



The Messenger

January 17, 2018

Upcoming Events

Shine On...



The MiB's (Methodist In Betweens) for raising \$1,993.25 for the Backpack Buddy program by giving of their time and talent at the Spud Luncheon.

Community Groups

Spring Community Groups start this week and next! Sign up sheets are available in the lobby at both the Main campus and The Well. Most groups will be using "The Gospel of John" bible study book by Dr. Ben Witherington. It is available in the lobbies for \$10.00.



Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

There will be a Vacation Bible School planning meeting on Sunday, January 28th, at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in heading up one of the areas of VBS for this summer (crafts, food, decoration, science, Bible story, music, games, etc.), please plan to join us! If you are interested in helping but can't make the meeting, please contact Lori Cripple at (228)324-3622.

Volunteering for our Children

It is a new year with new possibilities! If you have ever thought of working with our children's church or Well Jr. classes, now would be a great time to check out this opportunity. I would love to have a conversation with you about volunteering



Confirmation 2018

It's time to begin confirmation for our 8th graders. Confirmation is a time for youth to decide to follow Jesus as one of His Disciples. It is to "make firm" the faith proclaimed over them in their baptisms as infants or it is to prepare youth for baptism and entrance in the body of Christ, the church. Confirmation is designed for students in 8th grade or older students who wish to profess faith in Christ. There will be an information meeting for our confirmation students and parents on January 21 during the Sunday School hour in the Youth Hall.

To begin confirmation, there will be a confirmation retreat on January 26-28th at Seashore Assembly in Biloxi where they will stay overnight Friday and Saturday nights. The cost will be \$50 per student which includes a t-shirt, lodging and meals. Financial assistance is available to those who have need. Please call the church office at 228-863-9619 for more information.

Summer Camp

It's hard to believe that it's already time to start thinking about summer camp! If you have a child interested in Camp Wesley Pines (a summer camp located in Hazlehurst, MS), let Lori Cripple know what questions you have! The church sponsors half of the cost of camp for our students, and the student's half of camp will be **\$127.50 if registered by February 20th**. **Our Older Elementary students entering 4th-6th grade will travel to camp the week of June 4th-8th. Our Junior High students entering 7th-9th grade will travel to camp the week of July 16th-20th.** If you have a student entering 1st-3rd grade who is interested in a 3 day camp, please contact Lori at (228)324-3622.



O.A.K.S. Luncheon

OAKS (Older Adult Kindred Spirits) Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, January 24th at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. Mayor George Bass will be giving a "State of the City" update. Please bring a potluck and join us.



We Love To Serve Souper Bowl Luncheon

Please join us on Sunday, February 4th, for our annual missions fundraiser from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Please bring a crock pot of soup or a cake and come support all of the missions and outreach. Go Team!

Save the Date

Children's Ministry will be hosting a "Senior Prom" in the Christian Life Center on Friday, March 16th, for our senior members of the church. More information to come soon!

Online Giving

Just a reminder, you can go to our website at fumclb.org and click on the Online Giving tab to make giving quick and easy.

[Online Giving](#)

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, 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, Rosalie Allely, Dawn Rhoades, Martha Hart, Morgan Haley, Norma Napier, Chet Yates, & Mary Kerg.

In Memory...

Donations were given in memory of Dot Hilton by Joan Holyfield and Doug & Joyce St. John.

A donation was given in memory of Linda Sample by Doug & Joyce St. John.

Welcome...

We would like to welcome Aaron and Jenny Gates and their daughter, Rebecca, and son, Timothy, into our family of faith here at FUMCLB.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 21st

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. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

Monday, January 22nd

6:30 p.m. Exchange Club Meeting

Tuesday, January 23rd

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Christian Life Center (CLC)
7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, January 24th

11:30 p.m. O.A.K.S. Luncheon in the CLC

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

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Sunday, January 28th

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. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

5:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting in the CLC

Tuesday, January 30th

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

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, January 31st

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

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Sunday, February 4th

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

11:00 a.m. We Love to Serve Souper Bowl Luncheon in the CLC

3:30 p.m. Creative Ministries upstairs in Moore Hall (MH)

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

Tuesday, February 6th

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

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

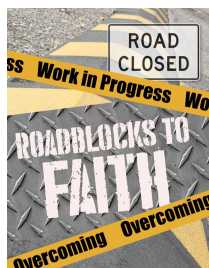
Wednesday, February 7th

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

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher



January 21st

Series: Overcoming Roadblocks to Faith "Overcoming the
Roadblock of Judging Ourselves"

Mark 1:14-20, 2:14

January 28th

Series: Overcoming Roadblocks to Faith "Overcoming the
Roadblock of Evil"

Mark 1:21-28

The Well USM Fleming Auditorium
Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher

January 21st
Series: Along The Way
"Jesus Changes Water into Wine & Clears the Temple Courts"
John 2:1-25

January 28th
Series: Along The Way
"Jesus Teaches Nicodemus"
John 3:1-21



Restored. When I was in the 7th grade my parents bought a house in Meridian that was a "fixer upper." It was the former house of a judge and at one time was a fine home. It had hardwood floor, tall ceilings, plaster walls, a grand entrance and fine woodwork in many of the rooms.

But when we bought it, the house had fallen into disrepair. It had been chopped up into two rental apartments. Weeds and shrubs obscured the entire front of the house to the point that two-thirds of the house could not be seen from the street - hidden by a tangled "jungle."

When I first laid eyes on it I saw it as the dump that it was. But apparently, my parents saw something else - what it could be as a home. What it needed was some work, some fixing up, a lot of restoration. So we cleared away the jungle, painted the exterior a nice light yellow. We took off the 4 layers of shingles that was burdening the frame of the house and my dad, some friends, and I put on a new roof. We refinished the hardwood floors, painted the rooms, laid down some carpet and began to restore it. It took years and there was always something else that needed to be done but by the time we moved 7 years later, the house was in much better shape than when we moved in. It felt very different - it was restored.

I think in a way we are all a bit of a "fixer upper" in need of being restored. Our lives become tangled by the "weeds" of life - we have all kinds of layers of burdens. We are "scraped up" and we erect walls to keep others and God out. To ourselves and others we may appear to be a "dump." But we have a heavenly parent who can see beyond all of that to see what we can be. And so God came to us in the form of Jesus to clear away the tangled mess of our lives. He offered to lift our burdens and to restore our soul. I'm so glad that Jesus sees more than what we do - he sees through the eyes of love that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things." I Cor.13. Jesus now looks to us to see in the same way. It is exciting and challenging to join him in the work of restoration.

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