

EMBRACE  
ENGAGE  
ENCOURAGE  
ENERGIZE

E4=1

Ephesians 4:4

**Pineville First United Methodist Church**  
2550 Monroe Highway  
Pineville, Louisiana 71360  
(318) 640-1050

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US Postage  
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Pineville, LA



If you are interested in receiving church wide emails regarding upcoming events and announcements, please contact the church office and provide us with your email address.

**Church Staff**

**Pastors**  
Ed Cooper (ed@pinevillefumc.org)  
Jo Ann Cooper (joann@pinevillefumc.org)  
**Business Administrator**  
Jay Quinton (jay@pinevillefumc.org)  
**Administrative Assistant**  
Amy Slaughter (amy@pinevillefumc.org)  
**Director of Student Ministries**  
Julie Lafosse (julie@pinevillefumc.org)  
**Communications Coordinator**  
Teresa Farrar (teresa@pinevillefumc.org)  
**Director of Children's Ministries**  
Niki Hoyt (niki@pinevillefumc.org)  
**Choir Director**  
George Gross (ggross3@suddenlink.net)  
**PATH Worship Leader**  
Thomas Bonner (thomasbonner92@gmail.com)

**Website:**  
[pinevillefumc.org](http://pinevillefumc.org)



**Pineville First United Methodist Church**

Office Phone: (318) 640-1050  
Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM;  
Friday 8:00 AM – Noon



**Pineville First United Methodist Church**

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**Pineville First United Methodist Church**  
**July 2019 Newsletter**

*“Embrace, Engage,  
Encourage, Energize”*



*A few Sundays ago our pastors shared a brief overview from Annual Conference 2019. We had 10 from our church who attended the sessions and others who attended special services. We are so grateful to Pat and Ray Bennett, who served as our lay delegates. They were prepared for each session and entered each one with a prayer and attentive spirit. You find their report below.*

Thank you for allowing us to once again represent our awesome congregation at the 2019 Annual Conference. It was a humbling experience. Please know that we take this responsibility very seriously.

This has been a difficult year for our denomination. No doubt the vote at the February special called session will impact our conference.

As a church we must begin to ask and answer the question, “What exactly are we called to do now?” Do we allow our differences to divide us or do we choose to allow these differences to meld us together to form a diverse, but loving family?

Our UMC family is still charged with the mission to Go Out Into the World to Make Disciples for Jesus Christ. Let us hold nothing sacred but the mission.

Jesus loves us all where we are. He died for us all where we are. We love and choose Him where we are. As importantly, we are to love one another where we are. We are to continue in this mission to reach out in love to one another always.

There were many honest and difficult conversations throughout the conference. Each one was from hearts filled with love for our God and each other. Love was present. Always. The Holy Spirit was there, guiding each thought, word and action.

Together we accomplished great things for the future of the United Methodist Church. We ask that your prayers for her continue.

Blessings,  
Ray and Pat Bennett



A highlight of Annual Conference was the Commissioning of Katie Glass. We know God will continue to use Rev. Glass in powerful ways as she enters the vocational ministry.



**Welcome New Member!**



Vicki Snowden

UPCOMING JULY EVENTS

UMM Monday Night Matters



UMM Monday Night Matters wraps up its study of

"Pray Like This"  
July 1st @ 6pm

We meet in the Good News classroom.  
Join us! Men of all ages are invited for  
Food & Fellowship.



Breakfast — Sunday, July 7th 7:00am,  
Fellowship Hall  
Colby Hennigan from Methodist  
Foster Care will be our guest speaker.  
Hope to see you there!



The Church Office will be  
closed Thursday, July 4th  
and Friday, July 5th in  
observance of the  
Fourth of July holiday.

DMA LUNCHEON

DMA will not meet the months of  
July, August, & September. The  
luncheons will resume Tuesday,  
October 1st at 12:00 p.m.in the  
Fellowship Hall.  
Have a safe & happy summer!



Church-wide Bingo!!  
Wednesday,  
July 10th @6:00PM



Grilled Hotdogs,  
Ice Cream Sundaes  
and Cookies



Nursery will be provided



OWL Salsa & Jelly Sale  
The United Methodist Men Ministries  
will sell OWL Salsa, Pepper Jelly, and  
Fruit Jelly on Sunday, July 14th  
from 9:30 AM—12:00 PM  
in the Narthex.

