

MUNHOLLAND

AUGUST 2023

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST PUBLICATION

'SEE WHERE THE ADVENTURE TAKES YOU!'

Dr. Jonathan Beck, Pastor



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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

PASTOR

Dr. Jonathan Beck

jbeck@munhollandchurch.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Ann Birdsong,

Evangelism & Engagement Dir.

abirdsong@munhollandchurch.org

Ronda Knox

Adult Education Director

rknox@munhollandchurch.org

Owen Trotter

Worship Leader, Youth Ministry

Dir., Media Coordinator

owent@munhollandchurch.org

STAFF

Nora Huete

Business Manager

Darlene Brown

Communications Dir.

Charlotte Call

Secretary/Administrative

Frank Ruholl

Safe Sanctuary

MaryBeth Bonin

KDO Director

Kim Smuck

KDO Associate Director

MUSIC STAFF

Phil Sparks

Organist

CONTACTING THE CHURCH

PHONE: 504.834.9910

www.munhollandchurch.org

'SEE WHERE THE ADVENTURE TAKES YOU!

Dr. Jonathan Beck



New adventures await! This is the time of year that children go to school for the first time, middle school kids move up to high school, and youth go to college. Adults are sending their children off to new challenges, getting back into a more normal pace of life, and looking forward to Saints football! This change of season also offers new opportunities to use your influence for Christ. Consider what this profound passage means for you this fall:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

This passage reveals three amazing things about ourselves and God:

1. First, 'you are God's handiwork'! You were beautifully made by God with incredible loving care. God took delight in forming you. He did not go about this haphazardly, but with great intentionality. He has given you a unique personality, passions, talents, and gifts. You are made in God's image so that you will reflect God's divine nature. Therefore, you can join the Psalmist declaring, 'You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:13-14)
2. Second, Christ Jesus has recreated you for good works. Before Jesus came into our lives we were like little lost puppies. Jesus has brought us into His family for a purpose. Paul puts it this way: "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ ...And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." (II Cor 5:19-20) You and I are heralds of the new creation, ambassadors proclaiming the power of Jesus to make all things new. God has put all kinds of people in your path for you - and you alone - to demonstrate and invite them into life in Christ.
3. Finally, God has prepared in advance for these good works. God brings people into your life for a reason. There is no 'coincidence' but only 'God-instances'. Everything changes when you grasp that. Everything you do and say matters since it can bring God's blessings into others' lives. Like Adam and Eve, we have been given our part of the garden to bring order and fruitfulness. God has placed us right where He wants us to work, and play, and raise families. We have been positioned to do the good works that reflect the goodness of God. Finishing up a summer of work at a Christian family conference center, one of my friends said, 'Well, it's back to the real world now.' I thought for a moment about what he said and responded, "No, we have been prepared to go back into the 'real world'."

As we enter this new season of the year, consider that God has made us for such a time as this. Jesus has recreated us to herald His kingdom. God has prepared the way for every good word and deed. Now it is up to us to live it out. We are in for a grand adventure this fall. Jump in with both feet and see where it takes us!

RENEW ME, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

by Jeff Pellegrin

Renewing the mind is a Biblical concept that involves allowing God to bring to the surface the lies we have accepted and replace them with truth of His Word. The Wednesday Men's group just finished reading *The Shack* by William P. Young. In this story, the protagonist Makenzie (Mack) Agu comes face to face with the fears and lies that have overshadowed his relationships throughout his life. It reminds me of what one of my friends once sagely declared: "It's not the lies we tell others that do the most damage... the worst lies are the ones we tell ourselves."

What has this to do with renewing our minds? Pretty much everything. The degree to which we are frankly and brutally honest with ourselves about our own sinfulness is the degree to which we are open to be transformed by the Truth of Christ. Proverbs declares "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." In James Allen's seminal work *As A Man Thinketh* he writes "In the armory of thought [man] forges the weapons by which he destroys himself. He also fashions the tools with which he builds for himself heavenly mansions of joy and strength and peace." Could it be that we have so much power at the ready, yet so little will to yield it?

