



# The Messenger

December 6, 2017

## Upcoming Events

### Shine On...



Rev. Ron Durham for stepping in this past Sunday for Rev. Jon when he was out sick.

Thanks to all of the setup crew that shows up every Sunday morning at The Well to help transform the USM Auditorium into a place of worship.

### Key Cards

Please be sure to update your key cards as they will expire at the end of the year.



### MiB Christmas Party

Please come join us for our MiB Christmas Journey. The party will begin at 5:00 p.m. and should end no later than 8:00 p.m. on December 10th. We will be traveling to several different homes for good food and fellowship. Please bring a friend!

### Youth Christmas Party

Please come join us for our Youth Christmas Party on December 10th at 5:00 p.m. at the Wood's home located at 23830 Stablewood Drive in Pass Christian. Bring a dirty Santa gift (\$10.00 limit) and bring a party side dish or dessert to share.

### College Christmas Party

We want to celebrate the holidays with you! We will be hanging out at the Lukes' home (20074 Commission Rd) on Tuesday, December 19th, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Join us for a Feliz Navidad party because what says Christmas more than a taco bar and s'mores? Please bring your friends and we will see you there!

### O.A.K.S. (Older Adult Kindred Spirits) Christmas Luncheon

Celebrate Christmas with the OAKS (Older Adult Kindred Spirits) on December 13th at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. The OAKS group of seniors meet monthly for food and fellowship. Come enjoy pot-luck with us and make a Christmas decoration for your home. Hoping to see you.

## Community Outreach Christmas Eve Luncheon

Long Beach First United Methodist Church will be hosting its 8th annual community-wide Christmas Eve luncheon. Lunch will be served from 11:00am-1:00pm in the Christian Life Center. We will provide a meal and children's activities. Last year we served almost 500 people! We are expecting that number to grow even more this year! This event is not possible without the help from the congregation. Please see the list below and pray about ways you can serve alongside this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Wood via email, [aeswood@gmail.com](mailto:aeswood@gmail.com) or phone, 228-547-9514. Sign up sheets for food and volunteering will be located in the narthex, Sunday school rooms, and the Well lobby.



### Items needed:

- \*monetary donations
- \*Side dishes
- \*desserts
- \*Volunteers to cook turkeys and/or hams
- \*Volunteers to serve food
- \*Volunteers to deliver meals to service men and women and homebound
- \*Greeters during lunch
- \*Individuals or families to play music, tell Christmas stories, or read devotions
- \*setup and decorations Wednesday , Dec 20 5pm-7pm
- \*Grocery shopping help prior to event
- \*Cleanup crew Dec 24 12:30pm-1:30pm
- \*Names for those in need of meal delivery
- \*advertising help prior to event
- \*children's activities helpers

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## Advent Schedule

### Saturday, December 9th

8:00 a.m. Santa Breakfast in Christian Life Center and Christmas on the Avenue at the Town Green

### Sunday, December 10th

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary worship - Cantata  
11:00 a.m. The Well- Children's choir  
5:00 p.m. Youth party and MiB (5th and 6th grade) party

### Sunday, December 17th

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary worship  
11:00 a.m. The Well- LBHS Madrigal singers

### Sunday, December 24th

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary and The Well services  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lunch in Christian Life Center  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service (Well band and children's choir)  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service (Chancel choir)



## **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, Jackie Branch, Jan Flynn, Sandra Gibson, Randal Guthrie, Diane Saul, Barbara Ballanco, Kathy Reynolds, Cory Miller, John Harrison Doucet, Lois Jones, Barbara Barlow, Susan Molesworth, Jeremy Smith, Janis Slade, Rev. Love Loftis, Patrick Kirkland, Carl & Doris Flethrich, Rev. Ron & Connie Durham, Carol Hill, Shayla Hosey, Pat Newcomb, Bonnie Long, Jeri Allen, Karen Samuelson, Ricky Bullock, Dot Hilton, Butch Borzik, Dawn McGinn, Wayne Eason, Shorty Haulk, Peter Psikogios, Marilyn Fayard, Diane Johnson, Ann Armstrong, Flora Holifield, Yvonne Lutenbacher, Roy Burke, Lyla Dubuisson, Kristy Green, Penny Denmark, & Mary Kerg.

