

LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

THE HISTORY OF LOVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By Robert Francis

In the Beginning

On April 23, 1968, the United Methodist Church was born with the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren. At first, the denomination did not recognize the marriages of gay couples or the ordination of LGBTQ+ ministers according to church policy outlined in the *Book of Discipline*. However, individual ministers, congregations, and even conferences had defied those bans over the years for two reasons: 1) to disallow gay people the same rights as straight people was blatant discrimination and 2) treating gay people differently disobeyed Jesus' greatest commandments "to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Disharmony over the subject was apparent at Annual Conferences around the world, especially in more traditional areas, as delegates debated the subject. Due to COVID-19 a General Conference was postponed in 2020 at which a possible solution would have been voted on allowing local congregations to decide whether to permit gay marriages and to accept gay clergy to fill their pulpits. Consequently, the conservative element (anti-LGBTQ+ faction) was unwilling to wait any longer for the General Conference of 2024 and some United Methodist Churches began to disaffiliate from the denomination. The idea of disaffiliation was abhorrent to many United Methodists because they did not want to see a split in the church. Pastors who had taken lifelong vows to protect and serve United Methodist Churches began leading their people away from the church. It was heartbreaking. But Methodism in America had split before, most notably a split in 1844 over the necessity of the abolition of slavery.

Churches in the Baytown area held meetings in the fall of 2022 to discuss whether to remain in the United Methodist Church or to disaffiliate. According to the proposal for disaffiliation, the membership's vote was based solely on the question of dignity for LGBTQ+ persons. All three Baytown United Methodist Church congregations, Cedar Bayou-Grace United Methodist Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, and St. Mark's United Methodist Church, voted to leave the TAC at their Church Conference, without paying for their properties, with the District Superintendent presiding. Other nearby congregations, Highlands United Methodist Church and Mont Belvieu First United Methodist Church, also decided in favor of disaffiliation. All those churches eventually joined the newly formed Global Methodist Church. That left no United Methodist Church within the cities of Baytown and Mont Belvieu and no congregation where LGBTQ+ people could be part of a faith community.

The Texas Annual Conference, being in a traditional area, was one of the hardest-hit regions; it lost almost half of its churches. The people and congregations who remained loyal awaited new directions from the Conference about the future of the United Methodist Church.

The Birth of Our Church

2023–The First Year

God stepped in to fill the void in Baytown and Mont Belvieu. Discussion with Rev. Morris Mathis, Conference Director of New Church Starts for Texas Annual Conference, led to an opportunity to establish a new United Methodist Church to serve the many Methodists in the area who felt the disappointment of losing their membership in the churches in which they had worshipped for many years. Rev. Luis E. Ramirez, formerly appointed to Cedar Bayou-Grace United Methodist Church as its lead minister, was a loyal United Methodist dedicated to justice and dignity for all people. He was named the founding pastor of this new church which had no name, no members, no money, and no place to meet. A place to worship was made available thanks to R. D. and Ginger Burnside who owned a “show barn” in which R. D. housed his collection of classic automobiles. The first “get together” was a potluck luncheon on January 15, 2023, at The Barn. Amazingly, 121 people showed up to celebrate the birth of this new church. Everyone agreed that a barn was not an inappropriate place for the birth of a church since our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had been born in a stable. Heather Ramirez, the pastor’s wife, volunteered to serve as choir director. At the first meeting of prospective choir members, an expected four to six singers proved to be fifteen and over the next few months quickly grew to nearly thirty. Rev. Clayton Hall, former Associate Minister at First United Methodist Church of Mont Belvieu, was transferred to be an Associate Pastor at the new church. Organizational meetings were held the next two Sundays after the initial potluck meeting to give people an opportunity to become involved in the life of the church that still had no name. We referred to ourselves as the United Methodists of Baytown and Mont Belvieu and made it clear that we were a church that loves all people.



The first worship service took place at The Barn at 11:00 AM on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Attendance was 112 sinners and saints, all of whom were looking for new beginnings. The first celebration of Holy Communion was served in the new church. From the start it was obvious that music and singing would be a big part of the joy and happiness we could find in the new United Methodist Church. Pastor Luis led us in worship that was traditional, yet new. Even if you didn’t know anyone present, you felt welcome in The Barn.



Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, recently appointed Bishop of the Texas Annual Conference, attended the second worship service of the NEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in Baytown and Mont Belvieu on February 12, 2023. She delivered the sermon and presided over the induction of new members into the congregation. She commented that she’d never been in a church with a disco ball and a Tiki counter. There were 128 people present that morning.

Founding members were:

Mike Ansley	Shannon Harris	James O'Connor
Pam Ansley	Doug Harrison	Connie O'Connor
Donna Balderas	Paula Harrison	Michelle Payne
Jesus Balderas	Shirley Hartless	Heather Ramirez
Martha Barnett	Roseanna Henrichsen	Rev. Luis Ramirez*
Gladys Bowie	Becka Hicks	Isabella Ramirez
Jeanie Brady	Kate Hunt	Lee Randolph
Ginger Burnside	Matt Hunt	Rev. Ralph Randolph*
R. D. Burnside	Connie Hyltin	Karen Rios
Tommie Buscemi	Jennifer Jacobs	Melissa Russi
Charlie Buscemi	Kelly Jacobs	Shawn Russi
Jenna Buscemi	Carolyn James	Marilyn Sandhop
Hillcrest Charles	John James	Cameron Sawyer
Don Coffey	Lois Kelly	Jennifer Sawyer
Jenice Coffey	Robert Kelly	Shirley Smith
Deborah Delhomme	David Knutson	Holly St. John
Chuck Dellaria	Linda Knutson	Lori St. John
Linda Dellaria	Drew Kraus	June Stansky
Ray Derrington	Rev. Melody Kraus	Teena Still
Gayle Edwards	Claire Kraus	Walter Still
Elisabethhe Ellis	Christi Lackey	Patsy Tetting
Irene Fallen	Kenzie Lackey	Gwendolyn Tooke
Earl Fallen	Janie McCall	Gary Tschoepe
Cindy Fikes	Scottie McDowell	Dale Vander Pol
Michael Fikes	Sharon Medley	Terri Vander Pol
Carolyn Francis	Jessica Miller	Elizabeth Walker
Robert Francis	Preston Miller	Susan Whiteneck
Caroline Garner	Virginia Miller	Troy Whiteneck
Ryan Garner	Dawn Mizell	Rev. George Wilson*
Karen Gordy	James Mizell	Pam Wilson
Monte G'Sell	Heaven Mizell	Dalton Zayas
Rev. Clayton Hall	Sarah Moorman	
Mindy Hall	Steven Moorman Jr.	
Jan Harris	Suzannah Moorman	
Josh Harris	Royce Moyer	

*Ministers are members of the annual conference, not the local church.

Attending the first Lay Leadership Council on April 20, 2023, were Pam Ansley, Jesus Balderas, R. D. Burnside, Chuck Dellaria, Carolyn Francis, Rev. Clayton Hall, Matthew Hunt, Dawn Mizell, Steven Moorman, Michelle Payne, Heather Ramirez, Isabella Ramirez, Rev. Luis Ramirez, Dale Vander Pol and Terri Vander Pol. Guests were Mike Ansley and James Mizell. Members absent were Ginger Burnside, Mindy Hall, and Achille Javois. Michelle Payne was chosen the Chair of the Lay Leadership Council, Carolyn Francis as Recording Secretary, Terri Vander Pol as Treasurer, Chuck Dellaria as Financial Secretary, R. D. Burnside as Chair of Building and Grounds, Dale Vander Pol as Mission and Outreach Chair, Dawn Mizell as Membership Secretary, Pam Ansley as Chair of the Hospitality Committee, Mindy Hall as Children's Coordinator, Steven Moorman as Youth Coordinator with Isabella Ramirez the Youth Representative to Council, and Jesus Balderas as Chair of the Ushers and Greeters. Donna Balderas was named Lay Leader before Annual Conference in May.