Paul states plainly in Romans that we should not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This means that we should not allow the world to shape our thinking but instead allow God's Word to transform us from the inside out. Renewing the mind is an important precept in Wesleyan Methodism. John Wesley advocated deliberateness in devotion. We are to be intentional disciples, spending time in God's Word, reading, studying, and meditating daily so as to apply it as though our very lives depend upon it! The same goes for prayer and worship.

We've all heard the old trope "He didn't fail for want of trying..." But GK Chesterton was much nearer to the truth when he lamented "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

Christianity is not soft soap, as C.S. Lewis might have put it. It's hard, and demanding, and not for the faint of heart. It requires all that is in us, which is more than we think we can give. Most importantly, it requires a willingness to be renewed in our minds. Only then can we face the day with the hope of forever.



MUNHOLLAND METHODIST MEN
(MMM)

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

MMM MEETING

August 10th 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.

"I NEVER SAW A USEFUL CHRISTIAN WHO WAS NOT A STUDENT OF THE BIBLE." - D. L. MOODY

by Ronda Knox

A 2017 Pew Research study found that 63% of evangelical Protestants read the Bible at least once a week; it's safe to assume that some of that number represents folks who only crack the Scriptures during church on Sunday morning. And this still leaves about 47% who don't read the Bible once a week.

There are several reasons why someone may struggle to get into the habit of studying Scripture. Sometimes we allow urgent things to crowd out the most important things. And some people struggle to get much out of their time in the Word, which is one of the many reasons God encourages Christian community. We help each other with understanding God's Holy Word.

We have six new offerings this fall, all beginning in September, to equip you so that you might be a mature, available, and clean instrument in His hands to accomplish His purposes. As Billy Graham said, "If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will."

FALL STUDIES

1

The Genesis of Gender

Tuesdays, 9/5 - 11/7 6:15-7:30 PM
Rm 207

Transition from confusion to understanding about transgenderism and the cultural milieu that surrounds it.

Mary Kay and Rev. Jonathan Beck will lead a serious book study on The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory by A. Favale. Favale taught gender studies for years when her thinking became more informed by her new Christian faith. Engage this cultural moment for the sake of family and friends.

Contact Jonathan at 504.834.9910 or email jbeck@munhollandchurch.org, if you have any questions.

4

Romans Part 2

Wednesdays 9/13 - 12/06 6:15-7:30
Rm 111

Ronda Knox and Stephan Ball return this fall to cover chapters 8-16, which completes the study of what many believe to be one of the most important books ever written on the Christian faith: Romans. Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life. All are welcome, even if you did not attend Romans Part 1.

2

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry

Tuesdays, 9/5 - 10/24 6:15-7:30 PM
Rm 111

If you have wanted to enter into life with God but found yourself saying "I just wish I had more time", this class is for you.

Join Owen Trotter as he unpacks what keeps us from walking daily with God and entering into His life giving way.

5

Men's Coffee Crew Study Group

Wednesdays, 7 AM Fellowship Hall
ongoing study

Be a Real Man and divide into conversations that matter to us today.

Dig into books of the Bible and other Christian works that will challenge you to think like a Christian.

Contact Jonathan, 504.834.9910, or just attend on Wednesday mornings.

3

When You Pray

Thursdays, 9/7 - 10/19 10-11:30 AM
Fellowship Hall
Jennifer Heebe, facilitator

So many women struggle with their prayer life...am I doing this right? Is there a right way? They get distracted, feel defeated and all too often give up.

We will roll up our sleeves, open The Word, and study effective prayers and learn to pray with power and purpose.

