

Happy birthday Jesus



December 2024
Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

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Join Us For Sunday Worship!

Modern Service

9:45 a.m.

Traditional Service

11:00 a.m.



PRAYER CORNER

O Lord God, give us new hearts, teach us a new way on earth, so that through your commandments all people may act in accordance with your Word and may become one. Only you can do this, working through your promised Holy Spirit, and you will do it in order that the earth may become a paradise, a heavenly kingdom pleasing to you. Let your words be written in our hearts, and help us to fulfill your commandments in our daily life. Only by carrying out your commandments may we foolish, sinful people be made perfect, our sins be forgiven, and everything become right and good in your sight. Stay with us, Lord God, our Father. Help us in everything. Let something new, something pleasing to you, soon come into our time. Put your commandments into our hearts, that peace may be restored to the glory of your name. Amen.

DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

Come, Let Us Adore Him

We are invited to consider the Preparations and the Passion of Advent so that we might embrace the Presence and Promise of the Christ who comes.



Dec. 1

Preparations

Luke 21:25-36

Dec. 8

Passion

Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 15

Presence

Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 22

Promise

Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 29

TBD

TBD



CHUCKLE CORNER

HAHAHAHAHAHA



HAHAHAHAHAHA

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
(John 1:5, NIV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing just before Thanksgiving, and I want to take a moment to say “Thank You” to everyone who helped out with this year’s Generosity Campaign. I am grateful for the many helpers who planned and worked to make the Campaign and the Generosity Sunday a success. It was so good to see so many folks in worship and at lunch on November 17. If you haven’t had a chance to return your pledge card and/or service survey, please mail or bring them to the church office before the first of the year.

The verse above is one that I preached on in my Top Ten Favorite Scriptures sermon series. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Winter is coming soon. Daylight Saving Time is over, and we’re back to light as God intended it. Darkness comes early and the days are getting shorter.

I remember walking to Bible study one night in January when I was in college at Huntingdon. We had just had a rare snowfall, and my friends and I were commenting on the beauty of the campus with a dusting of snow. As we were walking past the dining hall, I spied a small rose bush, with one single rose in bloom. There in the dead of winter was a sign of the spring to come.

God brings new life to us in the dead of winter. This is the good news of Christmas. God comes to us as a human, Emmanuel, God with us, in the midst of our suffering, our grief, our pain. Light shines in darkness. God doesn’t wait until humanity gets its collective act together to come to us. Instead, God meets us in our brokenness.

This year, we will be adding a new service to our Advent offerings. We will hold a Blue Christmas service on Dec. 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Blue Christmas services are open to anyone who is grieving, depressed, lonely, or otherwise hurting during the holiday season. We come together in a safe space to acknowledge our pain and to remember the hope that we claim in Christ.

We have a full slate of activities this month as we prepare to welcome the Christ-child to be born again in our hearts the Christmas. We hope that you will plan to join us to bring meaning to this season of gifts and giving.

Being your pastor has been an incredible gift to me this year. I pray that all of you will have a blessed Christmas season.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Lisa

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Our in-person support group draws on collective experiences and wisdom as we discuss mental health issues and find solutions.

NAMI Family Support Group
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Free In-Person & Online Support

You are invited to join us at our next meeting.

Dec. 3rd **FUMC Campus**
433 Erlanger Ave.
7:00 p.m. **Room 302**

Mental Health Matters

This confidential group is facilitated by NAMI TRAINED individuals!

FIRST CHURCH

Poinsettia Plant Sale

\$15 EACH

All orders must be submitted into the church office by **Dec. 8th!**

Coming Soon

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT SINGLES' MEET AND GREET!

Chat & Chill
Singles' Group

Affiliated with First Church Methodist Church in Slidell

SAT., DEC. 7TH | 1 - 3
ROOTS PLANTS + COFFEE
124 ERLANGER AVE. | SLIDELL

OUR YOUTH MUSIC GROUP IS LOOKING FOR SINGERS!

- Are you in Junior High or High School?
- Can you sing or play an instrument?
- Do you love to perform?

JOIN US!

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. | Music Suite

HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY ALWAYS WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN A WORSHIP SERVICE?