The church quickly saw the need for education and mission. Sunday School classes were formed for all ages. Outreach to the community became important immediately as a Serve Saturday took place on April 29 to help neighbors fix up their homes. By June 1 membership stood at over 100 members. Dr. June Stanksy began a lunch fellowship group called the Faithful Friends.



Rev. Ellen E. Thornburg was commissioned as a new Elder in the Texas Annual Conference in May of 2023 and she was appointed to our church. Even though we were not yet a chartered church, Michelle Payne, Heather Ramirez and our pastors represented us at the Annual Conference. Achille Javois, one of our pianists, accompanied musical groups on the keyboard at worship services during the conference. Jan Ervin was elected to be one of 500 lay delegates from around the world at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church to be held in 2024.

The first few months, the Texas Annual Conference and the South District helped with salaries and church finances. At the rate we are growing the church would need a new facility before too long. Property nearby that will be suitable for us to build a church campus was evaluated, and Texas Annual Conference agreed to help with that.



“Mercy Bags” with items needed by the homeless were put together that same day to be taken and distributed by church members to the needy. A second Saturday was scheduled for October. Dale and Terri Vander Pol led a mission trip to Cartagena, Colombia. Youth and adults signed up for summer camp, choir camp, and outreach projects. Our first of many Music & Arts Camps was held in July at The Barn for children and youth. The New United Methodist Church “Church with No Name” began having an impact in Baytown and Mont Belvieu.

An Independence Day picnic was well attended by 78 people at the Vander Pol’s home. The children who participated in the highly successful Music and Arts Camp the week of July 17 showcased what they had learned at the morning worship service and luncheon on July 23. The church choir under the leadership of Heather Ramirez was up to 30 members. Members attended a weekly Zumba class Heather began teaching at the J.D. Walker Community Center.

Chuck Dellaria organized the taking of pictures of members for a church directory. Troy Whiteneck and Meghann Hall were the photographers. Church membership reached over 100 with attendance on Sunday averaging 85. Swimsuits were donated to Bay Area Homeless Services, and an account was set up at Calypso Cove so that the kids living at the shelter would be able to go swimming during the summer.



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Our Sunday worship services became available on YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram. Our denomination's TikTok channel commissioned an Advent devotional from us and our Annual Conference featured us in a series of devotionals from new church plants. Our greatest attendance at The Barn was 131. Property on Wallisville Road looked promising, but the church was also looking to rent space from Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District at one of its elementary schools. We needed classrooms, larger bathroom facilities, parking space, and room for more attendees. Financially, we were doing well but still needed to do better. We did not have a bank account because we didn't have a name. The South District wrote checks for us and oversaw our donations. Pastor Ellen rode her motorcycle to Beaumont twice a month to collect everyone's paychecks from the district office.



Dale and Terri coordinated teams to pick up milk and food donations from local stores and deliver it to Hearts & Hands, Baytown's hub for the Houston Food Bank. The church also came together to help a family whose house burned down. Market Days at Baytown's Town Square and the Caribbean Vibes Blocko provided opportunities for our church to become better known in the community. We distributed bottles of cold water to hot, thirsty folks, provided crafts for children, and prayed with people.



The newly formed Southeast District met on August 19 at The Barn. Our choir participated in the worship service and was well received by the district pastors and laity that attended. Dr. Vincent Harris, District Superintendent, expressed his feeling that everyone had fallen in love with The Barn.

The church provided growth opportunities to its members starting September 10 in the "Upper Room" at the Vander Pol's home. Paula Harrison led the formation of a bell choir, youth were involved in diverse activities, and everyone had an opportunity to take part in Disciple Bible Study led by Jenice Coffey and assisted by Pastor Luis and Pastor Ellen. The study consisted of 12 sessions on the Old and New Testaments.

Members of the church were invited to suggest names for our new church and the reasons why it encompassed who we were to members on the Lay Leadership Council. We hoped to be incorporated with our new name and be chartered by January 1.

The church proudly hosted its first baptism in October. Hannabeth Miller, infant daughter of Jessica and Preston Miller, was baptized on Sunday, October 8, 2023. Bishop Harvey was present that morning to assist in the child's joyous baptism.



The church continued to take advantage of opportunities for personal growth, serving others, and reaching out to grow the church. Attendance held strong all summer at worship services, Sunday School, and small group Bible studies despite the heat and summer vacations. The average attendance at Sunday worship services in September was 84.

The handbell choir was working towards its first performance. Homeless bags were prepared for distribution once again. The youth planned a full schedule of activities into December.

We thanked God for our wonderful choir of over thirty great voices under the direction of Heather Ramirez, wife of Pastor Luis. Members of the extraordinary assemblage of musicians that accompanied the choir were Paula Harrison (piano), Matt Hunt (bass guitar), Achille Javois (keyboard), and Isaiah Randolph (drums). We also appreciated the fact that we had three pastors bringing God's word to us on Sunday.



Our first Fall Stewardship Campaign began on October 22 and ended on November 12. This afforded us a look ahead toward the church finances for 2024. The theme was "Living in the Overflow" based on Romans 15:13. We believed that we were living in the abundance of the Holy Spirit pouring out blessings on this body of Christians. Pastor Ellen helped us connect with the Baytown Animal Shelter for our first Blessing of the Animals in October.

At the October 23 meeting of the Leadership Council, a list of 52 names for the church were reviewed and discussed. Pastor Luis informed members of the Leadership Council about guidelines to keep in mind as three names were chosen from the list. The three names selected to be submitted to the congregation for final input were Joy United Methodist Church, Love United Methodist Church, and Open Arms United Methodist Church.

The church was still going through the chartering and incorporating procedures. Our attendance averaged 100, and chartering could be finalized when it reached 125. Chartering would mean that the church was a full-fledged member of the Texas Annual Conference. "Incorporation" would mean that the church had been recognized as an entity by the State of Texas and would be able to have a bank account and perform all financial and legal functions.

A Name for the Church Is Selected!!!

The Lay Leadership Council at its November 2 meeting voted unanimously in favor of Love United Methodist Church as the name for the congregation. The familiar cross and flame icon and the neon Jesus that had been in use for several months were to be used in the advertising for the church going forward.

The youth participated in the Sunday service by acting as ushers. A recent potluck dinner was a success. Other future events, such as Folk Dancing and Pie Fellowship were planned. All Saints Sunday and Consecration Sunday were special events in November.



Matt Hunt worked on Form 202, Articles of Incorporation that had to be submitted to Texas Annual Conference so that the church would be included under the Conference umbrella as a non-profit. He also applied for an EIN number that would enable us to get our own checking account.

Advent was celebrated starting on the last Sunday in November. Love continued to participate in many mission projects including Holiday Parties for Bay Area Homeless Shelter and Church Women United Day Care, and Food Giveaways at Hearts and Hands. We went caroling together at Senior Living Communities.



