

CORNERSTONE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Celebrates

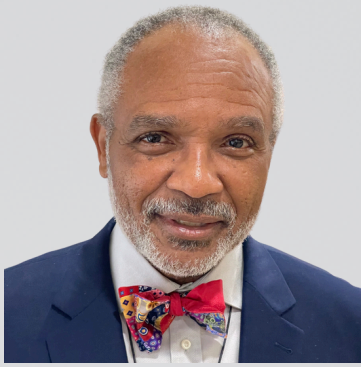


*“Cornerstone Standing on the Promises of God in
the 21st Century”*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Sr., Senior Pastor
Rev. Karli D. Pidgeon, District Superintendent
Bishop Delores J. Williamston, Resident Bishop

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 17, 2024
THREE O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON



Words from Our Pastor

SENIOR PASTOR, CLIFTON C. CONRAD, SR



I greet you in the mighty and matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! What a blessing it is to celebrate 38 years of ministry in the New Orleans East community! God has seen this community through many adverse situations. Pandemics and hurricanes have tried to hinder us, but God has seen us through. We, the members of Cornerstone, understand that our faith community is only as strong as the community we serve. Cornerstone is committed to living up to its name, as we journey with our neighbors in strengthening our community. We are the church in the heart of the community, with the community in our heart.



We thank all of our friends, family, and members who have come out to celebrate with us today. We invite you to join with us in ministry, as we build on Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone. Just like it takes a village to raise a child, it takes all of us working together to build the Kin-dom of God!

In HIS service,

Clifton C. Conrad Sr.

Clifton C. Conrad, Sr.
Senior Pastor

Greetings from District Superintendent



Southeast District United Methodist Church

Rev. Karli D. Pidgeon, District Superintendent
kpidgeon@la-umc.org

Dear Beloved Family of Cornerstone United Methodist Church,

It is with great joy and a heart full of gratitude that I write to you in celebration of Cornerstone United Methodist Church's 38th Anniversary! What a remarkable milestone of faith, resilience, and dedication to God's kingdom here on earth.

As I reflect on my time with you as your pastor, I am reminded of the countless memories we created together – moments of worship, laughter, tears, and transformation. Cornerstone has always been a place where God's love is not only spoken but also shown. You have been a beacon of hope in this community, a place where people find belonging, healing, and purpose. You have built a foundation on Christ, and it is clear that the Spirit of God continues to move within you.

Today, as I serve as your District Superintendent, I continue to witness your impact from a broader view. I see how God is using you to build, connect, and equip disciples of Jesus Christ. In every service, mission project, and outreach event, you honor the legacy of those who have gone before while boldly stepping into the future that God has in store.

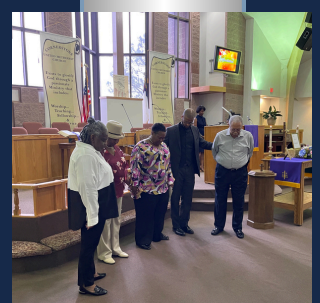
In celebrating these 38 years, let us remember that God's call upon us does not grow dim but shines even brighter as we journey forward together. I pray that Cornerstone will continue to be a "cornerstone" of faith in the years ahead – grounded in Christ, empowered by the Spirit, and filled with the love that makes the impossible possible.

Congratulations on this incredible journey of faith! May God bless each of you as you press forward with hope, faith, and love. Here's to many more years of faithful ministry and kingdom-building together!

With heartfelt joy and love,

Rev. Karli Pidgeon
District Superintendent

527 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Phone: 225-346-1646; ext. 229





OLIVER M. THOMAS
COUNCILMEMBER - DISTRICT E

Office (504) 658-1050
1300 Perdido Street • Suite 2W20
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

New Orleans City Council

November 10, 2024

Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Pastor
Cornerstone United Methodist Church
5276 Bullard Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70128

Dear Pastor and Fellow Members:

As the Councilman for District E and a member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church, it is my honor to join you in celebrating our 38th Anniversary.

