



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1000 Main Street Phone#: 318-256-3632
P.O. Box 1210 Fax#: 318-256-0522
Many, Louisiana 71449 Family Life Center/Fellowship Hall#: 318-256-0972
Preschool #: 318-273-2205
Pastor E-mail: rev.coplin@gmail.com
Office E-mail: Administrator@fumc-many.com
Website: fumc-many.com "Like" our facebook page
Sunday Morning Worship Broadcast -10:00a.m. KWLTV 107.1

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

Friends,

On behalf of the staff of First UMC, I wish you a 2022 blessed with God's own abundance! For the past few days, I've had the opening line of a 90's song echoing in my head: "A long December and there's reason to believe / Maybe this year will be better than the last." The rest of the lyrics are pretty much a mystery to me. But this week, I feel the weight of these opening words. And if you know the song, I'll bet you're hearing the : "Na-na-na-naah Na, na, na, nah, na-na-na-na-naah" refrain in your head, just like I am. You're welcome.

During the earlier stages of the pandemic, our church, like the vast majority of others, devised ways of social distancing through remote worship and Zoom meetings. These decisions were sometimes controversial but churches all over were scrambling to provide a balance between physical and spiritual care for the congregation. The church with which I worked closed its doors for some weeks, as did our church here. But as the virus became better understood and as vaccines came online and were widely accepted, the world slowly returned to a faster pace: retailers and restaurants reopened, social distancing and masking mandates eased, and people returned to their normal lives as best they could. Yet, many did not return to church. I think the reasons for this are manifold, and you probably would not be surprised to know that I have opinions on the matter. However, the reason I raise the issue now is that this current reality of reduced involvement presents unique challenges for our church at the start of the new year.

We are developing our budget for 2022, which will need to adjust for a set of longer-term circumstances than we anticipated at the outset of this pandemic. In the early stages, we thought this would only take a few months during which time we could grit our teeth and hang on while it blew over. Federal stimulus funds helped us to keep our staff and the budget afloat. But this year, there is reason to believe we are entering a late-to-post pandemic phase in which there is a reduction in attendance and giving, with no stimulus. I often hear concerns for those who have not yet returned, and I share in your desire and prayers for their presence. Yet, the practical matter at hand is to figure out how to adjust accordingly.

Many of us evaluate our commitments and adjust priorities during the first week of the year. If you are in the midst of this process, I ask that you consider how our membership vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness can adapt to our current situation. Regarding gifts, a significantly smaller portion of commitment cards were returned for 2020 and 2021 than in previous years. Given all of the unknowns at the time, this makes perfect sense. However, I believe we are beginning to get a clearer understanding of what life is like, both outside and inside the church, for the foreseeable future. I am therefore asking you to prayerfully consider your commitment card when you receive it later this month and I am hoping to receive a greater percentage of our cards so that we can better plan for and serve our mission.

I think that if there is anything the past couple of years have taught us all, it's how to lean into what's coming. I am confident that the transition and adjustments we've endured since the outset of this virus and so many other challenges in recent memory have provided us opportunity to be more aware of the smaller, daily blessings of God's goodness, to be more patient when systems and supply streams are strained, and to be more generous with the talents and resources with which we are blessed. These opportunities of course present themselves in times of peace and plenty, but I believe our heightened awareness of these opportunities during times of struggle and scarcity are divinely appointed. May you both receive and extend God's peace and plenty in this new year!

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Brian

MEMORIALS:

Memorial Fund:

In memory of Elizabeth Mitchell given by Mike & Vicki Simpson, Pete & Ellen Abington

In memory of Virginia Fremaux given by Charles & Jo Vandersypen

Youth Fund:

In memory of Elizabeth Mitchell given by Ray & Nancy Spiller

Committee Meetings for January 2022

Trustees:

Monday, January 10th - 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Council:

Monday, January 24th - 5:30 p.m.

Nursery Workers for January

January 2 - Cathy Troquille
January 9 - Mary Ellen Freeman
January 16 - Carolyn Dove
January 23 - Vicki Isgitt
January 30 - Elizabeth Pickett

THANK YOU

Many thanks to our congregation for the generous gifts for the church staff.

Have You Met Our Amazing Youth Group?

