



THE CHALLENGER

OCT 2025



Rev. Dr. Jonathan King

Friends,

October has arrived and I've got my orange shirt ready. Go team orange! I can't wait to see all the school children arrive on our campus and experience Christian hospitality! Our fall festival is right around the corner. National night out that is sponsored by our neighborhood association that will happen on our campus is right around the corner. I just got home from our outreach to our community at the southern hills expo.

We are continuing to do what God is calling us to do! We are all called to share our faith through our actions and our words. The best way for us to grow in our discipleship is to lend ourselves to prayer and outreach as we continue to experience God's love. We know the difference God has made in our lives and how God has been present through God's people in the worst times of hardship. Let's continue to be there for one another

and for our community! I want to challenge you to continue to lift up in prayer people who are facing challenging circumstances in our congregation and community so that we can respond together! I can see clearly as your pastor that this is at the very heart of who we are and it's so needed in a world where hardship is constantly present. Let's keep doing what we are good at and see what God will do this next month!

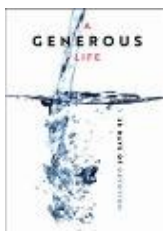


Let's Go!

With Joy, Pastor Jonathan

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Our Generosity campaign for fiscal year 2026 begins on October 13. Our devotional book, which we will read together, is *A Generous Life: 28 Days of Devotion*. The books are available in the narthex now and are available free of charge, one copy to each household. There is a Kindle version available if you prefer, and we can provide you with a large print copy as well. Please sign up when you receive your copy of the devotional for your household on the sign up sheet, and check the box if you need a large print copy.

We hope that we will all receive blessings as we explore new insights into generosity in our daily lives.



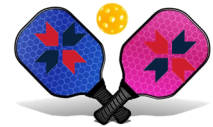
WHEN: Oct 1 @ 7 AM
WHERE: Denny's Mansfield Rd
The prayer breakfast now meets at 7 AM! Have breakfast your way while you enjoy fellowship and a devotion. It's a great way to start off the month! All men are welcome to attend.



WHEN: Oct 6 @ 12 PM
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 Bring a dish to share for potluck lunch. Learn what AARP is all about.



Prayers and Squares **will not meet** during the month of October. If you need a prayer quilt during the month, please contact Janice Crawford at 318-780-7400, or call the church office at 318-686-2553.

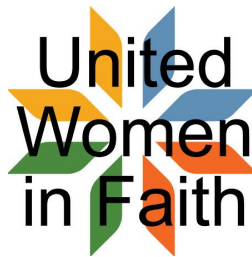


CHRIST UMC PICKLEBALL

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!



WHEN: Oct 14 @ 11 AM-
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
 .CSA begins a 3-month exploration of the history behind our hymns and carols beginning this month. Bring a meat dish, vegetable, salad, bread, or dessert to share with friends and learn more about our musical history!
 Learn more about this series in the article on page 3 of this Challenger!



Christ UMC's Grace Circle will not meet in October due to the Pumpkin Patch work schedule.

<u>October 3</u> Kay Dixon <u>October 13</u> Sarah Cates <u>October 14</u> Louise Brandt	<u>October 16</u> Bill Ward <u>October 21</u> Frances Jahnke <u>October 22</u> Joe Carroll
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Thank you from Common Ground

Dear Rev. Dr. King and Good Friends, thank you so much for your generous donation of \$60.00. We are excited that your donation will be matched and have double the impact! Thanks so much for making your donation at this time! We sincerely appreciate your continued support!

We helped the kids and teachers get off to a good start this school year by providing school supplies and uniforms to children in our programs. Each week we continue preparing more than 70 bags of kid-friendly food for students at Atkins Elementary and other kiddos who might miss breakfast and lunch over the weekend. Our Youth Program is back into school-year mode, and Girls of Grace are engaging in Bible study and crafts, plus moving into new lessons that help them plan and prepare for their future. Our Tuesday walking group and Wonderous Wednesday participants are still getting in shape, learning new computer skills, playing games, or crafting together. This group has truly bonded.

Thanks so much for all you do! None of this would be possible without donors like you!