6

The Cost of Control

Sharon Hodde Miller
Wednesdays 9/6 - 10/4 10AM
Rm 210
Led by Ann Birdsong

Technology, science, medicine, and the internet all promise us ever-increasing mastery over our world. Why we crave it, the anxiety it gives us, and the real power God gives us. This is a Right Now media series, you will not need a book. If you would like to follow for more deeper discussion, you can order the book through Amazon.



A NEW WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Prayer & Tea Baby Shower Let's Shower Them with Love!

Quarterly, as a congregation, we will host a baby shower to welcome our new little ones into the Munholland Family through fellowship and prayer. Gifts are not needed, but if you would like to bless our new moms, we will be collecting diapers.

Pampers - Sizes 1 & 2 No Newborn size please

Please contact me if you would like to participate in this exciting new ministry in any way.
Church Office 504.834.9910 or abirdsong@munhollandchurch.org.



Warrior Women

Wednesdays, 8/2- 8/30 10 AM Rm 210
Led by Ann Birdsong

God desires each of his children to follow his call. But sometimes the battles we fight for God's kingdom defy our expectations, leading us to trust him more deeply.

In this five-session series with Bianca Juárez Olthoff, explore the story of Deborah, Barak, and Jael, as we discover what being a warrior for God looks like.



"I CAST ALL MY CARES UPON YOU"

by Phyllis Zansler

I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet, and anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all of my cares upon you...

The "Cares Chorus" has been a favorite of mine for more years than I care to admit. I was raised in the Catholic faith, and it wasn't until 4½ years into our marriage that I officially joined Munholland, on the day our daughter was baptized. Being raised Catholic meant I was unfamiliar with many aspects of a Protestant denomination. We read the Bible at special times of the year or for special occasions. Bible study, Sunday school and Vacation Bible School were all new to me and at times seemed like another language. As our family grew, I gradually eased my way into the Scriptures, mainly through becoming a Sunday School teacher for first graders. I was learning as they were learning. I had found my passion, which turned out to be one of many. I taught for almost 18 years...I really loved it.

I also volunteered with VBS, what fun that was and still is! For the past two years I have been a leader with the three-year-olds. What a joy they are! They haven't a care in the world, nor should they have one. Little children have a way of making you look at things differently... simply, and mostly truthful.

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up my childish ways." 1Cor. 13:11

The "Cares Chorus" was a themed song at one VBS that really spoke to me; it brought comfort to me then and it still does. Knowing I can bring all my burdens to God renews my mindset, it refreshes my outlook on my problem "du jour" and restores a joy to my soul.

God's plan for us is to grow our minds, to renew it daily and fill it with His Holy Word, as our mind is renewed, our love for Him grows and our heart cannot contain that love. It is meant to be shared.

Jesus said, "let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them". At any age we are His children. His beloved children. Seek Him, He will find you...



Calendar

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

08/01/23

**White Elephant Prep
10:00 AM Rm 211**

08/15/23

**White Elephant Prep
10:00 AM Rm 211**

08/19/23

**District UWF Mini Mission U
Mt. Zion UMC**

08/22/23

**Book club
Miosotis Flores Never Forgets
by Hilda Eunice Burgos
6:30 PM Parlor**

08/29/23

**White Elephant Prep
10:00 AM Rm 211**

**If you have any questions,
contact Phyllis Zansler,
Communications Coordinator
at phylzans@hotmail.com.**



Growing God's Kingdom One child at a time!

Nurturing spiritual growth in children to equip them with a foundation in faith that will allow them to grow personally, form a relationship with Jesus Christ, live out their faith daily and disciple others.

Church Nursery

The nursery is available for infants & toddlers during the 8:30 AM service, Sunday School, & the 11:00 AM service. Make sure to bring a bag with all the items your child/children may need.



Sunday School Children grades Pre-K 4 to 5th

Join us from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM to learn about God & His son, Jesus, through songs, games, experiments & more!

