



# wednesday NIGHT KICKOFF

## SEPTEMBER 3 @ 5PM

We know your weeks are busy—but trust us, Wednesday Nights at First Methodist Monroe are worth making time for. Starting September 3rd, come enjoy dinner with friends at 5:00 pm, then stick around for studies at 6:00 pm that will encourage, challenge, and inspire you. It's the midweek boost your heart and soul need—good food, good people, and God's Word. What could be better? Here is a list of the studies we will feature this fall:

### FALL STUDIES BEGIN SEPT. 10

**GREAT CHAPTERS** - Experience Romans 8: Climbing to a Place of Confident Faith—part of the Great Chapters of the Bible series. Journey from doubt to assurance through four powerful sessions: No Condemnation, No Frustration, No Desperation, and No Separation. Discover unshakable hope, deep peace, and the joy of living in Christ's victory. Join us! Led by Carlos & Marty Somoza

● Room 6

**GRIEFSHARE** - Grieving the loss of a loved one can be one of life's most challenging experiences. GriefShare is a support group designed to help those who are navigating this difficult journey. Through guided sessions, participants will find understanding, healing, and a sense of community. Annette Harrison-Davis and Wanda Ramsey lead this time-tested program, offering compassionate support and practical advice for those in need.

Led by Annette Harrison Davis & Wanda Ramsey

● Prayer Room

**MARRIAGE STUDY** - Strengthen your relationship with our upcoming Marriage Study—a time to laugh, learn, and grow together. Through biblical wisdom, honest conversations, and practical tools, couples will discover how to deepen love, improve communication, and navigate challenges with grace. Whether newlyweds or decades in, you'll leave encouraged, equipped, and inspired to build a lasting, Christ-centered marriage.

Led by Enrique & Alex Magaña

● Room 17

**MEN'S STUDY** - Step into true freedom with Galatians: The Path to Freedom—a transformative Bible study that unlocks the gospel's power to set you free from legalism, fear, and performance-based faith. Through engaging teaching, real-life application, and deep discussion, you'll discover how grace changes everything. Experience the joy of living in Christ's freedom—no chains, no guilt, just God's amazing grace! Led by Mitch Reppond

● Room 21

**MOMS WITH LITTLES** - Calling all moms of young children! Moms with Littles is a warm, welcoming community where you can connect, share, and grow in faith while navigating the beautiful (and sometimes messy) early years of motherhood. Enjoy encouraging Bible study, honest conversations, and practical tips for parenting. Come for the coffee, stay for the friendships, and leave refreshed for the week ahead! Led by Savannah Smith

● Room 24A

**NUTRITION CLASS - CREATED TO THRIVE** - Discover how caring for your body can deepen your faith and fuel your purpose. On September 10, Pastor Craig will teach "The Bible and Our Body." On September 17, registered dietitian nutritionist Andi Holyfield leads a free workshop. Then decide if you'll join this grace-filled, life-changing program—offered at a special, reduced price from Andi's regular cost. Your health matters to God!

Led by Pastor Craig Ferguson & Andi Holyfield

● Room 12

**PASTOR'S STUDY** - Join us for a powerful pastor-led study on 1 & 2 Thessalonians! Discover God's encouragement for enduring trials, His call to holy living, and the hope of Christ's return. Each week, we'll dig deep into Scripture, apply its truths to daily life, and grow together in faith. Come ready to be challenged, comforted, and changed!

Led by Pastor Brian Mercer

● Room 19

**WELCOME TO ADULTHOOD** - Ready for real life? Join our "Welcome to Adulthood" Bible study and discover God's wisdom for the big stuff. Career choices, relationships, finances, purpose—we'll tackle it all together. Perfect for 18-30 somethings navigating this exciting season of independence and growth. Build genuine community, grow your faith, and find clear direction for your next steps. Come as you are, questions welcome!