Sincerely, Lisa Cronin

Pastor Appreciation Month

October 2025

October is Pastor Appreciation Month with Pastor Appreciation Day being October 12. Both give us an opportunity to show our pastors how much we value their care, concern, and dedication to our church family. Pastors undertake a variety of roles that extend far beyond the sermons and prayers— they are diligent administrators who handle finances, coordinate events, and oversee various aspects of congregational life as well as offer a caring and nurturing presence within the congregation and the community. This year, take the time to write a note, make a phone call or send a text, pick up a gift card, make a lunch date or bring a home cooked dinner—and most importantly, add your pastors to your prayers. Let them know that you appreciate all they do throughout the year that contributes so much to our individual lives and to the life of our church family!

Christ Seniors in Action—New series begins in October



What are the stories behind Christmas hymns/songs? That is the question that will be asked and answered during the Christ Seniors in Action (CSA) luncheons October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th. Who was the writer or what were the circumstances that inspired the writing, and who penned the words for the hymn/song? Who or what circumstances helped them to become popular and moved them from country to country, from Europe to America? How has the hymn/songs moved us to become more faithful in practices, in celebrations and in the way we live out our life in faith?

Rev. Willis Dear will answer all of these questions during our Christ Seniors in Action (CSA) luncheons October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th beginning at 11:00 am. Bring your best meat dish, vegetable, salad, bread or dessert. We will eat well, enjoy the friendships with others and hear the Stories of Christmas that will inspire you for the best Christmas you have experienced in a long time. Remember Jesus is the Reason for the Season and the Season is the reason to celebrate with joy and happiness and with hope and love.

United Women in Faith New Meeting Time



Our UWF Grace Circle will now be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. They will not meet in October due to Pumpkin Patch, but will begin the new meeting schedule on November 5th.

AARP Shred Day

November 8



AARP is sponsoring a shred day at the Sheriff's Safety Town at 8910 Jewella Ave. (in back of old South Park Mall) on Saturday, November 8 from 9:00-11:00. Each person is allowed to bring up to three boxes or bags of items to be shredded. Call 877-926-8300 to register or sign up at <https://events.aarp.org/shreveportfreeshred2>.

Volunteer Spotlight

Christ UMC Ushers



We're "shining the spotlight" on our Ushers, Leslie Michaelis, Don Jackson, Harold Sater and Ed Moore. Our Ushers have an essential role in our service. They not only collect the offering, but pass out bulletins, welcome members and visitors into our service and assist those with mobility issues.

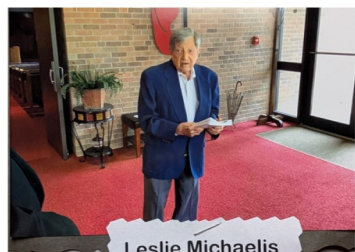
Leslie Michaelis and his wife, Jackie, have been members of CUMC since it was established in 1962. Leslie has been an usher for almost that long and has served as head usher for most of those years. Leslie has been active in many other areas of service including Lay Leader, Men's Prayer Breakfast coordinator, Family Night coordinator, Widow/Widowers Banquet committee, Paint Your Heart Out, Dulac Mission Trip, Pumpkin Patch Field Trips and Mission, Worship and Finance Teams just to name a few. Leslie served as church Sexton for many years and has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UMW.

Don Jackson and his wife, Faye, have been members of CUMC since 2002. Don has served on the Administrative Council, was Assistant Scout Master for CUMC Scout Troup #9 and helps with Pumpkin Patch Field Trips wherever needed. Don received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UMW.

Harold Sater and wife, Beverly, have been members of CUMC since 1979. Harold said he has served as an usher "on and off" for 40 years. He has led committees for Trustees, Finance and Administrative Council and helped with transportation for many youth mission trips. He also has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UMW.

Ed Moore transferred his membership from Summer Grove Methodist Church in 2019. Ed is a member of the Vista Sunday School Class and has joined the Usher team to help as needed.

Thank you to all for sharing your time and talents here at Christ UMC.



Leslie Michaelis



Don Jackson



Harold Sater



Ed Moore

Thank you from Ron Sims

Dear Christ UMC,

Thank you for sending the monthly newsletters. Please use this offering to God's glory. You all are involved in so many ways, blessing others.

Thanks,

Rachel and Ron Sims (Son of Eva Nell)

Pumpkin Patch



The weather has been teasing me lately with a few nice cool mornings, but then it heats up by afternoon reminding me it's the calm before the storm of field trips! We currently have 1,887 students registered with 389 on a waiting list. These students represent 27 different schools and daycares throughout Caddo Parish with some children coming all the way from Vivian! We have daycares representing several denominations: Baptist, United Methodist and Presbyterian! We have volunteers coming to help us from several churches: Noel UMC, St. Mary of the Pines, First Methodist, and Brookwood Baptist. We are truly an ecumenical church where we are all working together to make these field trips special for so many little children no matter what our differences are.

