



The Messenger

August 2, 2018

Upcoming Events



Shine On...

Our Sunday school teachers & Community Group Leaders who give of their time to help us grow in discipleship.

VBS Wrap Up Meeting

We had such a great Vacation Bible School this year. Thank you to all the many volunteers that made it possible! If you helped with VBS this summer and want to come to a debriefing meeting, we will be meeting on Sunday, August 26th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. If you can't come the meeting but have some thoughts you want to share, please email those to Lori Cripple at lcripple@hotmail.com.



New Sermon Series - More Than a Fish Tail

Beginning August 5th at the Main Campus

August 5th - Running from God - Jonah 1

August 12th - God With You in the Belly of the Whale - Jonah 2

August 19th - Jonah on a Mission from God - Jonah 3

August 26th - God is More Loving than We Can Imagine - Jonah 4

Calling All Singers

The choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. If anyone is interested in coming to sing for Jesus and have fun, come and join us! Questions, see Mandy Long or call the church office at 863-9619. Hope to see some new faces on August 1st!

Gathering with Bishop

The United Methodist Church is considering the future direction of the denomination with regards to human sexuality. A special session of General Conference to consider plans for moving forward has been called for February 23rd - 26th in St. Louis. Bishop James Swanson invites all interested persons to attend a listening session on Sunday, August 19th, at Wiggins First UMC at 3 p.m. where he will respond to questions regarding these proposed plans. Some members of the 2016 delegation representing the Mississippi Annual Conference will also attend this meeting with Bishop Swanson.



Back Pack Blessing

Please bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, August 5th, to be blessed for the upcoming school year.

The Gospel Project for Kids

Starting Sunday, August 12th we will begin a new children's Sunday School program called *The Gospel Project for Kids*. Specifically designed for 1st-4th graders, the Gospel Project takes kids on a Christ centered, chronological journey through Scripture. Kids will discover God's story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation. Join us each week in Heritage Hall at the Main Campus from 9:45-10:45AM. If you have any additional questions please contact: Adam Wood, 228-547-9735 or adamwesleywood@gmail.com.

Class taught by: Adam Wood, Jamie Carroll & Nancy Ruff

Fam Jam



We are excited to be hosting FAM JAM on Saturday, August 11th, from 2-4:00 p.m. This will be a fun event presented by the Mississippi UMC Conference for kids in Kindergarten-6th grade AND their families. Please join us for an afternoon of games and worship!

Community Groups

Community Group Facilitators

We are really excited about the upcoming launch of our Community Groups. We are seeking volunteers to facilitate the Fall 2018 Community Groups. Community Groups will begin the week of August 13th and go until October 19th. Facilitators will be provided resources in order to create an environment where the truth about God is made known in relevant ways. Sign-ups to facilitate a Community Group are in the lobby or contact Hannah Haulsee at hannah.k.haulsee@gmail.com or (228) 697-5433 to sign up.



Backpack Buddies Program

With the start of the new school year, our Backpack Buddies program will be back in full swing soon! This is our program that provides bags of food for school age kids on the weekends so they will be ready to learn on Mondays. There are opportunities to provide food, pack bags, and deliver to schools. If you are interested in serving as a part of this ministry, please contact Lori Cripple at lcripple@hotmail.com or call the church office at (228) 863-9619 for more information.



Children's Ministry Team

If you are interested in serving on our children's ministry team, please contact Lori Cripple at lcripple@hotmail.com or (228) 324-3622. Our children's ministry team is comprised of our volunteers who are serving our kids by leading children's church, Well Jr, Sunday School, and other children's activities throughout the year. We will also be meeting soon to plan for the 2018/19 school year.

College Ministry Program

Our college students will be starting their fall semesters soon! If you know of a college student (no matter what age!), please pass their name and address to the church office so we can send love and goodies to them throughout the year. If you would like to serve on the college ministry team, please contact Lori Cripple at lcripple@hotmail.com or call the church office at (228) 863-9619 for more information on how to join in the fun!

Children First Learning Center

Beginning August 2018, FUMC of Gulfport will provide childcare in a full-time, year round program for children from 6 weeks to 2 years. They are currently accepting applications for 2 classes: 6 weeks to 12 months, and 13 to 24 months. For more info call 863-0047 or email childrenfirst@fumc-gulport.org.

