



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1000 Main Street Phone#: 318-256-3632
P.O. Box 1210 Fax#: 318-256-0522
Many, Louisiana 71449 Family Life Center/Fellowship Hall#: 318-256-0972
Preschool #: 318-273-2205
Pastor E-mail: rev.coplin@gmail.com
Office E-mail: Administrator@fumc-many.com
Website: fumc-many.com "Like" our facebook page
Sunday Morning Worship Broadcast -10:00a.m. KWLTV 107.1

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

Church,

I pray that these words find you well! As it turns out, I have quite a few words to share this month...

Just as I began writing this letter, our District Superintendent's office sent a list of requirements which must be met before our church can vote for or against disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. Several of our folks have been especially generous with their time as they help us to meet these requirements. If you have been involved with this process, thank you. As soon as we receive a date for the vote, I will be sending out a notification by email. If you do not currently receive our emails, please contact the church office at 256-3632 so that you may be put on the list.

Many of our folks already know that I am currently on track to be ordained as an Elder for the United Methodist Church in 2024. June of '24 will also mark ten years since discerning what Monica and I believe to be a call to ordained ministry in the UMC. One of the questions I am often asked about disaffiliation is how it would affect my family if our church votes to disaffiliate. In short, it would mean my appointment to another UMC congregation, presumably by July 1 of this year. Though it has become considerably more difficult, this is still our path as best as we can tell. We were certain of it in 2014 and we have no sense of it leading away from the UMC at this time. Frankly, I sometimes wonder if there will be a place for me in the denomination down the road. But I do not think I'll have to wait long to find out. 2024 is shaping up to be a big year because the United Methodist General Conference is also set to meet at the end of April. I expect its outcome to give some indication of whether there will be a place for moderate "traditionalists" like myself and many of you. I will also better know at that time if I can take the ordination vows in good conscience. Until then, we will stay the course and remain with the UMC which has been good to us for nearly 18 years.

I sincerely believe that those of you who intend to vote for disaffiliation have a couple of solid reasons to do so: the first one being a desire to live faithfully according to your understanding of Scripture, and the second being that some UMC leaders are failing to uphold the Book of Discipline. This failure has forced tremendous pressure upon local congregations as well as our denomination as a whole, resulting in permanent fracture. I continue to grieve for the UMC which once was, yet I pray blessings both upon the UMC that is, as well as the GMC, so that God's Kingdom may grow all the more. If you follow the GMC on social media, you've been seeing a celebratory thrust to their posts these days. My concern is that this distracts from the likelihood that many GMC congregations will face considerable challenges as their denomination establishes itself over the coming years. There really is no easy path for either side.

continued next page

As this present dilemma continues to drag on, it grows more apparent that no matter the outcomes of our congregational vote or General Conference, a large part of my time here at First UMC Many will have been spent dealing with matters related to disaffiliation. This controversy has helped me to better recognize that my call is to be a pastor, not a partisan. So I won't try to convince anyone of which denomination is better, or to change anyone's mind in regards to disaffiliation. However, I do consider it my responsibility to give careful thought to our organization's next steps through a perilous landscape. While I agree that the dispute around homosexual marriage and ordination is important, I believe there are more pressing issues, including an aging congregation, an overall declining trend in attendance, low financial reserves, and aging facilities. As your appointed pastor, I offer these issues as critical to the continued mission of your church. As you give thought to your vote, please consider how it might affect the mission with which you have been entrusted.

I believe we have navigated this conflict as well as can be expected so far. I attribute this to our shared love for Christ, who calls us to love one another, to serve our community, and to spread the good news of hope and salvation to a world desperately in its need. There is conflict yet to come, but so long as we stay focused on him, there is always hope. To paraphrase Bishop Williamston, "we have our troubles to face, but God's Kingdom is not in danger." It is my continued prayer that this troubled time may in some way serve to glorify God and to grow us closer to Christ, which in turn draws us closer to one another. May the peace of Christ be yours in the days and weeks to come.

The Lord bless you and keep you,


Brian

Memorials

Comfort Fund:

In memory of John Godfrey given by Mike & Vicki Simpson, Ray & Nancy Spiller, Ken & Mary Ellen Freeman, Sonny & Ginger Hall, Garrett & Carol Walsh, Robert & Jane Miller, Toni Evans, Bonnie Fox Miles, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Salter

Memorials Fund:

In memory of John Godfrey given by Brian Tannehill, Joe & Carole Troha

FLC Memorials:

In memory of John Godfrey given by Ted & Carolyn Dove

In memory of Ross Williams given by Ted & Carolyn Dove

Youth:

In memory of Phoenix Knowles given by Bo & Kay Chevallier

Committee Meetings for February

Trustees:

Monday, February 13th - 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Council:

Monday, February 27th - 5:30 p.m.

GIVING

In addition to our offertory, online giving is available through our website fumc-many.com. We can also receive gifts through Text to Give. To use this service, simply text "FUMCM" to 22525. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 1210 Many, LA 71449. Please call our church office for additional assistance at 318-256-3632. Thank you.

