

*Happy  
New Year!*

2025

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.  
-2 Corinthians 5:17**

**January 2025 Newsletter**



# JANUARY 2025

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# Join Us For Sunday Worship!

**Modern Service**

9:45 a.m.

**Traditional Service**

11:00 a.m.



## Let's Give an FUMC Welcome our New First Church Family Members!

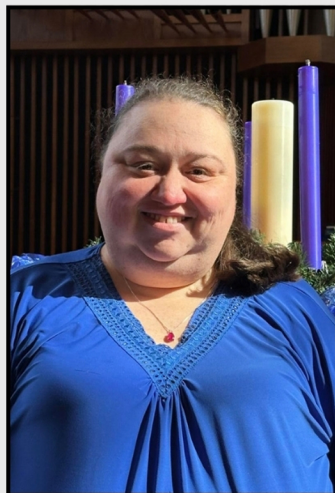
**Cheryl Davis  
and  
Yolanda Molina**

Cheryl and Yolanda have recently joined the First Church Family. They both worship at the 11:00 a.m. service and come early for Sunday morning classes.

If you have not yet met them, please seek them out and say hello!



**Cheryl**



**Yolanda**



## JANUARY SERMON SERIES

### Series: The Story Continues

The Christmas Story concludes with the coming of the Wise Men and the Baptism of Jesus.



**Jan. 5**

**Come and Worship**

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

**Jan. 12**

**I Will Be With You**

Isaiah 43:1-7 and  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)

### Series: Soul Reset

We use Junius B. Dotson's book, "Soul Reset" as a jumping off point for talking about "breakdown, breakthrough, and the journey to wholeness."

**Jan. 19**

**How Is It with Your Soul?**

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

**Jan. 26**

**When Depression Hits**

Psalms 42:3-11 (NIV)



## Prayer of the Month

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as in heaven. May this continue to be our prayer in the new year, and may we find fellowship with one another in what is eternal and holy. Bless us on our way. Bless us on our earthly pilgrimage so that we may remain free from all bondage, able to thank you day and night for all the good you do, even when things look very dark. We praise your name and we pray as the Savior has taught us. Amen.



## PASTOR LISA'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is the beginning of a new year! I hope that all of you have had a blessed Christmas holiday and are enjoying the new year. January is a special time for me. I began my first pastoral appointment on January 1, 1997. Port Murray UMC was a congregation that had been around for over a hundred years when I got there. The total membership, not worship attendance, the total membership was 18. No, I haven't left off any zeros. 18 people. Total. Children included. They were deeply suspicious of women pastors and the fact that I was all of 25 years old wasn't helping anything. It was a year of firsts – my first funeral only 2 weeks after I arrived, my first baptism, my first wedding, my first Christmas service, my first Easter service. They wound up being a wonderful congregation for a rookie pastor, and I still exchange Christmas cards with some of them.

Each new year brings new challenges and new celebrations. We are still in our first year journeying in ministry together. This year we will make our first journey through Lent and celebrate Easter together for the first time. I am bringing a couple of new ministry offerings for the new year. First, I am offering a short-term Sunday evening study beginning January 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place, called “Radicle Methodism”. This is joint effort of the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Archives and History which looks at the origins of the Methodist movement. We will meet for 4 Sundays. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge for the study.

Second, I will be starting a sermon series on January 12 based on the book, “Soul Reset” by Junius B. Dotson. Sometimes we feel burned out after the excitement and busyness of the holidays wears off. The book was born from Rev. Dotson's experience of depression and burnout in ministry. He shares what he learned about self-care and soul-care. I will be sharing some of his lessons along with my own experiences. I hope this series will be helpful to you all as we begin a new year together.

Thank you all for your expressions of love and kindness during Christmas. I am blessed and honored to be your pastor. I can't wait to see what God is going to do in our lives and in our church in 2025. I pray you all have a joyous New Year.

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Lisa*

**“And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
‘See, I am making all things new.’” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV)**



*Thank you* 

The First Church staff would like to say THANK YOU! to the entire congregation and the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee for your generous support. We've received many delicious treats, a Christmas celebration after our staff meeting, and a much appreciated bonus. We are blessed to be working in ministry with you all - making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**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**

National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Family Support Group**

Free In-Person & Online Support

You are invited to join us at our next meeting.

**Jan. 7th**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**FUMC Campus**  
433 Erlanger Ave.

**Room 302**

This confidential group is facilitated by NAMI TRAINED individuals!