Advent IS THE PERFECT TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

We invite you, your family or friends to **LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH!**

To sign up, please contact Leslie Landeche at 643-6437 or llandeche@firsttumeslidell.org

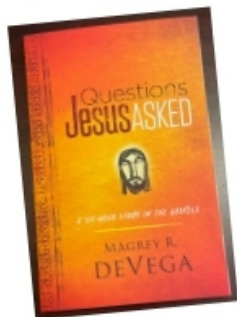
Faith BELIEVERS Luncheon
FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • FUN

JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER LUNCHEON!

Faith Believers will have their Holiday Time at their luncheon on **December 11th** in the **Family Life Center**. Gumbo will be served and the **Holiday Fun begins at 11 a.m.!**

The Faith Believers decided to pull two names from the Rainbow Childcare Christmas Wishes Tree. **We have a 4 year old little boy who asked for a Bike and a 9 year old little girl who would like to have skates.** I wonder if SANTA will bring them their wishes.

HAVE A BLESSED AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!



**** COMING JANUARY 5, 2025! ****

Questions Jesus Asked by Magrey DeVega

We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us.

- What do you live for?
- Who do you say that I am?
- Why are you afraid?

Join a 6-week study in Room 108 at 9:30 a.m. as we reflect on these simple but transformative questions.
Contact Rick Rawle at 985-285-1027 for more information.

"RADICLE METHODISM- GETTING TO THE ROOT OF US" STUDY

Pastor Lisa will be leading a group through the four week study beginning in January!

Sunday nights Jan. 19th through Feb. 9th 5:00 p.m.

The Gathering Place

Please see Pastor Lisa for more information.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR NATIVITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR NATIVITY CELEBRATION!

* Registration forms can be found in the Narthex or church office! *

Contact Susan Walgamotte for more information or to register your Nativity!

985-643-6437



KIDS CLUB Sundays 9:45 a.m.

- Pre-K 3/4 & Kindergarten
Room 501
- Grades 1-6
Treehouse Room



KIDS CHURCH Sundays 11:00 a.m.

- Gather in Sanctuary, then
to the Treehouse Room



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SMALL GROUP Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

- Media Room



Kids Club started our advent study, *Journey to Bethlehem*, early on Nov. 24th.



No Kids Club or Kids Church on **Dec. 22nd** or **29th**.



Join us December 7th in the Treehouse Room from 5:30-8 p.m. for our **Kickoff to Christmas!** Wear your PJ's and come hangout and watch a Christmas movie, have some snacks and make a craft. To sign up, please text Lisa Carlton at 985-966-8660.

FUMC Children's Ministry & Preschool would like to thank everyone who made getting a new playground fence possible! We couldn't be happier with how it turned out!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US FOR CONFIRMATION!

We will begin meeting regularly in January. If you know of a 7th or 8th grader that is interested please have them contact Lisa Carlton 985-966-8660 or Abby Carlton Wright 985-503-4953.

For More Information:



Lisa Carlton
985.966.8660



YOUTH SUNDAY CLASS | 11:00 a.m. YOUTH SUNDAY EVENING CLASS | 5:00-7:00 p.m.

- Youth Room (Back of Gym)

Jesus is The Reason for the Season!



As we prepare for Christmas, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of gifts, parties, and all the fun traditions. But amid all the hustle and bustle, let's pause to remember what **this season is truly about: the incredible gift of Jesus.**

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." *Christmas is a celebration of this amazing truth—that God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to bring light into the world.*

As we exchange gifts and celebrate with loved ones, let's remember **the greatest gift we've ever received: God's love and salvation.** This gift isn't something we earn or deserve—it's freely given. Let's share this love with others. When we share God's love, we reflect the heart of Christmas.

During our time together this month we will be doing a study on Advent. **Our Christmas party will be on December 15th and we will be off on December 22nd and 29th.**

Let's keep Jesus at the center of this season, and may your Christmas be filled with peace, joy, and the love of Christ.

If you or someone you know is going into the 6th - 12th grade, we would love for you to join us!

For More Information:



crossroads@firstumcslidell.org

- *1 Timothy 4:12 – "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*

Garol Singing **Chancel Choir**

Lessons & Carols

Solos **Gherabitz Galmes** **Welkiz Bell**

Sunday, Dec. 15
6:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

No choir rehearsal on December 18th, 25th, or January 1st!
We will resume on Jan. 8th!

*Do you love music?
We have a place for you!*

Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Praise Band Rehearsal
Sundays @ 8:30 p.m.

Contact Nathan for info on our music ministries!

