



THE CHALLENGER

MAY 2026



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

What a marvelous Easter we had! Blessings from God abound! We went out visiting in the community again and found great fruit from our visit as we continue to build relationships and listen to the needs of our community.

I have been reminded in this experience that every follower of Christ is an evangelist! I'm not talking about the kind that speaks in front of thousands of people although that is an option. We are evangelists, people who share the good news, to the people that we know. The good news is that God loves us completely and relentlessly and showed us that love in Christ. We all have the opportunity to receive an invite card. We have a challenge that once a week we will share that invite card with at least one person. First, share how Christ has made a difference in your life. Second, hand the person you are sharing with the invite card. Third, invite the person you are talking with to a specific gathering or activity on the card and reas-

sure them that you will be there. Three easy steps to fulfill our discipleship as evangelists. We can do it! I love sharing the good news with people!

We will celebrate Mother's Day on May 10th! We will wrap up our sermon series on the sermon on the mount on May 17th. May 24th will be the celebration of Pentecost!

God is at work amongst us! God is good!

Matthew 5:14a "You are the light of the world."

With Joy, Pastor Jonathan

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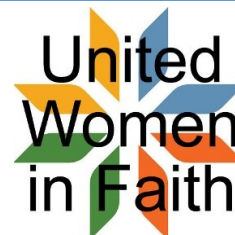
WHEN: May 1 @ 9 AM
WHERE: Quilt Room
 If you would like to volunteer to help Prayers and Squares, contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400.



WHEN: May 4 @ 12 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 AARP meets the first Monday of each month. Come and see what AARP membership has to offer.



WHEN: May 6 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's on Mansfield
 Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion. Our devotion was given by Rev. Robert Johnson. It's a great way to start off the month! All men are welcome to attend.



WHEN: May
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 Grace Circle had their final spring meeting at The Pearl restaurant on May 6. They will resume their regular meeting schedule in September.



WHEN: May 12 @ 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 May was Pull tabs 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!



May 1
 Donald Arnold Jr.

May 10
 Judy Hurst

May 16
 Jean Wisinger

May 3
 Coleen Farabough

May 11
 Peggy Crawford

May 8
 Billie Worsham

Christ UMC and Becky Houston Scholarship Awards

Christ UMC is proud to announce that on Sunday, May 17, we awarded five scholarships to a very deserving



Bailey Barnes
Majoring in
Business
Administration

Addison Koll
Majoring in Kinesiology
and Health Sciences



Carley Cooksey
In training for radiology
technician

Jude Owen
Majoring in
mechanical
engineering



Brianna Schaad
Majoring in Naval
Engineering



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rev. Dr. Jonathan King; Larissa Koll (for Addison Koll); Jen Quick (for Brianna Schaad); Jude Owen; Bailey Barnes; Carley Cooksey; Nancy Hutson, Scholarship Chair

We are honored to have supported this group of students, and are very proud of their accomplishments and the hard work that they have put into their education. We're excited to see how they progress through college and go forward to pursue their passions in their chosen field. Congratulations!!

Thank you from Common Ground



Dear Rev. Dr. King and Good Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$65.00. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and your belief in our mission. We held our 6th annual Spring Fling, and friends enjoyed grilled hamburgers, crafts, and the Easter Bunny.

Our Summer Camp will have about 70 kids with us this summer. The theme is "Let's Celebrate," with a different holiday theme each week. Our Youth Program boys had a great time playing in the YMCA basketball league, building teamwork, confidence, and leadership on and off the court.

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

With sincere gratitude, Lisa Cronin

Congratulations to Piper Koll!

Piper Koll, daughter of Larissa Koll and granddaughter of Vivian Locking, recently was elected Duchess for the Byrd High School 2026 Prom Court by the Junior High class. The Junior/Senior Prom was held on April 18th. Congratulations Piper on this honor!



Legacy Giving

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

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

Forest Hill Elementary 5th Grade Promotion

Christ UMC is proud to be the host site for the Forest Hill Elementary 5th Grade promotion ceremony to be held on Tuesday, May 19th. We are honored to continue to be a neighborhood partner with Forest Hill Elementary!



Join us as we celebrate Pentecost, the birth of the Christian Church!

Upcoming Holiday Closing

Christ UMC will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Please pray for all those whose lives were given in service to their country, and for their families' comfort and healing.



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
Family of Jerry Talley
Ed & Susi Thomason
Bill Ward

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

Bunny Buttermann
Jill Carroll
The Corliss Family
Linda Colvin
Johnnie Covington
Wanda Cunningham
Lorraine Desporte
Millie Diaz
Marilou Dillehay
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
Mark Wilburn

Memorials and Honoraria

Nancy Byrd

Thomas Byrd

In Honor of Prayers and Squares

Darren and Shana Long

Reece Bennett

To the Scholarship Fund given by
Bettye and Charles Wilson

Financial Report

March 2026

MAR INCOME	\$ 27,500.00	YTD INCOME	\$ 127,568.08
MAR EXPENSES	1,377.06	YTD EXPENSE	111,073.13
MAR NET INCOME :	\$ 26,122.94	YTD NET INCOME	\$ 16,494.95

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



May Communion Offering

United Methodist Student Day

This month our communion offering will support the future of our church by supporting students' education and their journey of faith. By supporting United Methodist Student Day, we celebrate the power of learning and the important role education plays in developing faithful, thoughtful Christian leaders. This special Sunday reminds us that education is not only a personal achievement—it's a ministry we share together. Every dollar given on United Methodist Student Day goes directly to scholarships for United Methodist students. These funds support a diverse group—from those preparing for ordained ministry to others pursuing professions that serve their communities. You can read more about this special Sunday offering by clicking this link: <https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/umcgiving/special-sundays/churchwide-special-sundays/>



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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

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Attendance April 2026

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
April 5	85	3	18	17
April 12	56	3	18	13
April 19	54	2	20	25
April 26	51	4	19	14



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4a