



wednesday **NIGHT** **KICKOFF**

SEPT. 3 @ 5PM

Our Wednesday Night program at First Methodist Monroe is about to kick off. Each Wednesday we will be serving dinner at 5:00 pm and offering dynamic group studies at 6:00 pm. Why should you make Wednesday night at FMM a part of your schedule? The answer is simple: People of Christ need to be equipped for faith, refueled for battle, and revived in spirit. We believe that fellowshiping with your faith family at dinner and studying with fellow Christ followers is a key component to a vibrant faith!

IT'S TIME FOR...



CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

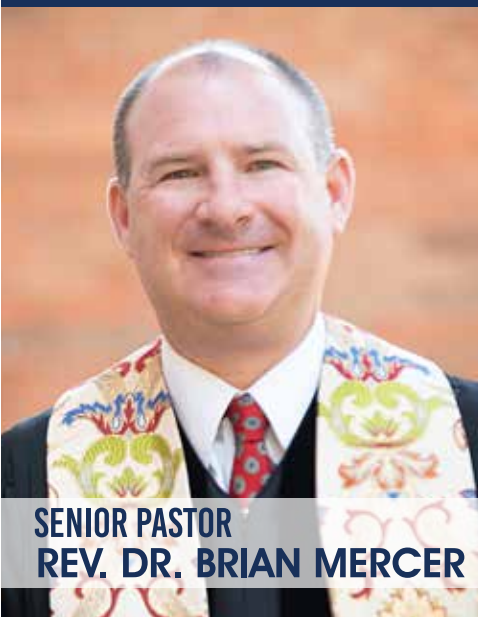


**SIGN UP
TODAY!**

**STARTS
SEPT. 3RD**

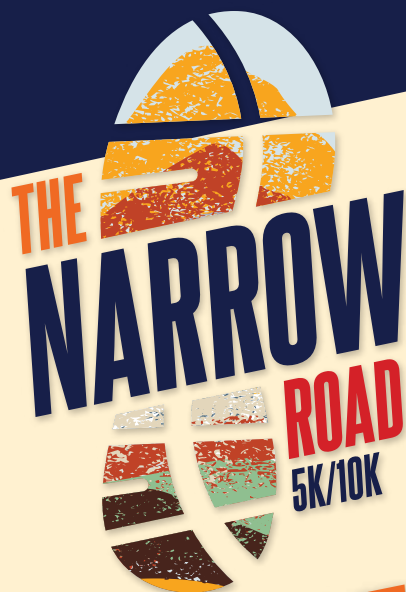
CHOIR AND HAND CHIMES - 1ST - 5TH GRADE

Join us after school at 3:15 - 5:15pm on Wednesdays during the school year. We have snacks, homework time, playtime, & musical activities! School pickup is available for Lexington and Sallie Humble.



SENIOR PASTOR
REV. DR. BRIAN MERCER

PastorBrian@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM



SEPT. 27



@THENARROWROAD5K10K



NEW BEGINNINGS

August brings that familiar sense of transition—school buses begin their routes, teachers refresh classrooms, and families shuffle schedules to match new rhythms. At First Methodist Monroe, we also feel this shift spiritually, as our ministries stir with new energy and direction.

A few weeks ago, I spoke with one of our members who shared how nervous her grandson was about starting middle school. She reminded him of something she'd read in Isaiah 43:19: **"See, I am doing a new thing!"** She told him, "Even if you're scared, look for the new thing God is doing." That simple encouragement reminded me just how powerful God's Word can be—even in lunchroom fears and locker searches.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* This promise isn't reserved for perfect Sundays or spiritual highs—it's available to each of us, every single day. Our past doesn't disqualify us. Our doubts don't distance us. In Christ, we begin again.

In Christ, we are not merely improved versions of ourselves—we are entirely new. This promise isn't reserved for a singular moment in time. It is offered to us daily. Each morning brings renewed mercy. Each challenge is an invitation to grow. Each detour holds the possibility of transformation.