Nathan
(601) 297-8061

nathand.sumrall@gmail.com

Welkin Handbell Choir

We are busy and having FUN!
How awesome to have 9 ringers!
We have 2 octaves of bells not being used so there is room for YOU!
Youth and Adults are welcome!

Cherubim Chimes

We can ring with 4, ring with 6, ring with 7, ring 3-octave music, and enjoy the variety of techniques that makes ringing truly enjoyable—mallets, singing bells, bell tree and other.

We look forward to sharing the message of Christmas, the story of the Christmas Star with you on December 15th.

Contact Director Barbara Williams!

(985) 768-2407
Text or leave a message

barbara.williams110@gmail.com



December Singer Spotlight

Clayton Burbee

How long have you been singing?
I've been singing for as long as I can remember. When I was old enough, I joined the Jr. Choir and began singing in the FUMC Choir after my solo debut on November 6, 20916, and I haven't looked back!

What do you like most about First Church?
I love singing the old standards with the congregation.

What is your occupation?
I worked for Boh Bros. Construction for 42 years as a Field Auditor doing payroll, approving invoices, tracking equipment, billing jobs, and whatever else the bosses had me do.

What are your hobbies?
My hobbies would be reading and music. I love singing it, playing it, and listening to it. I have a rather large library of records, tapes, and CDs, which I keep meticulously cataloged because I am OCD.

Favorite anthem we have sung?
My favorite anthem would be "The New 23rd" by Ralph Carmichael, which we have never done.....Nathan!!

OUR YOUTH MUSIC GROUP IS LOOKING FOR SINGERS!

- Are you in Junior High or High School?
- Can you sing or play an instrument?
- Do you love to perform?

JOIN US!

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. | Music Suite

GOT QUESTIONS?
Call or text Sarah Malasovich at 985-707-3363.



THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE WISHES EVERYONE A

MERRY CHRISTMAS



If you are attending contact Jane Moore at 404.895.0277

You Are Invited to our
Christmas Luncheon!

Thursday, Dec. 12th
11:30 a.m.
276 Rue Piper • Slidell

NUTS ARE IN!



You can pick up your nuts between services! We also have some for sale!

got change?

Your spare change can **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



Please drop your coins (or cash) in the jar located in the Narthex!



THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE WILL BE USING ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED TO FUND HOMELESS TEENS OF ST. TAMMANY!

THE RAINBOW TREE IS UP IN THE NARTHEX!

You can make a child's Christmas!
It's easy as 1-2-3!

1. Pick a wish card from the tree.
2. Purchase gifts/toys from the wish card.
3. Return wrapped gifts and wish card to the tree by DEC. 8th!



Feed Dat Ministry

Distributing food to those in need one bag at a time!

THURSDAYS 9-11 AM



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Please Consider Volunteering Your Time with Feed Dat Ministry. We have the following volunteer opportunities available every week:

WEDNESDAY

8:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
Food Delivery

THURSDAY



9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
Distribution

WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS

4-SESSION VIDEO BIBLE STUDY

ANDY STANLEY

Thursday evenings, 11/21 - 12/19
6:00 pm (The Gathering Place)

Wednesdays

10:00 am, 11/20 - 12/18, (The Gathering Place)

~~7:00 pm, 11/27 - 12/18, (Media Room)~~

Sundays, 12/1 - 12/22: 9:30 am (room 108)

9:45 am (room 107)