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



PC & Dee Havens, James & Pat Holifield, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Wanda Miller, Chrissy Edwards, Diane Saul, Randal Guthrie, Barbara Ballanco, Kathy Reynolds, Lois Jones, Patrick Kirkland, Connie Durham, Janis Slade, Pat Newcomb, Shayla Hosey, Dawn McGinn, Shorty Haulk, Wayne Eason, Dawn Rhoades, Martha Hart, Tommye Taylor, Jo Holyfield, Tina Botte, Dick Kinser, Martha Owen, Cathy Yates, Mary Kerg, Marie Ward, Bob Chatham, Mark Powell, Wanda Stevens, Lou Scardino, Rick Bullock, Jerry Hayward, Joyce McCauley, Charlotte Bailey, Glenda Hull, Tommy



Donations were given in memory of Barbara Barlow by Doug & Joyce St. John, Jerry & Marilyn Leone, Charles Hewes, Trudy Newland, Betty Youngblood, Dr. & Mrs. H. Ronald Koller, Fred & Kaye Redfrey, and the OAKS.

A donation was given in memory of Chet Yates by Doug & Joyce St. John.

A donation was given in memory of Mary Kinser by Fred & Kaye Rendfrey.

A donation was given in memory of Betty Collins by Jerry & Marilyn Leone.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 5th

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

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

Monday, August 6th

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

Tuesday, August 7th

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Christian Life Center (CLC)

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, August 8th

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

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in choir room

Thursday, August 9th

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

Saturday, August 11th

2:00 p.m. Fam Jam

Sunday, August 12th

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, August 13th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in Youth Hall

6:30 p.m. Nominations Committee Meeting in the Library

Tuesday, August 14th

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

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, August 15th

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

Thursday, August 16th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in Youth Hall

Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher

August 5th

"Jonah: More Than a Fish"

Jonah 1

August 12th

"Jonah: When We Are in the Belly of the Whale"

Jonah 2

The Well USM Fleming Auditorium
Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher

August 5th

"Words for Wisdom: Walk Wisely"

Proverbs 19:21

August 12th

"Invitation: Jesus and the Kingdom"

Matthew 4:17-25



New beginnings - they happen all the time. Everyone one of us have opportunities for new beginnings on a frequent basis. Some of these new beginnings are welcomed and hoped for while others are unwelcome and unexpected. For instance, with school starting there is a new beginning with a new class, a new teacher, new students, and a new grade. Then there are some who are dreading it, while others can't wait for the first day of classes to begin. For our family, like some of you, we are seeing another child leave home for college. I'm proud for Lauren, but I am grieving for myself this new beginning.

Now, some new beginnings are exciting and point to new and better possibilities. Other new beginnings bring a sense of loss from the ending just experienced. It truly can be a mixed bag. There is one thing about any type of new beginning though, which is the sense of uncertainty that arises. New beginnings contain a lot of unknowns and uncharted territory. In my own experience, when I am in a new beginning and feeling any anxiety about the future, I find that I need to focus on something. Looking back, I remember the training Ann and I received in childbirth classes during labor which was to find something in the room to focus on and breathe. That training was helpful for childbirth, but it's also helpful for all of life.

That something to focus on, of course, is Jesus. We know Jesus as shepherd - one who tends us, who leads us, who doesn't lead us astray, and one who will always search for us should we get lost. When you enter into a new beginning and feel anxious about the future, take time to focus on Jesus. He is called, the alpha and the omega, the beginning, and the end, the first and the last. There is nowhere that Jesus has not already been, and he will never steer you wrong.

We face new beginnings in our personal lives and I believe God is doing something new in our church. No matter the nature of the new beginning - take time to focus on Jesus - the savior of our souls.

Love in Christ, Jon

First United Methodist Church
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Church email: fumclb@cableone.net

Church Website
www.fumclb.org

The Well Website
www.thewelllongbeach.org

Rev. Jon Kaufman, Senior Pastor

662-279-4993

Email address: jon.kaufman@fumclb.org

Rev. Ben Barlow, Associate Pastor

228-806-2787

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Our Mission

Make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

To be a church that makes disciples that Live Like Jesus, Love Like Jesus, and Serve Like Jesus.