

MUNHOLLAND

OCTOBER 2023 MUNHOLLAND METHODIST PUBLICATION

‘Living God’s Vision’



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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

Dear Church Family,

On May 25, 2023, the Church Council appointed a Transitional Task Force. which became the Affiliation Task Force, to research potential denominational affiliation options. The Task Force met several times, led two congregational informational meetings, developed a website of resources and information, received input from the congregation through a survey, and heard from the congregation through multiple question and answer sessions. The Task Force Survey revealed that the top considerations for the congregation are Doctrine & Theology, Ownership of Property, Pastoral Standards and Appointments, and Denominational Accountability.

After a thorough 3-month time of research into over a dozen Methodist denominations, and with much prayer, the Affiliation Task Force recommended to the Church Council on September 8, 2023, that Munholland Methodist Church join the Global Methodist Church (GMC). The GMC is the Methodist connectional system that most aligns with Munholland's Methodist identity. Subsequently, the Church Council discussed the Task Force recommendation and voted in favor of the recommendation to join the GMC. The Church Council invited a representative of the GMC to speak to Munholland about the denomination and answer questions on September 20, 2023. The Church Council now puts the decision before the Professing Members of Munholland to vote on whether or not Munholland will become a member of the Global Methodist Church.

Affiliation vs. Independence is an important decision in the life of our church. We each should go to the Munholland website and go over the material available for review concerning affiliation, independence, and the Church Council's recommendation to join the GMC.

There are members of Munholland who believe this process is moving too quickly. There are pros and cons to the timing that is in place. The most prevalent con seems to be that the Global Methodist Church has not had its first General Conference and that Munholland should wait and see the results of that denominational meeting. That meeting will occur in the fall of 2024.

There are primarily two pros to the current timing of having the Church vote on October 15. First, we can have the decision made before the Holy time of the Advent Season. Second, the sooner

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RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER

by Jeff Pellegrin

As men, we face many challenges and temptations every day. Struggles with relationships, finances, health, etc., can leave us frustrated and discouraged, wondering if God really does have a plan for our lives. Despite this, such trials represent an opportunity to renew our commitment to follow hard after Christ.

One of my favorite songs is "Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Simon and Garfunkel. I invite you to consider the lyrics, and imagine Jesus Himself singing these words to you...

When you're weary, feeling small
 When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all
 I'm on your side .. Oh, when times get rough
 And friends just can't be found
 Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down
 Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down

When facing troubled waters, do we remember who He is, or lose sight of what He has done, and is calling us to do? Already He has laid himself down for us. Now is the time to rekindle our love for Him, not when the water is up to our necks. Commitment to Christ is not a one-time decision, but a dynamic lifelong journey. Nor is it a matter of convenience, but of conviction.

Scripture tells us that God is faithful, even when we are not (2 Timothy 2:13). He does not forsake us, though we may turn away. He loves us with an everlasting love and wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

Active fellowship with other Christian men (Hebrews 10:24-25) is vital to our spiritual well-being. We are not meant to walk this Way alone, but in intimate community with our brothers. Only then can we encourage, support, serve, and be accountable to one another. We need this to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). N.T. Wright once said, "Christianity is not a religion you could ever do on your own." Why then do so many men insist on going alone?



MUNHOLLAND METHODIST MEN (MMM)

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

MMM MEETING

October 12th 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.

'GOD DID NOT MOVE'

by Ronda Knox



*Restore us to yourself, LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old.
Lamentations 5:21*

The Book of Lamentations is emotionally a tough read. The sorrow the people express for the devastation of Jerusalem, particularly the Temple, is gut wrenching. They complained that God had forsaken and forgotten them. But towards the end of the Book, in chapter 5, their prayer takes a turn and ends with hope.

They earnestly pray to God for mercy and grace: "Lord, do not reject us forever, but You turn us to Yourself and renew our days," Notice that they are not asking for God to turn back to them, but they are asking for God to turn their hearts back to Him, which implies an acknowledgment that the cause of the distance was in themselves. God never leaves us unless we first leave him.

There may be times in your walk with the Lord that you just don't feel as close as you once did; your passion for others to know Him and experience the freedom and joy this brings has waned. What is your responsibility in this situation? Pray. Acknowledge that it was you who moved, who did not nurture the relationship as you once did, who let sin come between you. Pray. God turn my heart back to you, create a clean Spirit in me and cause your face to shine upon me. Turn me from my idols and restore in me a pure heart.

God knows we are weak and tend to backslide from Him. We cannot, without His mercy turn back toward God ourselves. As Veron Magee puts it: "So necessary is that grace that we may truly say, turn us or we shall not be turned, but shall wander endlessly; and so powerful and effectual is that grace that we may as truly say, turn us, and we shall be turned; for it is a day of power, almighty power, in which God's people are made a willing people."

