



FOLLOWING JESUS IN BOSSIER: A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

*Rev. Donnie Wilkinson,
Senior Pastor*



Playing the Infinite Game

A couple of years ago, I discovered a helpful distinction in Simon Sinek's work between what he calls finite games and infinite games. It is an idea I have found myself returning to lately as we enter this second year of ministry together at First United Methodist.

Finite games have known players, agreed-upon rules, and a clear ending. Think about football. Everybody knows who is playing, what the rules are, and when the clock reaches zero, somebody wins and somebody loses.

Infinite games are different. The players change. The circumstances change. Sometimes even the rules change. And there is no final buzzer. The goal isn't to win. The goal is to keep playing and to advance the cause for which the game exists.

The more I have thought about that distinction, the more I have wondered whether it might help us think about the life of the church.

Churches can easily begin playing finite games.

How many people were here Sunday?

Did we meet the budget?

Is our program growing?

How do we preserve what we have inherited?

Those are not bad questions. Attendance matters. Finances matter. Programs matter. Buildings matter. We should steward all of them well.

But none of them is the game.

Jesus gave the Church something much bigger.

He announced the Kingdom of God. He invited people into abundant life. He gathered a community shaped by love of God and neighbor and sent that community into the world to participate in God's work of healing, reconciliation, mercy, justice, and new creation.

That is an infinite game.



CONTINUED FROM COVER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

Long before any of us arrived at First United Methodist, generations of people were already playing their part. They worshiped here. They taught children the stories of Jesus. They visited the sick. They fed hungry people. They gave generously. They built buildings. They began ministries. They took risks. They made mistakes.

And eventually, they handed the work to another generation.

Now the work has been entrusted to us.

Our mission is to renew the life of our community by helping people of all ages become fully alive in Christ.

That mission points our attention outward and forward.

What would it look like for our community to become more alive because First Methodist is here?

What would it look like for children to discover that they are loved by God? For teenagers to find adults who know their names and believe in them? For lonely people to discover friendship? For hungry families to find food? For neighbors to discover places to gather, play, rest, and belong?

What would it look like for someone who assumed church had nothing to offer them to encounter the life of Jesus?

Those questions are already shaping some of what you see happening around First Methodist.

Sometimes it looks significant. Sometimes it looks remarkably ordinary.

It might look like new basketball goals going up on our campus.

It might look like restoring spaces where neighbors can gather and play.

It might look like bags of groceries leaving our Helping Hands pantry.

It might look like someone rolling out a yoga mat in the Fellowship Hall.

And sometimes it looks like standing outside Rusheon Middle School on a Tuesday morning, handing a teenager a donut and saying in one small but tangible way, "We are glad you're here."

None of those things, by themselves, is the mission.

They are ways of playing our part in a much larger story.



CONTINUED FROM COVER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSIER.ORG

That means we will experiment. Some things we try will flourish. Others won't. Some ministries that served another generation beautifully may need to change. New ministries will emerge that none of us can yet imagine.

If we are playing a finite game, change feels threatening because the goal is to protect what we have.

But if we are playing an infinite game, the question becomes different:

What does faithfulness require of us now?

The Church has been asking that question for nearly two thousand years.

The players have changed countless times. Cultures have risen and fallen. Buildings have been built and disappeared. Worship styles, technologies, institutions, and methods of ministry have changed again and again.

And still the Church gathers around the same Jesus and hears the same invitation:

Follow me.

We are simply the latest generation to hear it.

My hope is that years from now, another generation will look back at this moment in the life of First United Methodist and say that we recognized what had been entrusted to us and used it courageously.

That we cared more about the mission than the methods.

That we loved our neighbors.

That we were willing to try new things.

That we invested in people and possibilities whose full fruit we might never live long enough to see.

That we left behind a church more deeply rooted in Jesus and more fully committed to the community around it.

Because ultimately, this isn't our church.

It is God's.

We simply have the extraordinary privilege of playing our part.

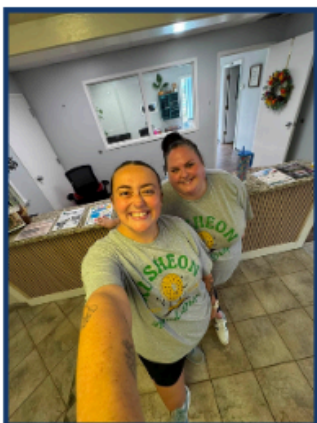
And the game is far from over.