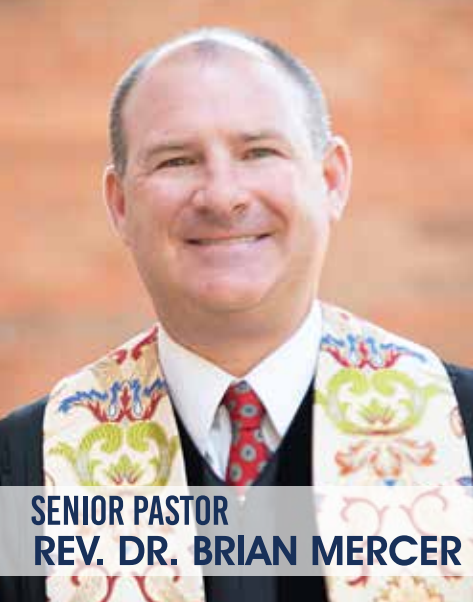
Led by MacKenzie Miller and Case Roark

● Library

**WOMEN'S STUDY** - Discover *Dwell on These Things* by Natalie Abbott and Vera Schmitz—a refreshing Bible study that invites you to fix your mind on God's truth daily. Through Scripture, reflection, and practical application, learn to replace worry with peace, fear with faith, and lies with God's promises. Live anchored in His Word and experience lasting joy.

Led by Ashley O'Leary & Kasey Witherington

● Garden Room



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

**PastorBrian@  
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 Prophit, or Beth Cornelison to share your memories.

# **A GIFT BEYOND MEASURE: GRACE AND TRUTH**

As we step into September—a season of new rhythms and fresh spiritual momentum—may this scripture guide our relationship with God and with one another: *“See to it that no one misses the grace of God”* (Hebrews 12:15). As we reflect on the gift of grace and truth, may our hearts be renewed, our relationships deepened, and our community strengthened.

## **UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF GRACE**

God’s grace is unearned favor—a divine embrace that reaches us at our weakest, transforms our failures, and empowers our growth in Christ. Hebrews reminds us to guard this gift, ensuring that no root of bitterness chokes the life-giving flow of mercy in our hearts or in one another.

Grace does more than blot out sin; it equips us to extend compassion and forgiveness. When we truly grasp its depth, we begin to overflow with a generosity of spirit that heals wounds and breaks down walls.

## **STANDING FIRM IN TRUTH**

Grace without truth risks becoming sentimental. Truth without grace can harden into judgment. Together, they form a sacred balance: grace softens our hearts, and truth anchors our steps. As John 1:17 reminds us, *“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*

Living in truth means speaking honestly, listening deeply, and aligning our lives with God’s Word. It challenges us to set aside pretense and to welcome accountability—both personally and as a congregation.

This fall, our sermon series will focus on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. As we explore the attitudes we are called to reflect as we Become People of Christ, we will experience them through the lens of grace and truth. I look forward to worshipping with you this fall as we continue to grow in faith together.

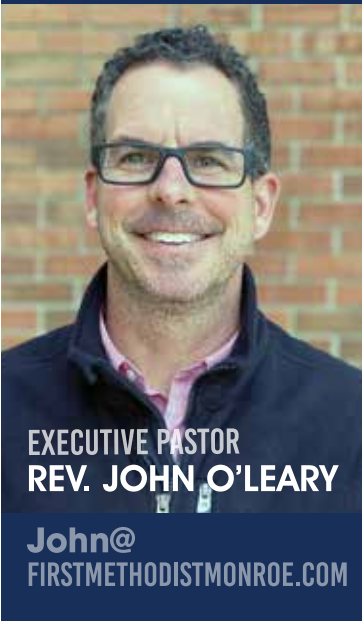
Becoming People of Christ, alongside you,  
Pastor Brian

## **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SERMON SERIES**

**RIGHT/EOUS**  
**Beattitudes**

**CHRIST’S RIGHTEOUS COMMANDS**





EXECUTIVE PASTOR  
REV. JOHN O'LEARY

John@  
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM

## MARRIAGE REFRESH CONFERENCE

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 6  
12:00-4:00 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Strengthen your connection and invest in your relationship at our Marriage Refresh Conference! Join us for an afternoon of encouragement featuring a guest speaker, worship, lunch, and free childcare. Whether you're newlyweds or longtime partners, this is a great opportunity to grow together. Scan QR code to register.



