

MUNHOLLAND

NOVEMBER 2023 MUNHOLLAND METHODIST PUBLICATION

‘LIVING IN GRATITUDE’

Dr. Jonathan Beck, Pastor

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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www.munhollandchurch.org

'Living in Gratitude'



The Psalmist captures the spirit of Thanksgiving in this simple verse: 'The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand & satisfy the desires of every living thing.' (Ps.145:15-16) This is a beautiful vision of all living creatures looking to God for sustenance. I picture baby birds in a nest chirping and opening their mouths when the mother bird comes with food. They know that she will feed them. They trust her vigilant care. Too much of the time when times are tough and relationships are hard, we look inward for solutions, rather than upward to God's wisdom and care. Here are three ways that you can increase trust and gratitude in God's daily provision.

First, remember how precious you are to God. Jesus said: 'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?' (Mt 6:25-33) As you look at the beauty of creation, remember that you are more beautiful still to God. You are so dear to God that He sent His only Son for you! God loves to care for you.

Second, focus on what you have. Epictetus wrote, 'He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.' Envyng others can cause us to forget all the good that we have, both tangible and intangible. I remember going through a tight financial time and grumbling to God. God didn't let me go down that losing path. God challenged me by bringing to my mind all the blessings I had received in the previous months. My attitude immediately changed from grumbling to gratitude!

Third, change the atmosphere in your home or office by saying 'Thank You'. Thankfulness has a snowball effect. Gratitude increases the sense of well-being in the person who you thank, which in turn makes them more grateful to those around them. I challenge you to say 'Thank You' every day to each family member and each person with whom you work. Express appreciation for what they do, as well as for who they are. You will be amazed how thankfulness grows around you and within you.

I visited a mentor of mine, Dave Enochs, several weeks before he succumbed to cancer. We talked about his life - family, work, friends, Scouting - and he was filled with joy. He radiated gratitude and contentment despite his lack of energy. With a twinkle in his eye, he said to me, 'Life is good, and getting better all the time!' Dave lived in trust and gratitude, and we can do the same.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jonathan

‘SERVING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH’

by Ronda Knox

You met a man during the Ministry Minute on Sunday October 22. For security we will call him Samuel (not his real name). He is a man who has God’s hand on his life and ministry. Jesus came to Samuel in person when he was 12 and spoke to him about the plan for his life. He told him that “you, Samuel, will take my name to the nations”. He has been obeying God in this plan for many many years and now works in “closed countries” to Christianity.

As God leads him, Samuel seeks out other Christians in those closed countries and teaches and disciples leaders who can then seek out those who are open to hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Samuel is in danger of his life being ‘taken from him if he is found out and he is concerned about the safety and lives of those he teaches and disciples if they are found out to be Jesus followers.

Samuel works with the indigenous people to build an underground home church. Being underground means they meet in secret. There are two underground churches planted at this time and they are ready to start more when the time is right. These home churches are led by those who have been discipled and can now teach and disciple the new believers.

One such new believer is leaving her country and coming to stay at Samuel’s house with his family. It is for her safety. She has been threatened by her family; they were not satisfied when the national courts shortened her prison sentence when she changed her religion. Her family wanted her to serve more time and her very life is threatened by them. With Samuel she can be taken care of and taught about Jesus and His love for her and can be discipled in the way we are to live as Christians according to the Bible.

Please pray for this family, their ministry and the people who are risking their lives for the gospel of Christ. Please pray for this girl and others who are escaping prison and even death because they became a Christ follower.

“The Gospel is only good news if we get to someone before they die.” JD Greear. There are 4.5 billion people today who do not profess to be Christians, and half of those have never heard the good news and have no access to the Gospel, because no one is around to tell them.

If you would like to support “Samuel’s” ministry please make your check out to the church and in the memo line add “Great Concerns Ethiopia”. Thank You.