Whether you've had a fulfilling summer or a weary one, whether you're stepping into August with excitement or uncertainty, God is present in the new beginnings. And as a church family, we can come alongside one another with encouragement, prayer, and love—celebrating what's been and stepping boldly into what's next.

This month, we will prepare to launch our fall ministries: Sunday School classes will be full once again, the youth group kicks off with new leaders, and small groups open their doors. Parents and children—you're invited to our Back-to-School Blessing Services on August 3rd and 10th. On August 3, we will bless our teachers and school administrators, and on Sunday, August 10, we will bless our backpacks! In our Sunday morning services, we'll lift up teachers, students, and school staff in prayer. Our church wants every student to know they're seen, loved, and surrounded by a cloud of support.

To our teenagers and kids:

God's new beginnings aren't just for the grown-ups. They're for you too—in your friendships, studies, goals, and spiritual growth. Don't underestimate the quiet moments when God nudges you toward something new. You belong here. You matter. And to the whole congregation, may August be a time to press into Philippians 3:14: "I press on toward the goal..."

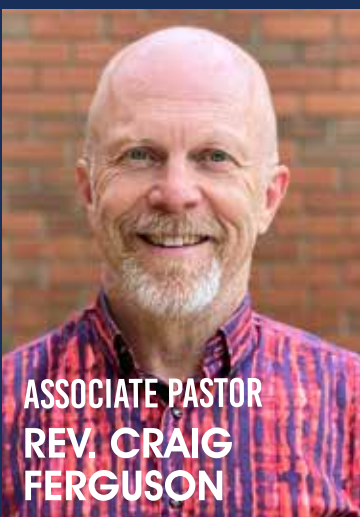
Let's not just show up—let's lean in. Let's support one another. Let's celebrate the new thing God is doing in us and through us.

Pressing on Toward the Goal alongside you,
Pastor Brian

HEARING THE VOICE OF



AUGUST SERMON SERIES



ASSOCIATE PASTOR
REV. CRAIG
FERGUSON

Craig@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

3RD-6TH GRADE

After school pick up
available for
Sallie Humble

SIGN UP
TODAY!



CREATED TO THRIVE

"Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit." 3 John 1:2 (NLT)

That single sentence from John's letter captures something we often forget: God cares deeply about every part of us—body, mind, and soul.

But let's be honest. In the rush of life, our physical health is often the first thing we neglect. We grab

whatever food is fastest. We run on caffeine and convenience. And then we wonder why we're tired, foggy, or frustrated. We pray for strength—but overlook the choices that are quietly draining it.

That's why we're launching a Nutrition Class this September—a practical and grace-filled journey toward better health that will be part of our Wednesday night offerings. This isn't about image. It's not a crash diet or a spiritual guilt trip. It's about stewardship—honoring the body God gave you so you can live with more energy, clarity, and purpose.

We'll explore what Scripture says about health and wholeness, and we'll be enlisting the help of a local, registered dietician nutritionist, Andi Holyfield, to help you develop strategies and real-life changes that can make a lasting difference in how you feel each day. This is for anyone who's ready for a reset—not a sprint to perfection, but a step toward something better.

Why? Because when our bodies are cared for, our capacity to love and serve expands. We're more present in conversations. More joyful in relationships. More resilient when life gets hard. And our faith isn't limited to ideas—it shows up in our habits, our rhythms, even our plates.

Participating will require a small investment from you but one with massive dividends. We will begin with a workshop, no commitment required, to get an overview of the program and decide whether it is for you. So, consider this your invitation. A new season is coming. You were made for more than just getting by. You were created to thrive.

Eat to Lose



FREE IN BODY ASSESSMENT!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 6PM

WITH ANDI HOLYFIELD LDN, RD &
PASTOR CRAIG FERGUSON.