# ABIDE

I just returned from a wonderful, Spirit-filled week at Asbury Seminary, where I am pursuing my Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching and Leading.

One theme kept coming up throughout my week: Abide. Abiding in Christ is central to our Christian lives. It calls us to remain deeply connected to Jesus, trusting in His guidance and love. As John 15:4-5 says, "Abide in me, and I in you... for apart from me you can do nothing." Abiding is not passive—it's an active choice to dwell in His presence through prayer, Scripture, and obedience.

I feel renewed and encouraged to focus on abiding in Christ over the next few months. I'd love for you to ask me about my journey as we continue to encourage one another to become more like Christ as members of First Methodist Church.



 @THENARROWROAD5K10K

# SEPT. 27

Follow us out on Facebook for all Race News and information!

Lace up your running shoes and join us for The Narrow Road 5K/10K! Whether you're a seasoned runner or just looking for a fun way to get active, this event is for you. Go to [firstmethodistmonroe.com](http://firstmethodistmonroe.com) or scan the QR code to register!



## 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

SEPT. 3 - Tacos  
SEPT. 10 - Fried Chicken  
SEPT. 17 - Pulled Pork Sandwiches  
SEPT. 24 - Steak Fingers

# 50+ ADULTS



50+ ADULT MINISTRIES  
**NANNETTE FLOWERS**

NFlowers@  
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM



## CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS DAY

SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7

Ways to honor your  
grandparents:

Call or text them to  
say hello

Send a homemade  
card with a  
recent photo

Bake and deliver  
their favorite treat  
(cookies, brownies,  
muffins)

Take them out for  
breakfast, lunch, a  
mid-afternoon treat,  
or dinner

Visit them at home,  
an assisted living  
facility, or nursing  
home



CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S 250TH BIRTHDAY ON

## *"Faith of Our Founding Fathers: Discover Our American Heritage"*

JUNE 19-26, 2026

Embark on a spiritual journey to Washington, D.C., and beyond! This incredible motorcoach tour will immerse you in the beginnings of our land of freedom and inspire you with the faith of our founding

leaders. Experience a colonial-style tavern dinner, visit Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and George Washington's Mount Vernon, and explore Colonial Williamsburg. Discover the treasures of the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, and the heart of American heritage across Virginia, ending with a two-night stay at The Greenbrier, a historic resort nestled in the scenic West Virginia mountains.

A slide presentation will be held Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30pm in Classroom #6 for those interested in this faith-based journey. For more information or to register online, visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1369701>.

## 50+ Adult Happenings at the church

**CONTRACT BRIDGE** - Join us Wednesday, September 10, from 1-4pm in the Aldersgate classroom #16. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, all are welcome! If you're interested in being 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** - Join us on Tuesday, September 16 at 11:00am at the West Monroe Sports & Event Center for the Salvation Army's Taste of Hope—enjoy bites from local restaurants while supporting their mission. RSVP to me with a \$50 check payable to First Methodist Monroe to reserve your seat at our table.

**DAY TOUR OF CHIMP HAVEN** - Join us on Thursday, September 25 for a visit to Chimp Haven, home to hundreds of chimpanzees—most formerly used in biomedical research—now enjoying their freedom at this sanctuary celebrating 30 years. We will depart promptly at 7:30 a.m. from the east-side parking lot (choir side) in the church van and return by 2:30 p.m. RSVP with a \$120 check payable to First Methodist Monroe. The fee includes a 1½-hour guided tour, lunch, and transportation. Seating for the sanctuary tour is limited and reserved on a first-payment basis.

**LUNCH AND LISTEN: "BROWN BAG CONCERT"** - Join us Wednesday, September 24, at noon at the gazebo behind the West Monroe Farmer's Market, 1800 N. 7th Street. Bring a brown bag lunch or treat yourself to a \$6 box lunch with tea available on site from Newk's Eatery.