'PRESENT AT HIS FEET'

by Phyllis Zansler

"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" Psalm 95:2

Fall has always been my favorite season of the year and Thanksgiving my favorite holiday. Even though I spend many hours preparing the array of family favorites for our Thanksgiving table, I enjoy it immensely. I think of it as my "Mary" time with the Lord while attending to my "Martha" duties. My late-night solitude, or early Thanksgiving morning meditations, help see me through what I know will turn into a long, few days ahead.

Thanksgiving offers me an opportunity to access my gratitude for all things over the last year. That covers a whole lot of time and space. I am basically a Martha, which means I am still learning from Mary. I am so prone to rush into the Lord's presence with my list of requests of Him without settling into Him. So, I ask Him to forgive me and help me to slow down. This time is "my time" with my Lord.

Every moment that I have breath is a gift. Life can be beautiful or it can be a tragedy; emotionally both take my breath away. I appreciate and try to enjoy the moment and give gratitude, even amid personal pain.

Lord, I am here, open to anything you want to say or show me. As best I know how, I will be in your presence and sit at your feet, just as Mary did.

May Thanksgiving be your time of gratitude at the feet of Jesus.



Calendar

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

11/7/23

**General Meeting
World Thank Offering Program
10:00 AM FH**

11/12/23

NOLA Wesley Dinner

11/28/23

**General Meeting
10:00 AM FH**

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



**Looking for the
perfect Thanksgiving
or Christmas gift???**

**Homemade Soups,
Jellies, and Pickles
make wonderful
presents.**

**Jellies in FH
Soups in sm freezer
Pickles in refrigerator**

**Drop off money in
marked basket in FH
or see Phyllis or
Jana...**



TO PARTICIPATE



Choose a tag from the tree and provide the tag number, your name and phone number on the Sign-up sheet near the tree.



Purchase your gift. The price range is from \$30 to \$50. There are several suggestions on the tags, but it is not necessary to purchase all the items listed. Let your heart lead you in choosing your tag and gift. Instruction sheets are available near the Sign-up sheet.



Gifts should be wrapped and the tag attached to the wrapped gift. If you lose your tag, make sure to put your name and phone number on the gift.



Place the gift in a garbage bag (can be any size) and tie/seal the garbage bag. Label the outside of the bag with the tag number for your gift. If you need them, garbage bags, wrapping paper and markers will be available to use when you drop off the gift.



Gifts should be returned to the church and placed near the tree in the Elmeer Street Hall by **December 3rd, 2023**.



MUNHOLLAND'S ANGEL TREE

By Sandy Stauffer

Angel Tree can be the perfect way to feel connected to others in our community during the Christmas Season. It offers the opportunity to extend the hope of the Gospel to families and for them to feel enfolded in unconditional love. It is also an awesome experience that can be shared by your entire family.

The Tags will be available on **Sunday, November 12th** and the gifts will be due back on **Sunday, December, 3rd**.

Christmas Trees with tags will be placed in the Elmeer Street Hall and the KDO Hall. The names for the tree were provided by the following:

Joseph C. Moscona School and Raintree Children & Family Services (which provides Foster Care and After School services) are the recipient's of the gifts. All gifts will be delivered since we will not have a party this year.

Your participation in Angel Tree brings joy to so many families. Thank you for your continued support in this mission. If you have any questions, contact me at (504) 236-2390 or [sstaufer5@cox.net](mailto:sstauffer5@cox.net).

Visit [Munholland's website](https://www.munholland.com) for drop-off times



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

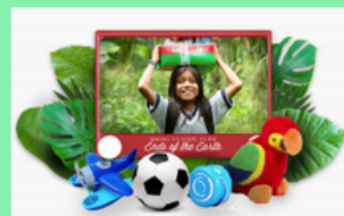
SHOEBOX COLLECTION WEEK is NOV 13-20, 2023

Munholland Methodist Church is a Drop-Off Location for Operation Christmas Child filled shoeboxes. Please be part of this wonderful mission project that brings the Gospel to children throughout the world:

- Pack a shoebox
- Build a shoebox online
- VOLUNTEER
- PRAY



<https://sampur.se/46njsw3>



To volunteer or information contact Jana Henson at 504.484.7160 or jana.occ@hotmail.com

MUNHOLLAND'S
**THANKSGIVING
DINNER**

11/15/23
5:00-6:15 PM

**MENU: TURKEY WITH
GRAVY, RICE, STUFFING,
YAMS, PEAS & CORN,
PLUS PECAN PIE**



Enjoy a wonderful meal
and great fellowship as we
give thanks on Wednesday,
Nov. 15th...

