

FUMCO Newsletter

March 2025

PASTOR LISA'S LETTER

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil." (Luke 4:1-2a, NRSV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Mardi Gras is almost over, and it is time for us to consider Lent. The season of Lent is the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. Sundays are not counted as part of Lent because each Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and represents a little Easter.

Our time of Lent is inspired by Jesus' fasting for forty days and forty nights in the wilderness. During this time, Jesus was tempted by Satan to use his power for himself, to perform miraculous feats for the sake of fame, and to worship Satan in exchange for vast earthly power. Jesus overcame each temptation by quoting scripture to Satan.

We observe Lent as a forty day period of fasting and reflection. We may fast from a particular food, from social media, from television, or anything else that tends to crowd out our spiritual life. We fast to make room in our lives for our relationship with God.

In addition to giving something up for Lent, I'd like to encourage you to take something on. If you don't read the Bible on a daily basis, try that. If your prayer life is running dry, try taking on journaling or saying the Lord's Prayer every day. You could also get some fresh air and try praying while you walk outside and thank God for the beauty of creation. Give something up, but then add something to draw you closer to God during these forty days.

There are opportunities to take on worship and study at the church. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday here at FUMC. There will be come and go ashes available at the front door of the sanctuary from noon until 1:00 p.m. Then we will join with our brothers and sisters from Aldersgate UMC and Hartzell/Mt. Zion UMC for worship at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. I hope to see you there!

May this season of Lent be a holy time for you. Draw near to God and God will draw near to you (James 4:8).

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Lisa

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CHURCH FAMILY!



COME GET YOUR ASHES THIS WEDNESDAY!



MARCH 5, 2025

Come and Go Ashes

12:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m.

Welcome **Kyle Schroeder**, shown with his wife **Hope Ruegsegger Schroeder**, to the First Church family! Look for Kyle and Hope at the 9:45 service and say hello.



NEW ORGAN UPDATE

The long wait is almost over, the new organ is installed! The new organ will use both our existing over 1,000 pipes and computer generated sound through speakers. The organ has been "voiced" to match the pipes to the speakers such that we won't be able to discern how the sounds are produced. Such technology! Now Nathan needs time to become familiar with the instrument and will most likely play it in service for the first time on Easter Sunday. An organ dedication will happen on June 1st and it promises to be quite an event!

Many thanks to the Trustee team that worked to see this project through to completion. Pete Broussard, Mike Cochran, Bryan Dailey, Bob Manetta, Warren Wood and lead project manager Mike Miller.

Thanks to the congregation and all the "Organeers" who pledged and fulfilled those pledges to fund this project.

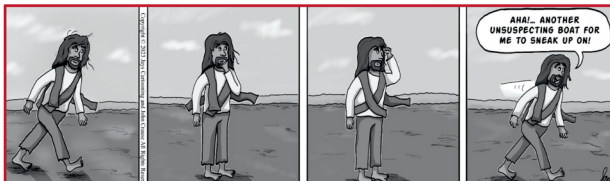


WE STILL HAVE VENDOR SPOTS OPEN!

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

Contact Susan in the church office to reserve your spot(s)!

All proceeds from the vendor space rental will go to Women of First Church for local community needs.



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

Steadfast Love

We journey through Lent to the sorrow of the cross and then the joy of the resurrection, all held in the bonds of God's steadfast love.



MARCH 2ND IT'S NOT ALL ON ME

John 3:16-17

MARCH 9TH RESCUE ME

Luke 4:1-13

MARCH 16TH CONCEAL ME

Luke 13:31-35

MARCH 23RD MY SOUL CLINGS

Luke 13:1-9

MARCH 30TH STEADFAST LOVE

Luke 15:1-3

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

- 9:30 a.m. Seekers Media Room
- 9:45 a.m. Inquirers Room 107
- 9:45 a.m. New Beginnings Room 224

CONTACTS

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

PEACE LILY SALE

\$12 each

ALL ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY

MARCH 11TH!

**** PLEASE NOTE ** NO ORDERS ACCEPTED AFTER THE 11TH!**

Peace Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday *In Memory Of* or *In Honor Of* your loved ones and may be picked up following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

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

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.
March 4th FUMC Campus
7:00 p.m. Room 302
433 Erlanger Ave.
This confidential group is facilitated by NAMI TRAINED individuals!

BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd
The Inquirer's Sunday School is baking up delicious goodies with the last of the chopped pecans and sliced almonds.
We'll sell between and after the services in the breezeway!
Don't miss out!!!

MATT RAWLE
The Final Days
A Lenten Journey through the Gospels

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

JUST FOR KIDS

Chimes Thursdays
3/13-4/10 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary
We will be performing on Palm Sunday!

Drama Camp 9:00 - 2:30 p.m.
June 16-20 Sanctuary
Final Performance will be on 6/20!

