

THE MESSENGER NEWSLETTER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1411 Glenwood Drive · West Monroe, Louisiana 71291

Phone: (318) 387-0511 · Fax: (318) 387-0249 · Daycare: (318) 361-9059

“Our mission is to love, proclaim, know and serve the Risen Christ.”

Volume 20, Issue 02

MARCH EDITION

February 27, 2019

Our Worship Services

9:00 am Traditional Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Contemporary Worship

Our Staff

Rev. Jon E. Telligero
Pastor
revjon2015@gmail.com

Trae Milam
Director of Campus Ministries
traemilam@gmail.com

Lauren Laughlin
Coordinator of Children's Ministry
lauren@fumcwm.org

Lindsay Reynolds
Director of Music Ministries
lindsay.lou.reynolds@gmail.com

Sandra Lawson
Campus Manager
sandra@fumcwm.org

Kathy Morrison
Secretary
kathy@fumcwm.org

Jennifer Upton
Director of Early Learning Center
jennyup67@yahoo.com

church@fumcwm.org
www.fumcwm.org
Facebook.com/fumcwm

Season of Lent

Lenten calendars are available around the church.

Ash Wednesday Service

March 6 at 6:00 pm

Lenten Luncheon

Each Monday beginning March 11

This year, we will gather each Monday of Lent at 12 noon for a brown bag lunch, fellowship and devotion. Our topic this year will be “How Lent helps us follow Christ.”

We have a great selection of speakers for our Lenten devotionals. Our speakers are Reverends Bob Deich, Henry Stone, R. B. Moore, Lynn Malone and Ben McGehee.

Bring a friend, bring your lunch and let us grow together.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 18 at 6:00 pm

Good Friday Service

April 19 at 6:00 pm

Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 am

Easter Sunday Celebration

April 21 at 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Family Worship Service



For Nicodemus the dream was dead. For the woman at the well the dream was dead. For the parents of the boy born blind the dream was dead. For Mary and Martha, the dream was dead. And even for the disciples the dream was dead. These persons were in different situations, yet there is a common thread: their dream of security and life have died before their eyes. They were alienated from the very faith that gave life meaning. Then, they found meaning in Jesus. This towering figure of history and eternity somehow broke into their lives and restored them. They found Jesus to be “the resurrection and the life.” [John 11:25]

Timothy Carney in the book *Alienated America*, lists many Americans among those whose dreams are dead. They have lost jobs. They have dropped out of the work force. Their marriages have crumbled. The other trait among these people is that they no longer are in churches. Carney calls them the alienated. Others are calling them the “nones.” Nones are people who have dropped out of the conversation of the meaning of faith and life. They have none. These are the very people that Jesus loved and wanted to reach: “When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” [Matthew 9:36] For Jesus the harassed, helpless and unguided were people that he wanted to guide back to God and faith. The nones and the alienated are with us. It is our job to invite people to faith. In that same passage we are told Jesus went from town to town preaching the good news, healing the sick and casting out demons. As he went, he taught the disciples that the fields of humanity were ripe for harvest. Thus our focus should be on bringing in the nones and the alienated.

Where are the nones and the alienated? They live among us. They, though, do not attend church with us. They are at home while we worship, study and serve. They are “sheep without a shepherd.” It is our job according to Jesus to invited them, to engage them, and to love them. To do this we must go to them. That’s why we are forming a ministry called “Everyone Always.” This will be a ministry of inviting our neighbors to join us in church. If you would like to be a part of this ministry of inviting our neighbors to join us in church and meet Christ, contact the church office and add your name. We will be going out at least 4 times this year, once a quarter, and walking through our neighborhoods and inviting people to join us in worship. You can join us in doing this. You can fulfill Jesus’ vison.

Come join us. Invite your neighbor.

Jon

¹Nicodemus is in John 3; the woman at the well is in John 4; the parents of the boy born blind are in John 9; Mary and Martha are in John 11; the disciples are in John 21.

²Matthew 9:35-38



This year promises to be a great year for our children, youth, families as we serve Christ. This year, we have many plans to reach our community for Christ; to grow in Christ together; and to send people in ministry wherever Christ directs! The budgeted costs for this will be \$730,000. We have commitments for at least \$600,000! This is good, but we need to close the remaining gap. We are asking you to make an extra mile pledge or gift to the “Standing in the Gap” drive to complete our budget.

You will receive a letter and pledge card in the mail in a few days. Pray about what you can give. Fill out the card. Then return the card to the church office.

Thank you for your continued love of Christ, your faithfulness and your giving.