Pastor Ellen kept our presence on social media updated, including the use of our new name. We utilized free events around the city to help others get to know who we were, where we were, and what we were about including the “Blessing of the Animals” in a city park. The website and apps like Facebook and Instagram, which Pastor Ellen initiated with her technology skills and training, went a long way in advertising the church name. Her talents and the imagination of the staff in promoting special events in our church showed the joy of worshipping at Love United Methodist Church. One of everyone’s favorite videos that exhibited exactly that was the “Pies and Folk Dancing Night” video. In that video shown on Facebook, Pastor Luis put a pie in Pastor Ellen’s face and then Isabella, Pastor Luis’ daughter ran in and plastered a pie in Pastor Luis’ face. We continued to celebrate the joy of Christ as our Certified Lay Minister, Deborah Delhomme, and her husband Ray Derrington, who are professional clowns, led us in a Holy Humor Sunday.

Love United Methodist Church entered into discussions with Faith Presbyterian Church in Baytown concerning the use of its facilities when it came time to move from our present location. It had become obvious that we would soon need more parking and restrooms. A committee from each church worked on the details of renting space from the Presbyterians.



Our outreach to others was very active in December. The congregation donated gripper socks and throw blankets for the children to hand out to residents at Swan Manor along with their own handmade Christmas ornaments. Love joined several organizations including the Jewish synagogue to help provide gifts for kids at the Bay Area Homeless Shelter. We also helped with the Santa Party hosted by Church Women United by providing a Santa and two elves to hand out presents. Some members of the church helped at the Hearts and Hands Food Giveaway. There was a Christmas Eve service at which the handbell ringers performed extremely well. Our first year of existence was an unqualified success.

2024–The Second Year

Conversation with Faith Presbyterian Church continued concerning joint use of their building. A determination about the feasibility of our use of their facilities was to be made soon.

Our second Music & Arts Camp for children and youth was held in January. The handbell choir had grown to twelve members and two subs.



Pledges for 2024 reached \$203,586, which was about 25% more than anticipated. This was 30-40% greater than the norm for churches our age and size. The Southeast District and the TAC continued to provide additional financial assistance.

Small group study was going well. The Garage Band Sunday School class was working on 1 Corinthians, the parenting group continued with their literature, a new study group planned to use C. S. Lewis' *The Four Loves* and was to be led by the three pastors, and the Disciple Bible Study group started *The New Testament*. The members of the Youth Sunday School class were eating their way through a study of *Foods in the Bible*. The pastors planned a sermon series for January with the central topic being Love. Preparation was in progress for Ash Wednesday and Lent. An Easter Sunrise Service with three services that Sunday was planned for Easter Day.

The Articles of Incorporation were filed. Because Amegy Bank was no longer going to offer night deposit, the check signers on our account felt that Community Resource Credit Union was the best alternative depository for our money. Our committee and TAC representatives met with the people from Faith Presbyterian to discuss our building needs and the advantages of leasing from them. The fact that we were not a chartered United Methodist Church complicated matters because of the problem of who the two entities entering into the agreement would be.



Attendance for Ash Wednesday was 51 with a recent Sunday attendance of 120. We were still seeing many visitors each Sunday. Our church formed a Relay team and raised money in the fight against cancer. The team consisted of 38 team members led by Heather Ramirez, Kate Hunt, and Sharon Medley. A Bob Ross Painting & Bingo night raised funds. A Talent Show with Karaoke before the Relay in April received generous donations.

The Leadership Council voted to decline an offer from Faith Presbyterian Church for the use of its building and will look for other solutions to our building needs. The search for a new home turned toward using an elementary or junior school cafeteria. The school district communicated to our committee its set fees for use of its buildings.

Deborah Delhomme was a Certified Lay Minister for our district and a member of our congregation. She regularly took part in our worship services. Sonja Wheeler asked for and received permission from the Council to begin certified lay ministry training with unanimous support. The church provided some financial support to Sonja and Deborah for further training. The Texas Annual Conference agreed to provide financial assistance to Love United Methodist Church in 2024 to help with our church's expenses. Even though the TAC had not chartered Love United Methodist Church, Love sent delegates to the Annual Conference at Houston First United Methodist Church, West Campus, on June 9-12. Our three pastors were clergy delegates and eleven of our members attended as district delegates. Jan Ervin attended the church-wide General Conference as a delegate from the TAC.





for Easter.

Pastor Luis and Pastor Ellen began celebrating Means of Grace around the community. They offered imposition of ashes, foot washing, communion and blessings in parks, taquerias, and senior living facilities. Our pastors and several members of the congregation led a “Hymn Sing” at The Lodge at Pine Creek once day a month. The pastors visited St. James House and held chapel service with the residents there once a month. Love began taking flowers donated from local grocery stores to Senior Living Communities. A Gospel Brunch was planned

The church seriously looked at the possibility of renting space from Goose Creek CISD at an elementary or junior school to host our service on Sundays. It was obvious that The Barn was not large enough to remain our meeting place much longer. The church also searched for financial software suitable for a church our size. Attendance in March was consistently 90+. On Easter, the attendance was 204 including all three services—sunrise, family, and regular morning worship. The number was an increase from 183 on Easter 2023. The Gospel Brunch was a huge success.

The size of our handbell choir hit 14 ringers, and the chancel choir was working hard on preparing music for Easter Sunday’s Gospel Brunch.

That summer, Pastor Luis and Pastor Ellen took the youth group to UM Army in the Rio Texas Conference. The Love Missions Team went on a mission trip to Colombia in collaboration with a local Roman Catholic church, and other members went to Choir Camp and Lakeview. The church started collecting swimsuits for the residents at Bay Area Homeless Shelter for whom we sponsored swimming at Calypso Cove again this summer.



Another Serve Saturday was planned for May 18. Volunteers helped at Hearts and Hands, worked on our new trailer, and prepared mercy bags for the homeless. Dale and Terri Vander Pol supervised the work.



At its monthly meeting in May, the Leadership Council decided to enter into an agreement with Lee College to use Rundell Hall on Sundays from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Additional space also would be available when needed at various times. That agreement provided us with plenty of parking, classrooms, and ADA accessibility for our growing congregation. The church was very thankful to R. D. and Ginger Burnside for having made The Barn a place for us to call home for 18 months. An appropriate gift was designed and given to them expressing our appreciation. We continued to be a welcoming church to all people and to be inclusive in our practices.

Our church began passing out “Little Jesus” statuettes to people whom we encountered that “needed a little Jesus in their lives.” Visitors and congregation members received one and could pick up extras to give to others. The church choir planned summer services with the theme “Worship through the Decades” in which they led the singing of Christian songs popular from the 60s, 70s, etc. On a Facebook video, the choir dressed in silly period costumes to promote the singing of favorite hymns and songs during the coming weeks from past decades. Our third Music & Arts Camp for children was held from July 22-26 with a celebration on Sunday, July 28. Pastor Clayton began his seminary internship which would be completed at Love United Methodist Church. We had a family game night at Lee College on June 26. Love United Methodist Church was located right across from Baytown’s Bicentennial Park. In Pastor Luis’ words, “It is our front yard. We should go where the people are.” Consequently, we planned to have a booth at summer events like Juneteenth and Fourth of July celebrations in the park.



