

OCTOBER NEWS

BLUE GRASS

ON THE BAY  U

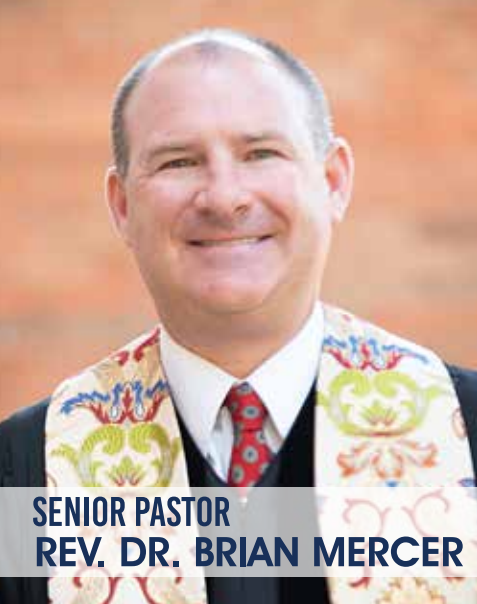
OCT 19

5:30PM **FREE LIVE CONCERT**

AT FIRST METHODIST MONROE

FEATURING:
HALLIE YARBROUGH,
JEFF HICKS, &
MATT MORGAN





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

**PastorBrian@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM**

GLORIA GARDEN MEMORIAL BRICKS

Gloria Garden is located in the front of the sanctuary with beautiful landscaping and a soothing water fountain. There are designated areas in the Garden paved with bricks that have been inscribed with the names of loved ones as a way to honor and remember them.

Money raised from the sale of these bricks go into the Gloria Garden Memorial Courtyard fund to maintain and improve the beautiful courtyard area. **To order a laser engraved memorial brick, fill out the order form at the church office or scan the QR code to order online. ***The next brick installation will be in 2026*****



SOWING IN THE SEASON OF HARVEST

Fall is here, First Methodist Monroe! Recently, I read the following description of this much-anticipated season: "As the leaves turn gold and the air grows crisp, we enter the beautiful season of harvest—a time when the fields yield their bounty and we pause to marvel at God's provision. In Scripture, harvest imagery reminds us that every blessing we enjoy stems from the seeds He has sown in our lives." This October, here at First Methodist Monroe, let us lean into this truth and consider how our giving reflects both gratitude and trust in the One who provides abundantly.

In Malachi 3:10 we read God's invitation: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test." Through this call to a full tithe, the Lord assures us that when we honor Him with the first and best of our increase, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing until there is no more need. Tithing isn't a legalistic requirement but a joyful response to His faithfulness.

Paul echoes this heart posture in 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Our giving springs from worship—an act of trust that says, "God, I believe You are my Provider, and I want my resources to advance Your Kingdom." When we give cheerfully, we join in God's work of making disciples, feeding the hungry, and offering hope to a hurting world.

As the harvest season surrounds us with reminders of completion and fruitfulness, let us reflect on God's work in our lives this year. Which fields has He brought from planting to harvest? Where has He sustained you through drought? As you pause to count your blessings, prayerfully consider how a full 10% tithe can deepen your reliance on Him and fuel ministry at First Methodist Monroe.

This month, our Stewardship Team will provide a printed packet and online options for setting aside your tithe and planning your 2026 estimate of giving (pledge). You'll also find prayer guides to help you and your family seek clarity on what "first fruits" means in your household. Whether you give in person, by mail, or through our secure online portal, know that every gift supports worship, discipleship, and outreach efforts across our community.

As autumn unfolds, may the act of giving become for you a harvest of hope—evidence of God's ongoing faithfulness and a pledge of His continued provision. Let us sow generously, trusting that the same hand that scatters seed on the earth will multiply our offerings for the growth of His Kingdom.

Engaged in the harvest alongside you,
Pastor Brian Mercer

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

**RIGHTEOUS
Beatitudes**

CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUS COMMANDS



EXECUTIVE PASTOR
REV. JOHN O'LEARY

John@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

PERCEPTIONS NOW ON TV!

Tune in
Monday–Friday:
KTVE (NBC) at
6:50AM & KARD
(FOX) at 8:55AM

BLOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 19**
Join us from
8:30 AM to 12 PM
for our Blood
Drive. LifeShare
will be parked in
the circle drive,
ready to receive
donors. Your
donation can
make a
life-saving
difference.
Please consider
giving the gift
of life!

