MAKING DISCIPLES FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOSSIER CITY

201 JOHN WESLEY BLVD. BOSSIER CITY, LA 71112



FUMC BOSSIER NEWS VOL. 26

FIRST FAMILY FOCUS

NOVEMBER 2026

FOLLOWING JESUS IN BOSSIER: A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Donnie Wilkinson,
Senior Pastor



Love One Another When Politics Gets Loud

A couple of weeks ago, as I neared the campus of Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS for the annual Leadership Institute, I began noticing robins egg-blue yard signs along the road.

Let's love one another.
The same words appeared on large banners in the parking lot. Volunteers greeting people, serving refreshments, and helping with registration wore T-shirts in the same color and design. In the bag we received at check-in was a devotional guide built around that same invitation.
By the time I came home, those four words were still with me.

Let's love one another.
Simple words. But they do not feel particularly simple right now.
We are living through another intense political season. By the time you read this, some of us may be hopeful about what is happening in our country. Others may be disappointed. Some may feel relieved. Others anxious or angry.
Elections matter. Public policy matters. The choices we make as citizens matter.
But for those of us who follow Jesus, there is another question that matters just as much:



Who are we becoming in the process?
The question for Christians in a divided season is not simply what we believe or whom we support. It is whether the way we inhabit our convictions looks like Jesus.
One of the things I appreciated about the devotional I brought home was its use of four simple words:

continued inside

CHURCHWIDE **EVENTS**

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



















BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew & Gail Morgan	11/13
Mike & Kathy Seal	11/18
Sonny & Jan Hinton	11/19
Bob & Janet O'Brien	11/28

BIRTHDAYS

Taylor Beckett	11/1
Charlotte Pollitt	11/1
Linda Tyrone	11/2
Alice Nutt	11/3
Peggy Foster	11/4
Paula Self	11/5
Ron Whelply	11/6
Pam Combs	11/7
Trenton Carey	11/7
Dianne Allen	11/9
Betty Beard	11/9

BIRTHDAYS

Genie Burkhalter	11/9
Loretta Haskins	11/9
Ashley Anderson	11/15
Luke Colwick	11/15
Donna Herman	11/17
Tim Wilson	11/18
Sandy Tyler	11/21
Ken Daniel	11/23
Janye Merritt	11/23
Jim Collins	11/24
Eddie Moore	11/25
Jimmy Tyler	11/25
Judy Alderman	11/26
Bobby Flores	11/26
Erin Shirley	11/26
Betty Beene	11/27
Maysie Almond	11/29
Paige Redfield	11/29

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH APP

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

MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM GIVING

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

A meaningful way to remember a loved one, honor someone special, or express gratitude for a life that has touched your own is through a memorial or honorarium gift to First United Methodist Church. These gifts celebrate the lives and legacies of others while supporting the ongoing ministries of our church.

When a gift is received, the church sends a note of acknowledgment and gratitude to the donor. We also notify the person being honored, or the family of the person being remembered, that a gift has been made in their honor or memory. The amount of the gift is never shared. This thoughtful tradition has long been a part of memorial giving at First UMC.

Gifts may be designated for a ministry or fund that was especially meaningful to the person being remembered or honored, such as Helping Hands, Ramp Ministry, Missions, or another ministry of the church. Gifts without a specific designation are placed in the church's Memorial Fund to support the continuing mission and ministry of First UMC.

To make a memorial or honorarium gift, simply provide the name of the person you wish to remember or honor, along with any ministry or fund you would like your gift to support. The church office can assist you with making arrangements.

Memorial and honorarium gifts are a lasting expression of love and gratitude, allowing the impact of one life to continue blessing others through the ministry of the church.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

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

FUMC BOSSIER



























CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SASHA TOMS AT CHILDREN@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

Hello First Families!

November is filled with opportunities to worship, learn, and serve together!

November 1 — All Saints Sunday: Children will remain in worship with their church family. Special worship bags will help them participate in the service. Children helping prepare for the Lord's Supper should arrive at 9:40 AM. No Children's Church.

November 8 — Library Day: We'll explore Jesus' courage, faithfulness, and love through John 18:1-19:42 with a Bible story, short video, popsicle-stick crosses, and a library book to take home.

November 15 — Big Room Day: Jesus is alive! Children will explore John 20:1-31 through movement, building, imaginative play, and hands-on activities.

November 22 — Adventure Sunday: During Sunday School, children will help the youth prepare Thanksgiving baskets and decorate a "Spoon of Thanks" for each family. During Children's Church, we'll visit Helping Hands Food Pantry to learn about serving our neighbors and help stock shelves if donations are available.

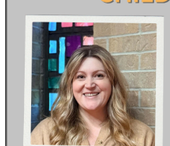
November 29 — Hanging of the Greens: Children will join the congregation as we begin Advent together. No Children's Church. Stay afterward for our churchwide potluck!

Advent Is Coming Home! Families will soon receive Advent supply boxes with meaningful activities, including a family Advent wreath that grows each week. Ms. Sasha will share weekly videos with instructions and reflections to help families slow down, connect, and keep Jesus at the center of Christmas.