**"BACK TO SCHOOL" BINGO WITH GRANDCHILDREN & GRANDPARENTS**





DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY  
**EMILY MARTIN**

Emily@  
FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM



## SUNDAY OCT. 19

AT NOON IN THE  
GARDEN ROOM

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!

To make your reservation

**Text "LUNCH" to  
318-217-8383**

# WHATEVER YOU DO

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."  
Colossians 3:17*

As we return to rhythms and routines this fall—some that may feel overwhelming, stressful, or even mundane—this verse has lingered in my heart. It reminds me that I am called to do ALL things in the name of the Lord Jesus, with a heart of gratitude through it ALL. Every single thing. Not just the parts that come easily, but also the ones that require daily discipline—the complicated, messy areas of our lives we tend to hold tightly. It is both our responsibility and our privilege to represent Jesus in every area of life. Will you join me in memorizing this verse this month, as together we redirect our hearts to Him through it ALL?

## NEW MINISTRY AT FMM!

**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. If you'd like to serve as a mentor or volunteer, please contact the church office at 318-325-7335.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



The Mcgough Family



Susan Holloway



Tara Sturdivant



Jeremy Sturdivant



Peggy Pitman



Karen LeBeau



Martha Bratton



Garrett Hable  
Alex Smith



Curtis & Emily Davis



Larry & Dianne Lashley



Buddy & Glenda  
Kennedy



The Killen Family



The Jopling Family



Vici French

HOW  
*Sweet*  
IT IS TO  
**WORSHIP**  
WITH YOU!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
**JACKIE KITCHINGHAM**

**Jackie@**  
**FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM**

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE 3RD-6TH GRADE

Pick up from Sallie  
Humble at 3pm

Pick up from Sallie  
Humble afterschool  
activities such as  
cheer, garden club,  
art, tutoring, etc.

Snack &  
Homework time

Outdoor activities:  
football, basketball,  
kickball, volleyball,  
tetherball, and  
games.

Rainy day activities:  
air hockey, pool,  
ping pong, movies,  
and games.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**  
**FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM**  
**/AFTERSCHOOL**

# KINGDOM KIDS MINISTRY (K - 5TH GRADE)

Routines and procedures are words we hear often this time of year. School is back in session, kids are learning about their classrooms and teachers, and parents are doing their best to manage the busyness this season brings. Please know I'm right there with you—and so thankful for a God who loves me (and you) through it all.

Just as there are routines and procedures at school, we also have them in our church and children's ministry. Please take note of the following so everything runs smoothly:

**CHECK-IN:** All children (infant–5th grade) must be checked in each time you enter the building. Children should wear their sticker until pickup. Guardians will need to show their sticker when picking up.

**KIDS' CHURCH:** Offered during the 9:00 and 11:00 services for ages 4–2nd grade. Younger children go to the nursery; 3rd grade and older remain in the service.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Begins at 10:00 for Kingdom Kids. Children in Kids' Church will be dismissed to Sunday School. Those arriving from a service should go to their classrooms no earlier than 9:55.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:** We're excited to kick off another great season of fellowship and age-appropriate Bible study! Kids will be divided into 4 groups, just like on Sunday mornings, to ensure lessons fit their age. Activities begin at 6:00. Children should remain with their parents until 5:55. If staying for dinner, they should be in the Fellowship Hall until drop-off. Pickup is at 7:00 from the K2 room.

These changes are in place to keep safety our top priority. We've been so blessed with no safety concerns, and we want to keep it that way. I encourage you to embrace these new routines, stop by the kids' hallway to see all that's happening, and say a prayer that the foundation we're building stands strong for years to come. And please consider asking God if He may be calling you to serve in children's ministry—we have a place for you!

**IT'S TIME FOR...**

**J-FORCE**  
DISCOVERING THE ULTIMATE TRUTH!

**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.

# Begins September 7

## SUNDAYS AT 5PM IN THE LIBRARY

Moms in Prayer is a time dedicated to lifting up children, grandchildren, and all the young lives you minister to, along with their schools. Join us each week as we seek God's guidance and blessing through prayer.



