

THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

March 2016

St. Paul's Annual Easter Cantata

Resurrection
Alleluias

featuring our Chancel Choir and a live orchestra will be on Palm Sunday, March 20 at 8:30 and 11am

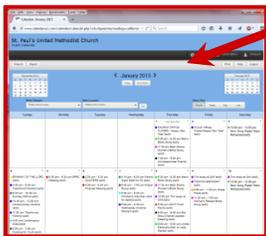


The New Song Contempo-tata

“REMEMBERING CHRIST’S PASSION”

featuring the New Song Praise Band will be on Palm Sunday, March 20 at 10:45am

Find our Church calendar online!



1. Go to stpaulsmonroe.com.

2. Click on the **calendar** tab.



3. Then click to **launch the calendar**.

CALENDAR

Launch Calendar

Look for your committee meeting, the latest youth activity, or to see if we have one service on Sunday. Check it out and get plugged in to all St. Paul's has planned.



visit our
WEBSITE

stpaulsmonroe.com



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DUE TO WEATHER

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST MEN

All men are invited to join the **Methodist Men** for our monthly meeting at *Jade Garden* for only \$5 on **Thursday, March 3 at 11:45am.**

DeSiard Street Mission

The UMM, represented by Brent Chappell, Bill Funderburk, Jill Mouk, Steven Stewart, and a gaggle of girls fed 104 people; with seconds, they served 142 meals at the DeSiard Street Shelter in February!

The men plan to serve again on **Thursday, March 17.** If you would like to help serve, call Bill Funderburk at 322-6245.



The girls in St. Paul's Confirmation class served the meal prepared by the United Methodist Men at the DeSiard Street Shelter on Thursday, February 11. The boys served in January. The girls learned about the shelter and did a great job serving the meal. They looked at those that they served with beautiful smiles and spoke kind words.

Great job girls!

Pictured here are Addie Bagwell, Katie Burch, Addison Nickelson, Madalyn Jones, Remy Larson, Madeline Stewart, Analise Thibodeaux, Caroline Moak, Claire Booth, Ella Wimberly, Amelia Thomas, Logan Foote, Lucy Bennett, and Kam Buttitta.



tacklehunger.org

The Youth collected money for the Food Bank of NELA on Super Bowl Sunday by participating in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign. Thanks to you, they raised **\$686!** With this money the Food Bank is able to purchase 3 times the value of the cash in food (equal to over **\$2000!**) **THANK YOU ST. PAUL'S**

Tim's Neus-Letter

Dear Friends,

During this Lenten season, we have been studying John's gospel through Adam Hamilton's book John: the Gospel of Light and Life. John's gospel is set apart from the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in that it doesn't offer a day-to-day description of what Jesus did as the synoptic gospels do. Rather, it offers a description of what Jesus meant. It's been fascinating to learn new things about this gospel that perhaps we didn't know or ever give thought to.

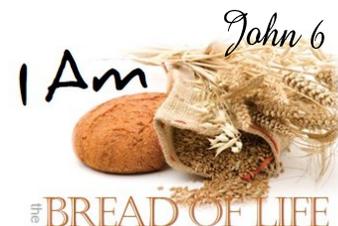
One item of special interest to me is to understand how John's gospel works with and among the others. The "I am" chapter helps me to see the very subtle transitioning from Jesus telling of the good news to the apostles spreading the good news. There is also the transferring of Jesus' ministry to us where we read in one gospel Jesus saying "I am..." and then read him saying "You are..." in another. It's as if we are subtly being led to an understanding that God wants us to be one with Christ as well as one in Christ.

As our study concludes with the resurrection story on Easter Sunday, my hope is that we arrive at being one with Christ individually and as a congregation.

Peace, my friends...Tim



Tim Neustifter



If you have not turned in a 2016 Pledge Estimate card and would like to do so, please call Kathy in the office at 322-4454.

