



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1000 Main Street  
P.O. Box 1210  
Many, Louisiana 71449  
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### OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023

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Dear Church,

I pray these words find you well! As I mentioned in September, our latest revision of the proposed Rules of Governance is now available for review! Enclosed, you'll find the document that will be up for vote during our approaching Church Conference on October 29, immediately following our worship service, with potluck lunch to follow. The motivation behind these changes in governance is twofold:

- Simplified structure. This structure is considerably more streamlined than the one we've followed for many years. The intention of this change is to free our members for more time in direct ministry and to offer those who continuously serve in leadership a much deserved year of rest.
- Accountability and transparency. The new rules require an increased level of communication from the Council to our congregation. Furthermore, increased accountability for your pastor and leadership are intended to enhance resource stewardship and alignment to our mission.

This "Simplified Accountable Structure" is being adopted by congregations of all sizes within our conference with good results. I encourage each of you to read through the proposed rules. Should there be any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Another crucial item up for vote is the sale of the home graciously donated to our church by Ms. Janice Rike. More details regarding the proposed utilization of funds from this sale will soon be provided by our Finance Committee. A potluck lunch immediately following our Church Conference will celebrate this generous donation.

Lastly, a reminder that Church Conferences empower every member with a vote. Not long ago, our Administrative Council unanimously agreed to conduct our disaffiliation vote during a Church Conference, ensuring an equal voice for all members during a crucial decision. In the spirit of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability that this new system advocates, I believe presenting these items to the entire church for a vote is once again the right approach. I also believe you are reading these words because you want the best for your church. I offer this opportunity for positive change as means of fostering understanding, nurturing unity, stewarding our resources, and guiding us toward a brighter, shared future.

Grace and peace,

Brian

# Save the Date!

Sunday, October 29

11:00 a.m. - Church Conference

Potluck Lunch immediately following the Church Conference. Brisket, Twice Baked Potatoes, and drinks will be furnished. Please bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert.

## All Saints Sunday

If you have a loved one that has passed away since last All Saints Sunday (Nov. 6, 2022) please call the church office to add to our list. Thank you.

## GIVING

In addition to our offertory, online giving is available through our website [fumc-many.com](http://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.

### Monthly Financial Update

Amount Needed Monthly: \$19,648.00

Received Month to Date: \$ 4,051.00



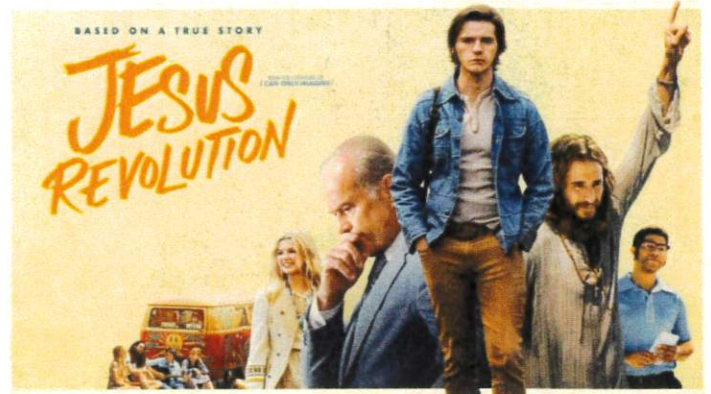
To a Large Inflatable Movie Screen  
Near You!

## Sunday Movie Matinee

OCT. 22 @ 2:00 p.m.

1st UMC Family Life Center

Sponsored by 1st UMC Youth Group



FREE Admission - All Ages Welcome

Popcorn & Concessions \$1

"Children's Room" with Games & Crafts

What miracles can happen when a church truly  
opens its doors to EVERYONE?





## Rules of Governance

First United Methodist Church of Many, Louisiana

### SECTION I: OVERVIEW

First United Methodist Church of Many, Louisiana (herein referred to as the Church) shall be organized into a single governing board to be called Church Council, in accordance with ¶244 and ¶247.2 of the 2016 United Methodist Church (UMC) Book of Discipline. Our reason for establishing this model of church governance is twofold: First, with God's help, we hope to better nurture the ministry and mission of our church by enhancing operational efficiency and by reducing the time our members invest in meetings related to church governance. Second, we desire a governance framework that is dedicated to aligning the Church's resources to our core mission.

