



The Messenger

November 14, 2018

Upcoming Events



Community Thanksgiving Service

There will be a community Thanksgiving Service at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m. A special offering will be taken up for the ministry of St. Vincent de Paul.

Advent Calendar

Dec 2nd 10:00 a.m. Chrismon Tree Service in the sanctuary
2:00-4:00 p.m. United Methodist Women's Christmas Tea
4:00-6:00 p.m. Wrap Angel Tree Present in Christian Life Center
6:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off in Christian Life Center

Dec 8th 8:00-11:00 a.m. Long Beach High School Santa Breakfast in Christian Life Center

Dec 14th 7:00 p.m. Long Beach High School Choir Concert

Dec 16th 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Cantata in the sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party
5:00 p.m. MiB Christmas Party

Dec 18th 7:00 p.m. Long Beach Middle School Choir Concert

Dec 19th 11:30 a.m. OAKS Luncheon in the Christian Life Center



Dec 24th 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Free Community Christmas Eve Lunch in Christian Life Center

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at USM Fleming Auditorium

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the sanctuary

We have several ways you can get in the spirit of Christmas during our Advent season!

Sunday, November 18th- We will prepare the sanctuary for Advent by hanging the greenery after services at 12:00 p.m. We need some volunteers to get our buildings ready for Christmas!

Saturday, December 1st- We will host a snow station for kids at the Town green after the Long Beach community boat parade. We are looking for a few volunteers to run the snow station and hand out goody bags with our calendar of events in them. (6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.)

Sunday, December 2nd- We will decorate the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to come sing Christmas carols and participate in the decorating of the tree.

Sunday, December 2nd- We will spend the afternoon wrapping Angel Tree gifts from 4:00-6:00 p.m. You can come for the whole time or join in the fun when you can! Bring a roll of wrapping paper, gift boxes, tissue paper, gift bags, or a roll of tape. You can bring these with you or donate them ahead of time. We will start collecting wrapping supplies as early as *Sunday, November 18th*. At 6:00 p.m., we will have a Chili Cook-off Dinner. Bring your favorite chili to enter into our competition! If chili is not your specialty, bring a side dish or a dessert to share. We will use money to vote for the best chili. The winner of the Chili Cook-off gets to decide which ministry or mission to give the money to!

Monday, December 24th- We will host our Annual Christmas Eve Lunch from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the lobby of the sanctuary and The Well starting this *Sunday, November 18th*. We will also be collecting blankets, socks, and hygiene items to give away during the lunch.

Angel Tree and Giving Tree:

We have two ways to provide for the Christmas needs of our community children this year. We will have our annual **Angel Tree**. Tags will be available starting Sunday, November 18th. We are asking that ALL gifts purchased be returned by the morning of *Sunday, December 2nd*. We will have a church-wide opportunity to wrap the gifts that evening.

We will also have a **Giving Tree** this year. This will hold tags with smaller needs for children and families in our school district. Please take a tag and return the item to the tree after it has been purchased. The Giving Tree will be out year round to continually meet needs in our community.

Monday, Christmas Eve

This Christmas, we will have two opportunities to celebrate the birth of Jesus on the evening of December 24th. At 4:00 p.m., we will have a non-traditional service led by our Well worship band in the Fleming Auditorium on the USM Gulf Coast campus.

At 6:00 p.m., we will have a traditional communion and candlelight service in our sanctuary at the main campus. We hope you and your family and friends will join us for one or both of these services.

Poinsettia

If you would like to place a poinsettia (in memory or in honor of someone) in the sanctuary for the Advent Season, complete an order form found in the bulletin, lobby, or office and return by November 30th, by placing in the offering plate or turning into the church office. The cost is \$10.00 for each plant. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.





United Methodist Women Christmas Tea

The U.M.W. Christmas Tea is on Sunday, December 2nd from 2-4 p.m. at Bob & Carolyn Rhoades home located at 2 Chimney Cross. We will honor our outstanding U.M.W. members. All women of the church are invited.

Missions: Money Tree for Moore Community House, Gulf Coast Center for Non-violence--unwrapped gifts for children to give their mothers. Paper/ribbon/bows/tape/name tags/cards.

Circle Meetings for December

Polly Mincher --Dec. 11 Circle 1 --December 19
Flowers --Polly Mincher



Older Adult Kindred Spirits (OAKS)

OAKS will

meet on Nov. 28, last Wed, due to Thanksgiving holidays. So, save your leftovers.