A special meeting of the Leadership Council was called in early August to approve opening a credit card account and to approve the credit card use policy formulated by the church Finance Committee. Both actions were approved by a quorum attending, and two (2) cards were to be obtained. Proper forms would be submitted by anyone using the cards.



The children in third grade received Bibles from the church in August. Music and Arts Camp was very successful. Attendance dropped below 99 at our first Sunday in our new home in Rundell Hall, but summer usually saw a drop because of people on vacation. Also, Hurricane Beryl in July made it difficult for some folks to get to church. Another Serve Saturday was planned for September 28.

Pastor Ellen organized the annual Back to School Bash at AR’s Entertainment Hub on Friday, August 9. In 2023 we expected 30 and 60 showed up. In 2024 we expected 60, and we had 200. The Lord sent people our way! One highlight was that 12 young men from the Homeland Security Center in Highlands and their adult supervisors were able to attend. We received a thank you letter from one of the children’s coordinators saying how much the boys enjoyed the fun experience at AR’s. Pastor Luis shared that some of the reasons these boys were being held at the center were they had fled their homelands because violence had taken their parents and family, a few were separated from their families at the border years ago and had not been reunited, and some were trying to reach a family member in the U.S. We could call where they live “housing,” but from their perspective it was prison. The way these kids, who are alone without their loved ones, were received by our congregation was heartwarming. Love United Methodist Church planned to find other opportunities to do ministry with these children.

At the August meeting the Leadership Council began discussing going to a “two-board” system to expedite meetings. There would be an administrative council and a ministry council that would have different responsibilities in guiding the life of the church. At the September 5, 2024, meeting it was unanimously approved that the two boards be instituted, and their makeup of membership from the Leadership Council was determined.



Nancy Hinshaw started working on a



pilot program to place church members in small groups with group leaders that would reach out to people in their group by making phone calls, sending cards, or making personal visits. Keeping in touch in that way would help with attendance as well as knowing the needs of each family in the church. The Children’s Sunday School used Cokesbury literature and started lessons on The Ten Commandments. Liberty United Methodist Church loaned their handbells to us because they were not using them. The Love United Methodist Church Choir was invited to perform at the closing ceremony of the Texas Annual Conference Spiritual Renewal Conference on October 12. Love United Methodist Church

continued having a presence at special citywide events at Town Square on Texas Avenue by manning booths. The youth designed a dinosaur-themed booth. We gave away balloon animals, water, and “Little Jesus” statuettes. A bilingual service was held the last of September with a meal. Sixteen youth and six caregivers from the Highlands homeland detention center attended. Pastor Ellen established a relationship with owners of a local go-kart track and our members and children from the detention center enjoyed a night out.

Heather Ramirez began an afterschool choir for fourth and fifth graders at De Zavala Elementary and seven people from Love began volunteering at the school each week.

Nancy’s pilot program with only two groups was highly successful and was expanded to include every family in the church in a group with five other families. Attendance was improving with summer vacations over and school beginning. The Youth group continued to grow and planned activities through December including the Galveston Ghost Tour in October and Christmas Lights Tour in December.



Church outreach and involvement in the communities was scheduled through the end of the year. A special joint service with the local Jewish synagogue around Hanukkah was planned as well as our church’s celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

During the last quarter of the year attendance averaged about 82 and over 91% of the donations pledged for the year had been received by mid-December. The congregation looked forward to what promised to be another exciting year in the life of Love United Methodist Church.

2025–The Third Year

On January 19, 2025, Love United Methodist Church celebrated the glorious wedding of Michelle Payne and Sharon Medley. The event was the first wedding in the history of our church. Beautifully decorated, The Barn was packed with attendees. The Love United Methodist Church Choir walked Sharon, a choir member, down the aisle to stand beside her life partner, Michelle, who was also a choir member. All three pastors participated in the joyous union of these two well-loved members of our congregation.



Love United Methodist Church marked its Third Birthday on Sunday, February 2, 2025. God was good to us and provided places for us to meet and a congregation of like-minded Christians who wanted to reach out to make the world a better place. We couldn't have asked for better leadership than what our pastors had given us. Pastor Luis, Pastor Ellen, and Pastor Clayton brought inspiring sermons to our Sunday worship services. Our worship style remained formal in structure, but Spirit-led and energetic in style.

The Leadership Council held a day-long retreat on February 8, 2025, to plan some of the church's activities during the year. There was extensive discussion about significant events in the life



of the church and our successes over the past year. Many items that might be placed on the church calendar were mentioned and explained. Goals and their impact for the coming year were listed. Love United Methodist Church was recognized as one of the most joyous churches in the Texas Annual Conference. By the end of the retreat, the Council had a description of what it expected to see in the growth of the church:

joyful, welcoming, warm, moving, full of people, able to see people's needs and fulfill them, willing to volunteer, ready, expanding, thirsty for more, caring, diverse, hungry for more, open, inquisitive.

The church was awarded a "life-size" cut-out of John Wesley as First Place winners in a Music Video Competition for the United Methodist Church's General Board of Archives and History.

The church observed the Lenten Season beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5. The choirs of Love United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Lutheran planned a joint musical celebration for Easter using *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray. The two choirs started holding combined practice at the two churches with planned performances at Easter.

Easter was a well-attended worship that included Sunrise Service, Family Worship, and Traditional Worship. The choir's performance of *Gospel Mass* was excellent although the St. Paul's Lutheran Church choir was unable to participate. The number of participants in hymn sings and worship at Senior Living Communities continued to grow.



Dawn Mizell summarized our attendance for the first five months of 2025: average for January was 75, February increased to 88, March was 85, April averaged 141, and May was 100. Palm Sunday had 93 in attendance; Maundy Thursday, 32; Good Friday, 47; Sunrise Service, 13; and Easter Sunday, 150. We had a really good crowd for Easter. Attendance had been increasing a tiny little bit every month over last year.



In May, Dr. Vincent Harris, Southeast District Superintendent, presented a vision shared by our Bishop Harvey of a cooperative parish mission whereby Liberty United Methodist Church and Love United Methodist Church would work together to the benefit of United Methodists from Liberty to Mont Belvieu. This would not be a merger as it was explained to us, but Pastor Luis, Pastor Ellen, and Pastor Clayton would share leadership responsibilities for both churches. The Texas Annual Conference decided not to go forward with the cooperative parish mission between the Liberty and Love churches. Pastor Clayton's graduation from SMU Perkins School of Theology was celebrated on May 17.

Love United Methodist Church sent several district delegates to Annual Conference on May 25-28. The highlight of the Conference was Pastor Ellen's ordination. Several Love United Methodist Church choir members sang in the Conference Choir during the Ordination Service. Love United Methodist Church was the recipient of a set of handbells from the Servants of Christ United Methodist Parish and a set of Hymnals from Hope United Methodist Church in Woodville and St. Mark's UMC in Pecore.



We were invited to be part of the second year of the Texas Annual Conference's Parish Project along with seven other invitees: Mt. Pleasant Tennison Memorial United Methodist Church, Beaumont Trinity United Methodist Church, Beaumont First United Methodist Church, Salem Orange United Methodist Church, Lufkin First United Methodist Church, Onalaska United Methodist Church, and Nacogdoches United Methodist Church. Love was placed in a cohort with Beaumont Trinity, Beaumont First, and Orange Salem United Methodist Churches. These churches came together as the Parish Project to receive training and development together with the laity, a group of five to eight people from each congregation, and we learned how to best reach out to our community, how to connect to one another, how to connect to the people around our walls and our area, how to reach out to people that perhaps we don't know. We did that together, we experimented, we came back together to find out how it went, and we did this for nine months. The people representing Love were Carolyn Francis, Jessica Miller, Michelle Payne, Heather Ramirez, Pastor Luis Ramirez, and Pastor Ellen Thornburg.