St. Paul's Flower Cross

Hey Kids! Please bring flowers for our Flower Cross on Easter Sunday. Teachers will bring the children (Pre-K – 4th grade) to the Sanctuary during Sunday school to put their flowers on the cross and Mrs. Jill will teach the lesson. This has been a tradition for our church for many years! Please help make it our Flower Cross beautiful by bringing flowers!



Palm Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 Traditional Services
St. Paul's Chancel Choir Cantata

10:45 Contemporary Service
New Song Worship Team
Contempo-tata

3:00 Easter Egg Hunt

Maundy Thursday

6:00 Service
Traditional Sanctuary

Good Friday

12:00 Good Friday Service
Covington Presbyterian Church
Message by Dr. Tim Neustifter

Easter Sunday

7:00 Sunrise Service
Youth-led, outdoor service

8:30 & 11:00 Traditional Services
Traditional/Main Sanctuary

9:30 & 10:45 Contemporary Services
New Song Sanctuary

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN UMW News



Circle of Friends Circle - We will meet on the following dates this Spring at 5:00pm in the church Parlor (March 6, April 10, and May 15.) Won't you join us?

Joy Circle - Joy Circle will meet on March 8 at 6:00pm in the church Parlor. We will have a light meal and a short devotional. If you do not already belong to a Circle, you are welcome to join us!

Harmony Circle - We will meet on Thursday, March 17 at 6:30pm in the church Parlor for refreshments and a lesson given by Annyece Girtman. This group is open to any lady who wishes to join.

Mary Henry Circle - Join us Tuesday, March 22 at 9:30am in the church Parlor for a lesson led by Pat Hoover.



2015 Woman of the Year

The annual Outstanding Woman Award is presented every year to a member of St. Paul's UMC who is not a previous recipient of the award and whose service has been consistent and outstanding over a period of years. She is nominated by her peers and selected by secret ballot.

This year's recipient joined St. Paul's shortly after her marriage to her talented husband. She began teaching Sunday School in 1989 and has continued teaching off and on for over 25 years. She has served as UMYF Supper Mom and chaperoned several youth trips.

Our recipient is a former member of the Chancel Choir and has served on many committees in the church. She is efficient in all that she does and is willing to help others whenever called on. She currently serves on the Worship Committee and volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

This lady is also an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America having served in many capacities. She organizes the annual free Summer Camp physicals that are held at St. Paul's each spring and has been recognized by Pioneer District and Louisiana Purchase Council with the highest awards that can be given by a Boy Scout District and Council: the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver.

This Woman of the Year has worked at E. A. Conway Hospital/University Health since 1979, first as an RN, then as a Nurse Practitioner. She is currently on faculty for LSU Medical School and also works part time at Family Convenience Clinic in West Monroe. Much of her work has been with indigent patients which she sees as a mission.

Our Woman of the Year is an avid quilter and enjoys spending time with her husband Buddy, her grown children Meg, James, Aaron, and Daniel, her daughter-in-law Anna, and her grandson JAC.

Please join me in honoring our 2015 Woman of the Year, Kathy Moore.



Kathy Moore



BE PART OF THE ACTION!

Ladies, do you want to become more involved in our church? The United Methodist Women invites you to join them. The UMW is open to all women who wish to organize for mission by participating through giving, prayer, spiritual study, action and service. There are currently four circles from which to choose at St. Paul's: Circle of Friends, Joy, Harmony, and Mary Henry. Find which group works for you.

The UMW is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom through Jesus Christ to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church. Be part of a Women's circle provides so many opportunities for mission and growth. Some of the activities enjoyed by UMW members are: Spiritual growth studies, our Spring luncheon as a fundraiser for local missions (Ronald McDonald House, Wellspring, Grace Place, just to name a few,) prepare Christmas and Easter baskets for homebound and nursing home members, UMW Sunday Service whereby UMW members participate in the service and announce the Outstanding Woman of the Year, monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings which offer support of one another through friendship, spiritual support, mission opportunities, and social activities.