Commencing January 1, 2024, the functions of the former administrative committees, (Administrative Council, Finance, Staff Parish Relations, & Trustees), shall be combined into a single board, which shall be called the Church Council (also referred to as the Council). The Council, in accordance with the UMC Book of Discipline, will carry out all functions and responsibilities of these former committees.

The Council shall have a total of fourteen members, to include twelve members of the church (in a staggered 3-year class rotation), the Senior Pastor, and the Lay Leader. Each individual has one vote. In order to maintain our Discipline, seven of these members will be designated to vote for Trustees and seven for Staff Parish Relations (SPR), including the Lay Leader who serves as a voting member on each. This means that while every member of the Council may not have a vote pertaining to Trustee or SPR related items, every member shall have a voice. While the Senior Pastor may vote, he or she shall not vote on matters pertaining to his or her own appointment, employment, or compensation. Three at-large slots (one per class, explained below) are intended to engage less-experienced members so that they may become better acquainted with church governance, thereby facilitating the development of new leadership and introducing their gifts and talents to the established Council.

A separate committee, called Nominations and Leadership Development (Nominations) will be responsible for nominating members to the Church Council as well as the Nominations Committee itself (per ¶ 258.1 of the UMC Book of Discipline). Additionally, they will appoint leaders of our ministry teams to three-year rotations. (i.e. Worship Team, Discipleship Team, Communications Team, Outreach Team, Fellowship Team, etc.). See section VI, "Nominations," below.

### SECTION II: PURPOSE

The primary responsibility of our Church Council is to prioritize and protect our stated mission by providing administrative oversight for the Church and accountability for its ministries. The ministries of the Church (Outreach, Discipleship, Fellowship, etc.) shall be organized and led by Team Leaders, who serve to recruit and coordinate teams for the ministerial activities of the Church. It shall be the purpose of the Council to support and empower the Team Leaders in carrying out these activities. In doing so, the Council shall make all final decisions related to budgets, administrative policies, use of church facilities, and legal liabilities. The Team Leaders shall report to the Council in all ministerial matters, and the Council shall prioritize, serve, and empower ministry teams and Leaders in their work of growing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Church Council shall consist of professing members of the Church who demonstrate mature Christian faith through regular attendance, participation in ministry, and giving. As indicated in Section III, the Lay Leader shall be a voting participant of the Council, and shall act as a liaison between the Ministry Team Leaders and the Council to advocate within the Council for the ministries of the Church.

### SECTION III: CHURCH COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

The Council will have a total of fourteen members, to include twelve elected members of the church (in a staggered 3-year class rotation), the Senior Pastor, and the Lay Leader/Annual Conference Delegate. Each individual has one vote.

The initial (2024) Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council shall be elected by Church Conference upon recommendation of Nominations and Leadership Development. Upon the following year (January 2025), the Vice-Chairperson shall be elevated to Chairperson and the Council will then elect a Vice-Chairperson from among its members during its first meeting of 2025. This Vice-Chairperson will in turn be elevated to Chairperson on January of the following year (2026). The rationale for this method is to ensure continuity of decisions and process, as each Chairperson will have had at least one year of membership on the Council before serving as Chairperson.

At the beginning of each year, in addition to Vice-Chairperson, Church Council shall elect chairs for the administrative areas of Trustees, Finance, and SPR from its current members. Council Members shall not serve as chair for more than one of these three administrative areas. However, the Vice-Chairperson may also serve as chair for one of these.

The initial creation of the Council, starting January 1, 2024, shall consist of one class of four persons for one year, one class of four persons for two years, and one class of four persons for three years. Members of this initial Council shall be designated by Nominations and voted upon and installed by Church Conference.

Following the first year of Church Council (January 1, 2025) and each year thereafter, four church members shall be nominated and elected to the Council (see Section VI). Council members shall serve a three-year term, and shall not immediately repeat a three-year term. They shall be eligible to serve again as a member of the Council or on Nominations once they have rested from the Council for one year. However, members of the initial Council who are installed for one year or less may succeed themselves for a consecutive three-year term.

Beginning June 1, 2026, The Council shall vote annually to either continue using this governance structure or to revert back to separate administrative committees, per ¶ 258 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The rationale for holding this vote mid-year is to allow time for planning and to provide Nominations time to populate these committees prior to the transition.

Only one person from any immediate family shall serve on the Council at the same time. An immediate family relationship is defined as a spouse, parent, sibling, in-law, or child. No relative or in-law of an appointed clergy or staff member may serve as a voting member of the Council. Nominations shall put forth recommendations for members of the Council, to be elected at the Annual Charge/Church Conference.