**Faith BELIEVERS Luncheon**  
FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • FUN

**January 15th**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Family Life Center

Speaker will be from SummerHouse Park Provence speaking on the importance of visitation to friends & family.

Speaker will be from SummerHouse Park Provence speaking on the importance of visitation to friends & family in an independent living, assisted living or memory care facility. Please invite family or friends to join us to hear the important message of making these visits. **Cost is \$8.00 each** and we will begin at 11:00 AM with our speaker to begin at 11:45 AM.

It is important to mention that should you wish to continue with having these luncheons, attendance must increase. With this being said, should any of you wish to plan for a speaker that you feel would be of interest to the group please feel free to do so. All I would ask is that you provide me the details in order that I can get it in the Newsletter to let other know.

For those of you who might remember the Wednesday Night Dinners, this is the reason we had to discontinue them. Back a few years again food cost wasn't like it is now. All idea welcome. **Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!**

ARE YOU NEW TO FUMC OF SLIDELL? COME JOIN US!

**COFFEE CONVO** with *Pastor Lisa*



**Coffee Menu**

**2.16.25**  
4:00 p.m.  
The Gathering Place

Always On The Menu:

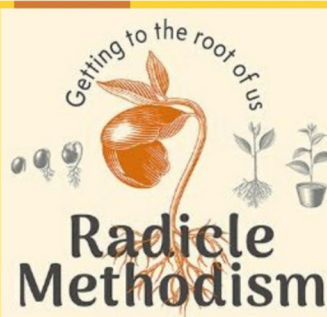
- Delicious Coffee
- Great Conversation
- A Good Time

Contact Leslie Landeche for more information!  
985.643.6437  
llandeche@firstumcslidell.org

**6 Week Youth Art Class** 

Begins **January 16th!**

Getting to the root of us



**Radicle Methodism**

**STUDY**

**JOIN PASTOR LISA FOR THIS UPCOMING STUDY!**

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

**Sunday nights**  
**Jan. 19th - Feb. 9th**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**The Gathering Place**

Please see Pastor Lisa for more information.





A big shout out and many thanks to **Bryan Dailey and Mike Miller** for modifying the Organ pit so the new Organ will fit when it is delivered! We appreciate you both for your time and excellent job!



Thank you to Mr. Jeff Huse for being such an amazing Santa!



Thank you to our music director, Nathan Sumrall for organizing the amazing **Lessons & Carols** musical event!

Thank you to all the wonderful performers who shared their beautiful talents with us!



Our **Nativity Celebration** changed location in 2024 and the response was everyone truly enjoyed the Nativities being in the Sanctuary. We had a total of 11 individuals who shared with us their personal nativities. The combination of Lessons & Carols made both events even more special.

We surely have room to grow our event and would love to have anyone who would be interested come and fine their spot in the Celebration.

Thank you to everyone and look forward to our celebration on **Dec. 14, 2025**.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Christmas Eve Spontaneous Nativity





# KIDS & YOUTH



## 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 & Kids Church will resume to normal times starting January 12th.



Confirmation will meet regularly starting January 26th.



**Preschool Fall of 25 will open to currently enrolled and church members January 27th.**

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)

Happy New Year! January is the perfect time for renewed commitments and fresh starts. As we step into 2025, let us look forward to the new and exciting things God has planned for us. We are excited for the year ahead. Let's make 2025 a year of renewed faith and new beginnings.



We are off on January 5th and **come back on January 12th with Dark Games (Hide and Seek)! This will be an extended night (5:00 – 8:00).** This is one of our students' favorite nights. Bring a friend or 2.

**WE ARE REMINDED THAT EVEN IN THE DARKNESS THAT JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

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](mailto: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.”



# MUSIC MINISTRIES



## WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

**Choir Rehearsals**  
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
Music Suite

**Handbell Rehearsals**  
Thursdays at 7 p.m.  
Music Suite

**Praise Team Rehearsals**  
Sundays at 8:45 a.m.  
the Sanctuary

**Children's Chimes Choir**  
Resuming in the spring—  
stay tuned for updates!

Happy New Year! As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible time, gifts, and talents shared by so many in our music ministries. Each rehearsal, anthem, and performance has been a testament to the dedication and spirit of this congregation.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited to see how God will continue to use music to touch lives and bring us closer together. If you've ever considered joining one of our music ministries, now is the perfect time! There's a place for everyone, no matter your experience level.

Let's make 2025 a year filled with joyful music and meaningful connections! If you have any questions about joining a music ministry or just want to learn more, I'd love to hear from you.