A DAY IN THE **LIFE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

FUMC BOSSIER



www.fumcbossier.org



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

Hello First Families!

There's a Place for You in **Children's Ministry!**

Our children's ministry is growing, and **we need YOU!** You don't have to be a teacher or have years of experience working with children to make a difference. There are so many ways to serve!

We need **teachers and leaders** to help guide our children, **buddies** to encourage and support individual children, and **helpers** behind the scenes with crafts, snacks, special events, check-in, supplies, and more.

Whether you can serve every week, once a month, or occasionally, **there is a place for you!** Your time, talents, and willingness to serve can help create a church where every child feels welcomed, loved, known, and excited to learn about Jesus.

Come be part of something BIG for our littlest disciples! If you're interested in volunteering or simply want to learn more, stay tuned! We'd love to have you join us and we will be showing you how very soon.

Blessings,
Jenn Tuxen

FIRST UMC BOSSIER PRESENTS

TRUNK OR TREAT

FUN FOR the whole COMMUNITY!

OCTOBER 24 12-2 PM

FREE ADMISSION

COSTUMES WELCOME!

TRUNK OR TREATING • CANDY • GAMES
SNACKS • FACE PAINTING • FOOD TRUCKS

201 JOHN WESLEY BLVD. • BOSSIER CITY, LA FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

FIRST UMC

TRUNK OR TREAT

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Register online using the QR code, on Church Center or contact the office for more information.

- HOST A TRUNK
- RUN A GAME OR ACTIVITY
- WELCOME GUESTS
- DONATE SUPPLIES
- AND MORE!

Thank you FOR HELPING MAKE THIS EVENT FUN, SAFE & MEMORABLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Register to host a trunk, run a game or activity, welcome guests and more!



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG



YOUNG-AT-HEART

2ND THURSDAYS EACH MONTH- 10:30 AM-FELLOWSHIP HALL

August 13- Lunch, drinks and dessert provided. Cost is \$5.00. Call the church office to make your reservation. September speaker is Sonja Bailes with the Bossier School Board.

SILVER FOXES FITNESS

Mondays and Fridays 10:00 AM-Fellowship Hall

Join our Silver Foxes for a Chair Exercise Class.





YOUTH MINISTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SARAH MCCURLEY AT SMCCURLEY@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

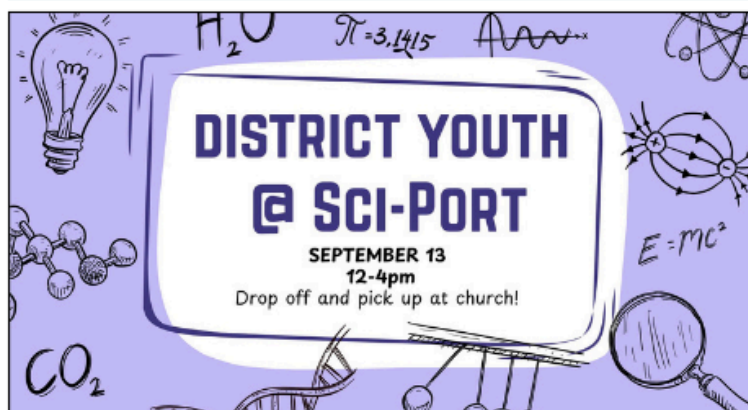
WE'RE SO BACK!

It is so good to be back in our regular rhythm! As we settle into a new school year, we are especially excited about the growth we are seeing in our middle school ministry. We have welcomed so many new 6th and 7th graders, and it has been so much fun getting to know them and watching them become part of our youth family. With this growth comes new opportunities, and we are excited to see how God continues to shape and grow our ministry in this new season.

We are looking forward to all that is ahead this fall, including our upcoming district event next month. We are grateful for the energy, excitement, and new faces God has brought to our ministry, and we can't wait to see what He has in store!