At Annual Conference the Bishop announced that Rev. Clayton Hall was being appointed Pastor at Liberty United Methodist Church, effective July 1. We were sad to see him leave but rejoiced that he had been given his own church.



sent to Texas Annual Conference.

Church attendance in July 2025 averaged 98, an increase of 20 over July 2024. The choir averaged 18. Pastor Luis commented that a church's choir attendance was usually about 10% of the number of overall congregation attendance. He said the Love United Methodist Church choir was exceptional in its membership and loyalty. Lay Leader Donna Balderas noted that everything happening to us was confirmation of God working with us, and we were on God's pathway. Donations made to the church to aid the Texas Flood Victims were

The Miracle

People have asked a question over the centuries since Jesus walked the earth, "Does God continue to perform miracles like He and his Son did in Biblical Times?" Sometimes, we are too close to things to perceive how God is still at work all around us.

ABC's sports announcer, Al Michaels, became famous for his commentary in the closing seconds of the 1980 Olympics game between the USA ice hockey team, composed mainly of college amateurs, and the powerful and heavily favored professional team from the Soviet Union just as the astounding upset was about to occur when he shouted into the mic, "Do you believe in miracles? YES!" The congregation of Love United Methodist Church would answer his question, "Do you believe?" with our own resounding "YES! We believe in miracles!"

Facing years, maybe decades, of locating and securing property, designing and building a church home, and making mortgage payments, out of the clear blue-sky, Love United Methodist Church was miraculously gifted a beautiful, fully equipped, totally paid for church building to serve as its permanent home. Our founding pastor, Rev. Luis Ramirez, made the comment, "I know that I serve a powerful God, but I never expected Him to drop a building out of the sky!"

The generous people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 712 Schilling Avenue in Baytown voted on August 10 to donate their church, its property, building and belongings, entirely to Love United Methodist Church. It was an unexpected and wonderful gift to our congregation, and we made a promise to continue God's work that the Lutherans had been doing in Baytown since before 1950. The Lutheran congregation was well-known for its mission work to the needy people of Baytown but had reached a point where their declining membership was unable to carry on that mission, maintain their property, and pay the salary of their minister.



They deemed the congregation at Love to be worthy of their generosity and voted to donate their property as a Legacy Church to the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for use by Love United Methodist Church.

During May through August St. Paul's Lutheran Church went through a period of discernment led by their interim pastor to decide if and how they wished to close their place of worship in light of their loss of members. Unable to afford the salary of a permanent minister, St. Paul's was being served by an interim pastor, who invited our three pastors to guest preach to their congregation. Both congregations reached out to each other to plan joint events together. Several events were held in which the St. Paul's congregation and the Love United Methodist Church congregation joined hands in worship and fellowship beginning with a Family Games night at Rundell Hall, a ministries luncheon on Sunday after worship held at St. Paul's.

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM the two congregations met at St. Paul's for an Ecumenical Service officiated by Bishop Tracey Breshears-Schultz of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast



Synod and Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. At this historic gathering of the two congregations, the closing of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was accomplished and Love United Methodist Church was chartered as a Reconciling Church in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist

Church. Following the morning's worship service, the last to be held at Lee College, our District Superintendent presided at a Church Conference in which we received ownership of the property at 712 Schilling Avenue followed by a Charge Conference at which church officers were elected and committee chairs approved. We became the first congregation in the Texas Annual Conference to charter as a Reconciling Church from day one.

Our first community event in our new home was a Trunk or Treat that same week. Over one hundred community members attended.

Sunday, November 2, 2025, was the date of the first official worship service of Love UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in its new home at 712 Schilling Avenue in Baytown. The sanctuary was filled with United Methodists and some Lutherans loyal to their previous home church. The deed to the property was filed in the name of our church with the Texas Annual Conference.



Members of Love volunteered to help distribute food to people in need at the Schilling Avenue Food Pantry, which had been organized years ago by the congregation of St. Paul's. Every Thursday morning people came to the parking lot to receive free supplies of food. The food bank was still in the name of St. Paul's and had never been changed to Schilling Avenue Food Pantry with the Houston Food Bank. Due to funding cuts by the federal government, the Houston Food Bank was unable to approve the transfer of the Pantry into Love's name. We also adopted the St. Paul's Adopt-A-Spot litter pickup area around the Sterling Municipal Library and began quarterly pickups there. Love's outreach ministries continued to expand. Pastor Luis and Pastor Ellen began a community clothes closet, library, phone charging station, warming center, and dry goods pantry that operated during office hours from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday – Thursday. Local unhoused people came to pray with the Pastors and vent about their daily struggles. With the new building, Love was able to feed them spiritually and physically. Love United Methodist Church took donated Thanksgiving meals to the children and employees at the Detention Center in Highlands again on the morning of November 27. Our church had much to be thankful for.



Carolyn James began a Pray & Crochet Craft Club with knitters and other artists coming together to create prayer blankets for our city and have fellowship together. Gayle Edwards launched a new mission called Made to Shine where local students could get free formal wear for dances, celebrations, and events. Love continued to advocate for Certified Lay Ministry education in our conference, and we hosted classes in the new space.



The church ended what proved to be a glorious 2025 with several special worship services and outreach events similar to those of the previous year. On December 14 we hosted a holiday party for the Bay Area Homeless Shelter. Also, on December 14, Love sponsored its 2nd Annual Holiday Hangout at Baytown's Town Square free to all attendees. On December 21 a Christmas Brunch was held in the Fellowship Hall and everyone was invited. A Family Games Night at the church saw numerous members of the church congregate to play games. Christmas Eve was observed with a special worship service that night. The New Year brought unique

opportunities to build upon, as we sought to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

2026–The Fourth Year

The first three years in the life of Love United Methodist Church had been filled with excitement and challenges. Going from the gut-wrenching experience of being without a church after the disaffiliation to being a part of the foundation of a new congregation in Baytown was an unexpected journey for many of us United Methodists, some of whom had worshipped in Baytown area Methodist churches for more than fifty years. The hand of God was evident in the transformation of Love United Methodist Church from a church without a name meeting in a barn to a congregation on the move in a beautiful building that was bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to people of all ages in the surrounding communities. God produced an undeniable miracle that brought us from a temporary worship center at Lee College into a beautiful, permanent home gifted by St. Paul's

Lutheran Church. As we prepared to start our fourth year of existence, we looked forward to building upon the exciting growth of our witness in our field of ministry. We knew that there would be more issues ahead, but as we had in our brief past, Love United Methodist Church would overcome those challenges with the love of God to strengthen us.

We celebrated our first adult baptism in the new sanctuary in January when Vickie O'Toole made her profession of faith. On Palm Sunday, our congregation's first confirmation class joined the church as members and wrote a creed for Love. We had a large palm processional along Schilling Ave. with singing and a donkey. One of the confirmands, Lily Garner, was baptized that same day.