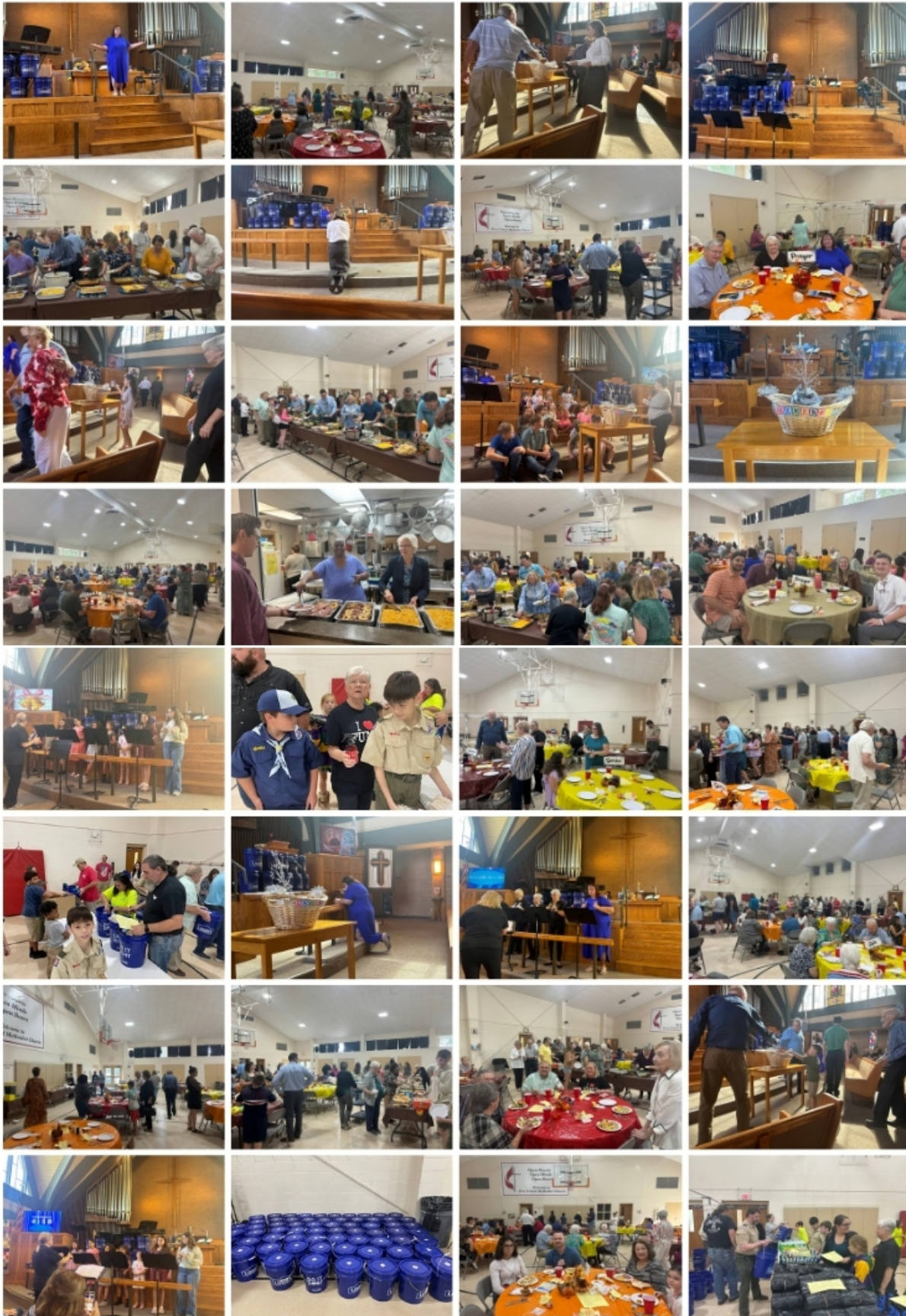
5:00 pm (The Gathering Place)

\$5.00
DONATION
PER BOOK



The Wednesday night session of this class has been cancelled. Please see the other opportunities available above. If you have any questions, please call Leslie Landeche at 985-290-0462.

Generosity Sunday Recap



The
A B C S
of Generosity

FUMC of Slidell
**Generosity
Sunday**

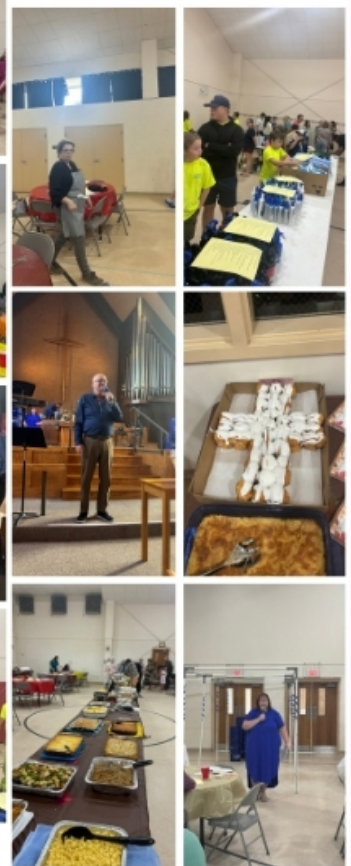
11/17/24

We left Generosity Sunday in awe, First Church Fam! God was at work as we witnessed our church give above and beyond!