Focus on Caring



Assisted Living Friends

Brookdale, Shreveport, LA—Marcy Bowen  
Christus St. Joseph Home, Monroe, LA—Joyce Lofton  
Homestead Assisted Living, Houma, LA—Elaine Conerly  
Marigold Place, Alexandria, LA – Mary Maddox  
Montclair Park Assisted Living, Shreveport, LA- Patti Wisenbaker  
Savannah Grand, West Monroe, LA—George & Elaine Tellerero



Homebound Friends

Elaine Beck  
Ayme Beeson  
Irma Brown  
Rick Bryan  
Geneva Clark  
Bernie Misner  
Joan Payne  
Marie Reech  
Virginia Smith  
Fred Tannehill

Nursing Home Friends

Matthews Memorial, Alexandria, LA—Belinda Carner  
Summit, Alexandria, LA—Annie Hutchinson  
The Oaks, Pineville, LA – Cecil Hammond  
Out of State—Willa Vee Messer, TX



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1– Gayle Lucas
- 2– Will Glass, Scott Ware, Tara Malone
- 3– Mary Price
- 4– Tracy Alletag
- 6– Liam Lutz, Billy Nugent, Jane French, Carol Stafford
- 7– David Tassin, Niki Hoyt
- 8– Garrett Barnett, Yvonne McGehee, Quentarius Hurd, Todd Farrar
- 10– Mike Miguez, Nicole Courtright
- 11– Adrianna Roes, Lester Mallette
- 12– Katie Triche, Julie Lafosse, Charlie White
- 13– Rick Simmering, Kem Woodard
- 14– Robb Baker, Leah Fuller, Bliss Wise, Wallace House
- 16– Bill Seamans
- 17– Barbara Corley, Mike Barrios, Nathan Hoyt, Peyton Graves
- 18– Debby Tassin
- 20– Jo Ann Morrow
- 22– Roane Hathorn
- 23– Jamie Edwards
- 24– Mark McKay, Don Griffin
- 26– Lynn Jordan, Susan LaHood, Conor Kerry
- 27– Charlotte Murphy, Sandra Gaskey
- 29– Baron Kaylo, Susan Glass
- 30– Rebecca Beaman
- 31– Mike Lacour, Ken Christie, Joyce Lofton



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7– Larry & Marsha Prestridge, Richard & Jean Lohrey
- 13– Steven & Tracy Jones
- 14– Ed & Jo Ann Cooper
- 15– David & Debbie Tassin
- 20– Ritchie & Denise Martin
- 21– Todd & Teresa Farrar
- 24– Bill & Connie Gates
- 25– Danny & Becky Clear
- 26– Brian & Lisa Naquin
- 30– Ron & Brenda Sanders



August Newsletter Deadline is Monday, July 22  
If your ministry or small group has something upcoming or has done something you would like to share, the newsletter article deadline is July 22. Anyone can submit a 250 word or less article by the deadline each month. If you have questions, please contact the church office.





# Musically Speaking...

George Gross  
Director of Music



Wow, we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2019 and mid-way through the summer. Today as I am writing this, I am preparing for choir rehearsal and to meet with the pastors to plan worship for Sunday. Of course, you are invited and encouraged to come and check out choir rehearsal any time. I mentioned in a past article a few people have left the choir for life events and we need you.

I want share something a bit different with you besides music. Several times in the last few years the choir learned that Manna House in Alexandria had a need for eating utensils. We have purchased many sets over the last few years. A few weeks ago, we heard they specifically needed cutting boards and plastic forks. This was around the time John and Carla Sewell were leaving to move to Florida. So we got together and decided we would get something for them but also give a gift to Manna House in honor of them. We presented 6000 forks and several cutting boards in

John and Carla's name. It's not just about the music in the choir room on Wednesday evenings. We have some fun, sing, celebrate birthdays (EAT) and always end with prayer. Come and see, come and hear, come be a part of worship.

Love, George

# Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Wow! Just wow! We have been truly blessed by your generous love offering of \$3,685.56. Thank you so much for this gift and all of your prayers, support, cards, and words of encouragement. This gift has definitely helped with all of the expenses associated with this tragedy. We are truly humbled that you choose to share in our burdens.