In late winter and early spring, the Building and Grounds Committee continued to make improvements on our new home, including the changing of the name on the building and its signs from St. Paul's Lutheran to Love United Methodist Church. Banners on the church grounds also announced the name of the new congregation and invited visitors. Some of the needed dry wall repair and column straightening was completed. Some minor renovations were made to the altar area in the sanctuary. Later in the Spring we hosted kickball and soccer camps.

At the March 19, 2026, meeting of the Administrative Council, it was announced by Rev. Cesar Martinez, District Superintendent of the Southeast District, that the Cabinet of the TAC had decided to appoint Pastor Luis to Klein United Methodist Church in Spring, Texas. His present assignment to Love United Methodist Church would end on June 30, 2026. It was difficult news, but it was understood that as a part of the itinerant system of the United Methodist Church ministers were appointed to their positions by the Bishop and her Cabinet for a year at a time. At a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet, Pastor Ellen was named the lead pastor for Love United Methodist Church starting July 1, 2026. The church rejoiced at that news.

Attendance at our adult Sunday School classes remained good. A new church group called Queerly Beloved has been formed for fellowship and advocacy in the LGBTQIA+ community of



Baytown. Numerous events have taken place in the Fellowship Hall including dinners, game nights, monthly meetings by the Baytown Retired School Employees Association, the Baytown Democratic Party Candidates Forum, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District events, and movie nights. There also were fundraiser special events to benefit the kids who plan to go to summer camp at Lakeview. The Love Missions Team began preparing for the 2026 trip to the Manos Juntas Methodist Mission in Río Bravo, Mexico.

[Last edited: June 1, 2026] by Robert Francis

LOVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Barn	2023
The College	2024
The Church	2025

The First Three Years – Meet Our Team



Rev. Luis E. Ramirez

Founding Pastor

Pastor Luis was born in Stillwater, OK and raised in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He is a graduate of the Moores School of Music and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Houston where he studied Opera Performance, Italian and Spanish. He received his Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

Pastor Luis has been active in ministry and in the community through Walk to Emmaus, Kairos Prison Ministry International, United Way, Meals on Wheels, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, SHSU Charter School,

UPWARD™ Soccer, Spring ISD Ministerial Alliance, Northwest Area Assistance Ministries, and UM ARMY. In the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, he has served as the Founding Pastor of Misión Milby United Methodist Church in Houston, as the Associate Pastor at Servants of Christ UM Parish, also in Houston, as the Associate Pastor at Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church in Baytown, as the Senior Pastor of Spring Community Church in Spring, and as the Senior Pastor of Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church. Pastor Luis is the Treasurer of the Conference's Board of Ordained Ministry and a Mentor to the Conference's Exploring Candidates for ordained ministry.

His preaching experience includes numerous revivals in Methodist, Episcopal and Church of God in Christ congregations. Pastor Luis has taught conversational Spanish for the Houston Police Department, and Spanish and Integrated Fine Arts for Humble ISD. Locally, he has enjoyed a singing career with the Moores Opera Center, Opera America, the Kingwood Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, many Houston-area churches and fine arts organizations, and numerous recitals and concerts at the churches he has served throughout the years. Currently, Pastor Luis lives in Baytown with his wife, Heather, their daughter, Isabella, and their dog, Luna, where he serves as the Founding Pastor of Love United Methodist Church.



Rev. Ellen E. Thornburg

Pastor

Pastor Ellen was born and raised all over Houston. She received her Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, a Master of Arts in Digital Media from University of Houston, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from University of Houston-Clear Lake, and an Associate of Arts in Musical Theater at San Jacinto College.

Pastor Ellen has served in chaplaincy at Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center where she specialized in trauma informed care to the Emergency Department, Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, Cardiac, Neurology, and COVID ICUs, Palliative Care Department, and Labor & Delivery Unit.

She has also been in ministry at Seabrook United Methodist Church and in the community with low-income and homeless support networks, musical programs, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.

In 2023 Pastor Ellen was commissioned and appointed to the brand-new United Methodists of Baytown and Mont Belvieu. She completed her pastoral residency with us as we claimed our identity as Love United Methodist Church. In 2025 Pastor Ellen was ordained as one of the newest Elders in Full Connection with the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In her Sabbath time, she enjoys books and motorcycles and volunteers on the Board of the Sterling Municipal Library. She lives here in Baytown where it is her joy to serve our vibrant community of faith!



Rev. Clayton Hall
Associate Pastor

Pastor Clayton is a native of Chambers County, TX. His family moved from Anahuac to Mont Belvieu when he was one month old. He graduated from Barbers Hill High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in History and English from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. He did graduate work in History at Sam Houston and Secondary Education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at Perkins School of Theology/Houston-Galveston Extension Campus, Southern Methodist University.

Pastor Clayton is a Licensed Local Pastor with the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He has served previously as the Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Mont Belvieu. He is a bi-vocational minister and works for a municipality in eastern Harris County.

In his free time, Pastor Clayton enjoys spending time outdoors camping, hiking, trail running, fishing and hunting. He is also a fan of the theater, both live local plays and film. He is a Marvel movie buff and especially enjoys exploring the places where popular culture and the Gospel intersect. Pastor Clayton lives in Mont Belvieu with his wife, Mindy, and their twin daughters, Lindsey and Meghann. An adult son, Jody, lives in Beaumont.



Heather Ramirez
Music Ministries Director

Heather Ramirez was born in Arlington, Texas and has been a Houstonian for 35 years. She is excited to serve as the Music Ministries Director at Love United Methodist Church. She graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Music degree and a minor in Education. She has 15 years of teaching experience at the elementary and middle school levels and she taught in private and public schools.

Heather is also the beloved music teacher at Lorenzo De Zavala Elementary here in Baytown. In 2024 she founded an afterschool honors choir for fourth and fifth graders. The choir has gone on to tour around Baytown to Lee College, senior living communities, the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District School Board, and the Baytown Area Retired School Employees Association.

She served as the choir director at Park Place United Methodist Parish in Houston, the Director of Music Ministries at Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church in Baytown, Texas and the Director of Music and Children's Ministries at Cypress Trails United Methodist Church in Spring, Texas. In 2011, she received her Certification in Spiritual Direction from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Heather is also a licensed Zumba, Zumba Kids, Zumba Toning and Zumba Gold instructor.

Heather has been married to Pastor Luis for 25 years and they have one daughter, Isabella and a dog named Luna.



Paula Harrison

Instrumentalist & Handbell Conductor

Paula Harrison was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. She and Doug have been married for 27 years, and have a combined family of three children, six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and three dogs.

Paula's undergraduate work was done at Indiana University School of Music. She did postgraduate work at Our Lady of the Lake University, and music certification studies at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Paula taught elementary music at the Kincaid School in Houston and has worked in numerous United Methodist, Lutheran ELCA, and Baptist churches as the organist/pianist, children's choir director, handbell director, and/or director of music. She has owned a music studio giving piano lessons to both children and adults since 1971. She taught a beginning and advanced accompanying course for pianists at the Texas Conference Choir Clinic for three years. She has also served as the pianist/music director for numerous high school and community theater musicals.

Paula was a founding organizer of An August Adventure, an interdisciplinary workshop sponsored by the Greater Houston Handbell Association, Houston Chapter of The American Guild of Organists, and Houston Chapter Choristers Guild. She founded the Conroe Federated Music Club and has served as president of that organization as well as the Huntsville Music Teachers Association, San Jacinto Music Teachers Association, Sigma Alpha Iota professional music fraternity for women, and Houston Chapter Choristers Guild.

