

**Dr. Ramonalynn Bethley-Lead Pastor**



***But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.***

***Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.***

***Your people will be my people and your God my God."***

(Ruth 1:16)

When Ruth said these words to her mother-in-law, Naomi, their life was in total flux. They were grieving what was, and unsure about what will be. The only thing Ruth knew for sure, was she was sticking with Naomi, for she had found a home, a family and a God, our God, that brought meaning to her life.

Some of us might feel this way about our beloved denomination, The United Methodist Church – we are grieving what was and unsure about what will be. We are hearing of other churches and pastors in Louisiana talking about leaving, others curious about what it means to stay, and still others just want to stay here and worship, to be like Ruth and say, "your people will be my people and your God my God."

Please know that your pastor and Leadership Board are not ignoring what is going on around us. We are not oblivious to what others are saying and doing, but we also know there is plenty of time to have these conversations, and we will. We discussed at length the very positive momentum our church is experiencing. New members and new friends are showing up each week. New programs and former ministries are returning and we do not want to do anything to derail or slow down these positive signs of life and growth in our church so we can insure that we will be around for another 175 years.

Therefore, here is what I would like to propose. In January, I would like to start the new year where I began with you last summer, in small neighborhood meetings. Gathering together groups of eight to ten to talk about who we are and where we are; to share our visions and our dreams; and to address our concerns, our fears, and our questions. No decision of our future will be made behind closed doors or in secret. No one person has the power to change the course of our church nor take it away. We are all in this together.

My prayer for us, after all the neighborhood meetings, is we will know all that we need to know to do what it is we are called to do to be the church.

Invite someone to join you on the journey,  
Pastor RL

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH**  
**Sunday, November 6**  
**@ 12 noon**  
**In the Fellowship Hall**



**United Women in Faith**

UWF started a new Year at the September meeting where new handbooks were distributed and the name change was introduced. Our next meeting on Tuesday, October 18 will be a luncheon at church. The program, Call to Prayer & Self Denial, will honor our own Carolina Labrada and Margret Wade Campbell. Carolina served the United Methodist Church as a Deaconess and Margret as a Missionary. They are both retired now.

We invite all ladies to join us and ask that you let us know about the October meeting so we can be prepared for plenty of food for lunch.



**Brandon Tubbs Program Director**

Did you see it? Did you hear? Yes, things do go bump in the night, and maybe that's a good thing.

Children and teenagers gather within these walls for Sunday school, children's church, youth night and lock-ins. They share life off campus through retreats and special events. They laugh through stories of school and news of random trips. They play games like human Hungry-Hungry Hippo, gaga ball, foam party, basketball and soccer. They discuss life and share life. They cry as they reflect upon some of the harder points in life. They pray to a God who knows and loves them. They learn stories of Ruth and Abraham, and they learn Jesus' words about the sower and his seeds as well as the shepherd and the lost sheep.

Seeds are being planted and nurtured through your prayers and by a faithful group of volunteers and staff who continue to lead and to teach. There's so much good news to share about the Gospel, the Kingdom and the happenings at First UMC.

In Christ's love and mine

Brandon Tubbs



**The Pumpkins are Coming!!**  
**OPEN DAILY OCTOBER 15 – OCTOBER 31**  
**HOURS OF OPERATION**  
**MONDAY – SATURDAY 11:00 – 6:00**  
**SUNDAYS 12:00 – 6:00**

**Pumpkins Photo Ops Fall Fun**

**PUMPKIN UNLOADING PARTY**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 5:00**  
 Bring work gloves & join the fun!  
 A light supper will be provided



**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER**  
 Workers are needed every  
 Day to help sell pumpkins.  
 Sign up online for a  
 2 hour shift at  
<https://signup.com/go/rRcpoLS>  
 Or at the table in the hall



**Trunk or Treat in the Patch**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 30**  
**6:00-7:30 pm**  
 Volunteer to decorate a trunk  
 Donate Candy  
 Dress up and bring the kids  
**Games, Food, prizes and more!**

**Current Events**



**FOR MEN ONLY**  
**COFFEE & CONVERSATION**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month  
 Thursday, October 6  
 Starting at 9:00 a.m.  
 In the Transitions Room

**THE GATHERING**

Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00  
 Dinner from 5:00-5:45  
 Children 5:45-7:15  
 Youth 6:00-7:00  
 Adult Bible Study 6:00-7:00  
 Handbell Practice 5:15-6:00  
 Choir Practice 6:30-7:30



**New Sermon Series and Bible Study**



Begins on SUNDAY  
 OCTOBER 16. For  
 Centuries, Methodists  
 have been asked one  
 historic question when

we join the church, will you support it with your  
 prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness. What does it  
 mean to live out that vow. Let's find out together.

**FIRST CHURCH**  
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of ALEXANDRIA

# THE MESSENGER

## October 2022



**2727 Jackson Street Alexandria, LA 71301**  
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**Website: [www.fumca.org](http://www.fumca.org)**  
**Office Hours Monday-Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Senior Pastor:**  
**Dr. Ramonalynn Bethley**  
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**To make disciples of Jesus Christ for  
 the transformation of the world.**

**Transforming our community by BUILDING  
 relationships to GROW active disciples who  
 SHARE the life changing lessons of Jesus.**