When we repent, God restores and renews us, bringing back the joy of our salvation, and a vigor to do His will. God loves to redeem; it is the business He is in!!

MUNHOLLAND'S FALL FESTIVAL


Cochon de Laité
Sunday, October 22nd
12:00 - 2:30pm

Pork Sliders - Coleslaw,
Potato Salad and Baked Beans

Celebrate Munholland's Birthday
Live Music - Fall Photo Props -
Cake Walk - Fun outdoor Games

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact Ann Birdsong
annb@munhollandchurch.org
or church office 504.834.9910
for more information...



UWF WHITE ELEPHANT SALE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th
8:00AM TO 1:00PM
JEWELRY, TREASURES, BOOKS, PLANTS, & FOOD

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – COMMITTED TO MISSION “REAPING THE HARVEST”

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Every September, for at least the last 40 years, our United Women in Faith have committed to bringing about an annual fundraiser.

Two years ago, the name of United Methodist Women was changed to United Women in Faith. Likewise, our sales event has also seen name changes over the years. It has been called the Munholland Fall Craft Sale, Fall Harvest Bazaar, Granny’s Attic Sale and, for more than 20 years, the Munholland UWF White Elephant Sale.

What hasn’t changed is our commitment to raise funds for women, children and youth. They are the benefactors of our labor. Every penny we raise is distributed to mission partners that share our vision of helping to empower women and children to know a better way and to feel loved.

We are dedicated members, spouses, family and friends that come together to engage in the work at hand. We are not just “Sunday people.” We put our faith into action as we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

But none of this would be possible without our donors and their treasures...

Some treasures are steeped with memories and are donated by folks who were moving, or downsizing, or who had lost a loved one. Our sales are always a financial success, but more importantly is the fellowship and goodwill they generate.

Over the last months and especially the last days, our church family, those who donated and those who bought, learned how much they were needed to complete our commitment.

Driven by God’s love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve, support and empower the lives of women, children and youth and their communities. We thank our God for His wondrous gifts. And we thank YOU for all the ways you have offered yourselves to this work!



Calendar

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

10/7/23

**UWF LA State Conference Annual
Meeting - Broadmoor UMC
Baton Rouge, LA**

10/10/23

**UWF Meeting
10:00 AM FH**

10/24/23

**UWF Meeting
10:00 AM FH**

10/28/23

**UWF NO District Meeting
Local Elected Leader Training
Live Oak UMC, Angie, LA**

**Watch your emails for times and
any changes or contact our
Communication Coordinator,
Phyllis Zansler.**



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 begins Wednesday, September 6th 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.

“RECOMMITTING OUR LIVES TO JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND OUR GOD”

1 John 5:13-21 ESV

*"We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. **Little children, keep yourselves from idols.**"*

by Owen Trotter

We must recommit ourselves to our Lord. For too long we have been under the bondage, oppression, theological liberalism, progressive grasp, and confusing leadership of the United Methodist Church. For many of us the UMC was our Idol. We identified first as United Methodist, rather than born again Christians. We have been in limbo, not walking boldly in the truth of the Gospel, standing firm on the teachings of Scripture, and boldly proclaiming the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. If Munholland is to survive and not just survive but thrive, we must recommit ourselves to the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We must repent of the time we have not stood firm in the word of God, and we must turn to Christ. Jesus has come to give us understanding as John says above, understanding that is not of this fallen world but is of the absolute truth of God. We must keep ourselves from Idols, making Christ #1 in our lives, seeking to be a servant - or better yet a slave - to Christ Jesus, following the call of our Lord and savior in every aspect of our lives.

Maybe you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and this is all really foreign and complicated. If you don't, I plead with you, we are told in the Scriptures that our salvation has come in Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) We can have eternal life with God! You see we have a problem, in the beginning God created all that we see and know, He also made us, humans, and He made us in His image, a special creation, Male and Female. God gave us great freedom, a beautiful and harmonious garden to live in, and gave us dominion over the land and the animals.

Yet, we thought we knew better than God and broke His command that was given to us. In that moment, the image of God in us was broken and we became slaves to sin. Now our natural inclination, our desires are for sin. We are broken, we hurt ourselves with our sin, we hurt others with our sin, and we hurt God with our sin. Yet He loved us so much that He sent Jesus Christ to bear the weight of our sin, to pay the price for our iniquity, to repair that broken image inside of us so that we can have a relationship with our God. This is the goodness of the Gospel, that Christ saves sinners like you and me, redeems them, wraps them in His love, and washes us clean of our sin. We can then enter into this blessed and beautiful life with God, with full assurance, as John wrote.