**PARTICIPANTS HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP FOR A
6 WEEK PROGRAM!**

Are you interested in becoming a healthier you? Andi Holyfield with EAT TO LOSE is offering a great opportunity to help you look and feel better. For 21 years, Andi has dedicated her time to building her company. EAT TO

LOSE. This is a lifestyle change for kids, adults, geriatrics, and clients on weight loss medications. Andi customizes diet plans to help reverse diabetes, heart disease, and fatty liver disease! The goal is to lower visceral fat, increase lean body mass, work towards a healthy body composition, and fight inflammation that can lead to cancer, diabetes, etc. You will complete your first evaluation with an inbody body composition analyzer to take measurements and give you a print out. Weight and waist size will be measured. A before photo will be taken so you can see your results after 6 weeks! You will receive an eat to lose book. This will be a guide to assist you in the grocery store and has "easy fix - easy lose" recipes. Come back in 3 weeks to complete another in body assessment and then after week 6! SMILE! A new, healthier you is waiting.

First Methodist Monroe - Wednesdays 6pm

FREE ASSESSMENT: SEPTEMBER 17

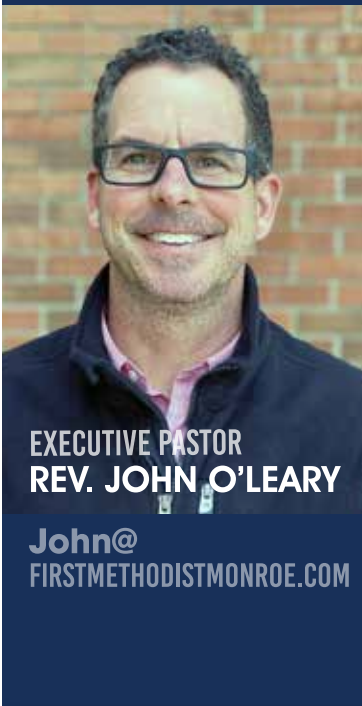
6 WEEK KICK-OFF: SEPTEMBER 24

3 WEEK FOLLOW UP: OCTOBER 22

6 WEEK GRADUATION: NOVEMBER 12



ANDI HOLYFIELD LDN, RD



EXECUTIVE PASTOR
REV. JOHN O'LEARY

John@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

NEW THINGS THIS AUGUST

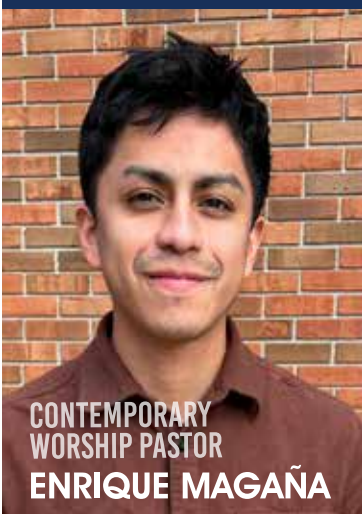
August is a month in our church that symbolizes many things new. We are about to begin a new school year with our kids in new grades and new seasons of their lives. It is the perfect time to reengage in what we value and want to prioritize moving forward. As I think about the NEW THINGS that August will bring, I am looking forward to hitting reset in our faith family as we begin a new school year together. There will be opportunities to grow, serve, break old habits, encourage, and share the love of Jesus with others. May God use this new season to help us stay focused and mindful of what matters.

I am reminded of an Old Testament passage: Lamentations 3:22-23 *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

Each season in our lives is a new opportunity to reflect on God's work in our lives. The Bible tells us that Jesus makes all things new and declares us holy and clean by his sacrifice on the Cross. As we look at our lives from the perspective of victory on the Cross, we can know that God is faithful to His promise. That His mercy will not run out. That no matter how far we may feel from Him, He is with us. May this season be a reminder that new things are promised to those who trust in Jesus. I would encourage you to begin NEW THINGS this month to remind you and your family that God is all about each of us stepping out in faith as you embrace this new season.