I don't know if you've heard the song "So Will I," but it is currently rocking my world! The song is full of beautiful declarations like "If the stars will sing your praises, so will I," but buried deep in the song is the most powerful section...the words that shook the core of my being:

*I can see Your heart
Eight billion different ways
Every precious one
A child You died to save
If You gave Your life to love them so will I.*

Now it wasn't until I had kids that I really understood what it was like to have a piece of my heart walk around outside my body, but I do now! Now imagine being God and having 8 billion pieces of your heart walk around. I think about how I want my kids to be treated, how I feel when someone laughs at them or misunderstands them or questions their value. I imagine God feels that same way about each of us. Imagine how it breaks His heart when one of His children is misunderstood or is excluded or told their worth is less than others' because of some value system that humans created. Somewhere along the way we started deciding who is deserving of love and acceptance. It actually started a long time ago. Jesus hung out with all of the people that the church of His day deemed unworthy. He chose THEM to be His close friends and to do His work. He spoke LIFE to them, and they believed Him. My focus this Lent is seeing the heart of Jesus in every person I encounter, meeting them where they are, and LOVING them unconditionally. Each person we meet is a precious child Jesus died to save, and if He gave His life to love them, SO WILL I.



The new year is moving so fast. I can't believe March is already here! As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!". Our Frontline Ministry had such a fruitful month in February. We had another successful Ashram retreat hosted at the church. Our youth gathered together with youth groups from FUMC Monroe and St Paul's to have a Lock-In where they enjoyed worship, games, and guest speakers all through the night.

Other fun events in February included a youth Valentines party where we played Valentines Bingo and studied one of my favorite verses in John 13:35, "Through this people will know that you are my disciples, by the way you love one another." And since some months I'm just a glutton for punishment, we planned another youth Lock-Out where we spent all evening going to different fun places around town, ending at midnight. But lots of laughs and memories were made, which always make the late nights worth it!

As March begins, the youth will be attending the annual Winter-Jam Christian music concert in Shreveport. This takes place on March 1st and has always been a great evening of worship. In March we will also begin studying our second spiritual discipline, reading scripture. We will hinge all of this on Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Please pray for us as we hope to ignite a passion for reading and memorizing scripture amongst our youth!

Our college ministry had a blast in February! The group has been wanting to cook together so one evening we got all the fixings for "breakfast at dinner." They split up into teams and made all kinds of different breakfast foods and to my surprise, it tasted great! We have also spent some time studying the book of Proverbs in February and will continue this study into March. This is a vital time in our college students' life to use wisdom and know where to find it. The book of Proverbs will provide an obvious blessing for this.

As we move into March, continue to pray for our youth and college ministries as they grow and develop. This month will focus even more on worship, study, and reflection as we move into the season of Lent. Pray that our students continue to experience a life giving relationship with Jesus Christ!

Trae Milam



Hey friends! We had such an awesome parents' night out this month that I'm hoping to have them more frequently, so keep an eye out for more information.

We have another awesome event coming up in March...Sundae Sunday! It'll be Sunday evening, March 24 from 6 to 8 pm. An ice cream sundae bar with ALL the fixins, messy games, and more.

Also we've got a theme and date set for VBS 2019. Our "miraculous Mission" VBS will be in the evenings on June 24-28, so mark your calendars. We're so excited about it!!

Lauren

Monroe District UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat
 All women are invited!!
 McGuire UMC
 2075 Arkansas Road, West Monroe
 Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective
 For Covenantal Living
 Registration begins at 9:30 am. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Breakfast, drinks, and dessert provided by McGuire.



Louisiana Conference of United Methodist Men is excited to host bass and golf tournaments for all men of the Conference. The event will be at the beautiful Cypress Bend Resort and Spa in Many, LA, May 17-19. Please complete a registration form (available in the church office and in Sunday School classes) if you would like to participate in this exciting event and help men's ministry in Louisiana! Our goal for this year is "Helping Men Know Christ." Please join us at Cypress Bend this May to help bring about this mission. You may also contact:

David Byerley,
 UM Men at 318/347-6664 or
 david.byerley@boehringer-ingelheim.com.



Sunday, March 3

This Sunday, we will have a guest from the Gideons in both services who will speak to us a few minutes about the work locally as well as around the world.

Sunday, March 10

We will observe holy communion on the 2nd Sunday in March instead of the 1st Sunday.

Vera Jordan Circle will meet Tuesday, March 19, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Stephanie Dunn with Glenwood Hospital will discuss Angioscreens. All women of the church are invited to attend this informative meeting.



FISHING TOURNAMENT
 May 18, 2019 Toledo Bend
 1st place \$3,000
 2nd place \$1,000
 3rd place \$500
 4th place \$250
 5th place \$150
 6-10 get pick of door prizes
 (Guarantee prizes with 50 boats)
 *Trailer Tournament
 Entry Fee \$150 per boat
 \$20 Big Bass per boat
 Checks made payable to LA Conference UMM.
 More information on registration form.

May 18, 2019 Cypress Bend
 James Poole Memorial
 Golf Tournament
 1st place \$1,000
 2nd place \$600
 3rd place \$400
 4-7 get pick of door prizes
 (Guarantee prizes with 18 teams)
 *4 Man Scrabble
 Entry Fee is \$300 per team
 Mulligans \$10 per team
 Checks made payable to LA Conference UMM
 More information on registration form.