SAVE THE DATE!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING A LOUISIANA CONFERENCE SOCIAL ACTION EVENT

SPONSORED BY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN,
BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY AND UNITED METHODIST MEN

Come and join us as we examine the impact of Human Trafficking. We will have a variety of speakers who will tell us what is going on in this area and will challenge us to become involved in helping to solve this urgent problem, both in our state and worldwide.

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Place: First United Methodist Church
2550 Highway 165 ~ Pineville, LA
Call (318) 640-1050 if you need directions.

Registration Fee: \$10.00 (Includes a light breakfast and lunch)

Registration Deadline: Saturday, February 27, 2016

Registration forms are available on the UMW website: <http://umwla.org>

If you have general questions about the event, call Melinda Graham (337) 478-2264. We hope to see you there!



Louisiana Conference 2015 Annual Meeting

Behold! Our Mission: A Call to Service



The Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women met at St. Luke-Simpson United Methodist Church in Lake Charles, LA



October 9-10, 2015

As per usual prior to any conference event, the Louisiana Conference Leadership Team met on Thursday, October 8th to conduct the final business for the year and to begin preliminary planning for 2016.

The Opening session for the meeting started at 1:00 p.m. as approximately 150 persons gathered in the sanctuary and were greeted by Dr. Barbara Ferguson, President of the LA Conference UMW. The participants were invited to sing and pray by Marjorie Franklin, Spiritual Growth Coordinator; and welcomed by Rev. Dr. Trey Harris, Senior Pastor of St. Luke-Simpson UMC; Rev. John Robert Black, Senior Pastor of Moss Bluff UMC; and Edna Hickman, South Central Jurisdiction President.



*Speaker: Judith Pierre-Okerson
Director, United Methodist Women*

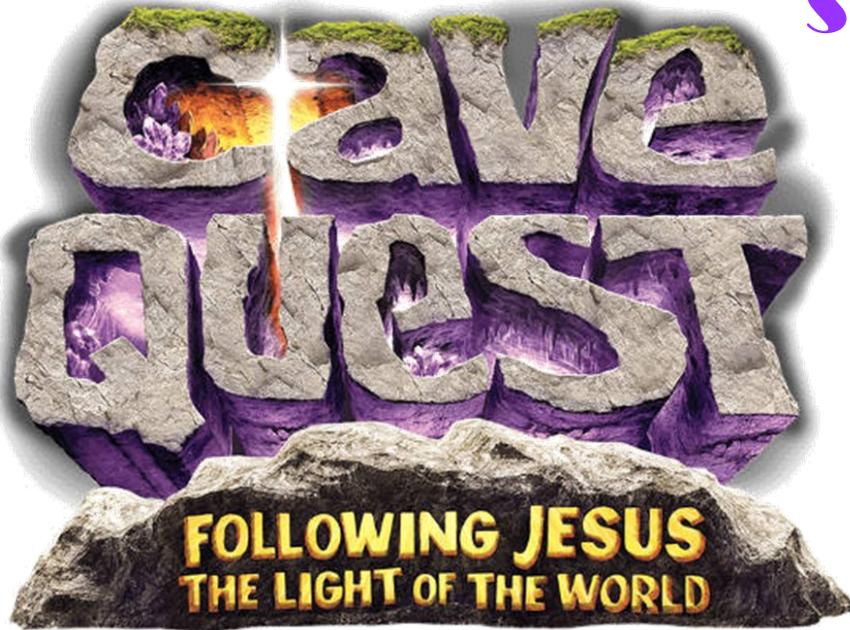


~ Leadership Team ~

**Coming this
summer!**

**St. Paul's UMC's
Vacation Bible
School**

**Teachers
needed!
Please
contact
Jill Mouk
in the
church
office.**



\$10 per child (Scholarships Available)

**June 6 - 10
2016**

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

ACOLYTE TRAINING COMING SOON



We are recruiting acolytes to serve in the 8:30 or 11:00 Traditional Worship Services. If you are entering the **second grade or older**, we need your help! Jill Mouk will lead a training session for you! Training sessions last about 30-45 minutes and take place in the Sanctuary. Schedule an individual training session with Jill Mouk by calling the church office. During the first few months, new acolytes will be paired with a "veteran" acolyte. Call Jill at the church office (322.4454) or text her (318.381.0609).

