

# MUNHOLLAND

JANUARY 2024 MUNHOLLAND METHODIST PUBLICATION

## COMMIT TO SOMETHING BETTER IN 2024

*Dr. Jonathan Beck, Pastor*

*Turn a new page*

**Connect  
Grow  
Serve  
Lead**

*Growing together in Christ*

**Men, 3  
Evangelism, 4  
Discipleship, 5**

**Women, 6  
Committees, 7  
Community, 8**

**Children, 9  
Youth, 10  
Calendar, 11**

## 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

Tiffany Palermo

Business Manager

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](http://www.munhollandchurch.org)

# 'COMMIT TO SOMETHING BETTER IN 2024'

Dr. Jonathan Beck



The year 2024 has arrived. What are you going to do with it? What new commitments are you going to make? What areas of your life do you plan on improving? As Christians, we can never answer these without thinking about our faith in, and walk with Jesus. Jesus wants us to be well-rounded followers. At Munholland, we put it this way: God wants us to Connect, Grow, Serve, and Lead in the name of Jesus Christ.

God wants us to **connect** with Him. Connecting with God refers to our personal time with God through Scriptural devotional times of prayer. Prayers of thanks, petition, requests for wisdom and guidance reveal God's will for our personal lives. Bible memorization, meditation, and fasting are other ways we can draw close to God. Connecting with God is also a corporate endeavor in times of worship. Most worship is during Sunday morning, but there are other worship times where we focus on praise, prayer, listening to God, and being shaped by God. Whenever and wherever we worship God, we are strengthening our connection with Him.

God wants us to **grow** together in Christ. God never intended for us to be Lone Ranger Christians. God wants us together as a family, a body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. Grow Groups help us practice the virtues of our faith with each other so that we can do so out in the world. They provide a place to be transparent, pray for each other, learn to practice the virtues of the faith, share what is going on in our lives, encourage each other, and be a strength for one another. Grow Groups include study but are not limited to that. Grow groups are transformational, not just informational. There is no more powerful way to Grow in Christ than in a group of committed, loving Christians.

God wants us to **serve** the world. Serving the world is indispensable to our faith. In both the Old Testament and the New, God tells His people to take care of the 'widow, orphan, and alien' in our midst. That is shorthand for saying we should care for anyone who is alone and without resources. In Matthew 18, Jesus talks about the day of judgement when the sheep and the goats are separated according to whether or not they helped the hungry, thirsty, naked, lonely, sick, and prisoners. As James puts it: Faith without works is dead. I will show you my faith by what I do. Service is putting faith into action.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



# 'HAPPY NEW YOU'



by Jeff Pellegrin

The start of a new year is a great time to reflect on the past and consider the future. For us, as Christian men, the promises of the Gospel offer a powerful source of hope and inspiration for the coming year.

The good news of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith and provides us with the assurance that we are loved and sought after by God. As we enter the new year, we can take comfort in the knowledge that God is with us and will guide us through whatever challenges we may face.

First of all, the Gospel promises us that we are loved. God's love for us is unconditional and never-ending, surpassing all understanding, and able to sustain us through the trials of life. We can be rest assured in the knowledge that we are dear to God and that nothing we do can ever change that!

The Gospel also promises us new life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed into different men, alive to God and one another. The Spirit actually wants to help us to live a life that is pleasing to God. He yearns to lead us on a journey filled with purpose and meaning. You and I ought to look forward to the adventure that God has in store for us.

We can also take comfort in the promise of God's provision. Paul, who knew a thing or two about hardship and calamity, boldly declared "my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus!" We too can hold tight to this promise as we face the uncertainties of the future, trusting that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

But the most powerful promise of the Gospel is that we are forgiven. No matter what we have done in the past, or how badly we fail at some point down the road, we are assured that God has forgiven us through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. What's more, He has also empowered us to forgive others. It is this forgiveness, and freedom it brings, that truly transforms and strengthens us to step forward with confidence.

Ultimately, the Gospel promises us eternal life, free from pain, suffering, and death. It is a life of perfect peace and joy in the presence of God our Father. As we enter this new year, we can all look forward to the day when we will be reunited with our Lord and Savior in heaven. Until then, let us live as though he walks right beside us each and every day, because He does!



## MUNHOLLAND METHODIST MEN

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

### MEETING

January 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](mailto:phylzans@hotmail.com).