Per Discipline, it is recommended that an elected Lay Delegate to Annual Conference serve as Lay Leader. Therefore, while the Lay Leader will also serve as Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, they shall have only one vote on Church Council (this person must have a SPR vote per Discipline). In the event that the Lay Leader/Lay Delegate cannot attend Annual Conference, a substitute delegate will be elected by Council vote.

In the event that a Church Council member is unable to fulfill their three-year term and resigns from the Council, the Council shall elect, by majority vote, an eligible church member to serve the remainder of the vacated term. If the replacement term is greater than one year, the member shall not be eligible to serve again as a member of the Council (or Nominations) until they have rested for at least one year. However, if the replacement member's term is one year or less, they are eligible to serve a consecutive three-year term.

Attendance at Church Council meetings is required. If a Council member is unable to attend, advance notice shall be submitted to the Chairperson or Senior Pastor and will be entered into the minutes of the Church Council meeting. Continuous absences and/or lack of participation shall be noted by the Chairperson, and may result in dismissal from the Board. For purposes of this provision, missing more than twenty-five percent (25%) of regular called meetings in a six-month period shall be grounds for a review by the Council of the member's suitability to continue as a member. If appropriate, the Chairperson can recommend actions to remove a Council member by a two-thirds vote of the Council members, excluding the member proposed for removal, at a regular called meeting. After the removal of a member, the Chairperson shall immediately initiate the process to fill the vacant seat, in accordance with the provisions above pertaining to the replacement of a member who has resigned (selection by majority vote, and the replacement will be subject to the same restrictions on consecutive terms).

#### SECTION IV: CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council shall determine the frequency of meetings, but must meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the Bishop, the District Superintendent, the Senior Pastor, or the Chairperson. The Council shall meet only with the knowledge of the Senior Pastor or District Superintendent. No business shall be conducted without prior notification of Senior Pastor and/or District Superintendent. The Senior Pastor shall be present at all meetings unless he/she voluntarily excuses him/herself. The Council may meet with the District Superintendent without the Senior Pastor present as long as the Senior Pastor is informed in advance of such meeting and shall be brought into consultation immediately thereafter, under the direction of the District Superintendent.

At least five-days notice shall be given to the entire congregation prior to every scheduled Council meeting. Emergency meetings for the purpose of urgent church business that cannot be reasonably delayed for a normally called meeting may be conducted when so determined by the Chairperson and the Senior Pastor. For purposes of the required quorum, Emergency meetings are treated as regularly called meetings. Emergency meetings concerning the Senior Pastor are permissible, but must have the written approval of the District Superintendent. The Chairperson will endeavor to give the Church Council as much notice as is possible, under the given circumstances.

A quorum shall be considered at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the voting members then on Church Council (8 members, if fully filled, but fewer if there are vacancies on the council at any time). No business shall be conducted if a quorum is not present (members may be present in person, or by means of electronic communication, via teleconference or videoconference, provided such participation is sufficient for both hearing and speaking). Voting proxies shall be allowed. Proxies shall be arranged by the absent Council member to cast their vote in absentia. Voting by email shall be allowed, in which case all voting members must be included and a majority of the entire Council, all of which are in agreement either yea or nay, is required to consider a vote binding. Church Council members voting by email must acknowledge the receipt of the email for the vote to be binding.

In interest of transparency and accountability, it shall be a core principle of the Council to notify the congregation of Council meetings, to hold open meetings, and to report meeting outcomes in a timely manner. Therefore, all meetings of the Council shall be announced and open to every member of the congregation (per 2016 UMC Book of Discipline ¶722), provided that appropriate respect for the business items being considered and decorum are maintained during the meetings.

When appropriate, the Council shall enter into executive or closed session to consider personnel matters, staff salary discussions, potential litigation, contract negotiations and other items, as allowed in The 2016 UMC Book of Discipline, ¶722. In cases of pastor and staff discussions of sensitive nature, those Council members with SPR votes may enter closed session apart from the Council.

#### SECTION V: CHURCH COUNCIL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Our Church Council's primary accountability is to Jesus Christ as the head of his Church. The Council's primary responsibility, through the leadership of the Senior Pastor and staff, is to ensure that First United Methodist Church of Many stays true to its mission and fulfills its vision while functioning within its rules and guiding principles.

