

MUNHOLLAND

FEBRUARY 2024 MUNHOLLAND METHODIST PUBLICATION

'WALK OF LOVE'

Dr. Jonathan Beck, Pastor

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Tiffany Palermo, MMG

Business Admin/Facilities Mgr.

Darlene Brown

Communications Dir.

Charlotte Call

Secretary/Administrative

Frank Ruholl

Safe Sanctuary

MaryBeth Bonin

KDO Director

Kim Smuck

KDO Associate Director

Malcom Munster

Custodian

MUSIC STAFF

Phil Sparks

Organist

CONTACTING THE CHURCH

PHONE: 504.834.9910

www.munhollandchurch.org

'WALK OF LOVE'

Dr. Jonathan Beck



So many around the world do not have life-giving water readily available. Some have to walk miles every day to get water for their daily needs. Worse, the water they get out of streams, lakes, and ponds is often laden with parasites, harmful bacteria, and disease. Their time and energy in search for life-giving water ends up bringing disease and sometimes death into their families.

Every May, Sheree and Jim Funk host a World Vision Run/Walk for Water. Out of the money raised, World Vision is able to drill wells in communities so that everyone can have clean water. It costs money to walk for water. It costs time to walk. It costs energy to walk. We don't walk for ourselves. We aren't the benefactors. We aren't trying to get in shape, win a prize, or receive accolades. We walk for others. It is a walk of love. We walk miles one day so that others don't have to walk miles every day. We expend energy one day so that they don't have to expend that much energy daily. We walk so they will have life-giving water rather than the disease and death giving water. We walk for their water, not ours. It is a walk of love. A one day walk can change the rest of another person's days.

This is a perfect metaphor for Jesus' walk of love for us. It is a metaphor, not a comparison. What we do is infinitesimally small compared to Jesus walk to Jerusalem. It is infinitesimally small compared to Jesus' self-sacrifice. It is infinitesimally small compared with every ounce of will Jesus expended to do for humanity and the world what we could not do for ourselves. Luke 9:51 tells us that, "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." Jesus' road to Jerusalem was a walk of love. It cost him everything, and what cost Jesus his very life cannot be cheap for us. Jesus walked to the cross so we wouldn't have to.

Paul puts it this way, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:12). It is the grand exchange. Jesus exchanges his life for ours, his righteousness for ours. Jesus did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. Jesus resolutely set out to walk one day to change the rest of our lives.

'IT'S ALONG, LONG ROAD...'

by Jeff Pellegrin

As the turbulent 1960's wound to a close, the western world was reeling from a seemingly endless array of tragic violence and cultural upheaval. The dawn of that decade saw the US and the Soviet Union come terrifyingly close to all-out nuclear war in the Cuban Missile Crisis. By the close of the decade the Vietnam War was surging toward an unimaginable toll of human lives destined to exceed 1.3 million soldiers and civilians. Political violence mirrored the social upheaval of that era with the assassinations of Medgar Evers and John F. Kennedy in 1963, Malcolm X in 1965, and Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy in 1968. Later that same year, at the Democratic National Convention, the rage of an entire generation boiled over into the streets of Chicago.

About that time, a 54 year old songwriter from California named Bob Russel, who had penned several songs with the great Duke Ellington, was fighting his own war with lymphoma. It was a war that he was losing. Against the backdrop of personal and cultural suffering, Bob wrote perhaps his most enduring song in collaboration with Bobby Scott. It is a ballad of the heart about the humanity of all people, and of our duty to give our all for each other. The inspiration for the song is said to have come from the motto of Father Edward Flannigan's Boy's Town in Nebraska. It stems from an incident involving Howard Lumis, a young boy stricken by polio. Due to his inability to climb the stairs, other boys would often carry him. One day, Father Flanagan asked Reuben Granger, one of those older boys, if carrying Howard was hard. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father... he's m' brother."

Released in 1969, "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" became a worldwide hit for the Hollies just a few months before Russel's death on February 18, 1970. To this day, the song stands as a towering testimony to the power of love and the need we have to share one another's burdens.

John 13:35 declares "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The road is indeed long, but we'll get there, if we walk with our brothers. For together, with Christ, we are strong ... strong enough to carry them..