Every Wednesday evening 30-40 Teens and Tweens crowd into our Family Life Center to share a meal, a devotional, and recreation. Seeing how these young people are growing in faith and service is truly a blessing! We need your help now to expand and deepen the Wednesday night program in 2 ways:

Children in K-4th grades – Many of the youth have younger siblings who want to come to our church, too. In January, we plan to launch a regular children's activity on Wednesday nights 5:30-7:00, including a Bible lesson and recreation. At least two adults are needed each night. If you feel God calling you to this new outreach, please contact Nancy Spiller at 318-315-2356. There is a real need for ministry with this age group!

Small Group Discussions with Youth – For a richer experience, the youth will begin dividing into small groups for about 20 minutes following the devotional. An adult is needed for each group to informally talk about the devotional, share their own understandings and "God moments," and, most of all, to listen. Our youth are searching for a deeper relationship with God, and you can be part of that growth. With enough volunteers, we should be able to alternate Wednesdays as needed. To be part of this ministry from 6:00-6:30 on Wednesdays, please contact Nancy Spiller at 318-315-2356.

"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35



First United Methodist Church Officers **2022**

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Pastor.....	Brian Coplin
Chairperson.....	Carolyn Dove
Secretary.....	Vicki Weaver
Treasurer.....	Eugene Fremaux
Director of Music.....	Carole Troha
Lay Leader.....	Chris Nolen
Pastor/Staff Chairperson.....	Diane Voorheis
UMW President.....	Vicki Isgitt
Preschool Board Chair.....	Amanda Lambert
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference.....	Chris Nolen

WORK AREAS

Education Chairperson.....	Nancy Spiller
Fellowship Ministries Team Leader.....	Carolyn Dove
Finance Chairperson.....	Kirt Voorheis
Memorials Chairperson.....	Vicki Weaver
Missions & Outreach Co-Chairpersons.....	Allen & Vicki Isgitt
Trustee Chairperson.....	Allen Isgitt
Worship Co-Chairpersons.....	Gail Thomas & Laurie Gentry
Finance Secretary.....	Marilyn Mitchell
Membership Secretary.....	Marilyn Mitchell

Members at Large

***Under the Book of Discipline, an Administrative Council consists of EVERY full member of the church is a member at large. All members have both voice and vote. Chairs are expected to attend. All others are invited. There are no designated Members at Large.**

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Diane Voorheis

2022
Diane Voorheis
Mike Luster

2023
Vicki Simpson
Cathy Troquille

2024
Dean Lambert
Chris Nolen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Chairperson: Allen Isgitt

*Elected annually from committee membership by committee

2022
Elizabeth Pickett
Warren Founds

2023
John Migliore
Linda Boudreaux
Kirt Voorheis

2024
Alex Isgitt
Allen Isgitt

Ex-Officio: Chris Nolen

FINANCE COMMITTEE Chairperson: Kirt Voorheis

2022
Tammy Luster
Vicki Simpson

2023
Pete Abington
Tammy Courtney

2024
Kirt Voorheis
Eugene Fremaux

LayLeader: Chris Nolen
Ad. Council Chair: Carolyn Dove
Trustees Rep: John Migliore

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP (Nominating)

Chairperson: Rev. Brian Coplin

2022
Nancy Spiller
Donna Ammons

2023
Cathy Troquille
Vicki Weaver

2024
Kenneth Ammons
Vicki Isgitt

Ex-Officio: Chris Nolen

MEMORIALS

Chairperson: Vicki Weaver

I.D. Bostian
Denise Damron

Suzanne Ammons
Vicki Weaver
Bobbie Kratz

Karen Lombard
Ken Freeman

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Chairperson: Carolyn Dove

Carolyn Dove
Karen Lombard

Bobbie Kratz
Bob Nolen
Allen Isgitt

Suzanne Ammons
Tammy Luster
Mary Ellen Freeman
TBD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Nancy Spiller

2022

Betsy Godfrey
Ashlee Lee
Joe Troha

2023

Sara Isgitt
Vicki Weaver
Lathan Lee

2024

Nancy Spiller
Ashley Ford
TBD

Ex-Officio: Chris Nolen

WORSHIP

Co-Chairpersons: Gail Thomas
Laurie Gentry

2022

Zelma Broussard
Laurie Gentry
Crystal Hable
Addison Hable

2023

Carole Troha
Patsy McCormick
Gail Thomas
Ross Voorheis

2024

Sarah Erwin
Carolyn Norris
TBD

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Co-Chairpersons: Allen & Vicki Isgitt

Suzanne Ammons
Vicki Weaver
Allen Isgitt
Vicki Isgitt
Donna Ammons
Kenneth Ammons