We thank God for each of you for your incredible generosity in giving, volunteering and helping make this event a success!

We love our First Church Fam! We can't wait to be together again this Sunday!

Enjoy the 2024 Generosity Sunday Recap!



thank you

Pastor Lisa Pridmore and the entire office staff would like to say Thank You to the lovely group of women who graciously give of their time to be the Receptionist in the Church Office. To answer the phone, handle the mail, help with various mailings throughout the year, we so appreciate you. I would like to acknowledge them each by name; **Ginny Payne, Suzanne Switzer, Gay Barnett, Debbie Voss, Marlene Alonzo and Connie Furr.** For those who fill in from time to time we thank you as well.

To the Ministry of Feed Dat managed by Dow Manlove, we would to say Thank You. You all work each week to help full-fill the Ministry of providing food to our local community. We have volunteers from within our congregation as well volunteers from with our community that have been unloading trucks , separating food as well as bagging it each week. After a morning Devotion on Thursday mornings, we welcome the community and provide food to those in need. We thank you for your time to help serve this Ministry.

First United Methodist Church has so **many volunteers** who give of their time in so many ways all year long. They do a multitude of things to serve our Church. We would like to extend to you our thanks and gratitude.

FUMC Church Staff

*Happy
Holidays*

In closing, the Church Staff would like to wish all of you and your family the most Glorious Holiday.



Scouting America™

Troop 562 is at Thanksgiving Camp and wishing everyone a great Thanksgiving. We recently help complete the Flood Buckets project with FUMC and did a great job cleaning everything up as well.

As a reminder, "Boy Scouts" are now referred to as just "Scouts" or Scouts BSA Troop. The big umbrella name of Boy Scouts of America is now Scouting America. This reflects the inclusion of young ladies into the program. In fact Troop 562 here at FUMC was the first troop in Slidell to welcome young ladies!

We have a Cub Scout Pack! **Pack 562 is a family pack welcoming boys and girls ages 5-10.**

Cub Scouts is packed with exciting, hands-on activities and unforgettable experiences! Whether you're in kindergarten or fifth grade, you'll have a blast in Cub Scouts. **Imagine learning to tie knots like a pro, pitching a tent under the stars at Camp V-Bar, visiting the New Orleans Zoo, or cheering at a college football bowl game in the Superdome!**

*Have you ever cooked a meal over a campfire?
Sent secret codes to friends? Built a birdhouse?
Tried ultimate frisbee or hiking?
In Cub Scouts, you'll do all this and earn awesome rewards along the way!*

Cub Scouts get to explore and go places most people only dream about. *Ever wondered what it's like to sit in the driver's seat of a fire ruck? Talk with police officers at the station? Or sit in the anchor chair at a local TV studio? These are just some of the exciting trips you'll take with your pack!*

Plus, you'll get to build and race your own pinewood derby car, launch sailboats in the Raingutter regatta, and compete in the space derby with your very own spaceship model!
JOIN US IN PLANNING AN EPIC YEAR OF SCOUTING!

For more info, contact
Ms. Catrina Garrett, our Scouting Coordinator, at
SlidellPack562@gmail.com

The star of the show was the delicious Apple Cobbler cooked in cast iron over coals!



Generosity Witness

Good morning! This is the Day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and give thanks in it! Amen! Our Conference bishop, Dr. Dolores Williamston, has requested we keep 3 action words in mind when we do ministry: Build, Connect and Equip. *That's Build, Connect and Equip.*

Let's start with Connect. My wife Marilyn and I moved to Slidell in 1980, in Biblical terms, that's a Generation ago. It is amazing how quickly a generation can pass when you belong to a loving church. We were invited to First Church by a coworker, that was Rick Rawle. Never underestimate the enduring quality to Connect.

The next action word is Build. One of our former Sr Pastors, Rev. Joe McClain, had this to say, "You can't be "Standing on the Promises", if you're sitting on the premises." There are many opportunities to be involved in church ministry, to Build our presence in Slidell. To Build generosity, Rev. Joe McClain shared this Sage Proverb: "Money, he said, is like horse manure, it's no good unless you spread it around! And if you work to pile it up, it soon begins to stink". Spreading it around, is way more fun!

Our third action word is Equip.