NEWCOMER LUNCH firstmethodist monroe

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
AT NOON IN THE GARDEN ROOM
Make your reservation
Text "LUNCH" to 318-217-8383



CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP PASTOR
ENRIQUE MAGAÑA

Enrique@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

For the past six months, I've had the incredible privilege of stepping into a new role as the Contemporary Worship Pastor here at First Methodist Monroe. It's been a season of new beginnings—not just for me, but for our entire worship ministry. And in that time, I've already seen God move in powerful ways through the people who serve and the songs we sing. This is a chapter marked by fresh vision and renewed passion. I believe God is doing something special in this house. We are shifting—not just in sound or style—but in the heart behind our worship. Our deepest desire is that every person who walks into worship would encounter Jesus in a real, transformative way. Every chord we play, every lyric we lift—it's all to point people to Him. As we continue to build and grow, I want to invite you to lean in. This is your ministry too. Whether you're on the Altar, in the tech booth, or lifting your hands in the congregation—your presence, your worship, and your prayers matter.

A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

We also have a few specific needs I'd love for you to join me in praying over:

A KEYBOARD PLAYER – This is a vital part of our team, and right now, we're looking for someone gifted and willing to step into that role.

AN ADDITIONAL ELECTRIC GUITAR PLAYER – Our current team has served faithfully, and we'd love to give them the opportunity to rotate and rest.

TECH BOOTH VOLUNTEERS – If you have a heart to serve behind the scenes with sound, slides, or streaming, we'd love to connect with you.

If you feel a nudge to get involved—whether on the Altar or behind the scenes—or even if you just have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact me directly through my cellphone or email. I'd love to talk and help you find your place. This is a ministry where we're learning, growing, and seeking to honor God in all we do. I truly believe the best is yet to come. Let's press into this new beginning together.

50+ ADULTS



50+ ADULT MINISTRIES
NANNETTE FLOWERS

NFlowers@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



WITH PASTOR BRIAN
& PASTOR JOHN

AUGUST 25-27
10:30AM-1PM

Sing favorite hymns, support a mission project, enjoy a delicious lunch, and fellowship with others! Pick up a registration form at the church office or scan the QR code to register online.

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
AUGUST 18



"Connecting people to new hope, new life, and new beginnings"

is the mission of the 50+ Adult Ministries. Whether you are a 40-year church member, a brand-new member, or regular guest, we pray you will get connected in some way to a ministry area of our church. Join a Sunday School class, Bible study group, attend Adult Vacation Bible School, Be Fit exercise classes, contract bridge group, Grandparent Ministry, or a Lunch & Learn or day or overnight trip. Below are many opportunities for new beginnings in "becoming people of Christ!"

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19

50+ Adult Happenings at the church

"BACK TO SCHOOL" BINGO is a great way to begin the new school year! Grandparents & grandchildren, join us Wednesday, August 6, at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall! Please RSVP to nflowers@firstmethodistmonroe.com to reserve a table. Adult and children prizes for all ages, including school supplies!

LUNCH AND LEARN on "Prearranging a Funeral" will be Monday, August 11 at 11am in classroom #6. This is the greatest gift you may give loved ones as they begin a new life without you. The workshop will cover understanding funeral costs, pre-planning a funeral with the church, differences between donating your body to medical research or being an organ donor, passing away when out of town, and many other relevant topics. Lunch is being provided on site at no cost but you must RSVP by **Wed., Aug. 6th** to nflowers@firstmethodistmonroe.com, to reserve a seat, meal, and materials!

CONTRACT BRIDGE is Wednesday, August 13, from 1-4pm in the Friendship classroom. Whether you are a new beginner or experienced player, if you are interested in being a substitute, please contact me.