WE FALL DOWN

As we step into the beauty of fall, our lives often become filled with busy schedules and endless tasks. Yet this season also brings opportunities to celebrate God's blessings and embrace the promise of renewal. The crisp air (in theory) and the vibrant colors of fall remind us to pause and reflect on His goodness.

One of my favorite songs, "We Fall Down" by Chris Tomlin, captures the heart of this season's call to worship:

*We fall down,
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus.*

*The greatness of
Mercy and love,
At the feet of Jesus.*

*And we cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy,
We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the Lamb.*



These lyrics remind us of the posture we should adopt, even amidst our hectic lives: one of humility and awe before Jesus. As we navigate the fullness of fall, may we fall down at His feet, overwhelmed by the greatness of His mercy and love, and lift our voices to declare His holiness.

Day of Thanks

As we enter this season of gratitude, First Methodist Monroe invites you to join us in giving back to those in need. On **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**, we will celebrate a special Day of Thanks during all worship services by collecting nonperishable food items for NELA Senior Adults. Donations will benefit the Council on Aging and the West Ouachita Senior Center, helping provide meals and support for seniors in our community. Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing His love and care with those who need it most. Please bring your food donations with you to worship and join us in making a meaningful impact this Thanksgiving season.

wednesday NIGHT SUPPER 5PM STUDIES 6PM

Text "MEAL" to 318-217-8383

Sign up for Wednesday Night Supper texts! Find out what's on the menu and make reservations. \$7 for adults & \$5 for children ages 3-10 (\$24 max.)

ON THE MENU THIS MONTH

OCT. 1 - Baked Potato Bar
OCT. 8 - Fried Chicken
OCT. 22 - Hamburgers
OCT. 29 - Country Fried Steak

No Wednesday Night activities **OCTOBER 15** during Fall Break

50+ ADULTS



50+ ADULT MINISTRIES
NANNETTE FLOWERS

NFlowers@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

FALL BREAK IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN!

- Prepare a family dish together and share it at a meal.
- Visit a place of family significance: a park, a lake, or even the neighborhood where you grew up and attended church.
- Teach them a childhood card or board game.
- Sing your favorite hymn together.
- Read a beloved Bible story and share why it is special to you.

Remember,
Grandparenting
Matters!

"Gray hair is a glorious crown; it is found in the way of righteousness."
Proverbs 16:31



FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO EXPLORE NORTHERN ITALY September 17-25, 2026

Discover the charm and beauty of Northern Italy on a relaxed and immersive journey through the Veneto region. Unpack once and settle into a comfortable, centrally located hotel in Treviso—your gateway to the wonders of Venice, Verona, and the majestic Dolomites.

Enjoy the perfect blend of land and water exploration as you savor Venetian culture on solid

ground. Wander through the artistic village of Asolo, learn to make tiramisu, watch a glassblowing demonstration, and step into history at a noble villa near Bassano del Grappa. With vineyards, villas, and breathtaking peaks all within reach, this is your chance to experience the heart and soul of Northern Italy at your own pace. **SLIDE PRESENTATION: Monday, October 27 at 5:30pm in Classroom #6. Visit: gateway.gocollette.com/link/1329058 for more information or to register online.**

50+ Adult Happenings at the church

CONTRACT BRIDGE - Wednesday, October 8, 1-4pm, Aldersgate Classroom. Beginners and experienced players welcome! If you'd like to be a substitute, please contact me.

BE FIT EXERCISE CLASSES - Join us Mondays and Wednesdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Wear workout clothes and tennis shoes, and bring a water bottle. Classes are open to women and men of all ages!

50+ Adult Happenings outside the church

LUNCH & LEARN - Thursday, October 23, 11:45am-1:15pm at the West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Ave. Join us for the Living Well Foundation Luncheon and hear about local organizations supported through the Foundation's grants. RSVP to me at nflowers@firstmethodistmonroe.com if you'd like to sit at our FMM reserved table.

LUNCH & LISTEN: Brown Bag Concert - Wednesday, October 1, 12:00pm at Palace Park, 220 DeSiard St. Enjoy Josh Love, an award-winning bluesman, performing R&B, rock, and more. Bring a brown bag lunch, or purchase a \$6 box lunch with tea on site from Newk's Eatery.