One of the Sunday School teachers my girls had was Ms. Emily McGee. She was a retired elementary school teacher and established the 3rd Grade Bible Fund and faithfully added to it year after year. That fund is still active today. We've had a lot of 3rd Graders Equipped with Bibles for over a generation of years because of her generosity and we are grateful. Some of those 3rd Graders are United Methodist ministers today. We've had our floods, hurricanes, pandemics and tornadoes, but in this season of Generosity, let's Build, Connect and Equip. Thank You!! -- Rich Jeppesen




Thank You For Your Generosity!

- A. Thank You for Your Gifts!
- B. Thank You for Your Talents!
- C. Thank You for Your Presence!
- D. Thank You for Your Witness!
- E. Thank You for Your Generosity

Card! ** Please Turn One In, It's Not Too Late! Your Generosity Card is Important to Your Church!*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Give more, tax-free: Eligible IRA owners can donate up to \$105,000 to charity in 2024!

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service reminds individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70½ and older that they can make up to \$105,000 in tax-free charitable donations during 2024 through qualified charitable distributions. That's up from \$100,000 in past years. For those age 73 or older, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) also count toward the year's required minimum distribution (RMD).

Generally, IRA distributions are taxable, but QCDs remain tax-free if sent directly to a qualified charity by the trustee. To make a QCD for 2024, IRA owners should contact their IRA trustee soon to ensure the transaction completes by year-end. Each eligible IRA owner can exclude up to \$105,000 in QCDs from taxable income. Married couples, if both meet qualifications and have separate IRAs, can donate up to \$210,000 combined. QCDs don't require itemizing deductions. For those planning ahead, starting this year, the QCD limit is subject to annual adjustment, based on inflation. For that reason, the annual QCD limit will rise to \$108,000 in 2025.

Reporting and documenting QCDs

For 2024, QCDs should be reported on the 2024 tax return. IRA trustees will issue Form 1099-R, Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc., in early 2025 documenting IRA distributions. The full amount of any IRA distribution goes on Line 4a of Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, or Form 1040-SR, U.S. Tax Return for Seniors. Enter "0" on Line 4b if the full amount is a QCD, marking it as such.

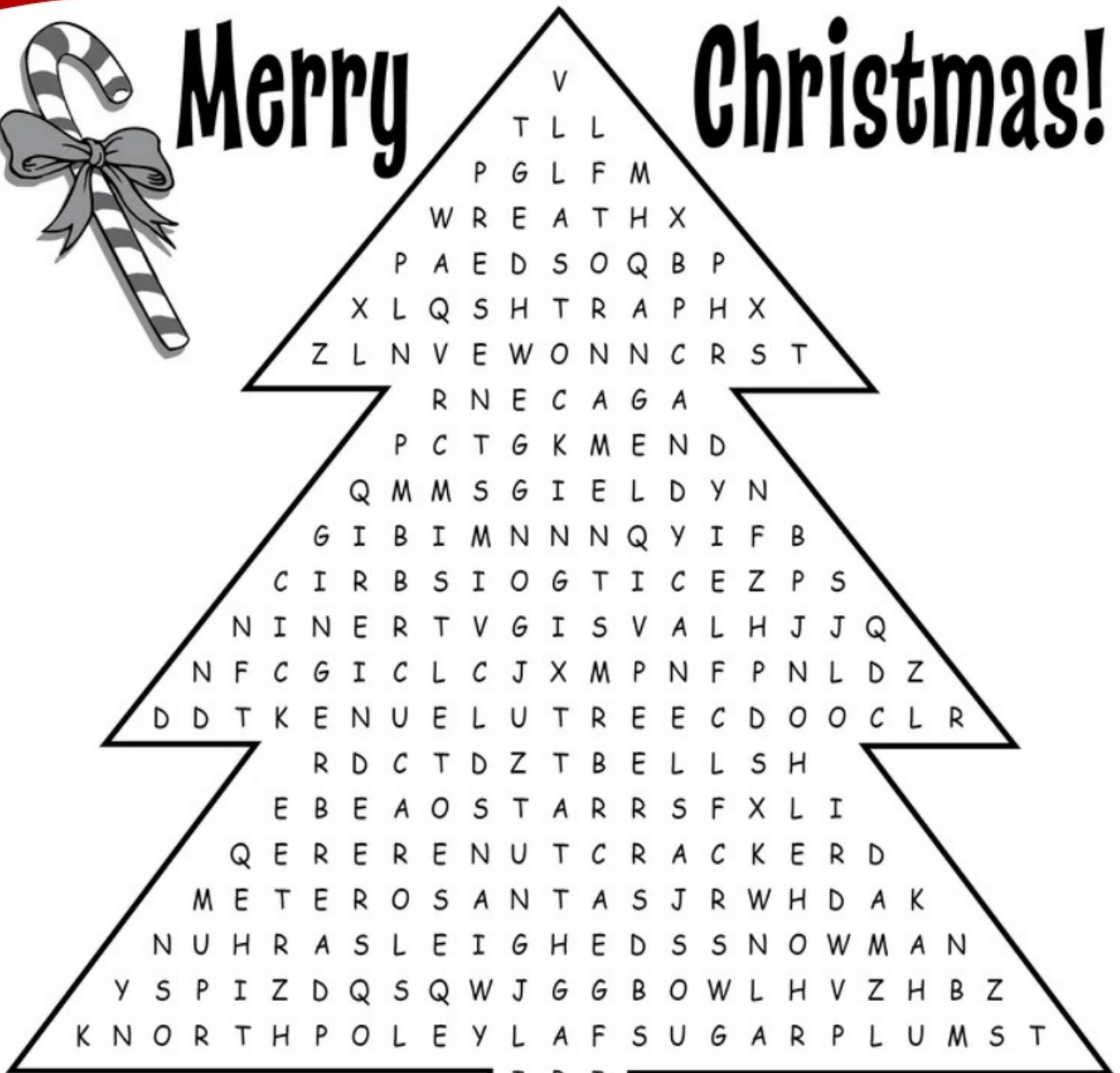
Donors must obtain a written acknowledgement from the charity showing the contribution date, amount and confirmation that no goods or services were received.