I think back over the years and how many young lives we have touched with our field trips, how many teachers we gave a couple of hours of time to just enjoy being with their class, how many parents we greeted and welcomed into our buildings, how many children entered into a sanctuary for the first time, how many children sat wide-eyed to watch the science experiments or got to experience a hayride for the first time, how special it is to watch them pick out the perfect mini pumpkin to take home, how proud they were of their crafts, but most important...how many seeds of God's love we have planted! For some of these children, this is the only time they will experience God's love through our wonderful volunteers who take the time to greet, give a high five, and share a laugh or a hug with them!

Our field trips will be October 15-31, but only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a total of eight days. The time is from 8:30-12:30. We will start with a short movie and songs in the sanctuary and then break up into groups to go to story time with snacks, crafts, science experiments, games, mini pumpkin patch or a hayride with songs. I realize that a lot of our people can no longer physically help us with the field trips, but you can help us by asking someone you know to volunteer to help us. There may be someone in your book club, dining club, exercise club, retirement club, or any other group you may be a part of that would love the opportunity to get out of the house and socialize with other people. You can pray for us to have another successful year or donate some money to help pay for supplies or sponsor children who can't afford to pay. (We never refuse any child who can't pay. We just absorb the cost for them.). If the weather is nice and you want to get out of the house, come sit at the welcome table to greet the teachers and students as they get off the buses or as they come into the sanctuary! Come absorb some of all that high energy and feel the love and excitement coming from those children! You will not only be blessing them, but you will be blessed too! Contact Jen Lowe for more information at 349-0825.



Neighborhood Celebration

October 25, 2025

Once again we are celebrating our neighborhood! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25 from 10:00-2:00. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans and chips. Children's activities will include crafts, games, and a bounce house. We will have community representatives from the Shreveport Police Department and Fire Department. The Joyful Noise and Shreveport Metropolitan Band will once again perform for our entertainment. UWF will have some delicious baked goods for sale to help support their mission projects and the olive wood items will be for sale again. Invite your friends, neighbors and family to come help us celebrate! All activities are free!

Christ UMC Prayer Lists

Members

Jerry Bruce
Kay Dixon
Peggy Evans
Henry Hutson

Faye Jackson
Chris Ligin
Jackie Moore
Susan Musgrove

Mary Ann Page
Ed Thomason
Bill Ward

Shut-Ins, Rehab, Nursing Home

Betty Booty
Louise Brandt
Kathy Corliss
Carole Cragon
Renda King
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

Vickie Barker
Michael Buttermann
Jill Carroll
Wanda Cunningham
Lorraine Desporte
Millie Diaz
Angelo Governale
Patti Hartsell
Danny Horton

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

Edna Neill

Joe and Carolyn Carroll

Financial Report

August 2025

AUG INCOME	\$ 51,121.62	YTD INCOME	\$ 309,958.25
AUG EXPENSES	31,193.57	YTD EXPENSE	279,010.02
AUG INCOME LESS EXP: \$ 19,928.05		YTD INCOME LESS EXP \$ 30,948.23	

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

Oct Communion Offering: Rutherford House

October 5

Our communion offering this month will support the mission and programs of Rutherford House. The Rutherford House five (5) residential facilities have been organized as alternatives to traditional and sometimes distant training school institutions. Juveniles who have come to the attention of local courts are eligible for intake consideration. It is their belief that youth in trouble can benefit from treatment in a program that provides for removal from the home on a short term basis. The Rutherford House for girls began operation in July of 1974 as a temporary home for status offenders and neglected children. Expansion into a second facility for girls occurred in 1977. The first male facility was opened in 1975 for short-term care. A second boys program was opened in 1978. A short and long term foster care component began in 1980. A fifth group home was opened in May of 1991. The five homes are licensed as Louisiana type "A" residential programs. Placement is open to children regardless of race or religion whose needs cannot be met through traditional community resources.

To learn more about this organization and their place in the community, you can visit their website at the following link: <https://www.therutherfordhouse.net/>



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 September 2025

	Worship	On-Line	Sunday School	P'Ball Church
September 7	59	7	26	28
September 14	46	5	21	21
September 21	44	5	16	20
September 28	50	4	20	22

*Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the
land and enjoy security. Take delight in
the Lord, and he will give you the desires
of your heart.*

Psalm 37:3-4