



# The Messenger

August 17, 2017

## Upcoming Events

### Save the Date

We will have a Bring Your Own Picnic lunch at the Pass Christian Park on Sunday, Sept 17th, after church services.

We will have our annual Cruisin' the Coast Party on Monday, October 2nd. More details to come.

Our Halloween Trunk or Treat and Fellowship Dinner will be Sunday, Oct. 29th, at 5 p.m.

### Backpack Buddies

Every weekend there are children in our community who face hunger at home. Backpack Buddies provides weekend meals to kids in our school system who can't always count on a meal. Thank you for donating to backpack buddies so that we can begin this school year ready to feed hungry kids. The next packing event will be Tuesday August 22 at 6 pm in Moore Hall at the Main Campus. To find out how you can help, please call Lori Cripple at 324-3622 or the church office.



### Rock Painting and Pizza Party for Backpack Buddies

On Saturday, August 26th, at 5:30 pm, please come paint rocks and eat pizza in the Christian Life Center and leave a donation for our program that feeds children on the weekends. Take a rock home and hide one around town for someone else to find!

### VBS Wrap-up meeting

There will be a Vacation Bible School meeting on Sunday, August 20th, at 5:00 p.m. in the choir room. We will review this summer's VBS and start planning for next year.

### Family Night Supper and Celebration of Ministry

Please join us on Sunday, September 10th at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck family night supper and celebrating the paying off of the mortgage on the building. We will hear how the Christian Life Center (CLC) has been used for ministry.

### **Older Adult Kindred Spirit (O.A.K.S.)**

The O.A.K.S. program for August 23rd will be the Harrison County Sheriff's Department. Sgt. Robert Lincoln will speak on "Senior Safety" including protection from Frauds and Scams. He is an excellent speaker and gives a good program. Please join us for potluck at 11:45 in the Christian Life Center.

The September OAKS Outing is to Ocean Springs on Friday, September 22nd. We will board the church van at 9:00 a.m. and head to the Gulf Islands National Seashore Visitors Center for an educational visit, followed by lunch in town and a brief stop at the Caboose Shop (carries Walter Anderson items). Sign up at the August 23rd meeting or call 864-0163.

### **Community Groups**

If you are interested in leading a Community Group this fall, please plan to come to our Community Group leader dinner on Wednesday, August 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. If you have any questions or want more information, contact Jon Kaufman or Ben Barlow.

### **Lift up a child's voice. A child's life.**



If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that you can truly make a difference in the life of a child, become a CASA Advocate. To learn more about this wonderful volunteer opportunity we invite you to

CASA of Harrison County  
VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT OPEN HOUSE

August 29, 2017 4PM to 7PM

CASA of Harrison County 24 Maples Drive, Gulfport MS 39507

[www.casaharrisoncounty.org](http://www.casaharrisoncounty.org) for information on Volunteering

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### **Faith and Family Night @ SHUCKERS BASEBALL GAME**

Our church will enjoy an evening together watching the Shuckers baseball team play on Sunday, August 27th. Tickets are \$9 a person. We will meet outside the Shuckers stadium at 4:00 p.m. to receive our tickets. There will be a pre-game Christian concert, and the game starts at 5:05 p.m. We have 66 tickets that are grouped together, and these will be available for the first people who sign up on the sheets in the lobbies. You can pay for the tickets through the church office or the offering plate.

More tickets can be purchased through the Shuckers box office.



### **Prayer Partner Ministry**

We believe prayer and relationships are two important pieces of our lives together, and we want our families to have even more of it!

If you would like your child or teenager to have a prayer partner for this

school year, please let Lori Cripple know or you can grab a student information sheet from the lobby and turn it in to Lori or the church office.  
If you are an adult who would like to partner with one of our kids, please sign up on the Prayer Partner List also in the lobby. We will contact you with your prayer partner. We are excited to see how God will work in our lives through our partnerships this year.

### Shine On...



Bob and Carolyn Rhoades for repairing and repainting all the signage around the Main Campus.

### Sharing the Light of Christ



Every second Saturday our Open Table Ministry serves at Feed My Sheep, a homeless ministry in Gulfport. On September 12 volunteers served meals for 60 persons and gave away clothes and 31 blessing bags filled with toiletry items. But best of all, volunteers were able to spend time building relationships with people, praying for them and sharing Jesus with them. God is working through us shining light into lives through this ministry. If you want to help with this ministry, please call the church office at 863-9619.

### Questions of Life and Faithfulness - August Worship Series

Recently, I asked you for the big questions of life and faith that were on your minds. In August, we will focus on these questions in worship at the Main Campus.



August 20th - Are Christians supposed to be perfect?

August 27th - How can Christians live faithfully in divisive times?

### Online Giving

Just a reminder, you can go to our website at [fumclb.org](http://fumclb.org) and click on the Online Giving tab to make giving quick and easy.