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PORTRAITS

Wednesday, Nov. 15th
3:00 - 6:00 PM
Welcome Center



DRESS

Clean
Casual

Family Coordinated
(ex. Blue Jeans White Shirts)

or

Sunday
Best



Christmas Cards with envelopes
25 cards \$35 50 cards \$55
75 cards \$65 100 cards \$75

Package 1	Package 3	Package 6
1 - 5x7	1 - 8x10	2 - 8x10
4 wallets	2 - 5x7	4 - 5x7
\$18.00	8 wallets	16 wallets
	\$36.00	\$50.00

Digital Copy \$35.00

No Appointment Necessary
Photos taken by
Ken Redler Photography

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY
PORTRAITS**

Is it time for a new Christmas
Family photo
or Christmas Card? - then
Munholland is the place to
be on Wednesday
November 15th.

The portraits also make
excellent gifts!



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
Prayer & Tea Baby Shower**
Let's Shine 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, or 3
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.



The Children's Choir is Back! The Acorns



Here 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!

We would love to have all children, ages 4-14 years old (Pre-K-8th Grade), join us.

Rehearsal time is Wednesday from 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

Our 2023 Christmas Program will be
The Unbelievable Super Fantastic Truly Amazing Christmas Extravaganza!

Jolie Trotter, Children's Choir Director
Emily Johnson, Children's Choir Assistant

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

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 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.

'THE CHRISTIAN'S TRUE THANKFULNESS'

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

1 John 2:1-2 NKJV

by Owen Trotter

Propitiation. What does that mean? This word is used four times in scripture, one of which is here in this passage from 1 John. This word describes Christ, through His sacrificial death, as appeasing the wrath of God on the account of sin.

Through Christ's atoning death, we find great mercy to the sinner who believes in Him. It is through this death that we are reconciled to God. We can have a relationship with God, we can be counted-- just as the prophets and Abraham-- as a friend of God! This is not because of any work or good thing we have done or can do it is only through the work of our God in Christ Jesus on the cross that all our sins are washed away. All the shame we have for what we have done, all the guilt we feel, is washed away in the blood Jesus shed for us on the cross. This great forgiveness and life is for those who have given their lives to Jesus Christ; who not only acknowledge Christ as God and as savior, but put full trust in Him that He has saved us on the cross. Jesus Christ is saving us from our sin right now, and He will save us when He returns and judges the world. This is the great hope we have as believers; that our God is redeeming us right here and right now, and that He is preparing a place for us, to be with Him.

Therefore, we are thankful. Therefore, we give Him our lives in service and gratitude, and show love, grace and mercy to all people, being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. We live in thanksgiving always, not just once a year, but always for the work that Christ has done for us. If you do not know Jesus as God and as your savior, I invite you to pray and invite Jesus into your heart, acknowledge Him as Lord and savior, place all your hope in Him that He will save us. Get to know Jesus by reading the gospel of Mark. There you will find true thankfulness that overflows in your life, which you can share with other people.

God Bless.

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, email me at owent@munhollandchurch.org.

Two new Studies beginning in November

BETTER TOGETHER WOMEN'S GROUP

Faith Foundations
by David Platt

Wed., Nov 8th - Jan. 10th
10 - 11:30 AM Rm 210
Led by Ann Birdsong



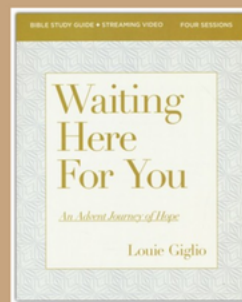
- Leading
- Growing
- Fellowship
- Serving God



What does it look like to know God deeply? Why are we called to reflect his light to those around us—and how do we do that? Come and examine 10 wks of foundational truths for becoming mature disciples of Christ.