Blessings,  
Nathan Sumrall



nathand.sumrall@gmail.com



Nathan  
(601) 297-8061



## Jesus And Music

### WE ARE "RINGING" IN THE NEW YEAR!

- weekly fun and experiment time: peals, drills, bell tree, and other "toys" of the trade!
- sight reading music for spring!
- selecting and rehearsing music to ring in church!
- plans for "Spring Ring" day in March!

Please join us on Thursdays, starting January 9th in the Music Suite!

All youth and adult ages welcome!

Contact Director  
Barbara Williams!



(985) 768-2407  
Text or leave a message



barbara.williams110@gmail.com

## 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?



**Tuesdays**  
**6:30 p.m. | Music Suite**

GOT QUESTIONS?

Call or text Sarah Malasovich at 985-707-3363.



# MISSIONS

**JOIN US FOR OUR  
UPCOMING FIELD TRIP!**



**Thurs., Jan. 9, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
Sager Brown  
Warehouse in  
Baldwin, La**

**WE WILL BE DELIVERING 104 Cleaning Kits!**

We will be eating lunch with them, at a cost of \$10 a person, so it's important to know how many are going. We will take the church vans, but if there's more than that someone will have to drive.

**Reserve your seats by Monday, January 6th!!!!**

**Call or email Kathy Huse: 985-707-3108 or  
jkhuse201@bellsouth.net**

## **2024 YEARLY MISSIONS REPORT**

Your Missions Committee has been very busy this year! With your generous donations and/or contributions we have been able to accomplish a great number of local and worldwide deeds for positive differences.

Such as:

- Monetary donations from proceeds of Pumpkin Patch:
- Kairos Campus Ministry
- Rainbow Child Care
- La Methodist Children & Family Services
- New Orleans Mission
- Family Promise of St Tammany
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Giving Hope Retreat (NO Mission in Lacombe)
- Boys and Girls Club
- Community Christian Concern
- Feed Dat Food Distribution
- St. Marks UMC Feeding Ministry
- One Way Love
- Safe Harbor

We've also:

- Collected much needed supplies for the La Methodist Children & Family Services
- Send monthly food supplies to our Cuba Sister Church
- Collected and delivered 8 bicycles to "Bikes w/o Borders" to the Wesley Center at Southeastern University
- Collected and delivered Christmas presents from the Rainbow Giving Tree
- We collect coins for Homeless Teens in St. Tammany Parish to purchase personal supplies, Uber cards, pay school fees, etc.
- Made Christmas stockings for Homeless Teens
- Delivered 104 Cleaning Kits for Sager Brown Warehouse in Baldwin, La for Disaster Relief

Thank you all for your continued support.

*Kathy Huse, Missions Committee Chair*



**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**



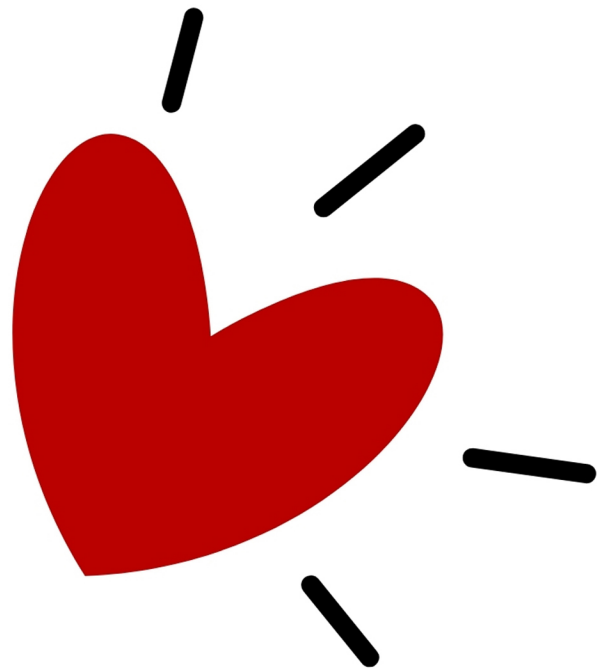
Wow, what a wonderful month December was here at FUMC Slidell. As we went through the celebration of the Advent season, we were reminded of the many traditions that make this Church feel like home for so many in our congregation. Whether that is selecting wish cards and bringing in gifts for the rainbow tree kids, enjoying the musical talents on display at Lessons & Carols, celebrating at Christmas parties, or participating in our Spontaneous Nativity or Christmas Eve services. All of these are made possible by the gifts of you, our congregation, through your generosity, time, talents, and prayers. We thank you wholeheartedly for all that you give to this church!