Children's Church 11 AM Service

During the 1st part of the worship service the children are invited down to the front to hear a short Children's Sermon. Children then leave the service to participate in Children's Church (RM 209.)

During this time children will sing worship songs, hear a Bible story, participate in various activities regarding a scripture verse, & pray. Children return back to BIG church during the last hymn.



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR
THIS FALL**

WEDNESDAYS 5:30 - 6:30 PM

MORE DETAILS TO COME....

RENEWING OUR MIND IN THE PSALMS

by Owen Trotter

I have talked about Psalm 1 in a previous Messenger article, but it is time for us to revisit this deep well of spiritual wisdom and practice as we discuss the renewal of our minds in Christ Jesus. We live in a day and age--and have always lived in a day and age--where the wrong values, the wrong philosophies, and the wrong practices have been elevated to a status of “the good life”. These ways of life are seen as effective, efficient, hardworking, dedicated, honorable, and even admired. These ways being, hustle, hurry, packed schedules, long work weeks, the “always being on call” mentality, watching out for one’s self, the “do whatever needs to be done to achieve the goal” mentality.

This is not the blessed way. Psalm 1 opens with a Hebrew word, Ashrey, which can translate to blessed, happy, good, or content. So, what does this blessed life, this good life, look like? It looks like walking with God, meditating on His word,

taking time to be with Him, not rushing, hurrying and hustling, but stopping our busy lives and entering into life with God. This is the good and blessed way, this is why we must renew our minds. Society tells us one thing, which leads to death and desolation as the Psalmist here points out in the latter half of Psalm 1. The blessed life is counter cultural, it is slow and meaningful, not self-seeking but God-seeking; it is transformative.

I encourage you to stop before, during, and after your workday, taking ten minutes each time and spend it with a Psalm, like Psalm 1 or 100, 23, or 145. Just meditate on the psalm; read it over and over, sitting in silence for a moment and listening to God. Renew your mind in His word and be transformed into life with our great God.

YOUTH

(GRADES 6TH – 12TH)

Sunday School:

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Collective Sundays

5:00–7:00 PM Youth Room

Each Wednesday, I send out a weekly Newsletter with up-coming events, calendar and other information about what’s going on at Munholland Youth!

If you would like to be added to my email list, please email me at owent@munhollandchurch.org.

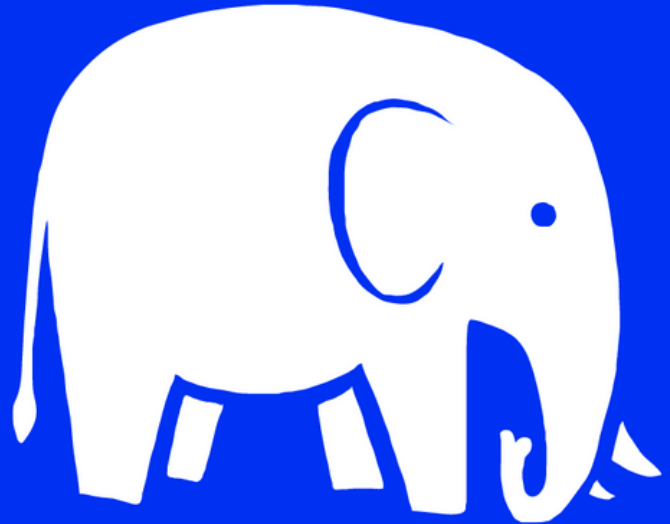
MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH

1201 Metairie Road, Metairie, 70005 504.834.9910

www.munhollandchurch.org

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
8AM-1PM**

**SALE INCLUDES: HOME & GARDEN, JEWELRY,
COLLECTIBLES, BOOKS & TOYS, FROZEN SOUPS,
JELLIES, PICKLES, SWEETS, FURNITURE,
NO CLOTHES - ACCESSORIES ONLY...**

