

MUNHOLLAND

APRIL 2024 MUNHOLLAND METHODIST PUBLICATION

'LIFE IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS'

Dr. Jonathan Beck, Pastor

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SUNDAY SERVICES
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Sunday School: 9:30 AM (All ages)

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KDO Director

Kim Smuck
KDO Associate Director

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Custodian

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Phil Sparks
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'Life Is About Relationships'



Dr. Jonathan Beck

Everything we do in life involves relationships. We all grew up in families whether good or bad. We all had a mother and a father whether they were very involved and loving or distant and cold. We are born into relationships that shape the whole of our lives. Our work is all about relationships. We have employers or employees, colleagues, vendors, and clients. Everyone is involved in either selling a product or providing a service for somebody else. Life is about relationships.

Easter reminds us that sin and death do not have the final word. When we turn to Christ, trusting in His faithfulness, mercy, and grace, our lives begin to change in amazingly good ways. We become different people, better family members, friends, and co-workers. Paul puts it like this: "We were buried with [Jesus] through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom 6:4) We sometimes focus on forgiveness of past sins to the neglect of living a new life. Fact is, God is working to raise us to new, good, and a beautiful life by His Spirit that is at work in us. Jesus' death cleanses us from sins in our past lives. Jesus' resurrection power fuels our new lives.

We all struggle with relationships, but our pasts do not have to define our futures. In fact, the Father is far more interested in and working to help us to have the kind of relationships He intended from the beginning. It is part of the grand exchange of our old broken lives for God's new life at work in us. "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) The Holy Spirit unleashed by the Father through His son Jesus, is making all things – including you and me – new. Living a new life in Christ is not a mystery. We don't have to sit back and wonder if our lives are going to change. In fact, Jesus calls us to work with His Spirit so that the fruits and gifts of the Spirit are manifested in our lives.

We are going to learn from Paul's Letter to the Philippians how to cooperate with God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – to participate in Jesus' resurrection. Paul does a beautiful job of helping us see the big picture of what God is doing along with taking it down to everyday practical living with others. "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." (Phil 2:5)

Come on this journey of transformation. It is too little of a thing for the Spirit to transform us individually. He wants to transform your every relationship. We will discover how to live out Paul's charge to the church in Philippi. "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." (Phil 1:27)

Come learn how to live an abundant life with your families and friends.

Jonathan

'THE LINE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL'

by Jeff Pellegrin

On April 9, 1945, barely a month before the death of Adolph Hitler and the ultimate defeat of the Third Reich, Dietrich Bonhoeffer awoke on a bright spring morning, took to his knees in prayer and, as attested to by Eberhard Bethge, ascended the gallows to accept his fate as a martyr for the cause of Christ in a world gone mad.

In his magnum opus *The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn pronounced bluntly, "The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts." With these words, Solzhenitsyn indicts not only the perpetrators, but the erstwhile victims of man's inhumanity to man. How is it that evil, so visible a hallmark of the 20th century, remains obscured to our conscience today? Surely, we could never be so wicked as those depraved souls who wrought such horror upon the face of the earth.

On the very night that our Lord instituted the most blessed sacrament of Holy Communion, His disciples failed him to a man! One betrayed Him to His enemies, another cursed and denied he ever knew Him, as the rest fled in fear before their persecutors. No man ever plans to let his brothers down. No man seeks to be a traitor. Yet we know that such men exist. It has been said that if the most wicked person you know is someone other than yourself, then you don't really know yourself at all.

We live in troubling times, as have all who came before us. Why do we think our gauntlet is different? Were the challenges of Gethsemane laid before us, how would we respond? Would we speak up, laying it all on the line, or forsake truth for personal gain?

Mike Tyson once said, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." What makes us think we're different? Are we immune from the temptation to betray the One who gave His all for us? Considering the likelihood of our emulating Peter's cowardice in the high priest's courtyard, Hemingway might as well have written, "Ask nor for whom the cock crows ... it crows for thee."



MUNHOLLAND METHODIST MEN

*Helping Men Grow in Christ, so
Others May know Christ.*

MEETING

April 11th 7 PM - Zoom only

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Men's Coffee Crew Study Group
meets at Munholland on
Wednesdays at 7:00 AM in the FH.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Munholland Methodist Men, contact Steve Zansler, President, at phylzans@hotmail.com.