The Council shall encompass the duties and responsibilities of the former administrative committees (listed in Section I above), including but not limited to setting the annual church budget, setting staff salaries, recommending appointed clergy salaries to the Church Conference for approval, annual evaluation of the Senior Pastor, setting staff and other church policies, ensuring an annual audit and review of the church's finances, attending to the maintenance and repairs of church property, entering into contracts on behalf of the church, and other duties performed by the former administrative committees of Staff/Parish Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Trustees.

The Council may create sub-committees, task forces, and ministry teams from time to time as needed. All members of the Council are expected to offer their voice in all matters of Finance, Trustees and Staff-Parish Relations, but the Council may look to those members with skills in each area to lead sub-committees, task forces, and other groups related to these functions.

The Council may adopt additional policies and procedures as needed, so long as these policies and procedures do not conflict with this document or the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline. These new or modified policies and procedures shall be announced to the congregation in a transparent manner agreed upon by the Council and the Senior Pastor.

The Council shall create and maintain a plan to regularly communicate its activities and decisions with the congregation at large. This includes five days of prior notice before scheduled meetings and timely meeting reports to the congregation.

The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the management of appointed clergy and staff, and shall be accountable to the Church Council for the hiring, termination and evaluation of staff. The Council will set specific policies and procedures for the Senior Pastor to follow as needed regarding staff.

Should the Lay Leader be unable to attend Annual Conference as Lay Delegate, The Council will elect an alternate Lay Delegate by majority vote.

As close to the beginning of each new year as possible, the Council will schedule a half-day training session in which these rules of governance are reviewed, taught, and integrated into the Council's future goals, expectations, and policies.

## SECTION VI: NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, as described in the UMC Book of Discipline ¶258.1, shall nominate all members of the Church Council, including the Lay Delegate to Annual Conference/Lay Leader. The Lay Leader shall be a member of Nominations as well as the Council. Nominations will also nominate members to its own committee. Members rolling off of the Church Council may not immediately roll onto Nominations without one year of rest. Nominations will be chaired by the pastor and will consist of the Lay Leader and church members not presently serving on the Council. Per Discipline, these persons serve 3 year terms and cannot succeed themselves. Members rolling off of Nominations may not immediately roll onto the Council without

one year of rest. In situations which a member of Nominations fills a vacancy for one year or less, they shall be eligible to succeed themselves for a three year term.

Like Church Council, Nominations shall consist of rotating classes. The initial Nominations and Leadership Development Committee (beginning January 2024) will consist of one class of two persons for one year, one class of two persons for two years, and one class of two persons for three years. Subsequently, Nominations will nominate replacement classes for three-year terms.

Nominations shall designate to which administrative areas that Council members may vote (whether Finance, Trustees, or SPR). The Council must consist of seven votes for Trustees/Finance and seven votes for SPR. Should discernment of seven candidates for each administrative area prove problematic, these requirements may be adjusted by Council vote and express approval of the District Superintendent.

Since the Church Council will be carrying out a wide range of responsibilities previously held by the former administrative committees of the church, it is incumbent on Nominations to provide candidates who have the knowledge and skillsets necessary to allow the Council to carry out the duties and responsibilities of those committees. Therefore, Nominations shall be mindful that at all times on the Council, there are at least three members who are skilled in matters of Finance, three members who are skilled in matters relating to Trustees, and three members who are skilled in matters relating to Staff-Parish Relations.

Nominations will nominate lay delegate(s) to annual conference. One of these delegates will also be nominated as Lay Leader. Should the Lay Leader be unable to serve as Lay Delegate, The Council will name an alternate by majority vote.

Nominations to the Church Council and Nominations Committee may also be made from the floor of the Charge/Church Conference. In the likely event of a cluster Charge Conference, nominations for these committees may be made at the preceding Church Council meeting.

As noted in Section V, all members of the Council are expected to offer their voice in all matters of Finance, Trustees and Staff-Parish Relations. The Council shall name chairpersons of these administrative areas by majority vote, as well as leaders of sub-committees, task forces, and other groups related to these functions.

In the event of a vacancy due to the departure of a member, the Council will select the replacement member to serve out the unexpired term, per Section III.

## SECTION VII: CHURCH CONFERENCE APPROVAL

Changes to this organizing document must be approved by the District Superintendent and by a duly called Charge Conference of First United Methodist Church of Many as outlined in the UMC Book of Discipline.