See you Sunday!
Sasha Toms

STAY UP TO DATE WITH PARENT INFORMATION ON GROUP ME →

FIRST KIDS
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Sasha Toms
CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR
318.583.0180
children@fumcbossier.org

First Kids FUMC Bossier

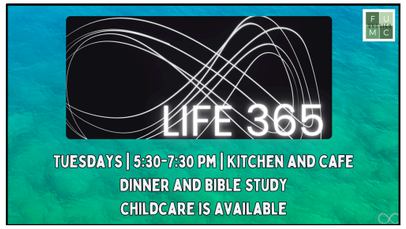
Scan the QR code to join the group

groupme



GET CONNECTED TO A SMALL **COMMUNITY**

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



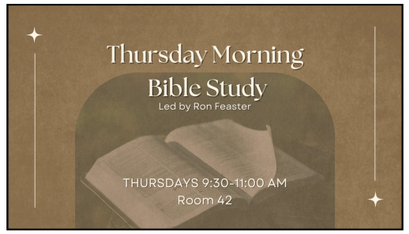
LIFE 365

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.



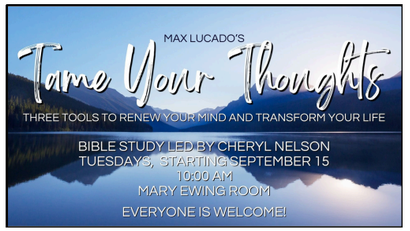


THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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.

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, November 2.





THE GRIT & GRACE MISSION TEAM

November 17- 5:00 PM

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

November 28- 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 Whelply.



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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

THANKFUL IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT



October was a blast in our student ministry! Our Fall Break Lock-In brought together 16 students and 5 adults for a night of crafts, games, movies, Scripture, and late-night snacks. Beyond the fun, it was a meaningful opportunity to build relationships, grow in faith, and create space for students to connect with one another and God.

In November, we're excited to host the district kickball tournament and welcome friends from churches across Shreveport-Bossier. We're also collecting donations for Thanksgiving baskets to be delivered on November 22. We have SO much to be thankful for, and we're grateful for the opportunity to put our faith into action by serving families in our community. We're excited to keep building connections, deepening faith, and helping our students become fully alive in Christ!



NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS





STAY UP TO DATE WITH FUMC BOSSIER YOUTH TEXTS

Text @2020fumcy to 81010 - students

Text @2020fumcp to 81010 - parents



FIRST FRIENDS CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SHANNON KELLEY AT SKELLEY@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG



Dear Church Family,

As we enter the month of November, our hearts are full of gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. At First Friends Christian Learning Center, we are especially thankful for the opportunity to care for, teach, and love the precious children entrusted to us each day.

Our little school is more than a place for children to learn and play. It is a place where little hearts grow, friendships begin, kindness is practiced, and God's love is shared through everyday moments. We are grateful for the support, prayers, and encouragement of our church family as we continue this important ministry.

FAITHFUL FAVORITES

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

Each month, we highlight a podcast, book, song, or other resource to encourage reflection, growth, and connection in your faith journey. Whether it's music that uplifts, a book that inspires, or a podcast that sparks conversation, our monthly pick is chosen to nourish your spirit and spark meaningful moments in your life. October's picks is from Sasha Toms.

Hidden in Plain Sight

On one of our first family road trips, we stopped at the Louisiana State Oil & Gas Museum in Oil City.

Traveling with James can sometimes mean wondering ahead of time how a new place will go. With his autism, unfamiliar spaces and experiences can be unpredictable. But from the moment we walked in, he was completely fascinated. He wanted to see everything, and watching him enjoy the museum became one of those little family moments I knew I would remember.

Near the end of the tour, our guide showed us a swamp mural painted by Charlotte Dickey Clifton and told us there was something hidden inside it. Tucked into the Louisiana swamp scene was a tiny Nativity.

That detail made an already special stop feel even more meaningful. There, hidden in an unexpected place, was a reminder of Jesus — waiting to be noticed.



STIRRING THE SPIRIT

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

Green Beans Almondine

A simple, flavorful side dish featuring tender green beans, buttery toasted almonds, sautéed shallots, garlic, and a touch of fresh lemon juice. Great for Thanksgiving dinner and easy enough to enjoy any day of the week.

Servings: 4-6
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 15-20 minutes



Ingredients

- 1-pound fresh green beans, trimmed
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ½ cup raw sliced almonds
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste

Directions

- Prepare the green beans. Bring a large pot of generously salted water to a boil. Meanwhile, prepare an ice bath by filling a large bowl with ice and cold water.
- Blanch the green beans. Add the green beans to the boiling water and cook for 2-3 minutes, until bright green and crisp-tender. The beans should be slightly undercooked, as they will finish cooking in the skillet. Immediately transfer to the ice bath to stop the cooking process. Once cooled, drain thoroughly and pat dry.
- Toast the almonds. In a large, dry skillet over medium-low heat, add the sliced almonds. Toast for 3-4 minutes, stirring frequently, until lightly golden and fragrant. Watch carefully, as almonds can burn quickly. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
- Sauté the shallot and garlic. In the same skillet, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add the chopped shallot and cook for 1-2 minutes, until softened. Add the garlic and continue cooking for another minute, stirring frequently, until fragrant. Be careful not to brown the garlic.
- Finish the green beans. Add the drained green beans to the skillet and toss gently to coat in the buttery shallot and garlic mixture. Cook for 2-4 minutes, stirring occasionally, until heated through and tender to your liking.
- Season and serve. Stir in the fresh lemon juice and season with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste. Return the toasted almonds to the skillet and gently toss to combine. Transfer to a serving platter, spooning any remaining butter and almonds over the top. Serve warm.