Easter Egg Hunt

Children (toddler age - 4th grade)

Postponed! Expect update soon!



Bring your Baskets and head over to our Annual EASTER EGG HUNT!
Meet on the Lexington Avenue side of the church
under the Pergola at St. Paul's UMC.



Invite a friend to join the hunt!

Save The Date June 22-26, 2016

Ladies Beach Retreat

See Jill for more information

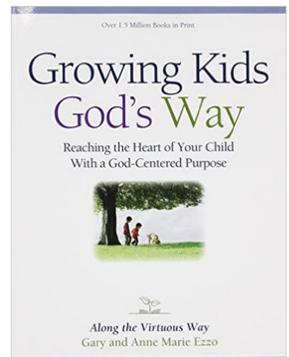
“Growing Kids God’s Way”

St. Paul’s will offer this special parenting class beginning in April.

(We will poll the participants for the time and day that works best for the group.)

Child care will be provided but you need to let us know if you need it!

Pizza will be provided for children who stay.



Julie Cunningham will facilitate this 6 week course.

Call Jill Mouk in the church office (322.4454) or

Growing Kids God’s Way

Registration Form (Turn this form in to Jill Mouk in the church office.)

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Will you need child care? Please circle: Yes / No

If yes, please give the names and ages of your children:

NAME

AGE

We are excited to have your join this class! If you have and questions or comments, please list them below.

WEDNESDAY Family Night

5:15-6:30pm

Are you looking for a great place to have dinner and fellowship with family and friends each week? Then come check out Wednesday Family Nights! We begin with dinner at 5:15pm in our Fellowship Area (\$4 per person or \$12 per family, but if money is tight come join us anyway!) At 6pm, we have activities (see below) for children and youth and a short meditative worship service for adults (see previous page.) For more information about our children and youth ministries, or to reserve care for children under 3, please contact Jill Mouk at 322-4454 or jill@stpaulsmonroe.com



The Music Makers Choir (**ages 3-1st Grade**) sings, learns Bible stories, and has play time. The group usually has 2 performances, one at Christmas and the second in the spring. Join in the fun! The Music Makers meet in room 302/Music Room.



Jill Mouk teaches the Bible 101 class for students in **2nd – 4th grades**. Students will learn to recite the Books of the Bible, identify the Ten Commandments, have “Bible wars” to find scripture the fastest, and study Bible stories. Children will have fun while learning at the same time! Bible 101 Meets in room 106.



Club 56 (**5th and 6th Graders**) has short lessons, plays games and occasionally performs community outreach projects. Sarah Cuthbert and Julie Fontana lead this lively group! Club 56 meets in room 301/Club 56.



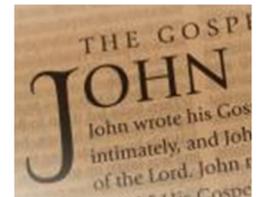
Youth (7th-12th graders) join together for a time of learning and fellowship in the Youth Room/209.

Adults are invited to join us for our Lenten worship series,
“John: Between the Lines.”

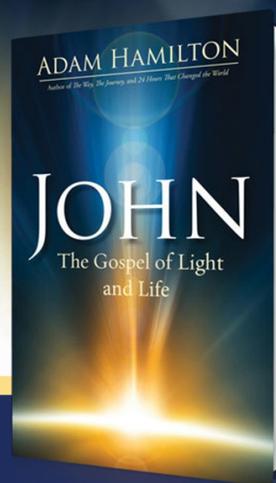
until **March 23** on Wednesdays at **6:00pm**

in the Contemporary Sanctuary

Activities are provided for children and youth during this time (see above.)



