a great day to invite someone to join you because we are continuing the celebration of July 4th on Sunday July 5th. Invite someone to come with you to worship at 11 am and then to join us for lunch afterwards! We are all to be witnesses of the love of Christ.

We are taking up a special offering for Simmesport United Methodist Church in Avoyelles parish, which is near all of the catastrophic flooding that happened. Their pastor Brock Vead's home flooded. He owns his own home. Let's support our sister church in Avoyelles parish with financial support so that they can recover from this flood. Their pastor gift will be unrestricted and can be used for whatever is deemed necessary. I ask you to give above and beyond your tithe to this special offering.

We also have two projects going on that were recently supported by our leadership board. The parsonage needed some exterior repairs, painting, and other work. The cost is \$9700. The church sign is malfunctioning and its many modules need replacing to enable it to function correctly. The cost to repair the sign is \$19,530.72. I invite you to give above and beyond your tithe towards these two projects.

I pray God's blessings upon you as we continue to move forward as God's church!

Numbers 6:24-26



With Joy, Pastor Jonathan

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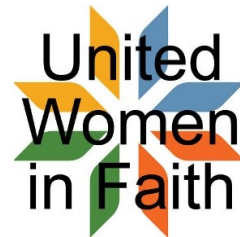
WHEN: July 10 @ 9 AM
WHERE: Quilt Room
 If you would like to volunteer to help Prayers and Squares, contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400.



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



WHEN: July 1 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's on Mansfield
 Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion.

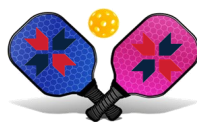


WHEN:
WHERE:
 Grace Circle will not meet June through August. They will resume their regular meeting schedule in September.



WHEN: July 21 @ 11 AM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 Christ Seniors in Action will meet on the 3rd Tuesday this month for a pot-luck lunch and community-oriented program. Our speaker is Lucy Burr, who will speak to us about The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). 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 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!



July 1
 Joseph Orban

July 2
 Rev. Dr. Jonathan King
 Jen Lowe

July 5
 Polly Vineyard
 Elaine White

July 7
 Mary Findley

July 9
 Larissa Koll

July 22
 Vernon Rich

July 24
 Freddie Foster

July 27
 Jan Nelson

July 31
 Vivian Locking

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF A DREAM



Come to the Sunday Picnic on July 5th, in the Fellowship Hall following worship, as we celebrate July 4, 1776, remembering the European immigrants coming to America to experience new freedoms and new opportunities. They saw it like Abraham moving toward the Promised Land. We will enjoy chicken with lemonade, tea and water. We ask you to bring a salad, a vegetable or a dessert.

You will hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence and sing the songs of freedom. Invite members of your family and/or friends. **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX AND TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO BRING SO THAT WE CAN KNOW HOW MANY FOLKS TO PREPARE FOR.** If you can't come to church to sign up, call the office at 318-686-2553 and Janice will sign you up. Celebrate 250 years of the dream of our forefathers, and the dream of every American today.

Independence Day Caroling

Jun 23 and 24

We got an early start celebrating America's 250th birthday by caroling with our homebound church family members!



Nancy and Henry Hutson



Rita Schuckers



Les and Jackie Michaelis



Kay Dixon



Betty Walker

OUR CAROLERS: Jen Lowe, Elaine White, Chris Liggin, Pastor Jonathan and Joanna King, Rev. Willis Dear, Charlene Eberhardt, Nancy Dear, and Becky Powers

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECOND-MILE GIVING

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.

Christmas in July



Have you noticed the stores are starting to put out Christmas decorations already? So don't be surprised to see a Christmas tree up in the Narthex soon! We will be collecting new toys to help support the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. These families are going through a lot of stress and worry about a child that has some sort of serious illness. No matter what the illness is, it affects the whole family including siblings who may not understand what's going on, why their parents are so distracted, why they have to leave their home for a while, why their parents aren't giving them as much time and attention as their sick sibling, or if their life will ever be normal again.

The Ronald McDonald House tries to make it easier for the children while they are staying there by letting each child pick out a new toy when they first get there. They have a "store" set up with a variety of toys. Some toys such as board games, card games, basketballs, footballs or soccer balls can be played with other children who are staying there which helps them make new friends who are experiencing some of the same things they are. These are some of the items they are needing. They also need baby dolls, action figures, craft kits, toddler toys, etc. (a more complete list is located in the Narthex on the small table by the door).

