



THE CHALLENGER

MAR 2026



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

Lent has begun and I am looking forward to what is coming up in the month of March. I urge you to sign up on the sheet in the narthex or let the church office know that you will be attending the lunch about legacy giving after church on Sunday, March 15th. Please do this by Tuesday, March 10th. I know it will be a great time of learning and fellowship.

I want to continue to invite you to read Matthew chapters 5-7. We will continue to seek to grow in our discipleship as we experience Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount together. My sermons coming up will focus on passages in these chapters. We are meant to live out the kingdom of God in our everyday life even as we celebrate the victory God has given us through salvation in Christ. I pray your faith is deepened through the season of Lent.

We are walking together towards Resurrection Sunday. April 5th is Resurrection Sunday. I want to urge you to bring someone to worship with you. People need Jesus and people need the community we have to share as we follow him. Share with someone the victory you have been given in Jesus Christ by inviting them to come to worship with you.

I continue to rejoice in our pickleball church. We are ministering to many people who come through. I get to share a message with everyone on Sunday night. The conversations on the sidelines are life giving. You are invited to join us on Sunday evening from 5 to-7 pm or Thursday from 6 to 8 pm. Please pray with me for all who arrive and gather.

I pray we have a fruitful Lent, removing the things that get in the way of our relationship with God and welcoming the things that would enhance it.

Matthew 6:33



With Joy, Pastor Jonathan

Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Greeting	1
CUMC in Community	2-5
Prayer List	6
Finance	7
Attendance	8

Set your clocks ahead 1 hour

Daylight Savings Time returns this Sunday, March 8 this year. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday, March 7!





WHEN: Mar 2 @ 12 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
AARP meets the first Monday of each month. Come and see what AARP membership has to offer. Guest speaker will be Gary Blair to discuss Medicare and Advantage Plans.



WHEN: Mar 4 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's on Mansfield
Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion. Our devotion in March will be given by Rev. Derrick Hills of Fellowship UMC. It's a great way to start off the month! All men are welcome to attend.



WHEN: Mar 4 @ 1:00 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
This month Grace Circle is going on an outing to see *Epic: Elvis Presley in Concert* at Regal Theater at the Boardwalk. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church at noon to make the 1:00 PM show time. Call Jen Lowe for more information!

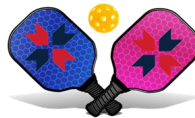


WHEN: Mar 6 @ 9 AM
WHERE: Quilt Room
Prayers and Squares meets on the first Friday of each month. If you would like to volunteer, contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400.

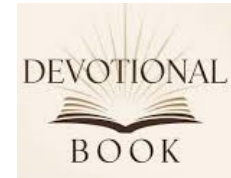


WHEN: Mar 10 @ 11 AM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
Our speaker for March is Chris Brown, Director of the Centenary College and UMC of Louisiana Archives. The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections collects, preserves, and makes available the historic records of the College and the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

CHRIST UMC PICKLEBALL



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!



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.

MARCH



March 3 Peggy Evans	March 17 Addi Koll	March 31 Barbara Ward
March 11 Bob Jahnke	March 21 Paul Rachal	
March 14 Mike Tatum	March 24 Danny Crawford	

UWF Sunday



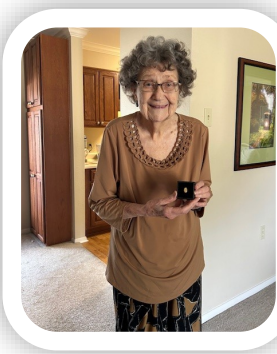
February 15



We celebrated the members of the UWF on this special Sunday, and presented 4 members with a Special Missions Recognition award! The theme for the Sunday was "Joy!"



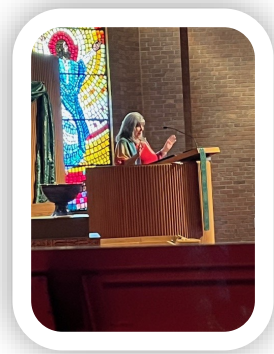
L to R: Kay Dixon, Ann Marrs, Susi Thomason



Liz Meek accepted her award at home



UWF Speaker Rev. Sheri Zehner was greeted by friends Carolyn Carroll and Jan Nelson



Rev. Zehner's message was Love, Joy, and Razzle Dazzle!!

Thank you!



Dear Church Family,

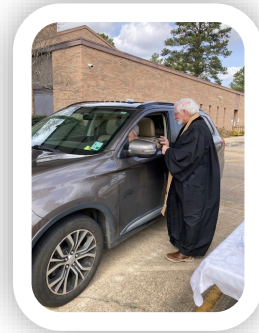
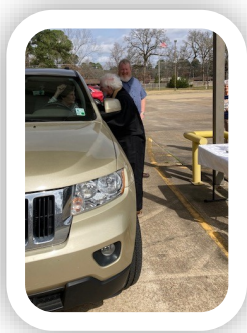
I was so very honored and humbled to receive the Special Missions Recognition pin on Sunday. I love Christ Church and it has been a true joy to serve for the past 47 years. The church has blessed me and my family in so many ways and I've made so many friends over the years while serving together in many capacities. Sunday will be a day I won't easily forget.