Explore the Gospel of John
this Lent & Easter with
ADAM HAMILTON



St. Paul's continues to participate in a church-wide study of the book of John using Adam Hamilton's newest book, John: The Gospel of Light and Life. The ministers have been preaching sermons using the same scriptures we will read from the book. Not only have the adult Sunday school classes used this study in Sunday school but the youth and children have followed it as well. We hope that this has created an opportunity for families to have discussions about the Gospel of John throughout Lent.

You are welcome to join any of the adult Sunday school classes. If you are not part of a Sunday school class and would rather attend an evening class, you are invited to attend an adult class on Wednesday nights at 6:30. The group will meet through March 23. Rev. JoAnne Pounds will lead this study group and if you haven't been in a study lead by JoAnne, you're missing out! She's a great teacher!

It's not too late to read the book as we will continue to follow it through the month of March ending on Easter. Books are available in the church office for \$13. We encourage you to read the book this Lent as we explore the Gospel of John! Contact Jill Mouk in the church office for more information.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE FOUND AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE.

What is Maundy Thursday?



Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration.

While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. Christians therefore keep this night with celebrations both at the basin (footwashing) and at the Lord's Table (Holy Communion).

Find more answers like this at <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-maundy-thursday>

MISSION NOTES "We are the hands and feet of God"

Let's Nurture One Another in Christian Love! Participate in Mission Opportunities!

Lexington AR Reading Program – Volunteer to read to children and help them take a computer test. (contact Renie Harrison 322-1363 to volunteer)

Rays of Sunshine – Don't forget your dried beans on the 1st Sunday of the month!

Grace Place (1600 Jackson St.)– Friday, February, 12 (cook 9-11am or serve 11am-1:30pm.)

Christian Community Ministries - thank you for cleaning out your closets and donating to CCM. These donations really help those less fortunate in our community! Please continue to donate and support this great cause.

HELP ST. PAUL'S HELP THE COMMUNITY

MEALS ON WHEELS

- Cream of Mushroom soup
 - Cream of Chicken soup
 - Rotel tomatoes
 - Diced tomatoes
 - Sweet green peas
 - pop-top cans of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup
 - Lg. Gal. cans cut green beans (Sam's)
 - Lg. Gal. cans tropical fruit (Sam's)
 - 1 lb. boxes Velveeta cheese
 - 1 lb. boxes Angel Hair spaghetti
- 

GRACE PLACE

- Cans of green beans
 - Cans of tropical or mixed fruit
 - Bags of **parboiled** rice
- 

SMALL GIFTS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

RAY'S OF SONSHINE

Remember to bring a bag of dry beans to drop in the donation basket the **first Sunday of the month**. Bring the bag forward on your way to receive communion. Baskets are located near the altar.





St. Paul's Youth have participated in the Mountain T.O.P. ministry since at least 1998. We say that, because that's as far back as we can remember, it could be before then!. This year, we already have 25 youth signed on as missionaries. This mission includes working out in the community building, repairing, and showing kindness to those in need, Bible study and fellowship for the youth, as well as team building and bonding with other volunteers from around the country. Usually we venture out in July, however, this year our trip will be from June 25—July 3. Hopefully this will prove a little cooler in temperature for that outdoor labor!

In order to meet the financial requirements to attend Mountain T.O.P, you can help! Students are selling stock for \$50 a piece. By supporting our youth, the purchase of stock will give you the unique opportunity to attend a celebratory return banquet which will highlight all the seeds which were sown on the mission both in mission and the growth and experience of each youth in attendance. All you have to do is approach a youth member, Steven Stewart (St. Paul's Youth Director) or call the church office to support a member of your St. Paul's Youth mission team!

MOUNTAIN T.O.P. HISTORY

(this is a portion of an article from the official Mountain T.O.P. website.)

Since 1975, churches from all across the country have been coming to participate in day camp, youth, college-aged, and adult programs that push them out into the Appalachian community in Christian service for Christian growth. This year, over 90 churches brought 2200+ volunteers from 13 states to our camps. Over 170 kids attended our Day Camp programming and we are proud to be expanding that ministry for the future. We have grown into a year-round ministry and are making a big impact on the communities in which we serve!