[Online Giving](#)

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## Weekly Updates and Events

### Prayer Concerns...

PC & Dee Havens, Pat & James Holifield, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Wanda Miller, Chrissy Edwards, Shorty Haulk, Joseph Poupart, Jackie Branch, Jan Flynn, Sandra Gibson, Randal Guthrie, Diane Saul, Barbara Ballanco, Kathy Reynolds, Cory Miller, John Harrison Doucet, Lois Jones, Barbara Barlow, Alibe Hinton, Susan Molesworth, Jason LaFrance, Jeremy Smith, John French, Janis Slade, Rev. Love Loftis, Patrick Kirkland, Carl & Doris Flethrich, Rev. Ron & Connie Durham, Carol Hill, Caitlyn Johnson, Shayla Hosey, Pat Newcomb, Bonnie Long, Jeri Allen, Mary & Dick Kinser,

Lil Jobe, Trish Badeaux, Karen Samuelson, Ricky Bullock, Mandy Long, Peter Psikogios, & Mary Kerg.

### **In Memory**

A donation was given in memory of Fannie Mae Bullard by Alice Krass.

### **Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, concerns and visits during my recent hospital stay. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Paul Hicks & Family

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## **Weekly Calendar**

Sunday, August 20th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium USM

3:30 p.m. Puppets upstairs in Moore Hall

5:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

5:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School meeting

Monday, August 21st

6:00 p.m. Worship meeting

Tuesday, August 22nd

6:00 p.m. Backpack Packing

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, August 23rd

11:30 a.m. OAKS Luncheon in the Christian Life Center (CLC)

5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth

6:00 p.m. Community Group Leader meeting in the CLC

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Saturday, August 26th

5:30 p.m. Rock Painting and Pizza Party Fundraiser for Backpack Buddies in the CLC

Sunday, August 27th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship  
11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium USM  
3:30 p.m. Puppets upstairs in Moore Hall  
4:00 p.m. Church Shuckers Game

Monday, August 28th

6:30 p.m. Exchange Club Meeting

Tuesday, August 29th

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, August 30th

5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Sunday, September 3rd

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium USM

3:30 p.m. Puppets upstairs in Moore Hall

6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting in the Library

Monday, September 4th

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5th

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the CLC

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, September 6th

5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

The Office will be closing at 1:30 p.m. on August 23rd - September 1st

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**Sundays 8/20/2017, 8/27/2017, & 9/3/2017**

Worship @the Main Campus in September - "In the Footsteps of Moses."

Moses is a huge figure of faith but he also was also a reluctant prophet who learned to trust God and live with courage. Join us in September as we journey with Moses, discovering how God moves in the lives of ordinary people to create a future of hope.

## **Sanctuary**

**8/20/2017**

**Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher**

**Series: Questions of Life and Faith**

**"Do Christians Have to be Perfect?"**

**Matthew 4:18-22**

**8/27/2017**

**Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher**

**Series: Questions of Life and Faith**

**"How can Christians Live Faithfully in Divisive Times?"**

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

**9/3/2017**

**Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher**

**Series: Moses**

**Fear and Courage**

**Exodus 2:1-10**

## **The Well**

**8/20/2017**

**Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher**

**Series: David**

**David and Goliath**

**1 Samuel 17:1-15**

**8/27/2017**

**Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher**

**Series: David**

**David and Saul**

**1 Samuel 18:1-16**

**9/3/2017**

**Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher**

**Series: David**

**David and Jonathan**

**1 Samuel 20:1-42**



Darkness. I hadn't planned on writing about this today, but God really tugged at me so I had to pay attention. I suppose that's always a necessary to listen when God tugs at you.

I was reflecting on the events of Charlottesville and the aftermath on Tuesday. I came to an inner awareness of my heart breaking not only for the victims of the attack, but for our society being fractured by this expression of hate, bigotry, and racism. On Tuesday of this week, I began to have the feeling that new tendrils of darkness were growing in the land and of divisions between us growing deeper and wider.

My mind is drawn to the first chapter of John's Gospel where it says, "what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." What do we Christian people do when we are confronted by the darkness of hate found in white supremacists, Nazis, and the KKK? What do we do when we become aware that the dark attitudes of these groups are defended by some in our society?

The solution is that we do not control the attitudes of non-believers, but for those of us who follow Jesus, the answers are very clear. Jesus always entered the dark places and was not overcome by them. In the same way, we will encounter the darkness and it's important that we don't let the darkness influence us. When Jesus encountered the darkness of disease, death, sin, hunger, confusion, and hatred, he didn't "fight fire with fire" but he waded into the dark places with love, healing, forgiveness, mercy and light. Darkness could not overcome Him.

In the same way, we will encounter the darkness of life this week and in the future. As followers of Jesus, we are to **follow Jesus** by equipping ourselves with love, justice, healing, peace and the light of Christ. It is in this way that the light will shine in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

Grace and Peace,

Jon

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Church email: [fumclb@cablone.net](mailto:fumclb@cablone.net)

Church Website

[www.fumclb.org](http://www.fumclb.org)

The Well Website

[www.thewellongbeach.org](http://www.thewellongbeach.org)

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