# Moms in Prayer

INTERNATIONAL™



## SEPT. 18-20

### AT CAMP CANEY

Whether you're just beginning your walk with God or seeking to renew your spirit, the Charis Women's Retreat is the perfect place to pause, reflect, and reconnect. We'd love for you to spend a couple meaningful days with us in community and faith. Scan the QR code or go to [firstmethodistmonroe.com/retreats](http://firstmethodistmonroe.com/retreats) to register.

## REPORTING OUR FAITHFULNESS

**ONLINE GIVING**  
**\$61,670**

TEXT **"GIVE"** TO  
318.217.8383

**MEMORIALS &  
HONORARIUMS**

**07/06/25**

4TH SUN AFTER PENT

645 Here  
1088 Online  
TV Area Wide

**WE GAVE**  
**\$42,159**

**07/13/25**

5TH SUN AFTER PENT

765 Here  
1051 Online  
TV Area Wide

**WE GAVE**  
**\$40,280**

**07/20/25**

6TH SUN AFTER PENT

887 Here  
1317 Online  
TV Area Wide

**WE GAVE**  
**\$16,151**

**07/27/25**

7TH SUN AFTER PENT

778 Here  
816 Online  
TV Area Wide

**WE GAVE**  
**\$36,558**

In memory of Cheryl Turnbow given by Nancy Meinel

In memory of James Luke Nolan given by Mid South Extrusion

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

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Eric & Denise Pani

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Debbie Impson

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Gerald & Glenda Beasley

In memory of Gail Thompson given by Scott Anderson

In memory of Gail Thompson given by Ann Kuschman

In memory of Gail Thompson given by Olive Sartor & Family, Mossy & Scott Guinn, Ryan & Cayce Sartor, and Walter & Sue Sartor

In memory of Gail Thompson given by Jack & Nancy Cole

In memory of Jack Thomas Crick given by Buddy

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Anne & John Yount

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Louise Gilley

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Ted & Helen Holmes

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Mary K Firnberg Berry

In memory of Dr. Ben Harrison given by Mike & Susie Husted

In memory of Jonathan Bicker given by Louise Gilley

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Olive Sartor & Family, Mossy & Scott Guinn, Ryan & Cayce Sartor, and Walter & Sue Sartor

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

In memory of Flip Spooner given by Brenda & Terry Bowden

In memory of Leroy Gilley given by Ed & Charlotte McGuire

In memory of Tommie Sue Sartor Hubenthal given by Olive Sartor & Family, Mossy & Scott Guinn, Ryan & Cayce Sartor, and Walter & Sue Sartor

# SEPT. 2025

**1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**3 Wed. Night Kick-Off 5pm**

**6 Marriage Retreat**

**10 50+ Adult Bridge 1pm**

**16 50+ Adult Lunch & Learn  
11am**

**FMW Circle 2 11:30am**

**American Heritage Tour  
Presentation 5:30pm**

**25 50+ Adult Chimp Haven  
Tour 7:30am**

**27 The Narrow Rd 5K/10K**

**J-FORCE - 3:15-5:15pm  
Weds., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24**

**50+ ADULT BE FIT AT 10AM  
Mon., Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29  
Wed., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24**

**Men's & Women's  
Bible Studies AT 10AM  
Tues., Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**MOM'S IN PRAYER AT 5PM  
Sun., Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28**

**WED. NIGHTS SUPPER  
& STUDY 5-7pm  
Wed., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24**

**firstmethodist**  
m o n r o e

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CALL OR TEXT 318.217.8383

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Monroe, LA  
Peregrine



# Oct. 3-4 MEN'S SUMMIT



All men of First Methodist are invited to come together for a powerful time of fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual growth. The Men's Summit is a chance to connect, reflect, and strengthen your walk with God alongside other men as we seek to Become People of Christ. Held at the Owl Center in Dubach, LA.

[FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM/RETREATS](http://FIRSTMETHODISTMONROE.COM/RETREATS)