We will be collecting NEW toys during the month of July. If you would like to help with this mission project, please bring your toys and put them under the Christmas tree in the Narthex by July 26. We will take them to the Ronald McDonald House the last week of July. We will also take a tour of the facility, so if you missed out on the tour we did in March and would like to go, please let Jen Lowe know so she can add you to the list. If you have any questions, give Jen a call at 318-349-0825. Thanks for supporting this special mission project!

Because Love Lives On

When you include Christ United Methodist Church in your will, you create something that continues far beyond your lifetime. Your legacy becomes a source of hope, ensuring that ministry never stops and lives continue to be touched for generations to come.

A simple bequest in your will is a powerful way to support the church you love, while reflecting your values and your faith.

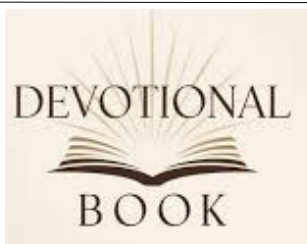
Talk with us about setting up a lasting legacy.

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

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

Recycle Your Devotional Materials



Don't forget to save your old devotionals and other religious publications so that Joyful Noise can pass them on to nursing home residents when they sing. We also share them with our neighbors at Common Ground. You can put them in the marked basket on top of the mail boxes in the church office.

Thank You from the Christian Leadership Center

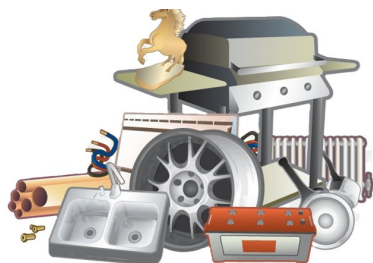
Dear Rev. Dr. Jonathan King,

Thank you so much for bringing dinner and a devotional to our CLC Class. We really appreciate you and Rev. Dear's presence, generosity, kindness and words. So cool. Y'all are both alum and were in CLC! We hope to see y'all again in the Fall. Thanks again.

Centenary CLC Spring 2026 Class

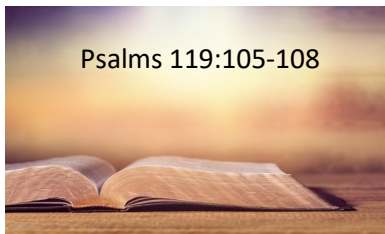
Thank You!

Help with Hauling



Don't forget that Bill Ward is available to help you with hauling away any old recyclable metal items you may need to get rid of: old appliances, old Christmas lights, grills—anything metal. If you take advantage of the summer sales to replace some old appliances, give Bill a call at 318-455-9402 and he will be happy to help.

Psalms 119:105-108



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.

Christ UMC Prayer Lists

Members

Jerry Bruce
Kay Dixon
Henry Hutson
Don Jackson
Faye Jackson
Jackie & Les Michaelis

Ann Marrs
Jackie Moore
Susan Musgrove
Joseph Orban
Mary Ann Page
Mary Sue Rich

Family of Jerry Talley
Family of Ed Thomason
Bill Ward
Charles Wilson Family

Shut-Ins, Rehab, Nursing Home

Louise Brandt
Carole Cragon
Clara Lathrem
Ann Maxwell
Ray Mitchell

Beth Roblow
Rita Schuckers
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

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

Memorials and Honoraria

Financial Report

MAY 2026

MAY INCOME	\$ 19,889.00	YTD INCOME	\$ 167,506.39
MAY EXPENSES	27,785.96	YTD EXPENSE	174,732.88
MAY NET INCOME :	\$ -7,896.96	YTD NET INCOME	\$ -7,226.49

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



July Communion Offering



UMCOR stands for the **United Methodist Committee on Relief**. It is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR operates in more than 70 countries, including the United States, focusing on alleviating human suffering in communities that lack the resources to recover on their own. Key areas of work include Disaster Response and Recovery, Migrant and Refugee Support, Global Health and Food Security.

UMCOR is known for its "100% promise". Because administrative and operational costs are covered by a dedicated annual church offering (known as UMCOR Sunday), 100% of any designated gift made to an UMCOR project goes directly to that specific cause.



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 June 2026

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
June 7	54	4	20	30
June 14	53	3	21	23
June 21	54	0	24	22
June 28	64	2	21	18

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he chose for his inheritance.**

Psalm 33:12