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, Jo Holyfield, Tina Botte, Dick Kinser, Cathy Yates, Mary Kerg, Marie Ward, Wanda Stevens, Rick Bullock, Joyce McCauley, Mark Powell, Tommy Gillen, Blakely Hammons, John French, Larry Burk, Cindy Burk, Wanda Lee Corley, Peggy Rowell, Joe Trammell, Chuck Cruthirds, Bill and Kathy Wynne, Anne Ladner, Nona Murphy, Porter Wescovich, Jesse McBride, Patricia Badeaux, and Steve Miller

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 18th

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
12:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary
3:30 p.m. Creative Ministries in Moore Hall (MH)
5:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)
6:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service at Grace
Lutheran Church

Monday, November 19th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in the Christian
Life Center (CLC)

Tuesday, November 20th

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

**Wednesday, November 21st, Thursday, November
22nd & Friday, November 23rd**

Office Closed

Sunday, November 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
3:30 p.m. Creative Ministries upstairs in Moore Hall (MH)
5:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)
5:00 p.m. Children's Choir practice in Choir room

Monday, November 26th

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

Tuesday, November 27th

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, November 28th

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

Thursday, November 29th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in the CLC

Sunday, December 2nd

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Chrismon in the Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship
11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium
2:00 p.m. UMW Christmas Tea at Rhoades' home
2 Chimney Cross
3:30 p.m. Creative Ministries upstairs in Moore Hall (MH)
5:00 p.m. United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

6:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off in the CLC

Monday, December 3rd

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in the CLC

Tuesday, December 4th

6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting in the CLC

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, December 5th

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

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

Thursday, December 6th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes Exercise Class in the CLC

Friday, December 7th

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

Saturday, December 8th

8:00 a.m. Santa Breakfast in the CLC

Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher

November 18th

"Thanksgiving"

Psalm 107:1-9

November 25th

"Simply Jesus: The Hope When We are Scattered"

Ezekiel 34:11-16a

December 2nd

"Simply Jesus: A New Covenant"

Jeremiah 31:31-33

"Simply Jesus" Main Sanctuary New Sermon Series: Beyond the decorations, the lights, the gifts, and the trappings of Christmas there is a reason for the "why" of Christmas. This advent season, each Sunday, we are going to invite you to peel back the layers of Christmas as we remember that the "why" of Christmas is "Simply Jesus." He came as a gift for us all.

The Well USM Fleming Auditorium
Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher

November 18th

"Unnamed People in the Bible: Scattered Believers from Cyprus and Cyrene"

Acts 11:19-30

November 25th

"Unnamed People in the Bible: The Jailer"

Acts 16:16-40

December 2nd

"The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Hope on the Horizon"

Isaiah 9:1-7, 51:1-5, 43:18-19



Crack! That's the sound I heard when I backed my van into our mailbox this past Tuesday morning. I was taking Ryan, our son to school that morning because it was raining. Normally he walks to school because we only live 5 minutes away. But that day I wanted to drive him. When I got back home, I looked at the mailbox and the van and saw that the rear tail light assembly was cracked its entire length. So I ordered a replacement from our usual online car part site. By the way, having a "usual" car part site is a whole other story.

Needless to say, I felt sick about this mess-up on my part and I begin to replay how it happened in my mind. The first thing I remembered was that there was a car nearby that's not usually there so I adjusted my usual backup route slightly which was just enough to hit the mailbox. But the thing is, I had means at my disposal to avoid the accident in the first place but I didn't take advantage of them. I had a backup camera that I didn't check. I had mirrors I didn't use, and finally I didn't turn my head around to look with my own eyes. I just blindly drove into a car repair.

I think this happens to all of us more than we realize - not the backing up into a mailbox part, but the not using the means we have to avoid bad decisions. Sometimes we just drive blindly into bad situations because we don't use what is available to us.

If we think about our lives and our walk with Jesus, we have means available to us to make really good decisions. We have a community of people to lean on to help us think about life. We have the means of discipleship such as prayer, scripture, and holy conversation with each other on which to draw. We have the gifts of compassion, love and forgiveness, to help each other through the hard steps of life. The only thing is that we often drive blindly through life without taking advantage of what God gives us.

When I heard that "crack" on Tuesday morning I count it as a gift that God offered me an opportunity to recognize my need to pay attention to what God has given me to help me when life happens in unexpected ways. What could life be like for you and I if we fully depend on what God has given us? Perhaps we would have fewer "cracks" in our lives and that could be a place to experience some gratitude.

Love in Christ, Jon

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Church Website
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The Well Website
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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.