



Day of Thanks

GIVING BACK TO THOSE IN NEED Nov. 9

SUGGESTED NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION ITEMS

DAIRY & BREAKFAST ITEMS

- Powdered milk or shelf-stable milk
- Cereal • Oatmeal • Grits
- Pancake or biscuit mix
- Instant mashed potatoes

CANNED & PROTEIN FOODS

- Vegetables
(green beans, corn, peas, carrots)
- Tomatoes
(diced, crushed, sauce, paste)
- Canned protein
(tuna, chicken, or turkey)
- Fruits • Soups & stews • Chili
- Peanut butter • Lentils
- Beans (dry or canned)

GRAINS & SIDES

- Rice • Pasta & noodles
- Boxed macaroni or rice mixes

SAUCES, OILS & SEASONINGS

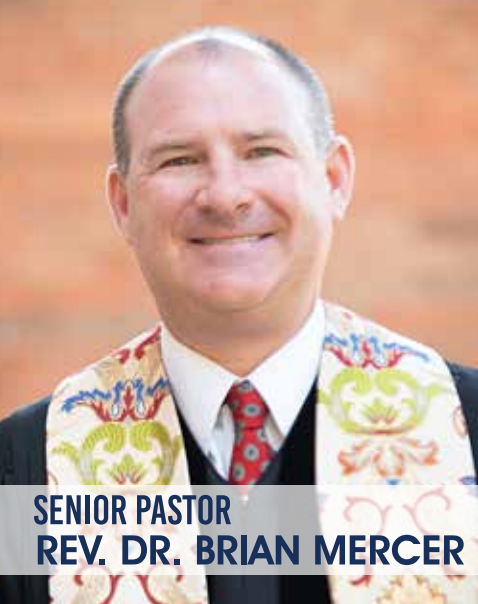
- Jars of sauce (spaghetti, marinara, alfredo)
- Beef, chicken, or vegetable stock
- Cooking oil • Basic spices • Condiments

SNACKS & TREATS

- Boxed snack crackers • Cake or muffin mixes
- Protein or granola bars • Popcorn or trail mix

Donations will benefit the Council on Aging and the West Ouachita Senior Center, helping provide meals and support for seniors in our community.

**DURING ALL WORSHIP SERVICES, WE WILL BE COLLECTING
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR NELA SENIOR ADULTS**



**SENIOR PASTOR
REV. DR. BRIAN MERCER**

**PastorBrian@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM**

CELEBRATING THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

It has been a profound blessing to witness the faithful generosity of our members who have honored First Methodist Monroe through legacy gifts. These memorial endowments—given in memory of family and friends—continue to fuel ministries of compassion, worship, and discipleship at First Methodist Monroe. Each gift stands as a living testimony to lives well lived and hearts devoted to Christ's mission among us. We give thanks for these saints whose faith journeys now inspire and sustain future generations.

HOW YOU CAN JOIN THIS SACRED TRADITION

- Include First Methodist Monroe in your will or estate plan.
- Specify a bequest for general ministry or designate a particular fund.
- Contact our church office
- Schedule a confidential conversation with me about your legacy intentions.

Thank you for entrusting us with your vision for God's kingdom, both now and for the generations to come.



NOV. 30

THE ADVENT SEASON BEGINS AT

HANGING OF THE GREENS

A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE AT **6PM** IN THE SANCTUARY.

FOLLOWED BY

TASTES OF THE SEASON

INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS
PREPARE FOODS OF THE SEASON
FOR US TO TASTE UNDER THE
LIGHTS OF GLORIA GARDEN,
RIGHT OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY.



EXECUTIVE PASTOR
REV. JOHN O'LEARY

John@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM



ASSOCIATE PASTOR
REV. CRAIG
FERGUSON

Craig@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

WED NIGHT NOV. MENU

NOV. 5
Spaghetti

NOV. 12
Fried Chicken

NOV. 19
Pork Loin

THANKFULNESS

for God's goodness—to me, my family, and this wonderful faith family.

John Wesley once said, "A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues." Here, Wesley underscores the foundational role that gratitude plays in cultivating other positive qualities. It helps our hearts overflow—in the way we speak to others, in our patience with others, and in our love for others.

There is a verse that has been on my mind over the last few weeks:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. - Psalm 103:8-13

Lord, thank you for being slow to anger.

Lord, thank you for not treating me as I deserve.

Lord, thank you that your love is as high as the heavens.

Lord, thank you for removing my sins as far as the east is from the west.

Lord, thank you for being the perfect heavenly Father who meets me in my need and shows me your goodness. As I recount the goodness and love of our great God, my heart is overflowing with thankfulness.

THANKFUL FOR A WHAT GOD IS BUILDING

There's something unmistakable about a church that's alive. You can feel it the moment you walk through the doors—the warmth of genuine conversations in the lobby, the energy of kids laughing in the hallways, the sense that something real is happening here. And as we enter this season of thanksgiving, I find myself sincerely grateful that this describes our church family.