**Regular donations accepted
July 20th through Sept. 24th
(place behind screen in FH)**

**Furniture drop off begins Sept. 25th
Text Phyllis Zansler at 504.701.3622 for
large furniture items, if needed for pickup...**

**All proceeds go to UWF missions
local, national, and international...**

Munholland In a Week

CHURCH
CALENDAR

UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 8:30 AM Worship Service
- 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting *
- 5:00 PM Youth Collective Mtg.
- 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) Resumes on 9/7/23

TUESDAY

- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 10:00 AM UWF General Meeting *
- 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 for Women Small Group continuous
"Warrior Women" (8/02 - 8/30)
- 5:00 PM Midweek Meal will resume in September
- 5:30 PM Children's Activity Night (times may vary)
- 6:00 PM Cursillo (summer times vary)
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 AM Ladies weekly ongoing study
- 7:00 PM Munholland Methodist Men * (usually meets
on the second Thursday)
- 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

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

06

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

11 AM
SANCTUARY

Bring your backpacks to church
for a special blessing

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

9:45 AM FH

09

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

5:30 PM Youth Rm 200
The Social Dilemma

12

BABY SHOWER

10:00 AM Parlor

16

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

5:30 PM Youth Rm 200
The AI Dilemma

27

LUNCH BUNCH AFTER 11 AM SERVICE

August 10th - Holy Land Zoom Mtg 7:00 PM
For zoom info contact Ronda Knox at
rknox@munhollandchurch.org.

Munholland family,

I hope you are having a great summer resting and renewing your spirit. Munholland is renewing its purpose to serve the community and beyond. We have been blessed to be able to pay off the remainder of our mortgage, \$11,604.60, and are now debt free!

In addition to this good news, Nora had applied for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) – sometimes called the Employee Retention Tax Credit or ERTC-- which is a refundable tax credit for businesses and tax-exempt organizations. We received \$434,212.08! We will invest the money for now and determine the best use for it in the coming months. We are excited for our future and growing our congregation.

In Christ's love,
Kitty Stulb, Finance Chair

MOBILE TEXT GIVING

Text "MUNHOLLAND" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP.

If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

Munholland's Vital Statistics

	June 2023				January - June 2023		
	Budget	Actual	Variance		Budget	Actual	Variance
<i>Contributions</i>	\$76,445	\$57,160	-\$19,285	<i>Contributions</i>	\$535,118	\$524,540	-\$10,578
<i>Expenses</i>	\$76,445	\$66,889	\$9,556	<i>Expenses</i>	\$535,118	\$510,273	\$24,845
<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	-\$9,729	-\$9,729	<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	\$14,267	\$14,267

This is as of July 31st. The budget has been adjusted down due to changes in apportionment, personnel and debt payment.

MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005

THINK ABOUT IT

“Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid.” (Romans 3:3,4)

Faith-filled words change things. They'll move mountains into the sea. They'll turn sickness into health. They'll turn a sinner into a saint! Often church pastors and Christians pray the prayer from II Chron 7:13-14 when our nation has strayed from God... “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people; and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

The Word tells us God hears us when we repent and will forgive us and heal our nation. If we believers would back up our prayers with words of faith instead of constantly describing what the devil is doing, we could soon begin to see spiritual revival in America and in the Church. We might see another great awakening! Rarely do we hear people saying “This is great! God is truly healing the land, just as we have prayed.” Instead we hear a repeat of the evening news, rather than proclaiming the Good News of God's promises. Sometimes it's hard to see spiritual progress, but by faith we command mountains to move in Jesus' Name. We ask God to show us glimpses of His Glory coming into the earth and to give us the grace to BELIEVE and RECEIVE those promises.

Rejoice with other believers for what we see God doing in our midst — small things and great big things. Rest assured, He is doing! Let's take a firm stand against unbelief and sloppy words and decree that God is doing what He said He would do in response to our decree~~ He is healing this great land of the free and home of the brave.....America the Beautiful.