

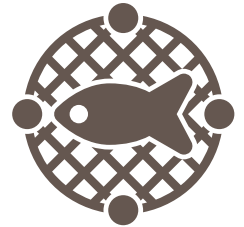


FEBRUARY 2025 | NO.14



THE FISHNET

ZACHARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



As you might imagine, there are many aspects of 'reporting' that are required from local churches when you are a part of a larger system. Each year we are required to undergo a 'statistical audit' that reports things like finances, membership, and community engagement. For the most part, these numbers are simply...numbers...but they can tell a story, if you know what to look for. I'd like to share with you some hope-full numbers from this year's audit that tell a story of Hope:

- In 2023 we reported no baptisms and 2 professions of faith. In 2024 we baptized 2 persons and had 7 professions of faith.
- We estimate through community outreach and partnership programs in our community, we had 75 people serving in various ministries, reaching over 3,000 people.
- Our charitable giving to ministries related to mercy increased 54%.
- Our financial investment in children and youth grew 184%.
- Our contributions to United Methodist groups and causes like UMCOR increased by 503% from \$2,580 to \$15,560.

These are hopeful numbers telling the story of how ZUMC continues to make a difference in the heart of Zachary and beyond.

Rev. Austin

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

The Church Council met for the first time in 2025 on Monday, January 27th. The Book of Discipline outlines the primary task(s) of the Council:

“The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church.” ¶ 252 of the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church

We discussed many items, primarily those items related to the mission and ministry of our church for the upcoming year:

- approved the 2025 budget.
- celebrated the addition of Missy Elsey as Student Ministry Director, along with the addition of 2 Youth Interns.
- discussed opportunities for growth in excellence at our 9am Traditional Worship Service.
- dreamt about a more robust system for engaging our community, especially those who worship with us for the first time.
- celebrated the upcoming changes in our Little School, allowing us to serve even more families in our community.

Church Council will meet every other month on the 3rd Monday at 6pm in the Church Office. Our next meeting will be March 17th. Everyone is invited to participate and make their voices known as we seek to live out our mission of making disciples in the heart of Zachary.

February

SUNDAYS 4-5:30PM | YOUTH BUILDING



Youth Retreat!

Common Ground Youth Retreat

Build connections with other United Methodist youth through worship, team-building, and fellowship.



Who
6th - 12th grades

When
Friday, February 21, 2025
to
Sunday, February 23, 2025

Where
Camp Istrouma
25975 Greenwell Springs Rd
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

UNIT

LIVE FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST

Be For Real

LIVE FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST

Mardi Gras!

THE 68TH FUMC YOUTH MARDI GRAS BALL

BOOTS & BEADS BALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
7:00-9:30 PM

\$20 EARLY TICKETS
DUDE UP IN YOUR YOUR BOOTS AND JEANS AND JOIN US AT FUMC!

\$25 AT THE DOOR

UPCOMING EVENTS



**JAZZ
SUNDAY**
MARCH 2ND



**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**
March 5th
6pm | Sanctuary



*Wednesday
Night Supper*

**FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH**
6PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



**Men's Group
Thursdays at 6am**



CC's Coffee in Zachary



February

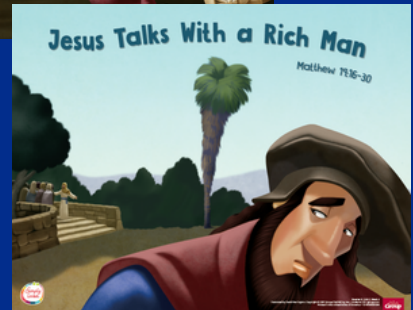


Sunday School



"Jesus told him,
'I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No one can
come to the Father
except through me.'"

(John 14:6)



Come join the **FUN!** Serve in the Children's Ministries!



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

This series allows the Gospel of Luke to guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), the series flows through several familiar stories. This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief and hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity.

And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black-and-white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Ash Wednesday - 3/5 @ 6pm
Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday - 4/17 @ 6pm
Fellowship Hall

Men's Walk to Emmaus

An Ecumenical Christian Retreat

February 20 - 23, 2025

Broadmoor UMC, Baton Rouge



WALK TO
EMMAUS

The Walk to Emmaus is an international Ecumenical Christian movement open to members of all Christian faith traditions. It's a short course in Christianity over a 72-hour weekend.

The Lagniappe Country Walk to Emmaus Community based in Baton Rouge but serves Southeast Louisiana. LCWE host spiritual weekends twice a year, men in the spring and women in the fall. Weekends are held on the Broadmoor.

Our next weekend is being planned for the Mens Walk #65 on Feb 20-23, 2025. To read more about our community and sign up for our 72 hr prayer vigil, go to www.lcwe.org.

For More Information, contact Ginger Hughes - 225-603-2748.

GUEST PREACHER - FEB 16TH

We are excited to welcome Chris King as our guest preacher on Sunday, February 16th. Chris will preach both services and will help lead the 'Stained Glass Bluegrass' Service at Pathway that morning. Chris has a long history with our church, serving as Interim Director of the Pathway Band in 2023 and guest preaching just last year. Please keep Chris in your prayers as he prepares to share his heart and love of Jesus with us on February 16th.



MOVING FORWARD WITH
JOY!

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 10-13 BATON ROUGE



Zachary United Methodist Church
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Zachary, LA 70791-3007

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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