(Find the full article at <http://mountain-top.org/40-years-of-mountain-t-o-p/>)



SPECIAL GUEST: MICHAEL REICHERT

(a safety officer with the Louisiana State Police) talked to our youth about safety and being aware of their surroundings. He gave great advice and answered questions. The take home message is to make smart decisions.



Sunday, February 28

YOUTH-LED SERVICES ARE AWE INSPIRING!

On Wednesday, February 24, Cleopatra Kleinschmidt, foreign exchange student from South Africa, delivered a testimony of her experience here and that no matter where you are, we all serve the same God.

Join us for another...

YOUTH-LED WED. WORSHIP

The Youth band is FANTASTIC! April 13 @ 6:00PM

UMYF

NEWS

MARCH

Follow the youth on facebook and get updates on remind 101!

YOUTH EVENTS

- Mar. 1 6:50 Breakfast Club
- Mar. 2 5:15 Supper at church
6:00 Youth Bible Study
- Mar. 4 1st Mtn. T.O.P. payment due
- Mar. 6 9:45 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
2:30 WinterJam
- Mar. 8 6:50 a.m. Breakfast Club
- Mar. 9 5:15 Supper at church
6:00 Ash Wed. Service
- Mar. 10 5:30 **FOOD BANK**
- Mar. 12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
- Mar. 13 9:45 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
~~5:00 UMYF~~
~~7:00 Youth Council~~
- Mar. 15. 6:50 Breakfast Club
- Mar. 16 5:15 Supper at church
6:00 Youth Bible Study
- Mar. 17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
- Mar. 20 **PALM SUNDAY**
9:45 Sunday School
10:45 Worship
5:00 UMYF
- Mar. 22 6:50 a.m. Breakfast Club
- Mar. 23 5:15 Supper at church
6:00 Mexico Mission Service
- Mar. 24 6:00 Maundy Thursday
- Mar. 25 **GOOD FRIDAY**
6:00 half Lock-in
- Mar. 27 **EASTER SUNDAY**
7:00 Youth-led Sunrise Service
9:45 Sunday School
10:45 Worship

CANCELLED
DUE TO
WEATHER



remind 101

To: 81010

Message:

@stpaulsum



Find us on:

facebook®

St. Paul's UMC Youth



Join us for Breakfast Club!

Breakfast Club is a great way to start your day! Join us at McDonald's on **Tuesday mornings** during the school year. We have short devotionals and yummy **breakfast**. Plus it's a great time for you to just hang out with your friends before school! You are asked to **pay only \$35** per semester for your meals.

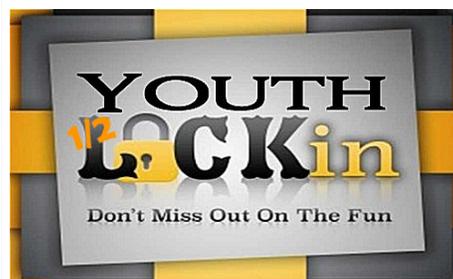


ATTENTION UMYF! Winter Jam 2016 is on Sunday, March 6. We will leave for Bossier City at 2:30pm and the cost is \$33. Scholarships are available for anyone in need. Bring money for dinner and souvenirs. Sign-up and payment due is by Friday, March 4 before 4pm.



FOOD BANK NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

The St. Paul's Youth volunteer at the Food Bank of NELA every month. In March, we will be there on Thursday, March 10. Meet at the youth room at 5:30 to ride together. Don't forget to bring money for dinner at the mall food court afterwards. shed.



YOUTH 1/2 LOCKIn

March 25th

from

6pm-MIDNIGHT

In the Youth room

\$15 for Food games fun fellowship

Deadline for registration is Thursday, March 24 by 4pm
Register with Steven soon...and plan to bring a friend!

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
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