



The Messenger

August 16, 2018

Upcoming Events



Shine On...

The newsletter ladies, Iantha Hines, Carolyn Rhoades, and Mildred Dilley for coming twice a month to assemble and prepare the newsletter for mailing.

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 to the meeting but have some thoughts you want to share, please email those to Lori Cripple at lori.ripple@hotmail.com.



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.

Community Groups

Community groups for the fall have begun! There is still plenty of opportunities to join in one to invest in Authentic Community over the next 10 weeks.

Fall 2018 Community Groups

- Invitation- Inviting you into God's great story of salvation. This group meets Sundays @9:45am, Wednesdays @4:30pm or 6pm
- Raising a Modern Day Knight- Guide your son to the kind of authentic, billion manhood that can change the world. This groups meets Mondays @6:30pm
- Mere Apologetics-How to help seekers and skeptics find faith. This group meets Thursdays @5:45pm
- Fearless- Imagine your life without fear. This group meets Wednesdays @9am

If you'd like to plug into one of these groups, please contact Hannah Haulsee at hannah.k.haulsee@gmail.com or 228-697-5433.



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!



Our church has been invited to assume leadership of the United Methodist Campus ministry also known as the Wesley Foundation at USM Gulf Park. This is a ministry that I'm excited about that will help us serve our community and offer Jesus to students, faculty, and staff at USM. I believe we can make a difference in the lives of college students! Here is what is needed - people who feel a calling to reach out to the USM community. If you feel God speaking to you to be a volunteer in this ministry with students at USM, then please call the church office at 228-863-9619 to find out more.

Cantata Kick-Off All Are Welcome



The Chancel Choir will kick-off the Cantata with a listening party and supper. If you are interested in singing in the Christmas Cantata, please plan to join us. Bring your favorite dish to share and join us on Wednesday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

Finance Meeting and Church Council Meeting Rescheduled

The Finance Meeting (6:00 p.m.) and the Church Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.) previously scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2018 has been rescheduled for Monday, September 24, 2018 at the respective times of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 863-9619.



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, 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 Gillen, Blakely Hammons, and Steve Miller



Donations were given in memory of Barbara Barlow by Wanda Lee Corley and Kay Braswell.



We would like to welcome into our church family of faith here at First UMC, Jason Wilson, Kendra Reed, and Lisa Peterson and her daughter, Addison.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 19th

- 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 in Moore Hall (MH)
- 5:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

Monday, August 20th

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

Tuesday, August 21st

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

Wednesday, August 22nd

- 11:30 a.m. Older Adult Kindred Spirits (OAKS) Luncheon in CLC
- 5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in choir room

Thursday, August 23rd

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

Sunday, August 26th

- 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)
- 4:00 p.m. VBS Wrap up Meeting in the CLC
- 5:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Meeting in the CLC

Monday, August 27th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in Youth Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting in the Library
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC Committee Meeting in the Library

Tuesday, August 28th

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the CLC
- 7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, August 29th

- 5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Cantata Kick-Off in the CLC

Thursday, August 30th

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

Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher

August 19th
"Jonah: A Small Dose of Faithfulness Bears Fruit"
Jonah 3

August 26th
"Jonah: God Is More Than We Think"
Jonah 4

The Well USM Fleming Auditorium
Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher

August 19th
"Invitation: Creation and the Mission of God"

August 26th
"Invitation: Paradise Lost"



Lightning. Driving home recently, I was treated to a light show in the night sky. Out in the distance, looking eastward, lightning arched across the sky. Huge cloud formations were illuminated from behind and stood out in fascinating relief. It persisted through my 40 minute drive along highway 90 until I reached home, and even then the lightning was still far in the distance lighting up the night sky.



There is something powerful about the lights that brighten the night sky - the stars, planets, the moon and, of course - lightning. Light pierces the darkness and makes objects stand out and apart in contrast and, to me, it's a beautiful sight. Recently I was reading through the New Testament book of Philippians and read the passage where the Apostle Paul is sharing that followers of Jesus are to "do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent children of God without blemish ... who shine like stars in the world." This means that when others look at us, we stand in contrast to the darkness of our world.

One thing that strikes me about the stars is that from the ancient times when people looked up to them, they saw patterns in the stars and they began to tell stories and see patterns we now call constellations. They saw heroes, villains, and animals that all told a story.

I think that Paul was reminding Christians that our lives tell a story too. I get to see that story being told in your lives as I see you offer hope to people, as you serve our community, as you pray for one another, and as you share each others burdens. Our lives tell the story of God's activity of redemption, of transformation, of grace and hope. I have a story and you have a story - a story to tell that can light up the darkest of places. I invite you to own your story and to tell the story of God's activity in your life and let God shine in the darkness through you.

Love in Christ, Jon

First United Methodist Church
208 Pine Street
Corner of Church Ave. and Pine Street
(228) 863-9619
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

email address: ben@thewellongbeach.org

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.