

# MUNHOLLAND

MAY 2023

MUNHOLLAND UMC PUBLICATION

## 'TRUST IN TURBULENT TIMES'

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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](mailto:jbeck@munhollandchurch.org)

## PROGRAM STAFF

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[owent@munhollandchurch.org](mailto:owent@munhollandchurch.org)

## STAFF

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Frank Ruholl

Safe Sanctuary

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KDO Director

Kim Smuck

KDO Associate Director

## MUSIC STAFF

Jan Schluter

Music Ministry Director

Phil Sparks

Organist

## CONTACTING THE CHURCH

PHONE: 504.834.9910

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

# 'TRUST IN TURBULENT TIMES'



Dr. Jonathan Beck

God wants us to trust Him even more in turbulent times. Last Sunday Munholland voted to disaffiliate from the UMC. We went through a difficult, soul searching time of discernment. For many it has been turbulent with emotions, challenging in thinking, relationally stretching, and spiritually tiring. The stress manifests itself in our bodies through stomachaches, sleepless nights, racing hearts and emotions, and even crying. Of all times, this is the time we need to trust in God. That is the only antidote in an anxious time. Remember, trust is not just a feeling but comes from a way of living.

First, take time to give thanks to God for His many blessings. Paul writes, *'Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, rejoice!'* (Phil 4:4) Rejoicing in God's goodness changes our outlook from grumbling to gratitude. There is nothing too small that we cannot give thanks for it. Also, we grow in our trust in God's faithfulness when we remember the big God-events in our lives. Reflecting on God's faithfulness helps us trust in His faithfulness today.

Second, talk with God about what makes you anxious. *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.'* (Phil 4:6) We tend to just 'throw' our prayers up to God. We tend to monologue rather than dialogue with God. Lift your problems up to God and hold them there for a while. Listen to what God says to you, what Scriptures are brought to mind, encouragement, or a different angle to approach the issue. Trust God to hear and tend to your needs.

Third, direct your thoughts towards Kingdom principles. *'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.'* (Phil 4:8) The negative loops we play in our minds paralyze us. We can give up hope and think that we cannot change the situation and, even worse, that the situation will never change. When we recite to ourselves the resources we have through the Holy Spirit, we are reminded that God has given us what we need to cope with the situation. Our thankfulness and trust in God's provision increases.

TRUST... CONT. ON PG 9

# 'A TIME TO MEND'

by Jeff Pellegrin

Ecclesiastes declares "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens ... a time to tear, and a time to mend." On Sunday, April 23, 2023, with much prayer and deliberation, following a months-long discernment process that has been at times contentious and painful, the congregation of Munholland voted to leave the United Methodist Church which has been her denominational home since she was founded in 1936.

As I write this article, many good people whom we know and love are broken-hearted over this outcome. They faithfully served Munholland for years, if not decades, and despite the siren call to leave for greener pastures, stayed the course and fought what, in their hearts, was the good fight. My prayer is that we will be able to help them overcome their disappointment and continue to call Munholland their church home as well.

Who does not love the story of the Good Shepherd who leaves the 99 in search of the one? Well, we have a few precious lambs in need of shepherding. This is no easy task. And we dare not forget, as Mother Theresa said, that we belong to one another. Let us then ask God for grace and the courage to enter into the suffering of our brothers and sisters, to draw them gently back into the fold, assuring everyone that they have a home in Munholland..

Today marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Munholland, but the story has not changed. Nor has the work ended. The fabric of lives woven together throughout the years has been rent and must be mended with great care. Some threads will need to be gently worked back into place to restore the beauty which they alone can bring. New threads will be required to mend some of the larger tears. Sadly, some threads will be unrecoverable, and in their place will remain a gap which no other can fill.

Yet the work will continue. We shall overcome and carry on. The beautiful tapestry that is Munholland will continue to grow through faithful service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, impacting individuals, families, and communities for generations to come.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

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

### UMM MEETING

May 11th- 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  
United Methodist Men, contact  
Steve Zansler, President, at  
[phylzans@hotmail.com](mailto:phylzans@hotmail.com).

**Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4: 31-32**

by Ronda Knox

No one needed to tell me that I was holding my sister in un-forgiveness, bitterness, wrath, and anger. If you were around me for more than 5 minutes, I was going to tell you what she did to our demented, very ill father. How she stole his money to pay all her bills...for years. Never revealing how the money was running out until she could not pay his electric bill.

In verse 31, we hear a list of sins which are of an emotional nature and grieve the Holy Spirit. Bitterness is a state of mind which produces hard opinions of another. Wrath and Anger are outbursts of hostility which are acute (wrath) and chronic (anger); and malice is congealed hatred. All of which leads to making damaging statements of the other – slander-- and I was guilty of all of this towards my sister.

We are to “put these things away”, meaning to **make a decisive action**, and instead “be kind” (verse 32). This was telling me to make a radical change: from slander to Christian courtesy, even deep affection. Forgiving her not because she didn’t do those things (she did), but basing forgiveness on what Christ has done for me. I was to let go of my hands around her neck and forgive her instead of magnifying her faults.

But how?

Prayer. I knew I had to let this emotional sin go, as it was eating me alive. So, in prayer one day I told the Lord that I could forgive her if I thought it was due to her illness, not her character. Immediately in my Spirit I heard “What difference does it make?” Jesus in His mercy told me it did not matter at all the reasons, my only response is to forgive. I knew I had to act right away, I simply could not wait, or our family would never be whole again. So, after many months of not speaking, I picked up the phone and texted her. That began a long road to healing, and all the glory goes to God.

If you are waiting to understand why someone harmed you before you forgive them, then you are just hiding your unforgiveness behind your need to control the situation. It simply does not matter. Set yourself free, Jesus will help you. Just ASK.

## SUMMER STUDIES COMING SOON

### OUR PRAYER BOOK: THE PSALMS

Tuesdays  
June 13th-July 18th  
6:15-7:30 PM Room 210  
Led by Owen Trotter

Our Prayer Book The Psalms: The Psalms are so much more than songs and prayers; there is no situation we can experience in life which cannot find its voice in the psalms. Owen Trotter will take you beyond the surface to their true depth and meaning.

### HOW TO BE RICH BY ANDY STANLEY

June 7th – June 28th  
6:15 – 7:30 PM Room 111  
Led by Tim Scandurro

How To be Rich: You probably don't feel rich. Rich is the other guy. Rich is having more than you currently have. But you can be rich and not feel it. And that's the problem. Andy Stanley is convinced that most of us are richer than we think. We just aren't very good at it. It's one thing to be rich. Andy wants us to be good at it! "How to Be Rich lays out clear principles for carrying that load, making sure your wealth remains a blessing not just for you, but for your family and community for generations to come."

# MUNHOLLAND IS GOING TO THE HOLY LAND! APRIL 1-11, 2024



Have you ever desired to be where Jesus was born and grew up? Where He taught, went fishing and made His ultimate sacrifice? Wondered how dry is the wilderness, or what it feels like to float in the “dead” sea? Have you wanted to take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee? If so, I hope you will consider joining the Munholland Family in April of 2024 as we journey to Israel!

We will be visiting the Mt. of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Garden Tomb, Western Wall, Capernaum, Nazareth, Qumran, and so much more! Visiting the Holy Land makes Scripture come alive as nothing else will.



An informational meeting with the Educational Opportunities Representative will be held on **Sunday, May 7th** immediately following the 11 AM service, in Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided. Hope you can join us!

# 'RENEWING OUR FAMILY'

by Kristin White

When I was newly married, my husband and I had pictures taken by a photographer. When we considered the "family" package, we were told we didn't qualify, since there were only two of us. What constitutes a family? Some of the varying definitions include: all members of a household, a group of one or more parents and their children living together as a unit, a group of people who come from the same ancestor, a group of people united by certain convictions.

Families come in various configurations and sizes. The Bible mentions families, households, parents, spouses and children as part of God's plan for our lives. He knows we need others around us to share our lives. We hope to have a family that gives and receives love, comfort and support. We want our family to be those we trust, check on and communicate with, those with whom we share hopes, dreams and traditions and those we depend on.