**THANKS TO ADULT VBS
ATTENDEES WHO DONATED
OVER \$5,900 TO OUR
GUATEMALA MISSION
& \$500 IN MEDICAL
SUPPLIES!**





DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY
EMILY MARTIN

Emily@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM



BE PART OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

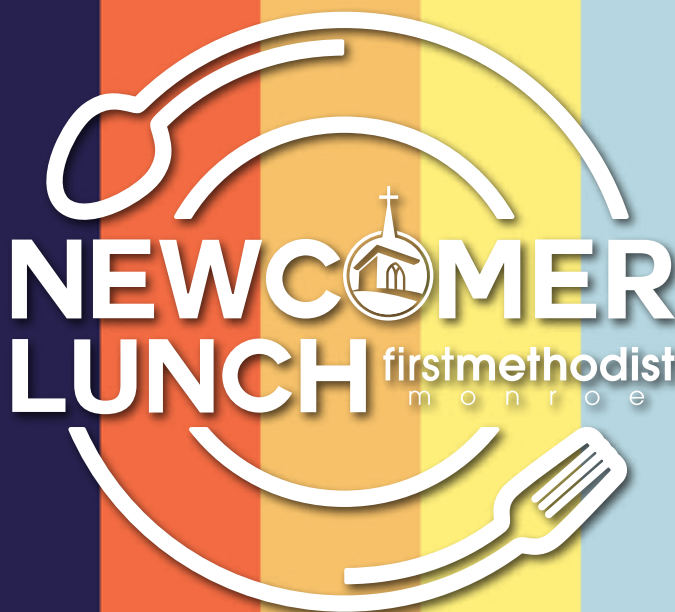
Next year, our church will celebrate its bicentennial, and we are already planning meaningful ways to honor this milestone. One of those ways is by collecting stories and memories from members who have been part of our church family through the years. Were you a member when the church was downtown? Do you remember key moments such as the purchase of the pipe organ, the construction of our current building, or even earlier stories passed down from your family in the early 1900s? We would love to hear from you! Please contact the church office, Alice Proffit, or Beth Cornellison to share your memories.

THE POWER OF HOSPITALITY

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." - John 14:2-4

What an amazing picture of God opening His home to us—a warm, welcoming home where each of us has a place. One of my favorite Christian authors, Paul David Tripp, describes this illustration by saying, "Of all the word pictures He could have chosen, Jesus illustrates our eternal relationship with Him in the context of a home. Why? Because deep in the soul of every human being is a desire to be loved, accepted, invited, and welcomed."

At First Methodist Monroe, we value warm, radical hospitality because we believe it reflects what Christ has extended to us. We believe in being a generous and hospitable people, so I invite you to join me in prayer that the Lord would turn our hearts more into a reflection of His, so that we may be instruments of gospel hospitality. Let's continue to slow down, be less consumed with our own agendas and schedules, and extend God's love and light to those around us.



SUNDAY OCT. 19

AT NOON IN THE GARDEN ROOM

Make your reservation

Text "LUNCH"
to 318-217-8383

Are you new to First Methodist Monroe or have you joined our faith family over the past year? We would love for you to join us as we share a meal and connect with others in our faith family!

gratitude & grace

firstmethodist
monroe

WOMEN'S EVENT

11.02.25 | 3-5 PM

Ladies of First Methodist Monroe, you're invited to an afternoon of fellowship, food, inspiring speakers, worship, and fun! Mark your calendars, bring a friend, and join us! We can't wait to see you there!



**INTERIM YOUTH PASTOR
MACKENZIE
MILLER**

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY (6TH -12TH GRADE)

Fall always reminds me of schedules and routines—school, sports, planners, and more. This season offers so many opportunities to busy ourselves, but it also holds countless opportunities to gather in fellowship. I'm reminded of Hebrews 10:25: *"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."* (NLT)

As our RISE Youth group wraps up its back-to-school series on Pursuing Jesus, one thing is certain: when we "fall" back into our normal routines, it's easy to "fall" into believing the lie that we are too busy for God. Over the past month, our students have been on fire—learning what it means to pursue Jesus, how to follow Him, and the joy that comes from living a life devoted to Him. It is truly a life full of delight! May we all follow the example of our RISE Youth and "fall" into a schedule that is centered on pursuing Jesus. They have been showing up and showing out on both Wednesdays and Sundays!

UPCOMING EVENTS: OCTOBER 18 | 11:00 AM | The Simple Project Outreach Mission
(619 Wood Street, Monroe)



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
JACKIE KITCHINGHAM**

**Jackie@
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM**

KINGDOM KIDS MINISTRY (K - 5TH GRADE)

This time of year is my favorite. Football season is in full swing, there are hints of cooler weather, the fall festival is on the horizon, and the holidays will be here in what seems like minutes. Yes, it can be busy and a bit crazy, but to me, it's a time with so many opportunities for families to be together.