Cornerstone has long stood as a beacon of God's light in this community. As a result of your meaningful contribution, I am proud to stand with you on this day. The theme for this occasion - "Standing on the Promises of God in the 21st Century" – speaks to the vital role that we have served here in the City of New Orleans. Along with providing spiritual guidance and outreach programs to countless residents, Cornerstone consistently fosters a positive and inclusive atmosphere within our neighborhood and the broader community.

May this occasion be filled with joy, gratitude and praise for all that God has done for and through this congregation. To God be the Glory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. M. Thomas, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.
Councilman – District E



Our Anniversary Speaker

REV. HERBERT BRISBON, III



"Education can transform a life, but faith can transform a soul." This philosophy has guided Reverend Herbert A. Brisbon III's journey from the classroom to the pulpit, and ultimately to the unique intersection of both as University Chaplain at Dillard University. His ministry embodies the powerful synergy between spiritual formation and academic excellence, demonstrating how faith and education together can create lasting change in individuals and communities.

Discovering his calling during his undergraduate years at Clark Atlanta University, Rev. Brisbon recognized that spiritual leadership in academic settings offered a unique opportunity to shape both minds and spirits. This insight has defined his pastoral journey, leading him to pursue advanced degrees in theology and education while serving communities across the nation.

As University Chaplain at Dillard University, Rev. Brisbon has revolutionized campus ministry, increasing student engagement from 13% to 25% through innovative programming that bridges traditional faith practices with contemporary student needs. His dual role as chaplain and instructor of "The History of the Black Church" exemplifies his commitment to integrating spiritual development with academic rigor.

Prior to Dillard, Rev. Brisbon's fifteen-year tenure at Howard University's Wesley Foundation and concurrent service as Senior Pastor of United Methodist congregations in Washington, DC and Baltimore demonstrated his ability to build bridges between academic institutions and local communities. During this time, he successfully led the merger of two historic congregations while mentoring countless students through their spiritual and academic journeys.

Rev. Brisbon's own academic journey reflects his dedication to lifelong learning: degrees from Clark Atlanta University and Wesley Theological Seminary, and current doctoral work in Strategic Leadership for Black Congregations at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. His research focuses on spiritual formation in higher education, exploring how faith communities can better serve the evolving needs of academic institutions.

A gifted preacher and accomplished vocalist, Rev. Brisbon brings both intellectual depth and spiritual authenticity to his ministry. Whether in the chapel, classroom, or community, he continues to demonstrate that transformation happens when faith and education work together to nurture both the mind and spirit.

Cornerstone Church History

Cornerstone United Methodist Church (Cornerstone) is a young church with a very rich history. In the late 1970s, Bishop Walter Underwood of the United Methodist Louisiana Conference promoted the idea of establishing a racially, diverse church that would reflect the shifting, cultural and ethnic trends occurring in Louisiana communities.

In the early 1980s, the District Board of Global Ministries received the report of the Mission Design Committee, which recommended the establishment of a multi-ethnic United Methodist Church in Eastern New Orleans. Bishop Underwood recognized this was an opportunity to fulfill his vision of church diversity in Eastern New Orleans. After careful planning and execution, the predominately, Caucasian St. Andrew United Methodist Church merged with the New Orleans East United Methodist Church on November 20, 1986. A new and more diverse congregation was formed and adopted the name, Cornerstone United Methodist Church. Throughout Cornerstone's early history, Caucasian and African American pastors served the congregation with commitment to multi-ethnic ministry that had been a part of the design of Cornerstone since its beginning.

The newly formed congregation met in a meeting room at Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital. In this period, The Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church purchased property on Bullard Road for a possible future church site. As the Church's mission flourished, plans were established to immediately construct a new house of worship. Upon completion and under the leadership of Reverend Timothy Lawson, Cornerstone held consecration activities in its new edifice, at 5276 Bullard Avenue, May 17-21, 1989.