For more details, see Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, and Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)



Merry

Christmas!



ANGEL
BELLS
BOW
CANDY
CANE
CAROLS
EGGNOG
ELF
GARLAND
GINGERBREAD
HOLLY
LIGHTS
MISTLETOE
NORTH
POLE
NUTCRACKER

I R I
G L H
H A O
T N L
S D L
Y L Y



ORNAMENTS
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SANTA
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
STAR
STOCKING
SUGARPLUMS
TREE
WREATH

December Events

1st
Youth Advent Study Begins

5th
 **Family Support Group**
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Free In-Person & Online Support
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Room 302

7th
 **Meet & Greet**
1 - 3 p.m.
Roots Plants + Coffee

7th
 **Kids PJ Christmas Party**
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Treehouse Room

8th
Poinsettia Order Forms Due!



8th
Rainbow Tree Gifts Due!



11th
 **Luncheon**
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Family Life Center

12th
 **Christmas Luncheon**
11:30 a.m.
See page 8 for location.

15th
 **Lessons & Carols**
6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

15th
Youth Christmas Party!



19th
Preschool Christmas Program
10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



22nd
NO:
• Kids Church
• Kids Club
• Youth

22nd
Blue Christmas Service
4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary



24th
Christmas Eve Services
3:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary



24th, 25th & 26th
CLOSED
Church office is closed.

25th
Merry Christmas



25th
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS



29th
ONLY ONE SERVICE!
10:00 a.m.



29th
NO:
• Kids Church
• Kids Club
• Youth


31st
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Church office is closed.




Jan
Mark Your Calendars for these Jan. Events!

1st
2025 HAPPY NEW YEAR
Church office is closed.

5th
Questions Jesus Asked by Magrey DeVega SIX Week Study
9:30 a.m.
Room 108

7th
 **Family Support Group**
National Alliance on Mental Illness
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Room 302

8th
 **Luncheon**
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Family Life Center

Begins **19th** Sunday nights through Feb. 9th
"Radicle Methodism- Getting to the Root of Us" STUDY
5:00 a.m.
The Gathering Place



433 Erlanger Ave.
Slidell, LA 70458



985.643.6437



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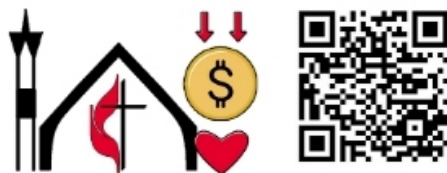


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SCAN TO GIVE TO FUMC



**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for
the Transformation Of Our Community**