Celebrate our  
**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**  
**REVEALING OUR**  
**NEW VISION LAUNCH**

Sunday, January 21, 2024  
12:15 PM

Guest speakers:

Honorable Jennifer Van Vrancken,  
Honorable Hans Liljeberg, and other  
members from our community will be  
here to celebrate with us.

Cake and Refreshments will be served...

# 'THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE'

by Ronda Knox

The Holy Spirit, while part of the Holy Trinity with God the Father and Jesus the Son, remains a mysterious figure to us. We read in Scripture where the Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness to be tempted, or when the church was birthed, the Spirit came like tongues of fire! Jesus Himself said, that it is good that He should leave so the "Helper" the Holy Spirit could come to empower and remind them of everything He had taught them.

Who is the Holy Spirit and how does He work in our lives? Is He always with us, or do we need to pray to Him and ask Him to lead us? How then does He communicate with us?

Beginning January 31st for six weeks Tom Bergeon will lead us into a deeper understanding of the person and work of this third person of the Trinity, and will cover topics such as:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit and what are His roles in the Trinity?
2. Understanding the Power of the Spirit and how His role enables us to live a godly and fruitful life.
3. What does it mean to be filled by the Spirit and what are the gifts He gives.
4. What are the works of the Spirit?
5. Moment by moment walking by the Spirit, not quenching His presence.
6. Actively waiting on the Spirit, His timing, our receptiveness.
7. Living our lives in the power, presence, and purpose of the Holy Spirit and not in our own strength in the flesh.
8. Finding God's will for our lives by faithfully walking in the Spirit.

The focus of the course is walking in the Spirit. Developing insight to God's empowerment by recognizing our inadequacy and allowing the Holy Spirit to move in our lives making us joyful and more like Christ, in His timing and allowing us to reach others in God's strength with His presence and good news.

We would love for you to join us Wednesday's 6:15 - 7:30, January 31 to March 13th Room 209. Our study guide will be Relying on the Holy Spirit by Charles Stanley, and we encourage you to sign up at [Rknox@munhollandchurch.org](mailto:Rknox@munhollandchurch.org)

MUNHOLLAND  
Methodist Church

*presents*

**THE  
SPIRIT  
FILLED  
LIFE**

A 6-week Bible Study



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". Romans 15:13

**January 31 - March 13th**  
**6:15 pm - 7:30 pm Room 209**  
**Led by Tom Bergeon**

# 'WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM'

by Phyllis Zansler

## Do you know what God's vision is for you?

### Are you living God's vision?

Truth be told, I often wonder if I am living the vision God planned for me. I pray that I am. I feel that I am... most of the time.

As we leave the season of Advent and enter the time of Epiphany, I find myself wandering in search of my own star. Over and over in the Gospels, Jesus has this message, "Follow Me."

John 8:12 offers these words...Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

I have learned the more I seek God's presence the more I am learning how He speaks uniquely to me. When I clear out all distractions and I am still, I trust that God will then speak to me. I would not be able to see His vision for me if I were not intentional about meeting Him where I am. Jesus also was intentional about seeking out His Heavenly Father for guidance, surrendering to His will.

God has designed a purposeful and abundant life for each of us. Whatever path we take should give glory to Him by using our gifts and talents. We each have a different calling, but we are also called to work together in community.

Our plan for us cannot compare to God's. His vision for us is to live an abundant and purposeful life.

So how do we achieve that? Simply by following Him. His vision for you will be revealed. Wise men still seek Him!



### Calendar

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

**1/9/24**

**General Meeting**

**10:00 AM FH**

**1/23/24**

**1/23/24**

**General Meeting**

**10:00 AM FH**

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



## Munholland 2024 Leadership

**Church Council Chairperson:**  
Dave Seay

**Church Council Secretary:**  
Linda Watson

**Program Staff:**

Jonathan Beck  
Owen Trotter  
Ronda Knox  
Ann Birdsong

**Lay Program Leaders:**

Dave Kanger & Ashley Dills, Childrens Min.  
Emily Johnson, Youth Min.  
Mary Jo Sapp, Women's Min.  
Steve Zansler, Men's Min.  
Phyllis Zansler & Betsy White, Missions  
Terri Purvis, Worship  
Mary Spivey, Evangelism  
Jeff Pellegrin, Prayer