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005 and the levees failed, Cornerstone received nearly eight feet of water. Under the guidance of Reverend James Haynes, Cornerstone continued to worship God in the chapel, at First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Although the church suffered severe structural damage, the dedicated and determined congregation began rebuilding immediately. Within a year of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2006, Cornerstone reopened its doors to all and celebrated with joy and thankfulness.

Throughout its history, the congregation has been led by many compassionate, inspiring and committed ministers. In 2015, Reverend Karli Pidgeon became Cornerstone's first female senior pastor. In an interview regarding the Church reenergizing itself, Reverend Pidgeon stated that her mission for the Church was "to create disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of outreach programs that enabled the congregation to help the community". Cornerstone remains actively involved with the community and its projects, including, providing food to the homeless in partnership with St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Rampart Street and providing Christmas and back-to-school supplies for local students. The Church also offers computer classes to senior citizens, health and wellness classes in partnership with Tulane School of Public Health, and yoga classes to all. Recently, Cornerstone was designated a Community Lighthouse Church, which means the doors of the Church are open to the community during storms. Church members volunteer their time to welcome and assist those seeking refuge.

The Children's Ministry is a major focus at Cornerstone. It instills the Word of Christ into the spiritual development of its young members through a comprehensive, Christian education program and community outreach activities. Cornerstone believes it is important to foster a personal relationship with God, attitudes of gratefulness and a strong commitment to serving the community. The Church members contribute to a scholarship fund which supports high school graduates financially, enabling them to realize academic growth and personal achievements.

Cornerstone was not exempt from the toll of the Covid pandemic of 2019-2020. Tragically, several church members succumbed to the virus. As many other churches, Cornerstone conducted church services virtually until it was deemed safe to worship in person again. Cornerstone continues to broadcast its services on various electronic platforms.

Under the current leadership of Reverend Clifton C. Conrad, Sr., Senior Pastor and Minister Bettie J. Rhodes, Certified Lay Minister, Cornerstone continues its mission of delivering the Word of God and the message of salvation to all...by reflecting God's love, being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community and inviting all to worship and serve the Lord.

With blessings bestowed by the Almighty, Cornerstone United Methodist Church will always be a beacon of His light in Eastern New Orleans and throughout the City of New Orleans.

Cornerstone Church Shepards



DOUG CAIN- NEW ORLEANS EAST	1985
TIMOTHY LAWSON	1987-1989
CAROLYN STOKES LAMBERT	1987-1989
TOM HOWE	1990-1995
ROB HARRINGTON	1991-1992
ELLEN BLUE	1995-1997
JAMES WILSON	1995-1997
JOE CONNELLY	1997-2000
JAMES HAYNES	2000-2010
GERMAINE TROPEZ MATHIS	2005
JEFF & BECKY CONNER	2005-2010
MONICA MONK	2009
E. ANDREW GOFF	2010-2015
BARBARA J. CALHOUN-GIBSON	2010-2012
KARLI D. PIDGEON	2015-2017
DONALD R. WADDLETON	2018
J.C. RICHARDSON	2019-2023
CLIFTON C. CONRAD, SR.	2023-PRESENT

Cornerstone United Methodist Church



MISSION STATEMENT

Cornerstone United Methodist Church
exists to glorify God through a
passionate ministry that includes:
Worship...Teaching.... Fellowship &
Service.