In 'Waiting Here for You', bestselling author and pastor Louie Giglio leads you through the season of Advent and shows how your waiting is never wasted when you are waiting on God. You'll study 4 Sessions:

- God Is Working While You Wait
- God Will Use Your Waiting
- Waiting on God and with God
- God Is Waiting for You



Ladies Bible Study

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY -
Thursdays
beginning November 9th
\$15 - Study Guide

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM FH
Led by Jennifer Heebe

Visit [Munholland's website](http://Munholland.com) for more information...



FAMILY FUNDAY

SUNDAY, DEC. 3, 2023
MUNHOLLAND MC

12:15 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

FREE
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
&
PICTURES WITH SANTA

FACE PAINTING * CRAFTS
FOOD * FUN

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)*^
- 6:15 PM *The Genesis of Gender* (9/5 - 11/7)

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 *Romans Part 2* (9/13 - 12/06)
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 AM Ladies weekly ongoing study - 'Waiting Here for You'
- 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

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

04 CHOIR REHEARSAL
RETREAT
10:00 AM

05 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS
TIME



11 BABY SHOWER
10:00 AM Parlor

12 RECOGNITION
OF VETERANS DAY
during both services



15 MUNHOLLAND'S
THANKSGIVING
MEAL
5:00 PM FH

23 HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



Munholland Methodist Church is moving into an exciting new direction. In 2024, we want to grow our outreach in mission work, grow our congregation and reach more people with God’s word. We need your help! By pledging your support, we can more accurately budget for all the things God wants Munholland to do.

We need to offer more opportunities for children and family ministry, more education at all levels, and more ways to be involved. We need to provide better compensation for staff who keep our church running so well.

Please fill in your pledge cards and sign up for electronic giving. This will be easier on you and keep our revenues more consistent.

Thank you to all that have sent in their pledge cards. God has blessed Munholland and we will continue to share His blessings with our community.

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

	October 2023			January - October 2023			
	Budget	Actual	Variance		Budget	Actual	Variance
<i>Contributions</i>	\$76,445	\$53,659	-\$22,786	<i>Contributions</i>	\$764,455	\$665,790	-\$98,665
<i>Expenses</i>	\$76,445	\$21,000	\$55,445	<i>Expenses</i>	\$764,455	\$708,415	\$56,040
<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	\$32,659	\$32,659	<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	-\$42,625	-\$42,625

This is as of October 30th; it includes an estimated payroll for October 31, 2023

MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005

THINK ABOUT IT

When God calls us into His plan, it is not our talent or intelligence He is interested in. He looks specifically for those who will do His will, regardless of their personal ability or personal agenda. Paul is a great example of this kind of person. He was respected among religious leaders in Israel. As an intelligent Pharisee, he would seem to be the likely choice to present the Gospel of Jesus to the influential Jews. But instead, God sent Paul to the Gentiles where his religious background would be of little importance. Paul would now have to rely on the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's plan.

Whatever we are commissioned to do in the Kingdom, we will need the grace that comes from time spent in God's presence in order to fulfill our assignment. Many Christians are disappointed in their spiritual walk because they have "worked hard" and merely directed their prayers toward situations in their lives in a desire to bring about needed change. But they have failed to see any real results. Often they try to use their faith to change external circumstances when they may lack the level of inner strength to sustain the faith they are exercising. They first need to grow in grace.

Grace is the inner substance that will sustain us as we apply the principles of faith to change things. If we give up on the inside, we will surely faint on the outside. i.e. faith overcomes the problems but Grace keeps the problems from overcoming us! Grace comes through the power of the Holy Spirit, which becomes the power of God to do for us what we can't do on our own. All of us will ultimately find ourselves in Paul's shoes ~ we too, will need to rely on the power of the spirit to complete God's assignments for us. Then, and only then will God get all the Glory.