**Lay Leaders/Delegates**

Lay Leader: Blaise Angelico  
Ann Gilbert, Del. to AC  
Ellaine Wilson, Del. to AC  
Sarah Kreutziger, AC Lay Leader

**Committee Leaders:**

John Healy - Trustees    Warren Hoppmeyer - Finance    Mickey Spencer - SPRC    Sancy Deano - KDO  
Ellaine Wilson - Legacy    Sarah Kreutziger - SMMSC

**Members at Large:**

2024

Vivian Blackwell  
Dennis Brisolaro  
Nancy Bender

2025

Scott Manzella  
Sandy Stauffer  
Ellen Hawkins

2026

Gary Gilmore  
Caroline Sanders  
Steven Ball

**Finance Committee:** Warren Hoppmeyer, Jr., Chairperson

2024

Warren Hoppmeyer, Jr.  
John Davidson  
Robert Bagnetto

2025

Alan Schomaker  
Matt McQueen  
Mary Koss

2026

Denver Gray  
Chuck Zatarain  
Tina Brockmann

**Trustees Committee:** John Healy, Chairperson

2024

Tim Scandurro  
John Healy, Jr.  
Trey Palmer

2025

Dave Kanger  
Eric Dills  
Dmitri Drezins

2026

Gary Thiel  
Kitty Stulb  
Don Watson

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee:** Mickey Spencer, Chairperson

2024

Caroline Jenkins  
Mickey Spencer  
Robert Bagnetto

2025

Ryan Leonard  
Linda Watson  
Prissy Emonet

2026

Jennifer Richardson  
Scott Manzella  
Jack Clotworthy

**Nominations Committee:** Jonathan Beck, Chairperson

2024

Susan Davidson  
Vicki Foster  
Duke Eversmeyer

2025

Caroline Sanders  
Jeff Pellegrin  
Jack Clotworthy

2026

Sara Odom  
Beverly Bahle  
Angela Guillot

## Worship in 2024

The beginning of each year provides a new chapter to change some old things and begin new ones. Munholland worship is one such opportunity. Through the years our congregation, Worship Team, and Leadership Teams have discussed and worked toward doing something new and fresh in our worship. However, most of it wasn't tried out for various reasons. The Worship Team and Church Council have determined that 2024 is the year in which we are going to try new things in worship.

Both Sunday services will experience new music similar to what you have been experiencing last fall – new songs, instruments, and musical ensembles. The 8:30 service will maintain the traditional order of worship along with some new engaging music. The 11:00 service will have exciting and new orders of worship. All the same elements will remain – a call to enter the presence of God, congregational songs, reading of scriptures, prayers, special music, and a practical message. What we will work on is a different order in which those elements occur. There will also be more new music and some different styles. The idea is to create another style of worship that fits who we are as Munholland. We don't want to just copy another church. Rather, we want to create worship that is uniquely Munholland and fulfills God's call to minister to today's people. The 11:00 service is going to be changing some month to month as we seek the right pattern for us and our community. Therefore, we ask for open minds and gracious spirits during this time.

We are excited to be creative in worship so that we can reach more people for Christ. Worship is what Jesus' followers do, but it is also a powerful way to invite new people into the presence of God. Someone once said that the church is the only organization that exists for those who are not members. In other words, the church is meant to look outward to the mission field more than inward at our comfort. God is teeing up a lot of wonderful opportunities for us to help people connect with God, grow together in faith, serve the world, and lead others to Christ in 2024. Worship is the perfect place to begin.

Praising God in new ways.

Jonathan

---

### SMILES AND BLESSINGS

The Angel Tree Gifts brought many smiles to the faces of the children who received them, but the families were also blessed by the thought that strangers care so much.

Raintree Family Services and Joseph C. Moscona (formerly Ella Dolhonde) families were recipients of the 100 gifts we collected.

Thanks to your generosity, many families will have a merrier Christmas this year. Please keep all these families in your prayers throughout the coming year.

Thank you for your help with decorating the Christmas trees, putting out the Angel Tree tags, sorting and wrapping gifts.

The Mission Committee





# 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.




**CHILDREN'S  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
(Ages 3 - 5th Grade)  
**STARTING  
SUNDAY, Jan., 21st!!!**  
9:30 - 10:30 AM  
Rm 207

**Teach kids God can build something  
awesome with their lives!**

## 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.



## Children's Choir - The Acorns

At Munholland, we strive to teach our children to connect with God, grow with each other, and serve the world. Music is one of the tools we use to do just that!