Many people search their ancestry looking for connections to people and their heritage. We want to know where we belong in the world. Some of us no longer have our immediate family members alive or living near us to fulfill those needs. In those situations, our church family and our United Women in Faith sisters help as our family. We can know we are all part of God's family, made in His image.

Family members aren't always in agreement on everything. We have our own thoughts, goals, talents and interests. Renewing trust is difficult for many friends and families. We hope that despite our individual ideas, our families can be understanding and caring. The sisters of United Women in Faith have been a source of support to each other despite individual differences. We hope to continue that trust, empathy, communication, prayer and support. We remember, with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26.



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Calendar

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

5/02/23 10:00 AM FH  
General Meeting

5/16/23 10:00 AM FH  
Meeting with book  
report by Carol Gallien -

All Ladies invited  
05/30/23 6:30 PM Parlor  
Book Club - Movie Night  
*Hidden Figures*

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED!



UWFaith Book Club  
Movie Night

Tuesday, May 30th  
6:30 PM Parlor

Questions: Kristin White  
kskwhite@aol.com

If you have any questions,  
please contact Kristin White,  
UWFaith President  
at kskwhite@aol.com



Munholland UMC  
Children's Ministry

## Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an exciting week for all ages. \$20/week

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

Music, science experiments, 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 your child(ren) or to volunteer.

If you have any questions, email Owen Trotter at [owent@munhollandchurch.org](mailto:owent@munhollandchurch.org) or 504.834.9910.



FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME

Twists and Turns VBS  
2023  
June 5th - 9th  
8:45 am - 12:00 pm

VBS  
Registration

Volunteer  
Registration





# 'WHAT IS FAMILY?'

by Owen Trotter

What is a family? Our normal answer would be a mother and father, children, grandparents, cousins and, for some, even pets. As Christians, though, our family extends beyond this, beyond bloodlines, and friendships. The Church itself, local and universal is a family, connected not by blood or nationality, race, or birthplace, but through the saving and transformative power of Jesus Christ.

I grew up in a rural Baptist church where everyone was referred to as "Brother Mike" or "Sister Tammy" and not only did we say these things, we meant it. When someone was in trouble or had a family member in the hospital, or someone passed away, the church family was there to take care of each other. I see so many of these same qualities in Munholland, and I am blessed to find myself a part of another loving family.

During this difficult time for the church, let us remember to be that family. Reach out to those who might be mourning over the change in the church; be their brother or sister in Christ. We are a family, the family of God. As we move forward in this new adventure, now, more than ever, we need to hold close to one another; more than ever we need to be reminded that we are the family of God.

**2023**  
**HIGH SCHOOL &  
COLLEGE GRADUATION  
RECOGNITION**

Sunday, May 14th  
11 AM service

Contact the church office, with your child's name so they can be recognized...



## CALENDAR

Graduate  
Recognition Sunday  
May 14th 11 AM Service

Confirmation Sunday  
May 28th 11 AM Service

## YOUTH

(GRADES 6TH - 12TH)

Sunday School:  
9:30 - 10:30 AM  
Collective Sundays  
5:00-6:30 PM Youth Room

Each Wednesday, I send out a weekly Newsletter with upcoming 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](mailto:owent@munhollandchurch.org).



# COMMUNITY

TRUST... CONT. FROM PG 1

Finally, take action! Based on the foundation of God's goodness, God's speaking into our lives, and God's direction to live into the fruit of the Spirit, we can confidently take action. *'Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice...'* (Phil 4:9) Paul uses a great metaphor in Colossians 3: *'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.'* It is sometimes more uncomfortable when we put on new clothes. They may not seem like they fit or are the right style. However, they feel great and become part of the way people perceive us after a time of wearing those clothes. Action is where trust meets the road. Trust God enough to take action. The first step of action will lead to more actions that will change you and the situation that causes you anxiety. Trusting action will become more comfortable every time we 'clothe' ourselves with it.

Trust is the antidote to anxiety. This is easier said than done, BUT, following these steps will alleviate your anxiety and help you engage in what we are going through from a position of trust. God is trustworthy and there is nothing you will face that is too big that He can't handle. God will help you be anxious no more.