Approved on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 in a called session of the Church Conference of First United Methodist Church of Many, Louisiana with Rev. Dr. Tom Dolph, District Superintendent of the Alexandria District of the Louisiana Annual Conference.

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Rev. Dr. Tom Dolph, District Superintendent Alexandria District

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Rev. Brian Coplin, Pastor FUMC Many

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Ms. Amie Mitchell, FUMC Many Lay Leader

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Ms. Carolyn Dove, FUMC Many Admin. Council Chair

## Appendix

The 2016 Book of Discipline includes the following provision on creating an alternate organizational plan for the local church:

¶247.2: the charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶243 are observed.

The primary tasks of the local church as outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline: ¶243. Primary Tasks – the local church shall be organized so that it can pursue its primary task and mission in the context of its own community—reaching out and receiving with joy all who will respond; encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them to commitment to God's love in Jesus Christ; providing opportunities for them to seek strengthening and growth in spiritual formation; and supporting them to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit as faithful disciples. In carrying out its primary task, it shall be organized so the adequate provision is made for these basic responsibilities: (1) planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, and witness for persons and families within and without the congregation; (2) providing for effective pastoral and lay leadership; (3) providing for financial support, physical facilities, and legal obligations of the church; (4) utilizing the appropriate relationships and resources of the district and annual conference; (5) providing for the proper creation, maintenance, and disposition of the documentary record material of the local church; and (6) seeking inclusiveness in all aspects of its life.



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

September was a busy month for the Sunshine Kids. Activities included petting and feeding a baby calf, visits from community helpers and group exercise sessions and outdoor play. Everyone is settling into a routine and getting to know their new friends.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
P.O. Box 1210, 1000 Main Street  
Many, LA 71449



# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> *Vicki Isgitt *Warren Founds III	<b>2</b> Ultreya- Leesville 6:00 p.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Choir Practice 7:00 pm. PreK- 4th Grade 5:30 pm. Youth 5:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> *Diann Migliore UWF 9:30 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																																																				
<b>8</b> ** Robert & Laurie Gentry	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> **Ken & Mary Ellen Freeman **Kevin & Cathy Troquille Choir Practice 7:00 pm. PreK- 4th Grade 5:30 pm. Youth 5:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> *Georgia Mae Luster	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM Women's Fellowship	<b>14</b>																																																																																				
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> *Mke Morris	<b>18</b> *Kirt Voorheis Choir Practice 7:00 pm. PreK- 4th Grade 5:30 pm. Youth 5:30 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> *Carolyn Gates																																																																																				
Fall Break Sabine Parish Schools & PRESCHOOL																																																																																										
<b>22</b> Movie Matinee 2:00 pm "Jesus Revolution" ALL AGES WELCOME FLC	<b>23</b> *Bob Nolen	<b>24</b> *Zelma Broussard	<b>25</b> Choir Practice 7:00 pm. PreK- 4th Grade 5:30 pm. Youth 5:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																																				
<b>29</b> *Taylor Courtney Church Conference 11:00 a.m. with Lunch to follow- FLC	<b>30</b> *Leslie Curtis	<b>31</b>	<div> <div>Sep 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></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Nov 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></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	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		
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# PRAYER CONCERNS

## OCTOBER 2023

### Church Members

**Zelma Broussard**  
**Monica Coplin**  
Bobbie Kratz  
**Joe Troha**

### Family of Church Members

Sandra Bishop  
David Cox  
(Linda Boudreaux's brother)  
Jason & Diane Davis  
(Amanda Lambert's cousins  
& niece)  
Jason Fluitt  
Judy Boudreaux Jones  
(Chuck Boudreaux's sister)  
Buck Phillips  
(Carolyn Gates brother-in-law)

### Friends of our Community

**Glen Graham**  
**Joyce Hay**  
**Sharla Meyers**

To keep our Prayer List current, we plan to  
**RE-SET** it at the beginning of every month.

If you know someone who needs to be  
placed on or remain on the prayer list for  
another month, please call the church office  
at 256-3632. In the evenings or on weekends  
call our Pastor, Rev. Brian Coplin. He may be  
reached by cell phone 318 614 5050 or send  
him an e-mail: [rev.coplin@gmail.com](mailto:rev.coplin@gmail.com).

Please do not respond to e-mail prayer  
concerns from the office. E-mail prayer  
concerns are for your information only.  
Please check your church directory for  
individual e-mail addresses so you can  
respond directly. If you need an e-mail  
address please call the office.