Rehearsal time is Wednesday from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. We would love to have all children, ages 4-14 years old (Pre-K-8th Grade), join us.

For more information visit Munholland's website under the Ministry section look for **The Acorns**.

Finally, God wants us to **lead** others to Christ. The Great Commission is when the resurrected Lord told His disciples to go into the world baptizing people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus taught. The church is not a club for the righteous, but a hospital for the sick. We invite people into life with the Great Physician who can heal their sin-sick souls and connect them with the Father.

2024 is the year to become a well-rounded follower of Jesus, and Munholland will help you. We are giving out 5X5X5 Bible Reading Schedule so you can connect with God daily in 2024. We have Sunday School and small groups, and Grow Groups in the Fall to help you Grow Together in Christ. We have missions to plug into and 'We Serve' days once a quarter so everyone can get their hands dirty doing the work of Christ.

Finally, we are going to teach you how to share your faith and give opportunities to invite people to special events where they will learn about new life in Christ. Join me in this commitment to Connect, Grow, Serve, and Lead in 2024. I truly believe that this is going to be our best year yet!

Jonathan



## **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 Owen Trotter's, Youth Director, email list, send to [owent@munhollandchurch.org](mailto:owent@munhollandchurch.org).

*Happy New Year!*

# 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 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)

### 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 Study- 'Better Together'
- 5:00 PM Midweek Meal
- 5:30 PM Children's Choir (The Acorns)
- 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](mailto:betsysw@aol.com)  
FH: FELLOWSHIP HALL

For more information... Visit our  
website... [munhollandchurch.org](http://munhollandchurch.org)

## UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

**01** HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
ON 1/1 AND 1/2

**10** MIDWEEK MEAL  
RESUMES  
5:00 PM FH

**21** MUNHOLLAND'S  
RIBBON CUTTING  
EVENT  
12:15 PM

**25** CHURCH COUNCIL MTG  
5:30 PM RM 209

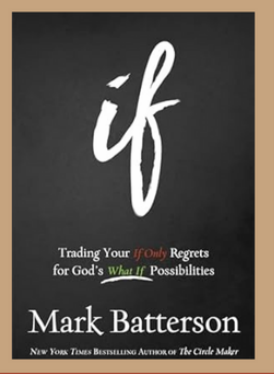
---

**JOY IS BACK!!!!**  
Just Younger Youth  
(55 AND OLDER)

**More Information  
Coming Soon....**

# MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH  
1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005



*Ladies Bible Study*

Thursdays  
Jan. 11th (4 wk study)  
10:00 AM Rm - FH  
\$10 Study Guide  
Contact Church Office

The image shows a promotional graphic for a Ladies Bible Study. On the left is a book cover for 'if' by Mark Batterson, with the subtitle 'Trading Your *if* Only Regrets for God's *What If* Possibilities'. The book cover is dark with white text. To the right of the book cover, the text 'Ladies Bible Study' is written in a white cursive font. Below that, the study details are listed in white sans-serif font: 'Thursdays', 'Jan. 11th (4 wk study)', '10:00 AM Rm - FH', '\$10 Study Guide', and 'Contact Church Office'. The entire graphic has a dark red background.

---

## THINK ABOUT IT

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?” Ps 27

Another year has begun. And as much as we like to make our own plans for the future and then ask God to bless them, no one but God Himself knows what the coming year will bring. The world we are living in is filled with trouble and challenges on all fronts. Without God’s divine presence leading and guiding us, the chaos might instill fear and dread into our hearts.

This verse from Psalms beautifully reminds us we have nothing to fear. We have El Shaddai (almighty and all-powerful) to defend us. No schemes of Satan can overcome His power and sovereign plan for our lives. As bleak as things appear, God is faithfully working behind the curtain to bring His prophetic plan together. He’s never in a hurry but He’s always on time!

Isaiah 43:19 proclaims “Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”. We can be certain He is faithful to do exactly what He said He will do. Our finite minds might conclude that the world is falling apart but God is trying to show us that things are actually falling into place. Our part in the times we are appointed to live in, is not only to believe His word to us, but to practice it by speaking His promises over us, our loved ones, our church, our nation and this world. Then we can experience a joyous year, no matter what the news is broadcasting tonight.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!