TRUNK OR **TREAT** 2026

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



THE **CHURCH** MOUSE

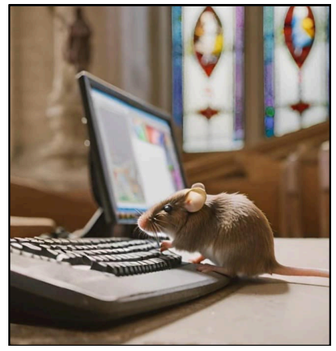
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR STAFF AT OFFICE@FUMCBOSSIER.ORG

A beautiful All Saints Sunday where we remember our loved ones started us off in November a very busy month of 30 days. Veterans Day on November 11 allows us time to honor and recognize all U.S. military veterans for their service and sacrifices. It celebrates the contributions of veterans from all conflicts.

Families are planning the Thanksgiving meal with some time-honored traditions (wishbone pull, stuffing or dressing, Macy's parade, Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, etc.) and the gathering of family or friends around the table sharing individual thanks.

We know some facts about the first Thanksgiving thanks to Colonist Edward Winslow. The meal would have included venison, corn porridge, clams, mussels and lobster. Mashed potatoes were not a part of the feast. Cranberry sauce came in 1796.Thanksgiving has been celebrated on various dates in November, but in 1941 President Roosevelt made the 4th Thursday the official day to begin in 1942. The first turkey to be "pardoned" actually was Christmas 1863 by President Lincoln. The tradition continues symbolizing goodwill and the spirit of Thanksgiving.

It is estimated that more than 46 million turkeys and 50 million pumpkin pies will be served on Thanksgiving. The first TV dinner "Swanson Turkey" with a Thanksgiving style meal appeared on the scene on September 10, 1953. It was designed to allow families more time to watch television.



At the end of the month, we celebrate Hanging of the Greens and 5th Sunday Potluck on Sunday November 29 as we begin the four-week period of Advent.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Church Mouse



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
November 12- Lunch, drinks and dessert provided. Cost is $5.00.
Call the church office to make your reservation.

SILVER FOXES FITNESS

Mondays and Fridays 10:00 AM-Fellowship Hall
Join our SIlver Foxes for a Chair Exercise Class.



See. Give. Share. Restore.

I have found myself thinking about them ever since.

First, **see**.

In Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan, mercy begins when someone actually sees the wounded man beside the road.
That sounds obvious until we realize how easy it is not to see one another.
We see Republican. Democrat. Conservative. Progressive. Winner. Loser. Ally. Opponent.
Jesus keeps inviting us beneath the label.
There is a person there.
A person with fears and hopes. A person with a story we probably do not fully know. A person loved by God.
Christian love begins by refusing to reduce another human being to a category.

Then there is **give.**

Love almost always costs something.
Sometimes it costs money or time. Sometimes it costs us the pleasure of the clever insult. The angry reply. The assumption that we already know what someone else thinks and why they think it.
Sometimes love costs us the last word.
That does not mean convictions do not matter. Christian love is not pretending every idea is equally wise or just. It is not passivity. It is not avoiding hard conversations.
It means even our strongest convictions must be carried in the way of Jesus.

Then **share**.

One of the oldest ways human beings learn to belong to one another is by sharing a table.
We eat together. We tell stories. We pass the bread. We make room for one another.

One of the quiet dangers of a divided culture is that we increasingly arrange our lives so we rarely have to share a table with people who see the world differently from us.

Continued on the next page.

The church should be different.
We keep eating together.
We keep worshiping together.
We keep praying together.
We keep belonging to one another even when agreement is incomplete.
Sharing the table does not erase disagreement. It reminds us that the person across from us is more than an opinion, more than a vote, more than a position to defeat.

And finally, **restore.**

Maybe this is the word I need most.
When the votes are counted and the signs come down, there will still be neighbors to love. Families to repair. Friendships to tend. Communities to strengthen.
The Christian question cannot end with, Who won?
We also have to ask:
What has been damaged along the way?
And what might Jesus be asking us to help restore?
On the night before his death, Jesus told his disciples:
"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."
Then he said something remarkable: this is how people will know that we belong to him.
Not because we all agree.
Not because we vote alike.
Because of the way we love.
So perhaps these four words are worth carrying with us in the weeks ahead:

See the person. Give the costly gift of love. Share the table. Restore what has been broken.

Whatever happens politically, our calling does not change.

We follow Jesus.

And when politics gets loud, perhaps that calling becomes easier to hear.