



The Messenger

March 22, 2018

Upcoming Events

Shine On...



Everyone who contributed Easter eggs and candy. Your generous response has helped us stuff 4-5 thousand eggs for our children.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday March 29th

7:00 p.m. Service in the Sanctuary

Good Friday March 30th

9-12 a.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

Easter Sunday April 1st

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service - Long Beach Harbor Breakfast
immediately following the sunrise service in
the CLC

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at the USM Fleming Auditorium

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

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

Please bring fresh cut flowers for the cross in front of the doors coming into the lobby.



United Methodist Women Activities

What: Spring Fling Luncheon Honoring our Special Friends

When: April 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Christian Life Center

Speaker: Carol Burnett, Executive Director
Moore Community House

Come and be our guest for food and fellowship. We are doing a "shower of items needed for the child care unit at Moore Community House." Items needed are: diapers - size 2-5, unscented wipes and tissues, and paper towels.

Circle Meetings Circle 1 April 16th 6:30 p.m. Beth Lewis
Polly Mincher April 10th 9:30 a.m. Claudia Cuevas

Spring Rummage/Bake Sale on May 5th from 8-1 p.m. Start collecting "unwanted treasures" for sale. For more information or questions, please contact Joyce St. John at 865-0051.

Summer Mission Trip Opportunity



This summer in partnership with First United Methodist Church Vidor, TX, our youth ministry will be hosting a week long mission camp in Vidor, TX. This community was devastated last summer due to Hurricane Harvey.

There will be many ways to serve. We will need youth and adult volunteers to help with meals, worship, work sites, and camp logistics. There will be an informational meeting for students, parents, and any adults willing to serve. The camp will take place June 25 - 30. The camp is open to students entering 7th - exiting 12th grade. Cost of the camp for each camper will be \$175. This will cover all meals and t-shirt. Please save these important dates and consider serving with us.

March 21, 2018- Informational Meeting in Heritage Hall @5:30pm

May 27 - 30, 2018- Planning Trip to Vidor FUMC

June 21- 25- Camp Set up and Prep Vidor FUMC

June 25-30- Week of Camp @ Vidor FUMC

Holy Land Trip

Our church has planned a trip to the Holy Land in Israel for February 13 - 22, 2019. We will explore Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Jericho and more. It will be a powerful to walk the ground where Jesus walked. If you are interested, please call the church office for more information at 228-863-9619.





Older Adult Kindred Spirits (O.A.K.S.)

The OAKS Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 28th at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. Our program will be bluegrass and gospel music performed by "Hickory Ridge". Please bring a potluck and join us.

Church Softball Team Sign-up

There are sign-up sheets at both the main campus of FUMCLB and The Well for anyone interested in playing slow-pitch softball this season. We had a men's and women's team last year and hope to have them again this year. Maybe even a co-ed team. The season will start in mid May and runs through mid July. Games are played on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday nights in Gulfport. Any questions please contact Rob Myers (228)596-6657 or Jason Lindholm (228)343-2128.



Save the Date

The youth will be having a cake auction fundraiser on Sunday, April 8th.

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, Randal Guthrie, Diane Saul, Barbara Ballanco, Kathy Reynolds, Lois Jones, Barbara Barlow, Susan Molesworth, Janis Slade, Patrick Kirkland, Connie Durham, Shayla Hosey, Pat Newcomb, Ricky Bullock, Dawn McGinn, Wayne Eason, Shorty & Sharon Haulk, Flora Holifield, Dawn Rhoades, Catherine Yates, Jo Holyfield, Tommy Taylor, Louise Ray, Norma Napier, Tina Botte, Mary Kinser, Martha Owen, Anne Ladner, Cynthia Smith, & Martha Hart.

In Memory...

Donations were given in memory of Ann Armstrong by Wayne & Floss Roberts and Richard & Grace Gingles.

A donation was given in memory of Linda Sample by Bob & Muzette Chatham.

A donation was given in memory of Dot Hilton by Bob & Muzette Chatham.

Donations were given in memory of Jackie Branch by Wayne & Floss Roberts, Richard & Grace Gingles, and Betsy Bullard.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 25th

- 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, March 26th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class (CLC)
- 6:30 p.m. Exchange Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 27th

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

Wednesday, March 28th

- 11:30 a.m. Older Adult Kindred Spirits (O.A.K.S.) in the CLC
- 5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth

Thursday, March 29th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class (CLC)
- 12:30 p.m. Garden Club (CLC)
- 5:00 p.m. Bible Study (Library)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 30th

Good Friday Office Closed

- 9:00 - 12:00 a.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

Sunday, April 1

- 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service - Long Beach Harbor Breakfast
immediately following the sunrise service in the CLC
- 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at the USM Fleming Auditorium
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium USM

Monday, April 2nd

Office Closed

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class (CLC)

Tuesday, April 3rd

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

11:30 a.m. UMW Spring Fling Luncheon in the CLC

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, April 4th

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

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, April 5th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class (CLC)

5:00 p.m. Bible Study (Library)

Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher

March 25th
Series: The Last Day
"The Crucifixion"
Mark 15:25-39

April 1st
Series: The Last Day
"Christ is the Victor"
Mark 16:1-7

The Well USM Fleming Auditorium
Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher

March 25th
Series: Along The Way
"The Death of Jesus"
John 18:28-19:38

April 1st
Series: Along The Way
"Jesus' Resurrection and Appearances"
John 20:1-31



Darkness. Several years ago my family toured Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. We were looking forward to the tunnels, seeing the mineral deposits, the pools of water, the stalactites and stalagmites and taking this journey under the earth together. Midway through the tour, our group stopped in a larger cavern and our tour guide announced that he was going to show us what total darkness was like. The lights were turned off and we were plunged into absolute darkness. People gasped, cried out in surprise and we were all glad when the lights went on. In our world of electronics and the ubiquitous light sources, we never really experience total darkness. Even away from all technology, while we are in the outdoors, the darkest of nights are still illumined by moonlight and starlight.

Darkness is not only a term we use to describe the absence of light, but can also describe how we are experiencing light. When are stressed, anxious, frightened, disappointed, or grieving we experience a kind of internal darkness of the soul. So we find that even our insides can grow dark.

I'm sure the disciples experienced darkness of the soul in the midst of Jesus' passion on the way to the cross. He had been their "light" guiding them in the way of truth and life. He was their hope and their purpose in life. But then it all collapsed into darkness and they were scattered and afraid. Their "light" had gone out. If you have ever had this happen to you, it feels like darkness.

But the good news of the cross is that darkness did not win. John's gospel casts the good news of Easter in terms like this, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1) As I think about Easter, I think about our world today that still needs a light that cannot be overcome by darkness. We need to know and experience it in our own lives and our communities need that kind of light too.

In the time between now and Easter, I invite you to ponder the darkness of the cross that was a result of all of our human darkness so that we can more fully grasp the power of the light that comes through Jesus. For the good news of Easter is that though there is still darkness in the world, the light still shines! Let it shine for you and let the people in your life see the light of Jesus through you.

Love in Christ, Jon

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