Munholland's Annual Women's Dinner -

BE STILL AND KNOW --

An evening of revealing God's Faithfulness

Saturday, April 27th 6:00 pm
(Doors open at 5:30 pm)

Complimentary Dinner * Speaker *Worship *
Photo booth * Chocolates *
Roses * Gift bag * Fellowship & Fun

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salad, Green beans,
Garlic bread, Almond cake...



Are you busy? Are you tired? Over stressed? Over thinking? Do your days turn into weeks and weeks into months and before you know it, another year goes by. Did you see God in it? Did you see Him in your celebrations and your struggles? Did you praise Him and thank Him through the understood and not understood difficulties last year? Were you angry when things didn't make sense?

Remember, God is in the details! All details, both good and bad. Happy and sad. He turns All things to good to those who LOVE Him!

Come hear how to find REST... how to find JOY through your JOURNEY of life... whatever that journey is. Scripture tells us God is FAITHFUL to all that He has made. He is always with us. We need to REST in knowing His promises and in who He is. Come hear what to do, come hear how it works! We can do it together... but first... we must learn to be STILL!

Reserve your spot today! -

www.munhollandchurch.org or QR code

For more information email Ann Birdsong at
at annb@munhollandchurch.org.



GUEST SPEAKER

MARY ROONEY ARMAND

SPEAKER & CREATOR, BUTTERFLY LIVING

Mary's writing is featured on websites including Women of Noble Character, Pray with Confidence, and The Brave Women Series. Besides writing, Mary leads small groups and speaks at retreats and events.

'GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU'

DISCIPLESHIP

By Ronda Knox

The story of Samson found in Judges chapters 13:16 has always disturbed me. We all know the story, an angel of the Lord told Samson's mother, who was barren, that she would bear a son, and he would be set apart for God, a Nazarite vowing to never cut his hair. The angel also disclosed that Samson would "begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines". (Judges chapter 13:5). The Philistines had dominion over Israel at the time and Samson ruled as a Judge over Israel 20 years. He was the strongest man who ever lived, killing 1000 men with the jawbone of a donkey. It was believed his amazing strength came from the vow he kept to never cut his hair. However, when you read the story, every time Samson accomplished an amazing show of strength the Scripture tells us "The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him".

But Samson had a weakness, foreign women; even though he knew Jewish law prohibited these unions. This would prove to be his demise, as Deliah a Philistine, badgered Samson to reveal that his hair was the secret of his strength (his vow to the Lord),. She shaved off his hair, and the "the Lord had left him." The Philistines were then able to capture him, and they gouged out his eyes and put him to grinding grain inside a prison.

Are we any different than Samson? We all have our weaknesses and temptations. We can be judgmental of Samson... until we look in the mirror. But here is the good news, God NEVER gives up on us, and He didn't give up on Samson. His hair began to grow (Judges 16:22), and when 3000 Philistines were gathered, Samson prayed that God would grant him yet again the strength to bring down the pillars supporting the arena, killing the 3000 Philistines, and of course sacrificing himself in the process. God had the final say, and Samson fulfilled God's call on his life to "begin delivering Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

God has a plan for your life too, and you and I have made some pretty poor choices as well... but we serve a God who is in the business of redemption, that is what Easter is all about. So next time you think you have messed up so bad that God could not use you, remember Samson, or Peter, or Paul or Mary Magdaline.

We are in good company.

Happy Easter!!

NEW CLASS FOR SPRING!

What makes us Methodists? Is it just having food at every church event? Or having a committee for every part of the life of the church? Maybe it is our obsession with John Wesley? Yes of course, all these things are a part of who we are as a people called Methodists, but our identity lies in what we believe about our triune God, the church, salvation, sin, humanity, the life of the believer, and the ultimate future of the world.

Come join me as we take a tour of our great Wesleyan theology seeing what we believe about Christian Theology as a whole! This class is for everyone! If you want to know more about the Christian faith or Wesleyan Theology, then it's for you! I hope you join me on Tuesday evenings, as we dive together into this great faith and tradition we share. God Bless!

"Wesleyan Orthodoxy: The Faith Once Delivered to the Saints"

Beginning Tuesday's April 16th - May 14th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, room 201, \$15.00, Led by Owen Trotter

Register: Owent@munhollandchurch.org.

'THE RISEN CHRIST IS WITH US'

by Phyllis Zansler

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here." 2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we change.

We want to be more like Him in all ways possible.