MUNHOLLAND METHODIST MEN

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

MEETING

February 8th 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.

ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
14TH

7 AM - 1 PM
DRIVE-THRU
ASHES

6:30 PM
SANCTUARY
SERVICE

Volunteers needed, please contact Ann Birdsong at
abirdsong@munhollandchurch.org...

'JESUS' LOVE FOR US'

by Ronda Knox

The first day of Lent is also Valentine's Day this year, which seems an uncanny fit for me. Out of perfect love Christ traveled the long road to the cross, where in His suffering and death He redeemed us back to the Father. I wonder if He was fearful, or at least anxious to travel that road? We know that Jesus asked: "Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42. In Christ's humanity of course He was not looking forward to unspeakable pain; and yet LOVE compelled Him, love for His Father, and love for us.

Should we be any different? People take on dangerous tasks not because they falsely believe the mission is safe. No, they agree there is risk involved, but we are willing to face the potential danger because someone or something we love is worth taking a risk. Love trumps fear.

We can find numerous examples of obedience in the face of uncertainty in Scripture. Two that come immediately to mind are Mary, Christ's mother, and Josuha who led the Israelites into the promised land. Both faced potential danger in accepting the assignment God gave them; and both were told "do not be afraid" and "be strong and courageous." Phrases such as these and "don't be worried or anxious" abound in Scripture. It is not because the folks would not face danger, but because God would never leave them and He would see them through any trial.

God has given us all the mission of demonstrating His love to others. This invitation comes in different ways, but when we hear the Spirit say "do not be afraid" that gives us the courage to move forward in trust. When we proceed in the loving care of God, there will be no room for our fears. Might God be calling you to show the Love of God by going on a mission trip? We have two trips coming up for your consideration.

The first is to Ethiopia with Great Concerns Ethiopia, the focus is medical missions where we connect folks to the local church through providing medical clinics from April 4th - 12 or 13th led by founder Kay McNally.

The Second is evangelistic / teaching in focus to churches in Jovellanos Cuba from May 27th - June 3rd. The Reverend Mark Martin, who grew up here at Munholland, will be leading the trip. Contact Ronda Knox at 504-236-6110 or email rknox@munhollandchurch.org for more information.

Mission Opportunities

**ETHIOPIA
MISSION TRIP**
April 4th-12/13th
Led by Kay McNally



More info: Ronda Knox
Church office

**Cuba May-June
✠ Mission ✠
2024**

May 27 - June 3, 2024

Evangelistic/Teaching
in focus to churches
in Jovellanos Cuba...

If interested - contact
Rhonda Knox
church office



'A PLACE IN GOD'S HEART'

by Phyllis Zansler

We all seek to love and to be loved.

Let's face it. Love can be a bumpy road. It can be complex, or it can come easily. It may have no outlets, or it can have forks in the road.

It can be smooth and straight forward. There is no map or GPS directing us where to find love.

What is love exactly? Is it a feeling, an emotion, or is it a state of being?

Love is hard to define. Everyone sees what love is through different eyes because our heart experiences love differently.

Old habits or long held beliefs will often block our road on the way to love.

1 John 4:19 reads, "We love because HE first loved us."

Is it really that simple? That direct?

With childlike trust I know that I am loved. I am God's beloved child. Knowing this awakens my heart to love as God loves me.

During February we celebrate Valentine's Day and love abounds.

Begin by loving yourself then loving others. Love with a new set of eyes.

Love through God's eyes!

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST WOMEN

Calendar

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

2/6/24

**General Meeting
10:00 AM FH**

2/20/24

**General Meeting
6:00 PM FH**

**Mark your calendars
Sunday, March 3rd
for MMW Sunday**

**If you have any questions,
please contact our
Communication Coordinator,
Phyllis Zansler.**

Attention Families/Classes/Groups 19TH ANNUAL DISCIPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024
Time: 8 AM - 12 PM
Location: Munholland Methodist Church
 1201 Metairie Rd, Metairie, LA 70005
 Church Parking Lot on Elmeer

Munholland's Disciple Sunday School Class is again holding a garage/yard sale as a fund raiser, and you too can raise some funds! The sale will be held in the church parking lot, and we are selling spaces (parking space sized) for \$20 to other classes, groups, committees, and families who would like to participate and raise some funds of their own. We will run an ad in the paper, and make signs.