50+ Adult Happenings outside the church

BRANSON CHURCH MOTORCOACH TOUR, November 17-21, is all about the Son as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by attending five fabulous Christmas shows and "David," from the lineage of Jesus, at the Sight & Sound Theatre. Pick up a registration form at the church and make your deposit early as this faith-based journey is almost FULL!

BE MORE FIT is wrapping up the summer with a water aerobics class on Wednesday, August 20 at 8:30am at 3707 Deborah Drive, where we'll get a full body workout that may be a new beginning of a favorite form of exercise. Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel! This is an additional class to our Be Fit exercise ministry that meets weekly at 10am on Mon. & Wed. in the fellowship hall. Women and men of all ages are invited!





STUDENT MINISTRIES
JOSH NEWTON

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY (6TH -12TH GRADE)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Summer is gone and a NEW school year is upon us! New beginnings offer a chance to rewrite the story, to leave behind what no longer serves us and step into the unknown with hope and intention. Though it may come with uncertainty or fear, a new beginning is rich with potential—an open door to possibilities we hadn't imagined. It's a reminder that we are not bound by our past, and that every day holds the promise of renewal and change. New beginnings in Christ mark a powerful transformation—a fresh start grounded in grace, forgiveness, and hope. When someone accepts Christ, they are no longer defined by past mistakes or burdens, but are made new, as 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come." This new life in Christ brings peace, purpose, and a restored relationship with God. It's not just a one-time event, but a daily journey of renewal, where believers are continually shaped by His love and guided by His Spirit. In Christ, new beginnings mean living with freedom, walking in truth, and embracing the promise of eternal life.



2025 **ONE WAY**
CAMP



WOW! I am struggling to find the words to adequately describe VBS. The love and support leading up to it, during it and afterwards, is unmatched. Ann, Angel and I may have planned it, but so many of you executed the plan flawlessly. Many times, I've said (and will continue to say) it takes everyone to pull off an event this grand. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you did to make VBS an amazing week of loving on 322 kids. Sharing the love of Jesus with so many kiddos is the best way to wrap up July, fill your heart in ways you never expected and lead us into a new school year.



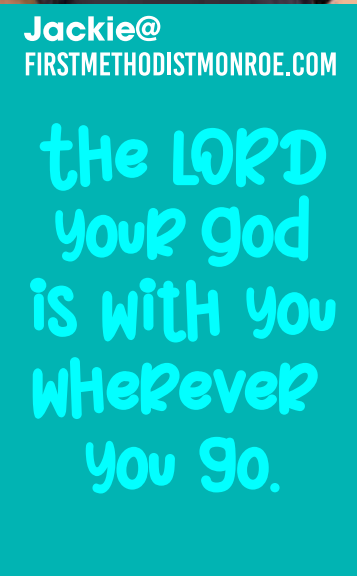
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
JACKIE KITCHINGHAM

Jackie@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

Each summer, I take some time to pray over the upcoming year and plans that will be made. Through the planning process, Angel and I talked about our top three goals and settled on the following:

- Work closely with families to nurture the spiritual growth of all our children in Kingdom Kids.
- Implement check-in stations at each entrance of the building to ensure every child is safe and accounted for while in our care. These stations need to be your first stop when you arrive on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening.
- Create a pathway of learning for our infants – 4 years old.

God has big plans for our children's ministry. I'm honored to play a part in helping His plans for our ministry come to life. Join me in praying for what's to come and for the hearts of our kiddos.



THANK YOU!