Order of Worship and Celebration

Praise and Worship	Dillard University Gospel Choir
*Processional	“We Come This Far by Faith”
Welcome/Greetings	Sis. Glenda S. Johnson
Liturgical Dancers	Children & Youth Ministry
*Call to Worship (Litany of Praise)	Sis. Jean Demas White
Leader: Many, O Lord, are thy wonderful works.	
People: For 38 years God’s Word has been proclaimed in this place	
Leader: Many, O Lord, are thy wonderful works.	
People: Countless children, parents, and grandparents have been part of Cornerstone United Methodist Church.	
Leader: They are more than can be numbered.	
People: Countless prayers of supplication, thanksgiving, and praise have been offered in this place.	
Leader: They are more than can be numbered.	
People: Countless witnesses have gone out from Cornerstone to spread the gospel in this community and throughout the world.	
Leader: Many, O Lord, are thy wonderful works.	
People: With thanksgiving for the past, with joy in the present, and with hope for the future we celebrate this Anniversary.	
*Opening Hymn of Praise	CUMC Anniversary Choir
Recognition of Guests	Sis. Claudia Davenport
+Prayer	Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Sr.
Prayer Response	“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
Lighting of Memorial Candle	Ms. Jennifer Owunta
Music	Dillard University Gospel Choir

*If able, please stand + Worshipers may not enter

Order of Worship and Celebration

Cornerstone History in Poetry

Ms. Irielle Hillard

Anniversary Reflections

Rev. Timothy Lawson
CUMC Pastor; 1986-1990

Rev. Barbra J. Calhoun-Gibson
CUMC Assoc. Pastor; 2010-2012

Special Music

Bro. William Willoughby, Jr

*Scripture Lesson

2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Psalm 150:1-6

Bro. Billy Nevels
Sis. Rhonda Charles

Introduction of Speaker

Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Sr.

Music

Dillard University Gospel Choir

+Anniversary Message

Rev. Herbert Brisbon III

Special Music

Sis. Kalen Grant

*Hymn of Invitation to Christian Discipleship

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

Offertory/Anniversary Giving

Bro. Charles Beckwith

*Offertory Response

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Presentations

Sis. Claudia Davenport

Remarks and Closing Prayer

Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Sr.

*Dismissal with Blessing

“Let the Church Say Amen”

Please join us for the Anniversary Reception in the Fellowship Hall

Electronic payment of Tithes and Offerings:

Pay Pal-paypal.me/cornerstonenola or CashApp - \$cornerstoneumc

Anniversary Poem
Prielle Jonae Hillard

Cornerstone United Methodist Church: A Beacon of Hope

In the late '70s, a vision took flight,
Bishop Underwood sought to unite.
Races and cultures, hand in hand,
A diverse church, a loving land.

Ann Sweany, with heart open wide,
Dreamed of a place where all could abide.
For her children to learn, to love, to see,
The beauty of life in diversity.

In the early '80s, plans were laid,
A multi-ethnic church, the foundation made.
With courage and faith, they joined as one,
On November 20th, a new journey begun.

From Pendleton's warmth to Bullard's embrace,
With Reverend Lawson, they found their place.
A house of worship, where hearts would sing,
In unity, they blossomed, a vibrant spring.

But storms would come, and trials arise,
In '05, Katrina darkened the skies.
Eight feet of water, yet spirits soared,
In Baton Rouge's chapel, they worshiped the Lord.

With hope and strength, they rebuilt anew,
On Palm Sunday, joyously they flew.
Doors opened wide, a welcome for all,
Through faith and love, they stood tall.

With hands reaching out, they served the street,
Feeding the hungry, making ends meet.
Scholarships offered, futures in bloom,
Nurturing children, dispelling the gloom.

Through ministers' kind, their spirits inspired,
In 2015, a new path was wired.
Reverend Pidgeon, a guiding light,
Transforming outreach, shining bright.

When Covid struck, a heavy toll paid,
Yet virtually they gathered, their faith never swayed.
Broadcasting love through the screens that connect,
In times of sorrow, they'd still reflect.

Now under Conrad's steadfast lead,
Cornerstone thrives, planting love's seed.
A lighthouse in storms, a beacon of grace,
Inviting all hearts to find their place.

With blessings bestowed, may their mission resound,
In Eastern New Orleans, love's light will be found.
For Cornerstone United, forever will be,
A testament of faith in unity.