February Nursery Workers

Feb. 5 - Elizabeth Pickett
Feb.12 - Cathy Troquille
Feb.19 - Carolyn Dove
Feb.26- Vicki Isgitt

Souper Bowl Of Caring

To celebrate Super Bowl this month, please donate cans of soup to our pantry.

We are always in need of items that can be eaten as is for people who do not have access to any method of cooking or refrigerating items.

Thanks for your help, Cathy and Kristie

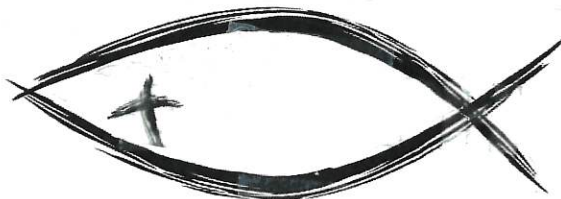
PANCAKE SUPPER



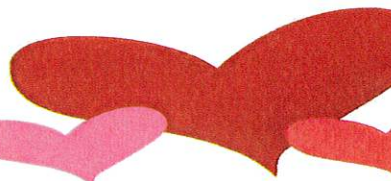




Come join us for a Pancake Supper
Wednesday, February 22nd at 5:30 pm.
Everyone is invited. Then join us for
Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY

First Day of Lent



For God 
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO   
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life 

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P.O. Box 1210, 1000 Main Street
Many, LA 71449

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div> <div>Jan 2023</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Mar 2023</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		1 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Youth, Children, Covenant Group 6:00 p.m.	2 United Women in Faith 9:30 a.m.	3	4
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5	6 *Tammy Courtney Boy Scouts - FLC - 6 pm Ultreya - 6:00 p.m.	7 *Olive Lee	8 *Linda Boudreaux Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Youth, Children, Covenant Group 6:00 p.m.	9	10 6:00 PM Women's Fellowship	11 Rental Baby Shower - F Hall 2:00 p.m. - Marilyn																																																																																				
12	13 **Pete & Ellen Abington Boy Scouts - FLC - 6 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m. - FH Trustees Meeting - 5:30 p.m.	14	15 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Youth, Children, Covenant Group 6:00 p.m.	16	17	18																																																																																				
19 *Khloe Ford <div>Cursillo</div>	20 *Sarah O'Neal Boy Scouts - FLC - 6 pm	21	22 *John Byrd *Monica Coplin Pancake Supper 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm	23	24	25																																																																																				
26 *Karen Lombard First Sunday in Lent	27 *April McCormick Administrative Council Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - FLC - 6 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 pm - FH	28																																																																																								

PRAYER CONCERNS

February 2023

Church Members

Carrie Broussard
Brian, Monica, Jack & Anna
Claire Coplin
Charles Enterkin
Greg Everett
Ken & Mary Ellen Freeman
Laurie Gentry
Susan Giblin
Family of John Godfrey
John Hoagland
Grace Kelsey
Bobbie Kratz
Billie Lou Luster
Bonnie Fox Miles
Janice Rike
Kevin Troquille
Family of Ross Williams

Family of Church Members

Cassity Barrett
(Shirley Lee's great niece)
Ann Boudreaux (Chuck's mother)
Carolyn Brasell
(Carrie Broussard's daughter)
Beth Coplin
(Rev. Brian's mother)
Linda Christian
(Janet Elam's cousin)
Lily DeRamos
(Gary & Janet Elam's granddaughter)
Jason Fluitt
(Vicki Simpson's son-in-law)
Seth Freeman
Renee Hill (Janet Elam's sister)
Zachary Hill
(Janet Elam's nephew)
Gwen Gastinel
(Janet Elam's sister)
Judy Boudreaux Jones
(Chuck Boudreaux's sister)
Mary Ann McDaniel
(Kristie Smith's mother)
Rodney Roach
(Vicki Weaver's nephew)
Bill Sky (George Ellis, Laurie Gentry's dad)
Logan Spears
(Rev. Brian's cousin)
Cindi Sullivan
(Suzanne Fogle's sister)
Murlee Wilbanks
(Carolyn Gates' mom)
Robert Troha

Friends of our Community

Marie Alford
Cade Anderson
Steve Biggs
Norman Booker III
Ace Bowling
Jiles Bowling
Kathy Byles
Dudley Carver
Lake Childress
(friend of Gary & Janet Elam)
Jeremy Dilliard
Ivan Droddy
Donna Ellzey
Joe Eschbacher (Stan & Debbie
Arthur Proforis' son-in-law)
Odis Faust
Linda Findley
Darlene Griffin
Kathy Humphries
Ginger Jordan
Sally Landry
Cassie LaRoux
Dena Sue Moore
Louise Moore
Cheryl & Daniel Procell
Mike Rankin
Denise Richardson
Tara Seals
Douglas Seegers
(Linda Seegers' son)
Linda Seegers
Ken Seegers
Kristin Sepulvado
(Rev. Brian's friend)
Arlene Small
Reba Tarpley
Sissy Tatum
Nancy Tidwell