I was talking with a visitor recently who made an observation that brought a smile to my face. "There's something different here," she said. "People actually seem glad to be here." It's true, isn't it? We're not just going through the motions. God is doing something among us, and we get to be part of it.

This past year, we've watched our church grow—not just in numbers, though that's been remarkable—but in depth. New faces have joined our family. Long-time members have stepped into new areas of service. Our worship has deepened. And through it all, there's been this palpable sense that we're not building something in our own strength.

When I think about what we have to be thankful for, it's easy to start listing the obvious blessings: our beautiful facility, our talented worship team, our committed volunteers. But the real gift is something deeper. We've been given the privilege of being Christ's presence in a world that desperately needs Him.

Look around on any Sunday morning. You'll see teenagers mentoring younger kids. You'll see people from vastly different

I have so many things to be thankful for! When I lay down at night, I could fall asleep recounting all the ways my heart is grateful

backgrounds sharing coffee and their lives. You'll see broken people finding hope, lonely people finding family, and searching people finding truth. This is what church is supposed to be—not a holy huddle, but a living, breathing community that reflects God's love to a fractured world.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Notice he didn't say give thanks for all circumstances, but in them. Even as we celebrate our growth and vitality, we recognize that we live in a broken world. Our community faces real pain—job losses, health crises, fractured families, deep loneliness. But here's what makes me grateful: we're not facing these things alone, and we're not offering empty platitudes. We're walking through the brokenness together, pointing each other toward the One who makes all things new.

This Thanksgiving, I'm thankful that God has placed us in this particular moment, in this particular community, with this particular mission. We're not perfect—far from it. But we're faithful. We're showing up. We're loving people well. And God is using that to build something beautiful.

As we gather around tables this month with family and friends, let's remember to give thanks for this church family too. For the way God is working among us. For the lives being changed. For the opportunity to be His hands and feet in a world that needs hope.

50+ ADULTS



50+ ADULT MINISTRIES
NANNETTE FLOWERS

NFlowers@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

The following will be
remembered during
all services on
NOVEMBER 2

- Nike Anderson
- Ernie Bruce
- Betty Cannon
- Stone Caraway
- Violet Collins
- William "Bill" Colvin
- Glenn Combs
- Wilton Fridge
- Helen Greer
- LeRoy Gillley
- John Hendrickson
- Tommie Sue Hubenthal
- Roy Johns Jr.
- Christie McRight
- Jeweldeen Perry
- Benjamin Maxwell Peters
- Ralph Sewell
- Mary "Flip" Spooner
- Gail Thompson
- Coralie White



Not a week goes by at First Methodist Monroe without someone expressing gratitude to one of our pastors, staff members, or to me for the many acts of care—cards mailed, texts sent, hospital and home visits made, communion served, gifts and food shared, and large-print Upper Rooms delivered. First Methodist Monroe receives at least three to five handwritten thank-you cards each week from members who have experienced this love and concern. This kind of care doesn't just happen—it's the result of a dedicated and well-trained Congregational Care Team. We are truly blessed by their commitment and compassion! As our way of showing appreciation to these faithful servants, a Ministry of H.O.P.E. Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 2, at 12:30 p.m. at Azalea Estates Assisted Living, 4380 Old Sterlington Road. This celebration honors the members of our Hospital, Card Ministry, Transportation, Homebound Visitation, and Communion Teams. If you'd like to be part of this ministry team in 2026, please contact me!

*The son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45*

50+ Adult Happenings at the church

DIGITAL LITERACY BOOTCAMP - Designed especially for adults ages 60–95, this free program will be held on **Monday, November 3, at 11AM** in Room #6. In partnership with ULM, the bootcamp will help you learn to use tablets, email, and video calls to stay connected with family, friends, and your community. RSVP to me to reserve your seat—and your Kindle!

MEDICARE WORKSHOP - Join us on **Monday, November 10, at 11AM** in Room #6 for a Medicare Workshop with Jennifer Zimman, a Medicare advocate with the non-profit 65 Alive. Jennifer will share updates on upcoming Medicare changes and answer frequently asked questions. RSVP to me so we can reserve seats and handouts for you!

CANCELLED

50+ Adult Happenings outside the church

LUNCH AND LEARN - Join us on **Wednesday, November 5, at 11AM** at Delta Biscuit Company (2252 Tower Drive) for lunch, followed by a tour and shopping experience at The Trove (Suite 103, next door) at 12:15PM. The Trove features a curated collection of gifts and home décor handmade by local artists. If you'd like to join us for lunch and/or the tour of The Trove, RSVP to me at nflowers@firstmethodistmonroe.com.

DISCOVER NORTHERN ITALY - Join us for a faith-based tour of Northern Italy, featuring a single-hotel stay, September 17–25, 2026. For more information or to register online, visit: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1329058>



**THANKFUL TO SEE CHIMPANZEES IN THEIR
NATURAL HABITAT AT THE CHIMP HAVEN!**

Thankful for YOU!

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of our wonderful volunteers who serve in the Hospitality Ministry at our church! Thank you to those who give of their time through Greeting and Ushering, the Fish and Loaves Meal Ministry, and the Hospitality Team. Your time, energy, and dedication as you welcome and serve within our faith family make an incredible difference in the life of our church. First Methodist Monroe is thankful for YOU!