The saying, "What Would Jesus Do?" (WWJD) becomes a way of life for us. When we repent of our sins, God works in us and through us.

John 3:3, Jesus tells Nicodemus, "Very, truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." And in verse 5, Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

The Holy Spirit not only helps us to live a New Life in Christ but to "live a life for Christ"!

Through His grace and mercy Jesus renews our soul. Through knowing Him, we learn to know the ways of a New Life in Christ.

We learn to know love.

God loved us so much He allowed His only begotten Son to die for us, to set us free from death.

Through the Resurrected Christ, we now have hope.

Hope of eternal life with Him!

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST WOMEN

We believe love in action
can change the world.
Please join us.

Calendar

04/02/24
General Meeting
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

04/16/24
General Meeting
6:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

If you have any questions,
please contact our Phyllis Zanser,
Communication Coordinator,
at phylzans@hotmail.com.

DONATE YOUR JELLY JARS

Please return your clean
jelly jars to the shelves in
the Fellowship Hall where
jellies are sold. Thank you!

*New Sermon Series
with Rev. Jonathan Beck
begins April 7th*

A photograph showing a person's hands holding a white rectangular sign. The sign has the text "IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS" written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. The background is a blurred bokeh of colorful lights in shades of red, orange, green, and blue.

**IT'S ALL
ABOUT
RELATIONSHIPS**

A study from the book of Philippians 2:5-7

COMMUNITY



DATE: Saturday, May 18, 2024

TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: Meet on the front porch of 410 Audubon Street. We will walk twice around Audubon Park!

It's that time of year again! Giving the gift of clean water is a way to change the world for the better. Your registration changes the life of one person. Along with your gifts over the past few years, our NOLA for water team has provided clean water for over 1000 people.

World Vision water staff are offering water for life in the name of Jesus, the source of living water. Walk, run, or roll with us at the World Vision Global 6K for Water. Sign up today!

<https://global6k.worldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=37043>

Our goal is to raise \$15,000, enough for a water point to serve 300 people. Let's see if we can get there. Ask friends to help you!

CHERU'S STORY

Cheru (pictured here), 6, is one of 319 million people in sub-Saharan Africa who worry about where and how they'll get enough water. Along with other children, she used to walk 6 km daily to carry water to school and home. Now the pipeline brings water to both places.



St. Patrick's Day Parade Fundaiser



April 7, 2024 12:00 PM

**Come enjoy the famous Metairie Parade
Hamburgers, Jambalaya, Hotdogs, Fries,
and "Potty passes"**

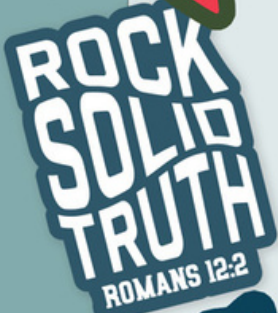
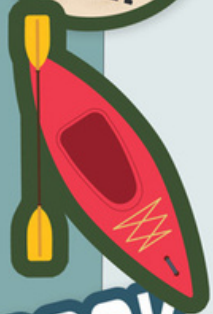
Proceeds support Missions

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

June 3 - June 7, 2024 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Ages 3 - 11 (3 & 4 yrs old must be potty-trained)

March early signup \$20 April \$25 May/June \$30



The church will be transformed into our VBS theme, where campers discover life with God is a surprising adventure.

Music, missions, crafts, recreation, and memorable Bible stories help kids know they can trust God to be with them through anything. Even snack time reinforces the theme each day.

Register now and come join us for this week of fun! Click on the QR code below to register or sign up on our website.

If you have any questions, email Owen Trotter at owent@munhollandchurch.org or 504.834.9910.



VBS
SIGN UP



VOLUNTEER
SIGN UP



'WHY SHOULD I BE GENEROUS?'

Generosity, as an Act of Faith, is deeply rooted in the belief that giving is not just a charitable gesture but a spiritual principle with profound implications. The passage from 2 Corinthians 9:6 serves as a foundational text, emphasizing the correlation between the amount one gives and the abundance one receives. It suggests that those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly, while those who sow bountifully will reap bountifully. This principle extends beyond a mere exchange of material goods; it speaks to a fundamental truth about the nature of faith and the interconnectedness of giving and receiving.