Leaning Forward in Trust,  
Jonathan

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Dirty water kills 5,000 children a day!

Be a part of the World Vision Clean Water Race on Sat., May 13, 2023 at 8:00 AM. Remember to register or donate to Munholland's Global 6K team to continue our support for clean water around the world. Fifty dollars changes the life of one person in so many ways!

To sign up or for more information visit the link below  
<https://global6k.worldvision.org/index.cfm>.



# Munholland In a Week

## 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)

## 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 continuous
- 10:00 AM Women for Women Small Group continuous
- 5:00 PM Midweek Meal
- 5:30 PM Children's Activity Night (times may vary)
- 6:00 PM Cursillo
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## THURSDAY

- 10:00 AM Ladies weekly ongoing study
- 7:00 PM United Methodist Men \* (usually meets 2nd Thurs)
- 7:30 PM Al Anon
- 8:00 PM NA
- 8:00 PM AA

## SATURDAY

- 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (every 3rd Saturday)

\*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 MAY EVENTS

7

### ISRAEL INFO. MEETING

12:00 PM FH



13

### GLOBAL 6 K FOR FOR WATER

8 AM SEE PG 9



14

### GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

11 AM SERVICE

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



### PENTECOST SUNDAY

### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

11 AM SERVICE

### LUNCH BUNCH

12:15 PM



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### MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED

Dear Munholland Family,

As we walk together into a new chapter at Munholland, let us remember we are Christians working for the Lord. He is inwardly renewing us day by day. We need to renew who we are, our knowledge, our attitude, our strength and our mind. Lord, help us to see the big picture: that we are not what we will be, but we are not what we once were. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts so that we can become more like Jesus each day.

Please continue to support Munholland with your gifts and service. God has a plan for us!

God Bless you all,

Kitty Stulb  
Finance Chair

**MOBILE TEXT GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE**

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**

	April 2023				January - April 2023		
	Budget	Actual	Variance		Budget	Actual	Variance
<i>Contributions</i>	\$83,063	\$55,482	-\$27,581	<i>Contributions</i>	\$366,403	\$298,774	-\$67,629
<i>Expenses</i>	\$83,063	\$82,633	\$430	<i>Expenses</i>	\$366,403	\$304,687	\$61,716
<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	-\$27,151	-\$27,151	<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	-\$5,913	-\$5,913

This is as of April 26th, it includes an estimate for the April 30th payroll, but does not include an estimate for the Sunday, April 30th collection.

# MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005

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## THINK ABOUT IT

If you're not sure what you're becoming, I'll give you a hint. We're all going to be whatever we think about and talk about all the time. So listen to yourself and hear what you are saying. If you don't like how it sounds, change it. Become better by beginning to think, talk and act on God's Word because **we** are the only ones who can bring about God's plan for us. We have an invitation to partner with El Shaddai and realize our God-given destiny. It starts with a pure heart and a desire to glorify God by the fruit of our lips. We can't blame it on our parents, our spouse, our boss, our background, our circumstances or even the devil. And please don't blame God. Most people underestimate the power of words. It is said that the 'pen is mightier than the sword', but that's because the **words** written by the pen are **really** mightier than the sword. Words are actually containers of power and they can both create and destroy, build up and tear down. Once spoken, words can't be unsaid. If we speak negative, destructive words about ourselves, others or the situations in our life, we must realize these words are seeds that will produce what we say. That's when we should immediately repent and ask God for a crop failure!

If your life seems to be a combination of a merry-go-round and a roller coaster, maybe you need to put some new verbiage into the Spirit realm. Proverbs provides beautiful passages to prophecy over our life that might reveal a marked change in the course of our journey. Comforting, faith-filled words produce a physical reaction of healing quality, much the same as Belgium chocolate or chicory coffee! And while they provide comfort to the hearer, they also build up and edify the deliverer. A win win.

What is your dream? Start to activate God's plan to get there by changing your words to God's word and releasing your faith as you do. God is anxious to anoint our words to bring His glory into the earth and we get to be a part of that. That's how powerful we are through the spoken word.