### **In Sympathy...**

We would like to express our Christian love and sympathy to Jimmy Sample and family at the death of his wife, Linda Sample.

We would like to express our Christian love and sympathy to Jan Hansen and family at the death of her mother, Elsie Higgins.

We would like to express our Christian love and sympathy to Joe Woodward and family at the death of his father, Joe Woodward, Sr.

### **In Memory...**

A donation was given in honor of John Armstrong and Robert Simpson by Lois Jones.

Donations were given in memory of Linda Sample by Wayne & Floss Roberts, Andy Crouch, Fred & Kaye Rendfrey, Betsy Bullard, Jere Hayward, Lil Jobe, Joan Holyfield, and the Aldersgate Sunday school class.

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## **Weekly Calendar**

**Sunday, December 10th**

- 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship - Christmas Cantata
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship - Christmas Cantata
- 11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium USM
- 3:30 p.m. Creative Ministries upstairs in Moore Hall (MH)
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party at the Wood's home
- 5:00 p.m. MiB Christmas Party

**Monday, December 11th**

- 6:30 p.m. Exchange Club Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting in the Christian Life Center
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study in Youth Hall

**Tuesday, December 12th**

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Christian Life Center (CLC)
- 6:30 p.m. SPRC Meeting in the Good News Sunday school classroom
- 7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice
- 7:00 p.m. Long Beach Middle School Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 13th**

- 9:30 a.m. Polly Mincher Circle Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Older Adult Kindred Spirits (O.A.K.S.) luncheon in the CLC
- 5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

**Friday, December 15th**

- 7:00 p.m. Long Beach High School Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 17th**

- 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. Creative Ministries upstairs in Moore Hall (MH)
- 5:00 p.m. UMYF

**Monday, December 18th**

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study in Youth Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 1 Meeting

**Tuesday, December 19th**

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the CLC
- 6:00 p.m. College Christmas Party at the Luke's home
- 7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

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# Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary  
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher



December 10th  
Christmas Cantata "And It Came to Pass, Emmanuel"

December 17th  
Series: Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas "Gift of Joy"  
Isaiah 12:1-6, Luke 2:8-15

## The Well USM Fleming Auditorium

Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher

December 10th  
Series: Songs of Christmas  
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
Isaiah 9:1-7

December 17th  
Series: Songs of Christmas  
"Joy To the World"  
Isaiah 35:5-6



Alone. That's what it felt like as I lay in the hospital room this past weekend. I had entered the hospital on Saturday morning with a heartbeat that was racing since the evening before. Ann took me to the ER and while there, the medical staff gave me a medication to slow my heart to a normal rhythm. I was then admitted for observation and remained there through Sunday lunch. At no time did I experience pain, and I was thankful for the great care I received at Singing River Hospital in Ocean Springs.

All the way through, my wife, Ann, was with me except for Saturday evening when she went home with my encouragement to be with our kids. It was then, for that short time during Saturday evening, I experienced the feeling of being alone and somewhat helpless. I am sure anyone who has ever been a patient or who had a loved one as a patient can identify.

Sunday afternoon, as we were checking out of the hospital, I had received all my papers and the nurse told me to get dressed because she was going to get a wheelchair to

take me out. So we got ready and then waited and waited for an hour, after which, the nurse came back to the room surprised that we were still there as she exclaimed, "I thought someone else had already come for you!"

On Saturday, I had asked Ann to bring a book from home that I have been reading about the gifts of Christmas. After she left to go home that night, while I was having those lonely feelings, I turned to read again from the chapter on the gift of Peace about which I would have been preaching that Sunday. I read a story in the book about a boy becoming separated from his father in a department store. The father went looking for his son at the candy counter and in the toy section but could not find him. Just as he was about to panic, a voice came over the loudspeaker that there was a lost boy at the service desk. Running to the service desk, the father found his son. The voice over the loudspeaker was one who got them back together - neither was alone anymore.

The gift of peace at Christmas is that we are not alone - God has not forgotten us - in fact God has come to us all to seek us out, to claim us and to restore our brokenness. It was a truth I needed to hear again and I hope for all of us that we can receive the gift of peace this Christmas. Love in Christ,

**Jon**

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The Well Website  
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