At its core, generosity is an expression of trust in divine providence of our Lord. It requires a belief that by giving freely, one is participating in God's larger order guided by faith. This faith is not blind; it is grounded in the conviction that our Lord operates according to principles of abundance rather than scarcity. When individuals act generously, they are not simply giving away resources; they are affirming their belief in the inherent goodness of the world and their role in perpetuating that goodness through acts of kindness and compassion.

Warren Hoppmeyer
Finance Chair

There are numerous ways you can meet your pledge or make contributions to support God's ministries through Munholland:

- Cash or Check
- On-line giving by setting up an account in REALM
- Text Munholland to 73256
- ACH recurring payment from your bank to Munholland
- Stock transfers
- IRA distribution
- Charitable Trusts

Munholland's Statistics

2024 YTD

YTD - 2024 Gifts Received	YTD - 2024 Total Expenses	Variance
\$185,524.38	\$175,167.08	\$10,357.30

Munholland In a Week

CHURCH
CALENDAR

SUNDAY

- 8:30 AM Worship Service
- 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting * (1st and 3rd Sunday)
- 5:00 PM AA Group Officers Mtg
- 6:00 PM Sunday Night AA Group

MONDAY

- 9:30 - 1:30 PM
Kids Day Out (M, W, Th, Fr)

TUESDAY

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 10:00 AM Munholland Methodist Women meets the 1st Tuesday of the month
- 6:00 PM Munholland Methodist Women meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month
- 6:00 PM "Wesleyan Orthodoxy: The Faith Once Delivered to the Saints" 4/16 - 5/14
- 1:30 PM Program Staff Meeting
- 2:30 PM Mt. Zion Good Samaritan (3rd Tuesday)*^

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 AM Men's Coffee Crew Study Group
- 10:00 AM Women Better Together Sm Group Study
- 5:00 PM Midweek Meal
- 6:00 PM Cursillo
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 AM Ladies weekly ongoing study
- 7:00 PM Munholland Methodist Men * (usually on the second Thursday) Zoom only.
- 7:30 PM Al Anon
- 8:00 PM NA
- 8:00 PM AA

*Note: Not a weekly event
^ Contact Betsy White at betsysw@aol.com
FH: FELLOWSHIP HALL

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

7 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARADE
12:00 PM

27 MUNHOLLAND
ANNUAL WOMEN'S
DINNER
6:00 PM FH
(DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED -
LIMITED SEATING

28 LUNCH BUNCH
12:00 PM

Mark your calendars:

JOY (Just older youth) 55+	JOY Ministry Luncheon
LIVE! LAUGH! LOVE!	Thursday, 5/16/24 11:30 AM FH Catered meal, Speaker, & Fellowship \$15

For more information... Visit our
website... munhollandchurch.org

MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005

Youth (Grades 6th - 12th) Sunday Small Group 9:30 AM

We are kicking off Youth Sunday Small Group at PJ's (800 Metairie Rd.)
at 9:45 AM.

If you need a ride from the church, email Owen Trotter

THINK ABOUT IT

Psalm 84 was once described by the famous preacher Charles Spurgeon, as "The Pearl of Psalms". Verses 5,7:"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage..... they go from strength to strength". Verse 10: "For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand outside the gate. "I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wickedness.No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.....How blessed is the man who trusts in Thee." You can see that this is a Psalm, full of rich truths for humanity. Meditate on every verse of this "Pearl" for it will truly bless you in what you are called to accomplish.

When our hearts are truly set on the pilgrimage of following the Lord Jesus, we can count on Him to provide all the resources we need. If we rely on our own resources for the trip, we will find them totally inadequate. If we set our hearts on making our lives as comfortable and predictable as possible, we will miss out. Only in periods of trial and challenges can we be assured that we will go from strength to strength. Our true strength is in the Lord Himself. In a world where most people long to be self-sufficient, we should always come to the reality that we **have to** depend on His all-sufficient grace for our own journey. The evangelist George Whitefield once prayed, "Lord Jesus, I am weary in thy work, but not weary of it."

When the Galatians were falling away from their faith, Paul wrote his powerful letter of exhortation to them. He said "Do not lose heart in well-doing, for in due season you shall reap if you do not grow weary". (v9) In our earthly bodies, we will get tired and weary in the trials of life. But praise God, we aren't supposed to finish the race and keep the faith in and of ourselves. Those are the days we are to throw ourselves on His mercy to sustain, refresh, revive, and restore us to our supernatural selves and bring glory to His Name. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen". (Gal 6:18)