SEPTEMBER YOUTH EVENTS



STAY UP TO DATE WITH FUMC BOSSIER YOUTH TEXTS

Text @2020fumcy to 81010 - students

Text @2020fumcp to 81010 - parents

FUMC YOUTH MINISTRY



SARAH MCCURLEY
YOUTH DIRECTOR
318-742-3823 Ext 128
smccurley@fumcbossier.org
www.fumcbossier.org/youth2



CHURCHWIDE EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

Paul's VOYAGES
WITH
**REV. DONNIE WILKINSON,
BISHOP WILLIAMSTON,
& THE LOUISIANA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SEPT. 8, 2027
12 DAYS
Pre Rome Tour
SEPT. 5

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
& REGISTER

CONTACT THE OFFICE | for more information

GENTLE YOGA
Yoga • Mindfulness • Meditation • Community
Yoga for Every Body

We can accommodate twelve students per class. Focusing on community, mindfulness, and gentle movement to help bring balance to the mind, body, and spirit through the practice of yoga and meditation. Classes are a fusion of gentle, yin, slow flow vinyasa, and pranayama breath work.

*This space is open and welcoming to yogis of all levels (even if you've never taken a class), body shapes and sizes, ethnicities, religions, and genders.

Schedule
• Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm
• Thursday 9:30-10:30am *starting Sept. 8th
• Monthly Sunday workshops "Gentle TEA" 10:00am-12:00pm

Pricing
\$20 drop in fee
\$150 10-class pass
\$45 Creative TEA (more practices on class pass only)

text to reserve your spot
318-560-2585

Instagram for updates
[@yogawithnikkiclansons/](https://www.instagram.com/yogawithnikkiclansons/)

FUMC Bossier 201 John Wesley Blvd

MAX LUCADO'S
Tame Your Thoughts
THREE TOOLS TO RENEW YOUR MIND AND TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

BIBLE STUDY LED BY CHERYL NELSON
TUESDAYS, STARTING SEPTEMBER 15
10:00 AM
MARY EWING ROOM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

YOGA CHURCH
— FULLY EMBODIED • FULLY ALIVE • TOGETHER —

If you long for a quiet, embodied, contemplative space... If you desire to feel more fully alive in God's presence... If you're simply curious... Join us!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BOSSIER CITY

2ND SUNDAY | 4:00PM

201 John Wesley Blvd. Bossier City, LA



THE CHURCH MOUSE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

September 11, 2026 25th ANNIVERSARY 9/11 PATRIOT DAY WE WILL NEVER FORGET

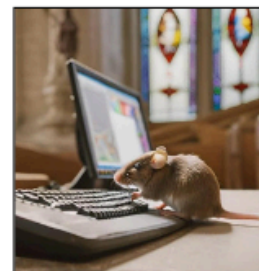
September 11 every year is designated Patriot Day as we honor the victims of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks. The law was enacted on December 18, 2001. Each year a proclamation from the President encourages Americans to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities which includes flying the United States flag at half-staff and a moment of silence for 9/11 observed annually at 8:46 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time as a solemn tradition to honor the victims of the attacks. This time marks when American Airlines Flight 11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. There are also six moments of silence during the time names are read to honor the times when each tower was struck, when they fell, and other significant events of that day. We Will Never Forget! Where were you on September 11, 2001?

Labor Day, always celebrated on the first Monday in September, began in the late 19th century during a labor movement seeking better working conditions (eight-hour workday) and fair wages. It honors the contributions and achievements of American workers. Through the years Labor Day has been a day of rest and celebration and today has become the sign of the end of summer with outdoor activities and family gatherings. As a federal holiday it emphasizes the importance of labor in our American history.

After Labor Day First Friends will return with the joyful sounds of the children under the guidance of wonderful teachers. Check **First Family Focus** and other announcement sheets for **ALL** the activities you can participate in at FUMC-Bossier.

Till October,
Church Mouse

www.fumcbossier.org





MISSIONS THAT MATTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

MAGNOLIA MANOR MISSIONS

We will serve communion on the First Monday of the month, September 7.



GRIT & GRACE

MISSION TEAM

THE GRIT & GRACE MISSION TEAM

September 15- 5:00 PM- Mary Ewing Room

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Come join us if you would like to help with our Mission Projects. Everyone Welcome!

MILITARY FAMILIES MINISTRY

Our mission is to serve those who serve, reflecting Christ's love through community, care, and connection.



SOUPER SATURDAY

September 26- 8:00 AM - FUMC BOSSIER KITCHEN

Come pack meals or deliver meals to the home bound & those who receive meals on wheels. We provide meals the last Saturday of each month.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Open Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:30 AM

Helping Hands Food Pantry -Through generosity, compassion, and service, Helping Hands helps to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. We currently need peanut butter, jelly, ramen noodles and green beans.