At First Methodist Monroe, we will kick off this season with our annual Fall Festival. Mark your calendar for 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 26. There will be games for both the young and the young at heart, with plenty of candy for all. The Chili Cook-Off will be back this year as well.

Ways you can help make our Fall Festival a fantastic time for all:

- Host a game for the young and the young at heart
- Donate candy
- Participate in the Chili Cook-Off
- Serve as a judge for the Chili Cook-Off
- Assist with set-up/take-down
- Invite a friend or neighbor to come

I hope you and your family will join us in Gloria Gardens for food, fun, and fellowship. It's sure to be a wonderful time!

75%
of
International
Students
Never Enter a
Home



First Methodist Monroe
is partnering with
Bridges International
at ULM to provide a
home away from

home experience for international
students by becoming a friendship family.
You will have the opportunity to engage
in cultural exchanges through monthly
interactions and bi weekly communica-
tions with your friendship student. Help us
be the hands and feet of Jesus by open-
ing up your homes to bridge the gap
between cultural discomfort and the
gospel to reach the nations.



We have 53
students
waiting for
you!



For more information
contact Brittany Hodges
BRITTANY.HODGES@BRIDGESINTERNATIONAL.COM
or by phone at (850)-516-0518.

REPORTING OUR FAITHFULNESS **ONLINE GIVING \$63,706**

08/03/25	08/10/25	08/17/25	08/24/25	08/31/25
8TH SUN AFTER PENT	9TH SUN AFTER PENT	10TH SUN AFTER PENT	11TH SUN AFTER PENT	12TH SUN AFTER PENT
839 Here	780 Here	846 Here	809 Here	# Here
1070 Online	1141 Online	1296 Online	778 Online	1496 Online
TV Area Wide	TV Area Wide	TV Area Wide	TV Area Wide	TV Area Wide
WE GAVE	WE GAVE	WE GAVE	WE GAVE	WE GAVE
\$30,342	\$26,551	\$29,200	\$30,882	\$17,409

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Tommie Sue Sartor Hubenthal given by
Renee & Mike Broyles

In memory of Jack Thomas Crick given by
Dr. Lawrence C. Justice

In memory of Ben Peters given by Wanda Copeland

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Barbara Potts

In memory of Christie McRight given by Barbara Potts

In memory of Gail Stewart Thompson given by
Jan Golden

In memory of Bonnie Bensburg given by
Jessika Melancon

In memory of Flip Spooner given by PEO Chapter BB

In memory of Ben Peters given by Anne & John Yount

In honor of Threads of Love Prayer Shawl Ministry given
by Pat Thompson

In memory of Ben Peters given by Vici French

In memory of Bonnie Bensburg, mother of Sherry Huff,
given by Gail & Randy Parker

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Sandy Sartor

In memory of Ben Peters given by Sandy Sartor

HELP US MAXIMIZE EVERY GIFT!

Did you know you can help the church save on credit card processing fees? By choosing automatic bank draft through our church website, your recurring donation goes further. You can also set up recurring check donations through your bank's online bill pay service, and your bank will mail the checks on your behalf. For help setting this up, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Sue Anderson at SueA@firstmethodistmonroe.com. Every gift matters. Thank you for your generosity and for being a vital part of our church family. Together, we're continuing the mission God has placed before us.

SCAN THE QR CODE, TEXT "GIVE" TO 318-217-8383 OR, GO TO **FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM/GIVE**



OCT. 2025

firstmethodist
m o n r o e

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MONROE, LA 71201-3125
CALL OR TEXT 318.217.8383

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Monroe, LA
Peregrine

- 1 50+ Adult Lunch & Listen**
noon
- 8 50+ Adult Contract Bridge**
1pm
- 10 KK Scavenger Hunt** 6pm
- 15 NO WED. ACTIVITIES!**
- 19 Blood Drive**

Newcomers Lunch Noon
Bayou Concert 5:30pm
- 21 FMW Circle 2** 11:30am
- 23 50+ Adult Lunch & Learn**
11:45pm
- 26 Fall Festival** 4pm
- 27 Discover Northern Italy**
Slide Presentation 5:30pm

50+ ADULT BE FIT AT 10AM
Mon., Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
Wed., Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

J-FORCE - 3:15-5:15pm
Weds., Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29

Men's & Women's
Bible Studies AT 10AM
Tues., Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

MOM'S IN PRAYER AT 5PM
Sun., Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

WED. SUPPER & STUDY 5-7pm
Wed., Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29

OCTOBER 26



You're invited to our
FALL FESTIVAL!

4PM FUN & GAMES | 5PM CHILI COOKOFF