As we head into January we are firming up plans for the new year. Some of our committees and organizations are seeing new members or leaders cycle in, while others are holding constant. We all have plans for what the ministries of this church can do in 2025. When we wrapped up the stewardship campaign on generosity Sunday in November we began collecting pledge cards for 2025. While it is customary for pledges to roll in over the period of the next few months, we are still lacking many from members both new and old. Whether you have pledged in the past and aren't making a change to your commitment, or if you have never been through the pledging process before, if possible please let us know what your expected gifts are for the upcoming year. Having this knowledge is vital to making plans for our Ministries. Pledge cards are still available or you could always call or stop by and see Susan Walgomotte in the church office to update your pledge for this year.

Thanks again and have a blessed 2025,

The FUMC Slidell Finance Team

**Thank  
You**







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 truck? 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](mailto:SlidellPack562@gmail.com)*



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





**PUZZLE**  
Theme: New Year

I H R E H C A E T L B H G I R G S  
X T B O W F R I E N D S C O Y T O  
C O M M A N D M E N T S I A C V E  
G R S T U D E N T S M V R T E V E  
H Y M A A H C A E T A P S V I R V  
A P I R R E W Z Z H W C H G Q Z P  
P X L G A L G D E L H O N X C Z B  
P Z E H Q B F B O O U X L O B G N  
Y B Q M A I O V O S X M N E F V Q  
N T W Z J B E L N R N A O N A F R  
F O R G I V E C M Z V A J O S R R  
X M Y E R A H S I H D Q C E P N N  
N S U N D A Y J C L N J P K S D F  
P I F J Y W M R U G E B P Z S U G  
T V M D M L U N E W Y E A R H Q S  
F H C R U H C Q W S T U N B Y W Y  
O I X R C S N O I T U L O S E R S

COMMANDMENTS  
STUDENTS  
FRIENDS  
SUNDAY  
SHARE  
HAPPY

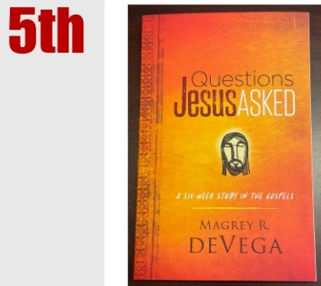
CHURCH VAN  
NEW YEAR  
PREACH  
CHURCH  
BIBLE  
LOVE

RESOLUTION  
FORGIVE  
SNACKS  
SMILE  
LEARN  
GIVE

BEHAVIOR  
TEACHER  
SCHOOL  
TEACH  
JESUS  
PRAY



**1st** Happy New Year  
**2025**



**Rick Rawle's**  
**6-week Study Begins**  
Room 108 | 9:30 a.m.

**15th**

**7th** **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

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



You are invited to join us at our next meeting.  
**Jan. 7th FUMC Campus**  
**7:00 p.m. Room 302**  
433 Erlanger Ave.  
This confidential group is facilitated by NAMI TRAINED individuals!

**16th**

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**COFFEE CONVO** with Pastor Lisa

**2.16.25**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**The Gathering Place**

Always On The Menu:  
• Delicious Coffee  
• Great Conversation  
• A Good Time

Contact Leslie Landeche for more information!  
985.643.6437  
llandeche@firstumcslidell.org

**6 Week Youth Art Class Begins!**



**8th**

**Choir Resumes**

**9th**

**Missions Field Trip**  
9:00 a.m.  
Sager Brown Warehouse  
Baldwin, La

**19th**

Getting to the root of us

**Radicale Methodism**

**STUDY**

**JOIN PASTOR LISA FOR THIS UPCOMING STUDY!**

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

**Sunday nights**  
**Jan. 19th - Feb. 9th**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**The Gathering Place**  
Please see Pastor Lisa for more information.

**12th**

**Kids Club & Kids Church Resumes!**



**Youth Resumes with a game of Dark Hide & Seek**  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**27th**

**Preschool enrollment begins for those currently enrolled or church members!**





433 Erlanger Ave.  
Slidell, LA 70458

 985.643.6437

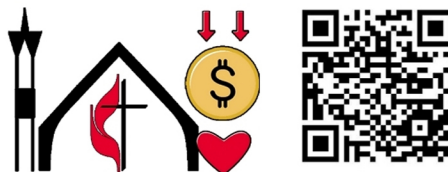
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 [www.firstumcslidell.org](http://www.firstumcslidell.org)

SCAN TO GIVE TO FUMC



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