Donations: If you would like to donate some items for our class to sell, you can do that too! All funds we raise go to mission projects. Donations can be placed in the Copy/Collections room/Old Welcome Center beginning February 4th through March 1st.

If you do not sell everything, you can take it home OR we have a charity organization come and pick up the left over items at the end of the day.

We will try to avoid early-birds, and folks setting up must get their vehicles in and out before 7:45 AM

For more information or to sign up, contact Betsy White at Betsysw@aol.com.



ST. ANDREWS CLASS' BAKE SALE

Sweets for your Sweetie

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 ELMEER HALL



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 brand diapers - 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.





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!

Sunday School Lesson - God gave us 10 Commandments to help us live a life that's sweeter not only to Him, but to everyone around us. The 10 Commandments can make us, and the world around us, a sweeter place.

Children's Church - 11 AM Service

During the first 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.

'GREAT LENT'

by Owen Trotter

February begins the season of Holy Lent for Christians. It is a time of prayer, fasting, and preparing our hearts for the events of holy week and ultimately Pascha (Resurrection Sunday). For us Wesleyan Christians, Lent is a time to push toward entire sanctification through these spiritual disciplines.

It is a time of renewed devotion, prayer, fasting, and giving to those in need. It is a time of repentance, a true renewal of our minds, hearts, and deeds. Bringing them to conform with Christ Jesus and His teachings. It is a time to return to the 2 greatest commands given to us by our Lord and Savior to love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Many people see Lent as a dreary

sad time but as Father Thomas Hopko puts it "It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into everlasting life." Lent is not for the sake of Lent itself, as fasting is not for the sake of fasting. Rather, these are means by which believers prepare themselves to reach for, accept, and attain the calling of our Savior.

So this Lent, I encourage you to pick up a prayer routine, fast at least one day of the week (meaning not eating while the sun is up), take time to repent and spend time in God's word. Let us push forward in our faith to become more and more like Christ and as we live into our created purpose.

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, text Owen Trotter at (205) 417-5264.

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
- 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
- 6:15 PM *The Spirit Filled Life (1/31 - 3/13)* Rm 209
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 AM Ladies weekly ongoing study - *IF* by Mark Batterson begins Jan 11th (4 wks)
- 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

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

UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

11 ST. ANDREWS CLASS BAKE SALE

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
ELMEER HALL

VOLUNTEE MTG.
DRIVE-THRU ASHES
10:15 AM FH

13 HAPPY MARDI GRAS

DRIVE-THRU ASHES
7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

14 ASH WEDNESDY SERVICE

6:30 PM SANCTUARY

18 PRAYER & TEA BABY SHOWER

10 AM PARLOR

25 LUNCH BUNCH AFTER 11 AM SERVICE

MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005

THINK ABOUT IT

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.” (I John 4:7-8) Valentine’s Day is upon us. The kind of love we celebrate on that occasion is not exactly like the kind of love John is describing in these verses. That doesn’t negate the Valentine Love, because love is defined in the Bible in many different forms. **Eros** or **Philos** may be the kind of love we celebrate on that special day in February ~ a spouse, a sweetheart, a family member or close friend. We might propose a toast, share a box of chocolates or exchange the heart-shaped greeting card! Those are memorable moments in our lives. But **Agape** love is given, even when it is not reciprocated. It’s the one with no strings attached. That’s the one that requires the Holy Spirit within us to offer this to the unloveable!

For God SO LOVED us, that He was totally committed to us. That while we were still sinners, He gave his only child to pay for our sin. That commitment took Jesus from a manger in Bethlehem to a cross in Jerusalem. And that 33 year journey was full of sacrifice – and it was all for **us**. Jesus said in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for another”.

Although the human heart has become the symbol of love in many cultures today, the ancient Hebrews thought the kidneys were the center of emotion! Maybe that’s why donating your kidney to another is a powerful demonstration of God’s kind of love for another. But the old rugged cross is the ultimate symbol of love for the Church.....for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. Therefore, we are called to love one another in the very same way ~ with commitment, perseverance, sacrifice and forgiveness in all relationships. That’s what God is talking about!

Happy Valentines Day, Beloved