2025 Art Class
Open to 2nd-6th Graders!
Sept.-Oct. Thursdays
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Starting 3/5!
Wednesday Morning Class
10:00 a.m.
Gathering Place

Starting 3/9!
Sunday Morning Class
9:30 a.m.
Media Room

Sunday Evening Class
5:00 p.m.
Gathering Place

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE AN EXTRA BASS GUITAR LYING AROUND?
Our Youth J.A.M Music Group would love to add a bass guitar to our set! Please see Sarah Malasovic if you have one to donate!

DO YOU SING, PLAY DRUMS OR GUITAR?
Our Praise Band is looking for singers, a drummer and guitarist to join us! Please see Nathan if you are interested in joining!

CLOCKS WILL MOVE FORWARD ONE HOUR AT 2 A.M. ON 3/9!

KIDS & YOUTH NEWS

KIDS CLUB AND CHURCH NEWS

ENJOY SPECIAL TIME & TEA WITH YOUR LITTLE GIRL!
Mommy & Me Tea on March 22nd @ 10 a.m.
Must be registered by March 15th!
Please lisafcarlton@charter.net to register!



We are collecting **filled** Easter Eggs for the Palm Sunday Egg Hunt. Baskets will be marked in the Narthex & the passage way.

CROSSROADS YOUTH NEWS

March brings longer days, warmer weather, and a reminder to "spring forward" as we change our clocks for Daylight Saving Time. Losing an hour of sleep may not be fun, but it's a reminder that our faith should also be moving forward and not staying stuck. Set aside some time each day to connect with God and focus on prayer and scripture. Let go of distractions and take action in your faith – find ways to serve and help others or invite a friend to church and youth group!
Ask yourself: Where is God calling me to step forward in my faith?

WE WILL BE OFF ON MARCH 2ND FOR MARDI GRAS BREAK.

If you would like more information, please reach out to Danny Carlton via email at crossroads@firstumcslidell.org or Abby Carlton Wright at abbymae27@charter.net

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."

WELKIN BELLS NEWS
7 ringers are attending Spring Ring in Lafayette March 21-22. Look for some enthusiastic ringers when they return! Please consider visiting and/or joining!
Contact Barbara Williams at (985) 768-2407 for more information.

We have three more gatherings this year before we take a break for the summer.
ALL LUNCHEONS BEGIN AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER.
COST: \$8

Topics and Speakers for March, April and May
March 12th- Elder Safety - Chief Randy Fandal and Chief Administrative Officer - Daniel Seuzeneau
April 9th- Cajun Johnny - Humor about being Cajun - Johnny Crow
May 14th- Selling your home as a Senior Citizen
40 Years of experience in real estate matters by Susie Hunt.

HOPE TO HAVE EVERYONE COME JOIN US.
2ND ANNUAL FAITH BELIEVERS FISH FRY
Our yearly fund raiser for two great ministries within First United Methodist Church. **The Faith Believers** are responsible for the Prayer Shawl ministry, picks projects that allows them to reach out in the community, as well as hosting the Monthly Senior Lunch.

April 11, 2025
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

NEW THIS YEAR! EAT IN OR TAKE OUT!

Price: \$15.00 per meal
Meal Includes: Two fried Catfish fillets, green beans, jambalaya, a roll, a brownie and a canned drink of your choice: Coke, Diet Coke or Sprite.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP AND GREAT FOOD.

EVENTS

3/4 NAMI Support Group
7:00 p.m. | Room 302

Happy Mardi Gras

3/5 Ash Wednesday
• COME AND GO ASHES
12:00 p.m.
• ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
7:00 p.m.

3/9 Time Springs Forward at 2 a.m.

3/11 Lily Order Form Due
** PLEASE NOTE **
NO ORDERS ACCEPTED AFTER TODAY!

3/12 Faith Believers Luncheon
11:00 a.m. | Family Life Center

3/15 Junk in the Trunk Event
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Back Parking Lot

3/21 - Bells Travel to Spring Ring
3/22 Lafayette, LA

3/22 Mommy and Me Tea Event
8:00 a.m. | Family Life Center

3/23 Inquirer's Bake Sale
between and after the services in the breezeway!

MATT RAWLE
The Final Days
A Lenten Journey through the Gospels

Sunday Mornings (3/9 - 4/6, 4/20)
9:30 a.m. | The Media Room

Sunday Evenings (3/9 - 4/13)
5:00 p.m. | The Gathering Place

Wednesday Mornings (3/5 - 4/9)
10:00 a.m. | The Gathering Place

Save These Future Dates

APRIL 13TH - PALM SUNDAY
ONLY ONE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE!
Performances by preschool waving palms, J.A.M.S., Chancel Choir and Praise Band! Easter Egg Hunt!

ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE
JUNE 1ST
6:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

FUMC ALDERSGATE HARTZELL-MT. ZION

Join Us This Lenten Season

March 5, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
433 Erlanger Ave. | Slidell, Louisiana 70458

April 17, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday
ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
360 Robert Blvd. | Slidell, Louisiana 70458

April 18, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday
HARTZELL - MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
41040 US Hwy 190 E | Slidell, Louisiana 70461