If interested in volunteering contact [Kiersten Whelphy](#).



UMM MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesdays- 7:00 AM

Our United Methodist Men's Breakfast meets weekly for food, fellowship, and faith. It's a time for men to gather, build friendships, and grow together in Christ in a relaxed, welcoming setting.



RUSHEON DONUT DROP

Tuesdays- 7:20 AM - Following the Bossier School Calendar

Every week we gather at Rusheon's crosswalk to greet students with a smile—and a free donut! It's our way of sharing a little grace at the start of the day. With a quick hello, a word of encouragement, and a sweet treat, we hope to brighten mornings, build connections, and remind students they are seen, valued, and loved.



GET CONNECTED TO A SMALL **COMMUNITY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG



LIFE 365

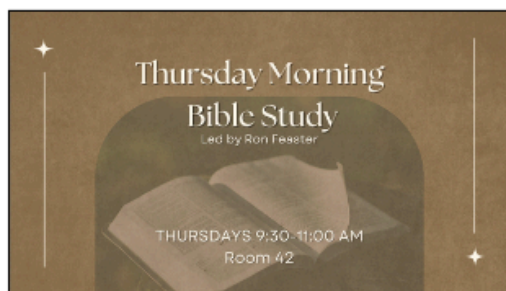
Tuesday Nights - 5:30-7:30 PM - Kitchen and Cafe

Life 365 is a Christ-centered community where people of all ages grow in faith, support one another, and live out God's love every day of the year.

THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Nights - 6:00-7:00 PM - Midyett Room

The Good and Beautiful Bible Study continues.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 9:30 AM- Mary Ewing Room

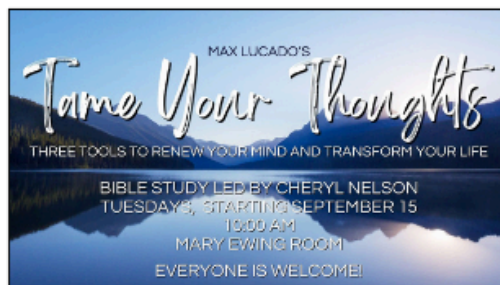
Study is led by Ron Feaster.

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM - Mary Ewing Room

Bible Study led by Cheryl Nelson. Everyone is welcome!

Starts back September 15. The book is Tame Your Thoughts; it costs \$12-\$15 and we are ordering for everyone; so if you are interested in attending and would like a book, let Cheryl know (318-422-0914).



BROTHERHOOD-MEN'S GROUP

Every other Thursday 6:00-7:00 PM Room 43

Brotherhood is a gathering of men committed to growing in Christ together. We're not trying to build perfect men. We're trying to build faithful ones...the kind who walk with Jesus in the real world.



YOGA CHURCH

Third Sunday- 4:00-5:30 PM - Fellowship Hall

Yoga Church is a worship service that blends breath, movement, Scripture, and Holy Communion, helping us prepare body, mind, and spirit to encounter Christ in the Gospel and the bread and cup.

If you long for a quiet, embodied, contemplative space... or simply want to experience God's presence in a new way, you're warmly invited.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Renee Spalding	9/5
Jack & Donna Ihle	9/7
Billy & Lana Bennett	9/17
Adam & Elisa Hines	9/27

BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Fowler	9/1
Marilyn Norton	9/2
Adam Johnston	9/4
Marsha Herron	9/5
Lacey Clinton	9/7
Gail Morgan	9/8
Charles Flippo	9/8
Evelynn Flippo	9/8
Iris Flippo	9/8
Rylie Hadel	9/19
Milo Ardoin	9/12

BIRTHDAYS

Isaac Clawson	9/12
Charlie Self	9/13
Jerry Staton	9/14
Macy Beth DeLaune	9/15
Erica Lindberg	9/18
Kevin Martin	9/18
Gwen McKellar	9/19
Thomas Myers	9/19
Keagan Malone	9/21
John Michael Moore	9/22
Jackie Howard	9/23
Caty Kingfisher	9/24
Steve Jacobs	9/25
Andrew Moore	9/25
Cheryl Willhite	9/26
Sonny Hinton	9/29
Kirk Armitage	9/30
Catherine Schember	9/30

