

# FUMC Newsletter

February 2025

## PASTOR LISA'S LETTER

*"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. . . . And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13; NRSV)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing on my first day back in the office after the great snowstorm of 2025! That was an amazing display of God's beauty and power. I've enjoyed seeing pictures of beautiful snow-covered scenery and families playing together out in the snow. Sometimes, what we really need is a break and a deep breath. I hope that all of you were safe and warm during the storm.

February is here and with it comes the celebration of Valentine's Day. Even if you don't have a sweetheart to celebrate with, the idea of taking a day and celebrating love itself is not a bad idea. Paul gives us the quintessential definition of love from a Christian perspective. In the quote above, Paul describes love as kind and patient and free from selfishness and self-seeking. Love is everlasting, far apart from any circumstances that might try to hinder it.

It's important to note here that while Valentine's Day in the US is generally associated strictly with romantic love, that is absolutely not what Paul was referring to. The Greek language in Paul's day had more than one word for love. *Phileo* referred to love between friends or brothers (think Philadelphia - city of brotherly love). *Eros* was the word for romantic love. Neither of these words are used by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13. Instead, the Greek word we translate as love in this passage is *agape*.

*Agape* love is sacrificial love. It is the love that allow a person to put their spouse or partner first sometimes. It is the love that allows a parent to stay up all night nursing a sick child. It is the love that binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the love that kept Jesus on the cross for us. *Agape* isn't just a feeling, although it may be accompanied by feelings. *Agape* is a choice, to love courageously whether that love is returned or not. *Agape* is a conscious decision to extend love and grace to one another without considering the outcome or what is in it for us.

So much of our society is based on transactions - I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine. Paul, motivated by Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, encourages us to set down our calculators, rulers, and measuring sticks. Paul calls us to love, to be patient, to be kind. After all, faith, hope, and love are all still with us. And the greatest of these is love.

I encourage you to take time this month to spread some *agape* love to others. Offer love, grace, and peace to a stranger. Show kindness to the driver who cuts you off in traffic. Forgive those who have wronged you. Remember that God loves you more than you can imagine. Share a little of that boundless love with your fellow children of God each day!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Lisa

### SNOW DAY - 1/21/25



### DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS BOOK?



It was the last Pictorial Directory the church did, back in 2007!! I think it would be great for First Church to have a 2025 version. We're looking for someone to head up a committee to take on this mission. And lots of volunteers, too!

If interested, please contact Kathy Huse. 985-707-3108 or Jkhuse201@bellsouth.net

## FAITH BELIEVERS AND GIVING



Faith Believers presented *Claire Batiste* a shawl in remembrance of her son. His favorite color was red. They also gave her husband a lap blanket and he loved it. She was so appreciative of all the FUMC did for her and her family.

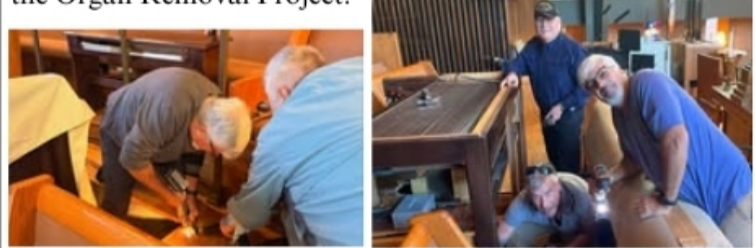
We also presented *Pastor Lisa* a shawl to show how much they appreciate her and her service to FUMC!



If anyone needs a prayer shawl, please call the church office.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to Mike Miller, Bob Manetta, Warren Woods, Bryan Dailey and Madison Lindsey working hard on the Organ Removal Project!



## JOIN US ON ASH WEDNESDAY



**Come & Go Ashes: Noon Service: 7:00 p.m.**



## Join Us For Sunday Worship!

Modern Service  
9:45 a.m.

Traditional Service  
11:00 a.m.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH FROM HOME!



### Comfort Room

A comfort room is available in the Sanctuary's foyer for children needing changing, feeding, or to be consoled. You can still hear and see the service!

## SERMON 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."



**FEB. 2ND IT'S NOT ALL ON ME**  
Luke 10:38-42

**FEB. 9TH EAT SOMETHING**  
1 Kings 19:5-9

**FEB. 16TH LIFE IN CRISIS**  
Job 17:6-16

**FEB. 23RD LIVING IN THE LIGHT**  
John 3:16-17

## GET YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY INVOLVED AT FUMC!

### KIDS & YOUTH SUNDAY CLASSES

- Infant/Toddler 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Room 502/Family Life Center
- Kids Club
  - Pre-K 3/4 & Kindergarten 9:45 a.m. | Room 501
  - Grades 1-6 Treehouse Room
- Kids Church 11:00 a.m.  
Gather in Sanctuary, then go to the Treehouse Room.
- Youth
  - Grades 1-6 5 - 7 p.m. | Treehouse Room

### MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS, KIDS & YOUTH

- Chancel Choir Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m.  
Music Suite
- Praise Band Sundays | 8:45 a.m.  
Sanctuary
- Welkin Bells Thursdays | 7:00 p.m.  
Music Suite
- J.A.M. Session Youth Band Tuesdays | 6:30 p.m.  
Music Suite

Children's Cherubim Chimes Date/Time listed in Spring.

### ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES All classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

- Inquirers Room 107
- New Beginnings Room 224
- Seekers Media Room

### CONTACT

- Kids Club and Kids Church**  
Lisa Carlton  
985.966.8660
- Youth (6-12th Grade)**  
Danny Carlton or  
Abby Carlton Wright  
crossroads@firstumcslidell.org
- Chancel Choir and Praise Band**  
Nathan Sumrall  
nathand.sumrall@gmail.com
- Welkin Bells**  
Barbara Williams  
985.768.2407
- J.A.M. Session Youth Band (6-12th Grade)**  
Sarah Malasovich  
985.707.3363
- Children's Chime Choir**  
Marlene Rawle  
985-640-0427

## DO YOU PLAY DRUMS OR GUITAR?

Our Praise Band is looking for a drummer and guitarist to join us! Please see Nathan Sumrall if you are interested in joining!

**433 Erlanger Ave.  
Slidell, La 70458  
985.643.6437  
firstumcslidell.org  
@FUMCslidell**

## MISSIONS: TRIP TO SAGER BROWN DEPOT

We delivered the 104 Cleaning Buckets and had a very informative and wonderful trip to Sager Brown UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, La. The warehouse had become depleted after the hurricanes this past summer and our delivery was met with open arms. Unfortunately, our buckets will probably be going to California to the Los Angeles area to the forest fires devastating that area.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers prepare approximately \$4 million in relief supplies for shipment from the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in response to disasters in the United States. UMCOR Sager Brown Depot reaches out to its local neighbors through food distribution, housing rehabilitation projects and through other community outreach efforts.

Thank you for your compassion and generous spirit in always wanting to give back. Donating is such an important part of community life and we're grateful for your generous contributions to this worthwhile endeavor!

Kathy Huse, Missions Chair

**On 1/30, Women of First Church enjoyed an event trip to robin's nest in pass Christian, MS!**



## KIDS & YOUTH NEWS

Pre-school registration is now open to currently enrolled, church members, and alumni!



**Mommy and Me Tea** will be March 22nd at 10:00 a.m.! Pre-registration is required! Please email Lisa at [lisafcarlton@charter.net](mailto:lisafcarlton@charter.net) for more information.

**Palm Sunday Egg Hunt and Picnic** will be April 13th! We will start collecting stuffed Easter eggs soon! Be on the look out for donation baskets!



## SCOUTS SECTION COME ADVENTURE WITH US!

**Troop 562 celebrates 25 years at FUMC!** We also celebrate 40 Eagle Scouts with our newest 2, William Pugh and Trenton Reeves.

We have been busy! Recently had a lock in and Monday the 27th we celebrate the Lunar New Year a little early.

**WE ARE ALWAYS RECRUITING ALL YOUTH AGES 10-17!**



## WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR FIRST ANNUAL JUNK IN THE TRUNK!



**Saturday, March 15th**  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Vendor registration packets will be ready soon! More information coming next Sunday! If you are interested in volunteering to help at this event or have any questions, please contact event chair, Susan Walgamontte.

## MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

By Nathan Sumrall,  
Director of Music

Greetings, First United family!

Our music ministry is back in full swing, and I could not be more excited about what's ahead. Here are some highlights and opportunities to get involved:

**Choir Rehearsals:** We have resumed rehearsals every Wednesday at 7 PM, and we'd love to see you there! Whether you've sung in a choir before or want to give it a try, there is a place for you.

**Praise Team Needs You!** Our praise team rehearses every Sunday morning at 8:45 AM, and we are especially in need of guitarists and drummers. If you play an instrument or love contemporary worship, this is the team for you.

**Youth Music Ministry:** Sarah is doing incredible work with our youth through music, and we're already seeing great progress! Soon, our talented young musicians will make appearances in upcoming worship services. Stay tuned and you will not want to miss it!

**Mark Your Calendars:** June 1 at 6 PM is a special date. We'll gather for the dedication service of our new organ console. It will be a time of celebration and music, featuring brass, choir, and of course, organ solos.

There's so much to look forward to in our music ministry, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. Whether it is singing, playing an instrument, or simply supporting from the pews, your presence makes all the difference.

Blessings, Nathan

## WELKIN BELLS NEWS

We are excited to have 10 members - some regular, some seasonal; some long-time, some less experienced. All are welcome! We work on skills, rehearsal easier music, then more challenging music. Please consider visiting and/or joining!

Thursdays at 7:00 in the music suite.

Contact Barbara Williams at (985) 768-2407 for more information.

The Senior Luncheon for February will be on **Wednesday, February 12th** to begin at **11:00 a.m.** It would really be great if everyone could be in attendance for 11:00. **Cost is \$8.00.**



We are going to lighten up somewhat- let's all share stories of your favorite Valentine you have experienced or did for someone else.

I would like to have the group share what they might be interested in doing in the future or topics we might get speakers on. Everyone can help arrange speakers or plan activities that might take place at the lunch, all I would ask is you give me notice to put in the Newsletter. This will be a delightful, however, important lunch and surely hope attendance will be great.

This lunch is for you and your input is necessary.

In Christ, Susan Walgamotte

## 2025 SPRING LENTEN STUDY COMING SOON.

MATT RAWLE



The **Final Days**  
A Lenten Journey  
through the Gospels

**MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE SOON!**

## EVENTS

2/4

**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.  
**Feb. 4th** FUMC Campus  
**7:00 p.m.** Room 302  
433 Erlanger Ave.  
Mental Health Matters

This confidential group is facilitated by NAMI TRAINED individuals!

2/12

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

11:00 a.m.  
Family Life Center  
Cost is \$8.00

2/16

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

**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

2/9 Scout Sunday

2/14



2/27 Art Class Ends