Scott, Sharon, & Ryan Ware

# VBS 2019

Thanks to your generous spirit of giving, we collected 1,557 boxes of Mac & Cheese for the [Food Bank of Central Louisiana](#) during VBS! Pastor Ed gladly took that Mac & Cheese Pie to the face! Thank you to everyone who donated!



# VBS 2019





# Youth Focus

Julie Lafosse  
Director of Student Ministries



June was an exciting month!! We are so proud of Evan O'Brien & Oren Lutz for serving on the Youth Delegation to Annual Conference. Check out the photos. This was the first year since I've been attending Annual Conference that the youth were asked to lead a worship service. The Louisiana Youth Delegation were in charge of the entire Wednesday morning worship & they were amazing!!!

Oren & Evan also serve as representatives from our church and Lake Charles District to our Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM). We left Annual Conference on Wednesday afternoon and went directly to the CCYM Annual planning retreat to plan Junior & Senior High retreats for 2019/2020.

VBS was amazing and the youth volunteers were rock stars. Some were on stage leading the kids in song & dance, some were crew leaders and some were station leader assistants. The youth were eager to serve and did a fantastic job doing so.

On Monday after VBS 13 youth & adults headed to Delta Grace in Sunflower, Mississippi to do mission work in the Mississippi Delta. Be sure to check out the August newsletter for a full report.



# Kids' Focus

Niki Hoyt  
Director of Children's Ministries



VBS 2019 is over- even though the songs are still stuck in my head! The sanctuary is back to normal. Classrooms and the gym look like they usually do. Volunteers are getting back to their routine. They are getting caught up on lives they put on hold for a week. Their VBS shirt is getting a rest from the daily washing and wearing. But something happened the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> at Pineville First United Methodist that forever changed all of us who were there.

In the days since VBS I have been reflecting on "Why?" Why would a church invest their resources in one week a year? Why do people choose to spend their vacation time serving at VBS? Why do volunteers repeat themselves a million times and still wonder if anyone heard what they were saying? Why do volunteers voluntarily let crazy songs get stuck in their heads for what seems like forever? Why did some volunteers show up even after trees fell on their property and many didn't have power? Why?

So let's look at some numbers and see if that brings clarity!

**130 children!** Some who only come to VBS but have come every summer and feel like this is home. Some who have never walked through the doors of a church in their lives and feel like this place is their home. Some who are here week after week and know this is their home. And they are all correct! We are their family and this is their home! 80 families walked through our doors. Some for the first time. They felt valued and welcomed! They trusted us with their most precious gifts!

**15 hours!** The average child gets 40 hours a year in church---VBS? 15 hours in one week!!! The ability to spend three hours a day on one story using different learning styles gives each child time and opportunity to fully wrestle with and understand important Biblical truths!

**92 adults and youth!** Church family spending time together! All ages. Representatives from all services. Serving. Laughing. Talking. Building relationships!

**1,557 boxes of mac and cheese!** Providing meals for central Louisiana this summer but it doesn't have to end there!! My prayer is that when these same kids eat mac and cheese throughout the year, they remember VBS and pray for others who are hungry. When they are adults and grocery shopping, they remember Pastor Ed and throw a few more boxes in their cart to donate to a local food bank!

5 Simple truths that will stick with all of us for a long time!

When life is unfair... God is good!  
When life is scary... God is good!  
When life changes... God is good!  
When life is sad... God is good!  
When life is good... God is good!

Those are powerful numbers! I challenge you to spend some time really looking at those numbers! VBS is so much more than a five day program. I believe that it is a statement about who we are. It is an invitation for those in our family to break down the walls we have put in place- like age and what service we attend. So all the numbers you just read through come down to one number!

**One! One church family focused on one goal!**

Register today at  
[vbspro.events/p/missioncamp19](https://vbspro.events/p/missioncamp19)

**Wacky Wednesdays in July!**  
**July 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st!!**  
**9:00am-3:00pm**  
**\$20 per child each session to cover activity costs**  
**Off campus activities planned!**  
**For Children entering kindergarten thru 6th grade!**  
**Early drop off/Late pick up for additional charge**

Register today at  
[vbspro.events/p/missioncamp19](https://vbspro.events/p/missioncamp19)

For children entering  
Kindergarten thru 6th grade  
August 5-9  
from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
\$20 a day to cover  
mission project and daily fun!

**MISSION**  
**CAMP 2019**