**THANK YOU FOR
MAKING VBS A
HUGE SUCCESS!**



FISH & LOAVES MEAL MINISTRY

Would you enjoy being a part of a team that cooks for others in need in our faith family? Would you love to deliver a meal to a home-bound member of our faith family? **Contact Emily Martin at 318-537-0906 or Emily@firstmethodistmonroe.com to become a part of our meal ministry this fall.**

REPORTING OUR FAITHFULNESS ONLINE GIVING \$67,559

06/01/25

7TH SUN AFTER EASTER

651 Here

961 Online

TV Area Wide

WE GAVE

\$59,480

06/08/25

PENTECOST SUN

587 Here

1142 Online

TV Area Wide

WE GAVE

\$27,409

06/15/25

TRINITY SUN

939 Here

989 Online

TV Area Wide

WE GAVE

\$24,212

06/22/25

2ND SUN AFTER PENT

680 Here

1181 Online

TV Area Wide

WE GAVE

\$10,743

06/29/25

3RD SUN AFTER PENT

861 Here

1531 Online

TV Area Wide

WE GAVE

\$26,943

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Cindy & Chris Strickler

In memory of Christie McRight given by Ken & Bonita Dyess

In memory of George Snellings, IV given by Janelle Snellings

In memory of Violet Collins given by David & Becky Stith

In memory of Christie McRight given by David & Becky Stith

In memory of Jonathan Bicker given by David & Becky Stith

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Maurine Pyburn

In memory of Flip Spooner given by John & Mary Jane Bentley

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Charles & Kay Allen

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Aldersgate Sunday School Class

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Nancy Meinel

In memory of Mary "Flip" Spooner given by Weiser Brown Oil Co

In memory of Christie McRight given by Ed & Charlotte McGuire

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Anna Gray Noe Sunday School

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Linda Myer

In memory of Christie McRight given by John & Anne Yount

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Ron Alexander

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Nancy Meinel

In honor of Johnny Martin Floyd given by Nancy Meinel

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Ann & Paul Farr

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Jane & Richard Bordelon

In memory of Flip Spooner given by David & Debbie McLemore

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Dr. & Mrs P.R. Hall III

In memory of Gail Thompson given by Fred & Pam Hill

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Fred & Pam Hill

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Ann Cooksey

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Ann Bellue

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by David & Becky Stith

In memory of George Harkins given by Nancy Meinel

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Malcolm & Johellen Maddox

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Malcolm & Johellen Maddox

In memory of Stone Caraway given by Maurine Pyburn

In memory of Violet Collins given by Maurine Pyburn

In memory of Christie McRight given by Maurine Pyburn

In honor of Ora Lea McGee given by Ms. Pat Thompson

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Anne & John Yount

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Mike & Carolyn Dolecheck

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Mr & Mrs Carrick R. Inabnett

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Mr. & Mrs. Jack LaBorde

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Dickie & Daphne Culpepper

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Nancy Boswell

In memory of Mary Flippo Spooner given by C. Louis & Lori H. Ray

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Mary Ann & Frank Adams

In memory of Mary Flippo Spooner given by C. Louis & Lori H. Ray

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Lonnie Ray and Wanda Copeland

In memory of Christie McRight given by Mike & Carolyn Dolecheck

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Mike & Carolyn Dolecheck

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Charles & Kay Allen

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by David & Debbie McLemore

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Jessica Melancon

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Bo & Amy Toney

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Lisa & Lyle Miller

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Christy & Brent Primm

AUGUST 2025

firstmethodist
m o n r o e

3900 LOOP ROAD
MONROE, LA 71201-3125
CALL OR TEXT 318.217.8383

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Monroe, LA
Peregrine

3 Blessing of the Teachers

Worship & Waterslides
5:30pm

6 Grandparents/Grandkids
Bingo 1pm

10 Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday School Fair

11 50+ Adult Lunch & Learn
11am

13 50+ Adult Bridge 1pm

17 RISE Back to School Kickoff
& Parent Meeting

18 ADULT VBS Registration
deadline!

19 FMW Circle 2 11:30am

20 Be More Fit Water Aerobics
8:30am

24 Next Steps 10:10am

25 Adult VBS

50+ ADULT BE FIT AT 10AM
Mon., Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25
Wed., Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27
(9:15am in Youth Rm)

Men's & Women's
Bible Studies AT 10AM
Tues., Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26

WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?



NEXT STEPS

AUG. 24

10:10AM IN THE PARLOR