She served on the worship committee for the Baytown Ministerial Alliance and the Texas Conference Choir Clinic Board of Directors. She served as a district delegate to the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for many years and served on the Conference Passionate Worship Committee. Paula is published in Clavier Magazine, a national publication for piano teachers, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in the World.



Achille Javois

Accompanist

Achille Javois is the director of Piano Vibes, a music education organization dedicated to inspiring students and strengthening communities through the transformative power of music. Originally from the French Caribbean island of St. Martin, Achille brings the rich musical traditions of his heritage into his teaching and leadership. Influenced by a wide range of musical styles, including Afro Beats, jazz, R&B, neo-soul, Compa, and Zouk, he is passionate about helping young people discover their own musical voice.

Founded in Baytown in 2018, Achille has grown Piano Vibes into a thriving music school serving students in both Baytown and Houston's historic Third Ward through a partnership with Project Row Houses. The organization offers instruction in piano, voice, guitar, drums, and music theory, with programs designed to meet the needs of students at every skill level. Many classes are offered at little or no cost, reflecting Achille's commitment to making music education accessible to all, a ministry of influence, mentorship, and community investment.

When he is not teaching or playing at church, Achille enjoys exploring new music, performing, and sharing the cultural rhythms and traditions of the Caribbean with the next generation. Through his work, he seeks to inspire lifelong confidence, creativity, and purpose in every student.



LOVE UNITED METHODIST CHOIR

Achille Javois
Bob Kelly
Carolyn Francis
Carolyn James
Chuck Dellaria
Dalton Zayas
Donna Balderas
Ellen Thornburg
Heather Ramirez
Hillcrest Charles
Isabella Ramirez
Isaiah Randolph

Jan Ervin
Jane Thornburg
Joel Willnerd
John James
Karen Elizondo
Kat Lenderman
Karen Rios
Kate Hunt
Linda Schweers-Dellaria
Lois Kelly
Luis Garcia
Luis Ramirez

Matthew Hunt
Michelle Payne
Paula Harrison
Ralph Matthews
Robert Francis
Robert Kelly
Royce Moyer
Sharon Medley
Susan Clanton
Sonja Wheeler
Suzannah Moorman
William Hunt

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9th, 2023

7:00 AM Sunrise Worship
9:30 AM Family Worship
10:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

For Information: 713-819-1232 or bmbumc.org

ALL are invited
ALL are welcome
ALL are loved

United Methodists of
Baytown & Mont Belvieu
6427 E Wallisville Road
Baytown, TX 77521



LOVE Confirmands' Creed 2026

I know God the Creator,
who is holy, gracious and almighty,
who is bigger than life itself,
my Waymaker, and my heavenly Father and Mother.

I know Jesus Christ the Son,
my Lord and my Savior,
who died on a cross,
and rose on Easter according to the Gospels,
who is at the right hand of God,
loving, kind and welcoming of all people.

I know the Holy Spirit,
who is at my right hand in times of trouble,
the giver of peace, patience and joy,
who is mysteriously with me,
and mysteriously everywhere,
the one who reminds me that God is love.

I know the stories of the elders,
the love of the church community,
the power of worship and prayer,
the joy of music, dance, laughter and silence,
and the strength of compassion.

I know that I am worthy of God's love. Amen!

A Mighty Move of God is on the Way!

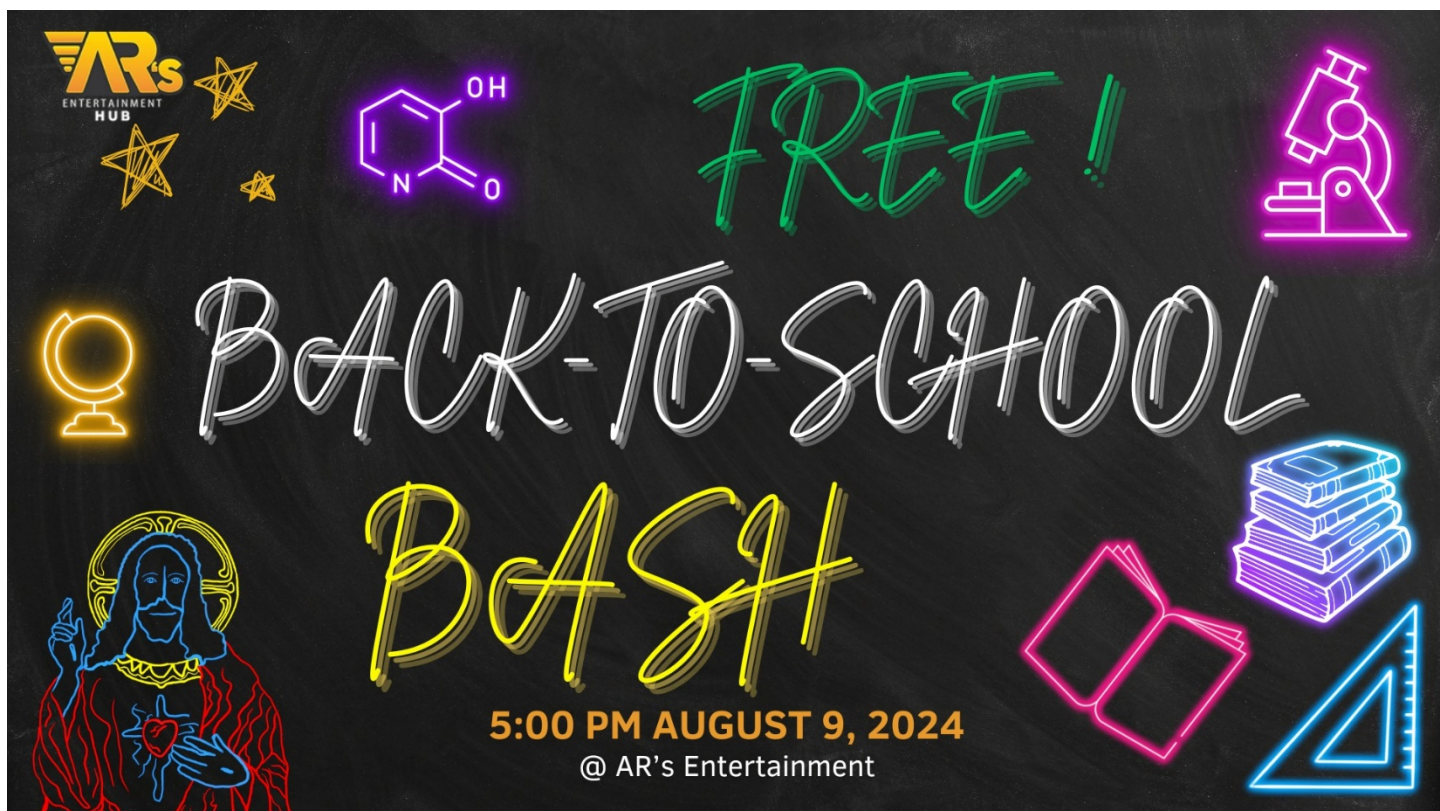
GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

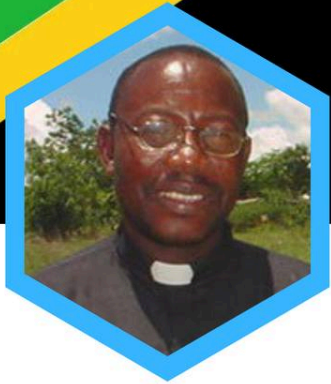
April 3 at 3 PM



Rev. Dr. Vincent Harris
The African American Churches Initiative
We Love All God's Children

**LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
712 Schilling Ave.,
Baytown, TX 77520
LoveUMC.org





**Uмба Ilunga
Kalangwa**



**Ngoy Mulanga
Kalangwa**

United Methodist Ministry in Tanzania

**Join us for 11:00 AM Worship, November 26
6427 E Wallisville Rd, Baytown, TX 77521**



**Susannah Wesley
Education and Healthcare Center
of Morogoro**



Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

**LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**LOVE UNITED
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**MUSIC & ARTS
CAMP**



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Kindergarten - 5th Grade

January 4-5
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

January 7
11:00 AM Celebration



*Palm
Sunday*

Worship
11:00 AM, March 24

Hymn Sing
3:00 PM, March 27
The Lodge

**HOLY
WEDNESDAY**

**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

Worship & Communion
7:00 PM, March 28

Seven Last Words of Christ
3:00 PM, March 29

**GOOD
FRIDAY**

Easter Sunday

6427 E Wallisville Rd

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
Family Worship 10:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM
Gospel Brunch 11:00 AM

**LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



JOIN US FOR MUSIC,
PRAYER AND PROPHETIC PREACHING!

REVIVAL!

**2403 RAYFORD RD.
SPRING, TX 77386
OCT 11 5:00 PM
OCT 12 9:00 AM**

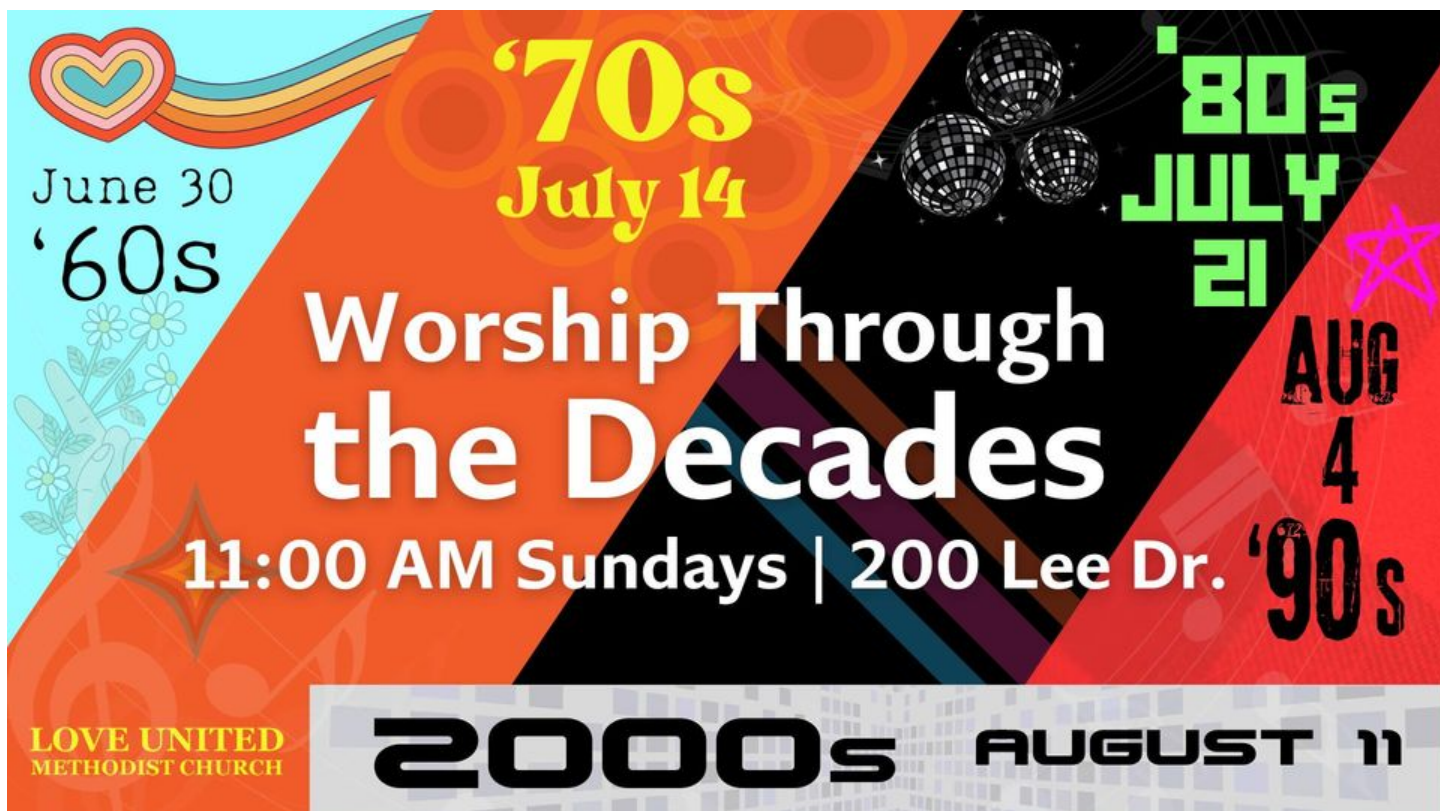


**LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**



Texas Annual Conference
United Methodist Church





June 30
'60s

'70s
July 14

'80s
JULY 21

AUG 4
'90s

Worship Through the Decades

11:00 AM Sundays | 200 Lee Dr.

LOVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2000s AUGUST 11



Love Wins

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM
LEE COLLEGE

LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

MADE TO SHINE!

**March 2-5,
March 9-12,
March 17-19,**
Noon–5:00 PM

March 7
10:00 AM –3:00 PM

Find the perfect
dress and
accessories for
your event!

**100%
Free!**

Walk–Ins
Welcome!

**LOVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

712 Schilling Ave.
Baytown, TX 77520



Celebran primer servicio religioso multigeneracional en el área de Houston

Por Lindsay Peyton, Conferencia Anual de Texas*
Traducción y adaptación: Leonor Yanez**
27 de febrero de 2023 | Baytown, TEJAS

compartir     
[Translate Page](#) ▼



El Rev. Luis Ramirez conversa con asistentes al primer servicio religioso de la nueva comunidad Metodistas Unidos/as de Baytown y Mont Belvieu. Foto cortesía de la Conferencia Anual de Tejas.



Church Planting: We Put the Fun in Dysfunction

PASTOR LUIS RAMIREZ & PASTOR ELLEN THORNBURG



- RECLAIM RELATIONSHIP
- LEAD INCLUSIVELY
- DISCOVER JOY

In the aftermath of disaffiliations, Pastor Luis gathered a group of United Methodists with a divine call to build a greater future for the UMC in the Texas Annual Conference. Pastor Ellen was commissioned that same spring and joined the new faith community as they claimed their identity as Love United Methodist Church. They have grown from a house church worshipping in a local barn to an energetic congregation sharing Christ’s radical love on the east side of Houston. Their ministry focuses on creative music education, building beloved community with those living in poverty, and celebration of the diversity and otherness that has historically been feared. Join them for a workshop exploring how you can strengthen your congregation’s spiritual resilience, inspire your community, and restore your own faith.



**"Love each other
as I have loved you."**

-Jesus Christ



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First Edition. First Printing.

June of 2026



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METHODIST CHURCH

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