I pray that, we as Munholland, move forward, that we begin again to take a serious look at our faith life, our walks with Christ, and devote ourselves once again - or for the first time to God, and His way of life.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20 ESV

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 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.



Build a Shoebox!

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: use the link <https://sampur.se/46njsw3> or QR code -

These will bring you to Munholland Methodist Church GOAL PAGE

- VOLUNTEER
- PRAY
- Provide cookies / small snacks for our guests
- Donate funds (\$10 processing for a shoebox; \$6 to send a child to The Greatest Journey discipleship program)

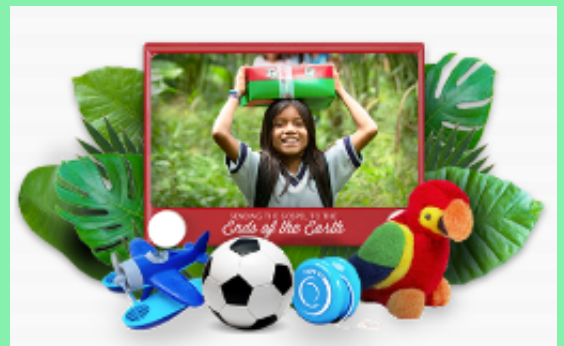


Contact Jana Henson to volunteer at jana.occ@hotmail.com.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, go to their website www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

MON., NOV. 13	3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
TUES., NOV. 14	10:00 AM - 12 NOON
WED., NOV. 15	3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
THURS., NOV. 16	5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
FRI., NOV. 17	3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
SAT., NOV. 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
SUN., NOV. 19	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
MON., NOV. 20	10:00 AM - 12 NOON



Munholland In a Week

CHURCH CALENDAR

UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

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)
- 6:15 PM *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* (9/5 - 10/24)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 AM Men's Coffee Crew Study Group
- 10:00 AM *The Cost of Control* - Women for Women Study (9/6 - 10/4)
- 5:00 PM Midweek Meal
- 5:30 PM Children's Choir (The Acrons)
- 6:00 PM Cursillo
- 6:15 PM *Romans Part 2* (9/13 - 12/06)
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 AM *When you Pray* - Ladies weekly ongoing study (9/7 - 10/19)
- 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

01

Q & A SESSION - MUNHOLLAND'S AFFILIATION PROCESS

Following both services
Elmeer Hall

02

LA UM CHILDREN & FAMILY SVS ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Tee time 12:30 PM
Beau Chene Country Club

08

CONGREGATIONAL MTG

9:45 - 10:45 AM FH

15

CHURCH CONF. AFFILIATION VOTE

10:00 - 10:45 AM FH
Registration opens at
9:30 AM

22

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

8:30 & 11:00 AM

FALL FESTIVAL

12:00 - 2:00 PM GREEN SP.
Celebrate Munholland's
Birthday, Pig Roast, Games,
& Cake Walk

Munholland Family,

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

As we move into fall and approach Celebration Sunday on October 22nd, please prayerfully consider pledging for 2024. Although this has been a tumultuous year for Munholland Church, and we are looking forward to a wonderful future. Generosity of the congregation has sustained us through this very challenging year, we thank you for that.

As we become the new Munholland Methodist Church, please be a part of our success with your support!

Thank you,
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

	September 2023			January - September 2023			
	Budget	Actual	Variance		Budget	Actual	Variance
<i>Contributions</i>	\$76,445	\$48,981	-\$27,464	<i>Contributions</i>	\$693,510	\$612,314	-\$81,196
<i>Expenses</i>	\$76,445	\$65,409	\$65,409	<i>Expenses</i>	\$693,510	\$646,074	\$47,436
<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	-\$16,428	-\$16,428	<i>Net Income/Loss (Contributions)</i>	\$0	-\$33,760	-\$33,760

MESSENGER

MUNHOLLAND METHODIST CHURCH
1201 METAIRIE RD METAIRIE, LA 70005

CONT. FROM PG 1

the decision is made, to join the GMC, the sooner Munholland will have a place at the table when decisions are being made about the future of the GMC and how it is being administered.

The decision we will make must not be taken lightly. The Affiliation Task Force and your Church Council have worked hard to bring us to this point. The Task Force produced a document that points out the pros and cons of remaining independent. Take another look at that document, it is a valuable resource. There are no strings attached to GMC membership that will preclude Munholland's easy exit if we conclude that our congregation is not in accordance with future decisions that are made by the GMC.

We encourage you to visit the information table after services on Sunday, October 1, and that you attend the October 8 church meeting. Whether you have made up your mind or not, we need to hear from you.

You have, or soon will receive, a letter from me with more details explaining the remainder of the process. If you have any questions, please contact the church office and we will respond.

GOD Bless you,

Michael Lepper,
Chair, Church Council