Irielle is 15 years old and in the 10th grade at Morris Jeff High School where she is a student in the Journalism Class and a member of the Gifted and Talented Theater Class. Her hobbies are acting, playing video games, swimming and playing with her German Shepherd dog, named Bean. Irielle aspires to be a YouTube Content Creator. She is the daughter of Sis. Tanya Norris and the granddaughter of Bro. Wilfred Norris.

*Anniversary Committee Members**

Sis. Glenda Johnson, Chair

Sis. Claudia Davenport, Co-Chair

Annie Bastian

Jeri Brumfield

Rhonda Charles

Jeannie Clemons

Kathleen Conrad

Tiffany Crawford

Shirley Epps

Kathleen Franks

Cassandra Goins

Lenora Gray

Tera Greene

Doris Harry

Lola Harry

Ellen Hazeur

Sylvia Hilliard

Claudia Hudson

Julian Jackson

Garreth Johnson

Bettye Johnston

Ella Nevels

Jean Newman

Cecilia Perkins

Emelda Plummer

Minister Bettie Rhodes

Tanjileah Russell

Kelly Smith

Carol Tyson

Eboni Walker

Maria Willoughby

Jean White

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Maci Carradine

Makih Carradine

Caleb Colbert

Irielle Hilliard

Lillian Jackson

Makenzie Joseph

Ameen Keys

Camille McGruder

Carolane Michel

Allen Owunta

Brittany Owunta

Jennifer Owunta

Ean Walker

*Including members who worked silently behind the scenes.



CORNERSTONE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

IN HONOR OF OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE
NOT WITH US TODAY, BUT WHOSE
SPIRITS REMAIN

*Forever in our
hearts*

1986 - 2024

Church Leadership



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Sr.	Senior Pastor
Minister Bettie Rhodes	Certified Lay Minister
Tiffany B. Crawford	Music Director
Cecilia Perkins	Office Administrator
Emelda Plummer	Custodian

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Bro. Julian Jackson	Chair, Administrative Council
Sis. Jean Newman	Vice-Chair, Administrative Council
Bro. Marion Spencer	Chair, SPPR Committee
Sis. Shirley Epps	Chair, Finance Committee
Sis. Emelda Plummer	Chair, Trustees
Sis. Avis James	Church Treasure
Sis. Wanda Walker	Lay Leader
Bro. Garreth M. Johnson	Lay Member to Annual Conference
Sis. Cecilia Perkins	Membership Secretary
Bro. Howard Morgan	Financial Secretary
Bro. William Willoughby, Jr.	President, United Methodist Men
Sis. Doris Harry	President, United Women in Faith
Bro. William Willoughby, III	Young Adult Representative
Mr. Charles Walker	UMC Youth Representative
Rev. Clifton C. Conrad, Sr.	Pastor

Reflections and Memories

1. Time of church service
2. Pastor Conrad
3. Location
4. The member spirit

-Bro. Monroe Coleman

I have a memory of Rev. Tom Howe sitting on the floor giving the children's message.

-Sis. Chris Hilliard

My reflection is when my son, Darius Smith, asked Rev. Haynes to baptize him by submerge like in the Bible. Rev. Haynes took the time to have the Trustees to buy a pool to do just that, outside on the patio. Beautiful day!

-Sis Tanjileah Russel

Watching the youth grow + develop under the care, guidance, support and motivation of the church!

The role that Cornerstone plays in serving the needy, underserved, and under resourced in the community.

-Bro. Garreth M. Johnson

Cornerstone United Methodist Church has been and still is a blessing to me; a great place in which to worship.

"I was glad when they said unto me. Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122

To God Be The Glory!!!!