In Christian Love, Ann Marrs

Ashes to Go

February 18

Christ UMC offered Ashes to Go to the community for those who couldn't attend the 4:00 PM Ash Wednesday service.



Easter Activities

Easter Lily Sales

There is plenty of time to order your Easter lilies for this year. Your lilies can be dedicated in memory or in honor of someone, and will decorate our Sanctuary until Easter Sunday. Lilies are \$15 each and may be using cash, check, or the Vanco app. An order envelope can be picked up in the narthex and turned in in the offering plate or dropped off to the office. If you are not able to come to the office, you can call and talk with Janice Flannery or Jen Quick and they will take your order over the phone. **The deadline to order your lilies is Sunday, March 15.**



Holy Thursday Service

April 2



Christ UMC's Holy Thursday service will be held on April 2nd at 6:00 PM. Holy Thursday commemorates the night of the Last Supper by Christ and his disciples, and includes a holy communion service.

Sunrise Easter Service at Centenary College

April 5



If you enjoy a sunrise Easter service, we invite you to attend the sunrise service at Centenary College in the Hargrove Memorial Amphitheater beginning at 6:00 AM on Easter morning. The service features the Centenary Choir. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in Brown Chapel.

Resurrection Sunday Service

April 5



Christ UMC will celebrate Christ's resurrection with a Resurrection Sunday service beginning at 11 AM in the sanctuary. 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 the worship on Resurrection Sunday and share in the celebration!

First Responder Goodie Baskets Distributed

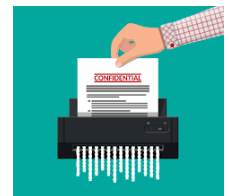
February 22

Thanks to everyone who donated goodies for our local first responders! We had enough to make eight overflowing boxes plus a plastic grocery bag and bag of oranges for each location. We took the goodies to Willis Knighton South Emergency Room, Third Floor and Fourth Floor nurses stations, Fire Departments on Beaird Rd. and Southern Loop, West Shreveport Police Department Temporary Substation on Kingston Rd., Caddo Parish Sheriff's Substation on Mansfield Rd., and Fire District #6 in Keithville. Everyone was excited to see what we had in the boxes and very appreciative of us thinking of them! Thanks again for helping to brighten their day!



Shredding Day

Barksdale Federal Credit Union is having a shred day in Shreveport on Saturday, March 7th, from 9:00 am—12:00 pm. It will be held at Sheriff's Safety Town, 8910 Jewella Ave, 71118. Each person will be able to watch their private information run through a shredder and be destroyed. Please limit 2 bags per person.



UMF Legacy Giving Workshop

March 15

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

Discover how planned gifts—wills, donor-advised funds, endowments and more—can bless your loved ones, support your church or favorite ministry and offer meaningful benefits to you as well. Come learn just how simple it can be to create a lasting impact.

All church members are urged to attend this presentation to learn more about the Foundation's relationship to the church. They will also talk about planned gifts and answer any questions about how the Foundation helps grow ministries across the Louisiana Conference. They are graciously providing our lunch that afternoon. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to let us know you will be attending so we will have plenty of food for everyone. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, March 10.

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
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
Nancy Byrd
Jill Carroll
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
Ed Long
James & Pat McClure
Dale Miers
Leanne Moore

Lynn Murphree
Carl Pendley
Rosemary Short
Alan Tennille
Lacye Tennille
Richard Tennille
Crew Tidwell
Willene Wyatt

Memorials and Honoraria

Renda King

Sarah Cates
Janice Crawford
Jill Sunlock Favrot
Christine Liggin
Jen Lowe

Financial Report

January 2026

JAN INCOME	\$ 44,535.30	YTD INCOME	\$ 44,535.30
JAN EXPENSES	36,203.90	YTD EXPENSE	36,203.90
JAN NET INCOME :	\$ 8,331.40	YTD NET INCOME	\$ 8,331.40

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



March Communion Offering—Fuller Center

March 1

The March communion offering will support the Fuller Center for Housing. The Fuller Center NWLA works in collaboration with service-oriented organizations and countless volunteers to build new homes, creating partnerships that bring together churches, schools, businesses, and civic organizations to build decent, affordable homes for individuals and families who are unable to secure adequate housing by conventional means. Their vision is to build community and empower people through homeownership.

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 February 2026

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
February 1	38	8	22	16
February 8	56	3	21	17
February 15	60	3	14	20
February 18	26	(Ash Wednesday)		
February 22	51	2	20	20



A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”