CRADLE CARE MINISTRY: Our mission is to support expectant mothers and new families with spiritual, emotional, and practical care—while fostering love, encouragement, and connection within the FMM church community. Contact Shelley Mercer at 318-548-4536 if you'd like to be a part of this ministry.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

LET YOUR ROOTS *grow* DOWN INTO *Him*, AND LET YOUR *lives* BE BUILT ON HIM.



DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY
EMILY MARTIN

Emily@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM



The Brooks Family



The Carpenter Family



Georgianna Martin



The Reed Family



Cynthia & Warren
Green



The West Family



Allen & Karla Wise



The Alexander Family



Keith & Stayce Schwab



Holly Aulds



The Andrae Family



Delynn Eubanks



Clay & Rikki Bridges



John & Dorothy
Schween



The Euchaski Family



The Bridges Family



The Amos Family

THEN YOUR FAITH WILL GROW STRONG IN THE TRUTH YOU WERE TAUGHT, & YOU WILL OVERFLOW WITH *thankfulness*
COLOSSIANS 2:7



RISE YOUTH MINISTRY (6TH -12TH GRADE)

Rise Youth is thankful for the opportunity to serve both the church and the larger community through recent service projects. We are especially grateful to live out our inspiration verse, 1 Timothy 4:12.

By serving at The Simple Project and collecting non-perishable food items for our church's Day of Thanks, our Rise Youth students have truly set the example in serving others. We celebrate their faithful hearts and their desire to lead through action, love, and compassion.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." - 1 Timothy 4:12



**INTERIM YOUTH PASTOR
MACKENZIE
MILLER**



KINGDOM KIDS MINISTRY (K - 5TH GRADE)

thankful! Grateful! BLESSED!

You see that phrase on shirts and signs this time of year. But why don't we see it quoted throughout the entire year? Is it simply easier to focus on what we're thankful for during the holiday season?

As I think about the many things I'm thankful for—the things I'm grateful for and the blessings in my life—I'm reminded of how often they've come at just the right time throughout the year. I want to change my way of thinking and practice being thankful and grateful 365 days a year!

Will you and your family join mine in focusing on counting our blessings all year long? How wonderful would it be to look back after a year and see the many ways your family was blessed—in both big and small ways!

**thank
you!**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Fall Festival such a wonderful success! Your time, creativity, and smiles made it a joyful day for our church and community.



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
JACKIE KITCHINGHAM**

**Jackie@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM**

REPORTING OUR FAITHFULNESS

ONLINE GIVING

\$67,811

TEXT "GIVE" TO
318.217.8383

09/07/25

13TH SUN AFTER PENT

700 Here
1105 Online
TV Area Wide

WE GAVE
\$30,337

09/14/25

14TH SUN AFTER PENT

791 Here
750 Online
TV Area Wide

WE GAVE
\$28,434

09/21/25

15TH SUN AFTER PENT

777 Here
977 Online
TV Area Wide

WE GAVE
\$27,350

09/28/25

16TH SUN AFTER PENT

768 Here
1039 Online
TV Area Wide

WE GAVE
\$35,541



RIGHT/EOUS GENEROSITY



HOW GOD IS CALLING YOU to give and
to live generously in the coming year?

Text "PLEDGE" to 318-217-8383 or scan the QR code.



SUNDAY, NOV. 23

NOON FELLOWSHIP
HALL

2PM TRADITIONAL
SANCTUARY

We need helping hands to hang lights in Gloria Garden, set up the Christmas trees in both sanctuaries, and place our large nativity. We are looking forward to your help as we prepare our space for Christmas.

NOV 2025

2 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

**MINISTRY OF H.O.P.E.
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
12:30PM**

**3 60+ ADULT DIGITAL LITERACY
BOOTCAMP 11AM**

4 KIWANIS PANCAKE DAY

5 LUNCH & LEARN

9 DAY OF THANKS

**10 65+ ADULT MEDICARE
WORKSHOP 11AM**

12 50+ ADULT BRIDGE 1PM

16 J-FORCE PERFORMANCE

17-21 50+ ADULT TRIP TO BRANSON

18 FMW CIRCLE 2 11:30AM

23 DECK THE HALLS

27-28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**30 HANGING OF THE GREEN 6PM
TASTE OF THE SEASON 7PM**

**50+ ADULT BE FIT AT 10AM
MON., NOV. 3, 10, 17
WED., NOV. 5, 12, 19**

**J-FORCE - 3:15-5:15pm
WEDS., NOV. 5, 12, 19**

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDIES 10AM
TUES., NOV. 4, 11, 18**

**MOM'S IN PRAYER AT 5PM
SUN., NOV. 2, 9, 16, 23**

**WED. SUPPER & STUDY 5-7pm
WED., NOV. 5, 12, 19**

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JAMBALAYA &

JINGLES

DECEMBER 3

5PM DINNER | 6PM WORSHIP ON THE BAYOU