-Sis. Clotheal S. Toussant

Youth programs were always important to me. Exposing our youth to things they otherwise would not see. Some of the things we did were:

1. Youth feeding the homeless
2. Canoeing in Bayou Sauvage
3. Older youth trip to Smokey Mountains to snow ski

-Sis. Loretta Jonson; 30+ year member

CUMC has been my home church since 1992 where I have been a continuing member of the United Methodist Men group. The projects, fellowship, and attending breakfast meetings have all been important to me.

-Bro. Bob White

- + Many activities and involvement of youth within the church.
- + Wonderful music & choir
- + The community involvement of Cornerstone.

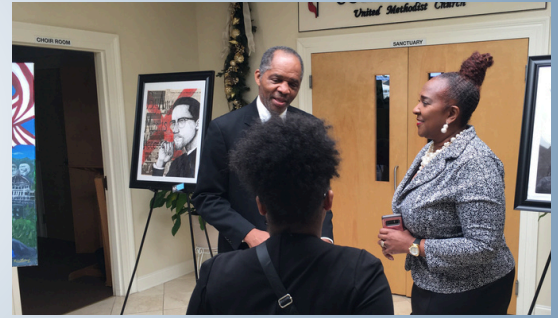
-Sis. Barbara Mack

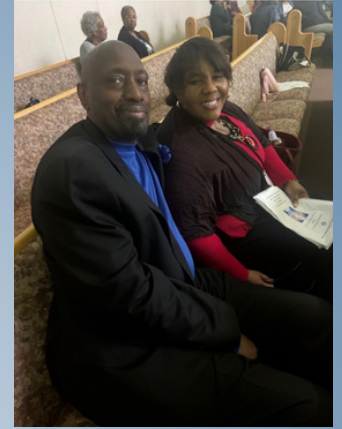
Being a member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church, I look back with fond memories when my young children went on trips, participated in plays and dances.

-Sis. Doris Harry

Although I drive from Slidell, CUMC is the perfect church for me. The church and Rev. Conrad provide the spiritual guidance I need since my husband died. I have joined United Women in Faith and enjoy Bible Study.

-Sis. Judith Thomas







Notes



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



CORNERSTONE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

*“Cornerstone Standing on the Promises
of God in the 21st Century”*

Dear Cornerstone United Methodist Church Family,

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for helping to make our church anniversary program a tremendous success. Your support, dedication, and unwavering faith made this milestone truly special and memorable. It has also been deeply rewarding to work alongside so many of you and to build new friendships with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Our shared efforts and fellowship have strengthened our bond as a community of faith.

As we reflect on the past 38 years, we remember the challenges that have tested our faith in the Lord and in one another. Through trials and triumphs, our church has endured, emerging stronger and with a deeper, renewed faith in Jesus Christ. It is written in James 1:2-4, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Indeed, we have grown and matured as a community of believers, standing steadfastly in God's promises and allowing His Spirit to work within us.

Our anniversary theme, "Cornerstone, Standing on the Promises of God in the 21st Century," resonates profoundly with our journey. As 2 Corinthians 1:20 reminds us, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so, through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." Our legacy as a church is built upon these promises that have guided, strengthened, and sustained us through every season.

I am deeply thankful for the efforts of everyone who contributed their time, talents, and prayers to this anniversary celebration. To those who coordinated, planned, and prayed over every detail—your dedication has not gone unnoticed. Each of you, like living stones, has contributed to making Cornerstone UMC a beacon of faith, hope, and love in this community.

As we move forward into the future, may we continue to be adorned in the colors of royal blue and white, symbolic of our heavenly calling and purity in Christ. Together, let us keep standing on His promises with hearts of faith, unity, and anticipation for all that God will do in and through us.

With heartfelt appreciation and blessings,

Dr. Glenda S. Johnson
Anniversary Committee Chair



CORNERSTONE NOLA

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30 AM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 AM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

BIBLE STUDY

WEEKLY PRAYER LINE

1.425.436.6362

code:319-897

5276 BULLARD AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70128

504.248.7998

WWW.CORNERSTONE-NOLA.ORG