PRE-SCHOOL BOARD

Chairperson: Amanda Lambert

Director: Linda Boudreaux

At Large Members

Trustees rep - Kirt Voorheis
PSRC rep - Chris Nolen
Education rep - Sara Isgitt
Finance - Eugene Fremaux

2022- Vicki Isgitt
2023 - Mary Ellen Freeman
2024 - Candy Remedies (parent)

COMMUNICATIONS

All currently posting to social media:

Nancy Spiller
Laurie Gentry
Vicki Weaver
Crystal Hable

Pam Pickett Johnson
Linda Boudreaux
Ashley Ford

WINTER WORD SEARCH

Winter Word Search

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

BLIZZARD
BOOTS
COAT
COCOA
COLD
DECEMBER
EARMUFFS
FEBRUARY

FIREPLACE
FROSTY
HAT
ICE
ICICLES
JANUARY
MARCH
MITTENS

PLOW
SCARF
SHOVEL
SKIING
SLEDDING
SNOW
SWEATER
WINTER



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year. For all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us, a mighty flame. So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.

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P.O. Box 1210, 1000 Main Street
Many, LA 71449

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div> <div> Dec 2021 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> Feb 2022 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						1 **Billy & Becky Lafitte
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2	3 Boy Scouts - 6:00 p.m. - FLC	4 **Kent & Shirley Lee	5 *Robert Gentry Covenant Groups - 5:30 p.m. Youth & Children - 5:30 p.m.	6 UMW 9:30 a.m.	7	8 *Robert Hable																																																																																				
Christmas Break Sabine Parish Schools & Preschool																																																																																										
9 UMW Sunday	10 *Glenn Allen Rainey IV *Jayden Gentry Boy Scouts - 6:00 p.m. - FLC Trustees 5:30 p.m.	11	12 *Amie Mitchell Covenant Groups - 5:30 p.m. Youth & Children - 5:30 p.m.	13 *Charles Enterkin *Faith Gentry *Timmy Mitchell	14 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship	15 ** Robert & Crystal Hable																																																																																				
16	17 **Ross & Ann Williams Boy Scouts - 6:00 p.m. - FLC	18 Prayer Group - 10:30 a.m.	19 Covenant Groups - 5:30 p.m. Youth & Children - 5:30 p.m.	20	21	22																																																																																				
23	24 Administrative Council Meeting 5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - 6:00 p.m. - FLC	25	26 *Carolyn Dove *Chad Ford Covenant Groups - 5:30 p.m. Youth & Children - 5:30 p.m.	27	28	29																																																																																				
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PRAYER CONCERNS

January 2022

Church Members

Carrie Broussard
Brian, Monica, Jack & Anna
Claire Coplin
Charles Enterkin
Ken & Mary Ellen Freeman
Susan Giblin
John & Betsy Godfrey
John Hoagland
Grace Kelsey
Becky Lafitte
Dean Lambert
Shirley Lee
Garland Peterson
Janice Rike
Nancy Spiller
Brian Tannehill
Kevin Troquille

Family of Church Members

Cassity Barrett (Shirley Lee's
great niece)
Sandra Bishop (Diann Migliore's
mom)
Carolyn Brasell (Carrie
Broussard's daughter)
Scott Brosh (Joe Troha's
brother-in-law)
Cindy Wright Calhoon
(Patsy McCormick's sister)
Beverley Carlson (Chris
Nolen's sister)
Jason Fluitt (Vicki Simpson's
son-in-law)
Family of Robert Freeman
(Ken Freeman & Betsy
Godfrey's brother)
Seth Freeman
Judy Boudreaux Jones
(Chuck Boudreaux's sister)
Rodney Roach
(Vicki Weaver's nephew)
Family of Lloyd Waters
(Laurie Gentry's cousin)
Murlee Wilbanks (Carolyn
Gates' mom)
Robert Troha

Friends of our Community

Marie Alford
Cade Anderson
Steve Biggs
Ace Bowling
Jiles Bowling
Cathy Byles
Dudley Carver
Ivan Drodgy
Darlene Griffin
Kathy Humphries
Sally Landry
Cassie LaRoux
Dena Sue Moore
Louise Moore
Cheryl & Daniel Procell
Mike Rankin
Eddie Richard
Tara Seals
Douglas Seegers (Linda
Seegers' son)
Kristin Sepulvado
Arlene Small
Reba Tarpley
Sissy Tatum
Nancy Tidwell