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH APP

- Register & pay for events
- Check-in for service/events
- Church Calendar
- Giving/Offering



A WORD FROM THE PRAYER ROOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

My little "I" friend stopped in to see me. She's five and full of questions. I told her I was writing down thoughts about some ideas from my bible. I quoted the below scripture. "Who is He?" she asked. "He is God who made our wonderful world- it's called Creation." I gave her a short description of creation. I told her about the poet who wrote the beautiful hymn (UMH #92). She liked hearing his description of our world. I liked sharing with her about God's Creation. She asked a zillion questions and was particularly interested in the timing, "Our world has been with us for eons," I told her and tried to help her see that it came into being way, way back. "Is that older than you?" she asked? "I'm pretty old" I told her. "But the world's longevity out does me. "Do you know what God said after his Creation?" I asked. "It is good." A glimmer of understanding how it had survived all these years. "God topped off his creation by creating Adam and Eve. He also created you and me" and 'yes' your mom and Dad." (Try that in your mind's eye.) She talked about the many years I had been given life: Trying to help her understand how ever at this advanced age that I could still walk, talk and take nourishment. And continued "I praise God and thank him for giving time on His beautiful Earth."

Time was up for our visit and she left while I continued to sit and ponder my own questions. Why am I still here? What is God's purpose in leaving me here while some many loved ones have gone on? So I say, "Praise God" and thank Him for another day on this beautiful earth. Life and our world goes on...



SCHEDULE

Sunday

6
Traditional Community
Worship 8:45a
Sunday School 10a
Contemporary Community
Worship 11a

13
Traditional Community
Worship 8:45a
Sunday School 10a
Contemporary Community
Worship 11a
Youth Group 12p
Yoga Church 4p

20
Traditional Community
Worship 8:45a
Sunday School 10a
Contemporary Community
Worship 11a
Youth Group 5p

27
Traditional Community
Worship 8:45a
Sunday School 10a
Contemporary Community
Worship 11a
Youth Group 5p

Monday

7
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a
Prayer Ministry 11a
Magnolia Manor Communion
Day 10:30a

14
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

21
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

28
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

Tuesday

1
Life 365 5:30p
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
5:30p

8
Life 365 5:30p
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
5:30p

15
Tame Your Thoughts
Bible Study 10a
Grit and Grace 5p
Life 365 5:30p
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
5:30p

22
Tame Your Thoughts
Bible Study 10a
Life 365 5:30p
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
5:30p
Leadership Board 6p

29
Tame Your Thoughts
Bible Study 10a
Life 365 5:30p
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
5:30p

Wednesday

2
UM Men's Breakfast 7a
Busy Bee Quilters and
Crafters 9a
Choir Rehearsal 6p
The Good and Beautiful Bible
Study 6p

9
UM Men's Breakfast 7a
Busy Bee Quilters and
Crafters 9a
Choir Rehearsal 6p
The Good and Beautiful Bible
Study 6p

16
UM Men's Breakfast 7a
Busy Bee Quilters and
Crafters 9a
Choir Rehearsal 6p
The Good and Beautiful Bible
Study 6p

23
UM Men's Breakfast 7a
Busy Bee Quilters and
Crafters 9a
Choir Rehearsal 6p
The Good and Beautiful Bible
Study 6p

30
UM Men's Breakfast 7a
Busy Bee Quilters and
Crafters 9a
Choir Rehearsal 6p
The Good and Beautiful Bible
Study 6p

Thursday

3
Thursday Morning Bible
Study 9:30a
Praise Team Rehearsal 5p

10
Thursday Morning Bible Study
9:30a
Yoga with Nikki Clawson 9:30a
Young at Heart 10:30a
Praise Team Rehearsal 5p
Brotherhood 6p

17
Thursday Morning Bible
Study 9:30a
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
9:30a
Praise Team Rehearsal 5p

24
Thursday Morning Bible
Study 9:30a
Yoga with Nikki Clawson
9:30a
Praise Team Rehearsal 5p
Brotherhood 6p

Friday

4
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

11
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

18
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

25
Silver Foxes Fitness 10a

Saturday

5

12

19

26
Souper Saturday 8a

2026

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

201 JOHN WESLEY BLVD, BOSSIER CITY, LA 70112
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**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



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