



The Messenger

December 6, 2018

Upcoming Events



Shine On...

All of the many volunteers who donated gifts for our 73 Angel Tree Children and all those who came and helped wrap all of the presents. Special thanks to Lori Cripple who has over seen all of the efforts to supply these children with a Christmas!

Advent Calendar

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 17th
6:00 p.m. College Ministry Party at the Lukes' home

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





Christmas Eve Luncheon

Our 9th Annual Community Christmas Eve Luncheon is right around the corner! We have several opportunities for you and your family to help this year. We have volunteer and food signups located in Sunday school rooms, the lobby, and in the lobby at The Well. We are currently asking for donations of blankets, socks, and hygiene items to pass out during the lunch. You may drop any of these items in the church office or in bins located at both campuses, in the lobby. As always, we appreciate your generosity and continued support of this ministry. We could not do this event without the help of our congregation members! If you have any questions, please contact Amanda @228-547-9514 or by email at aeswood@gmail.com.



Christmas Eve Services

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.



MiB Christmas Party

Please come join us for our MiB Christmas Journey. The party will begin at 5:00 p.m. and should end no later than 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16th. We will be traveling to several different homes for good food and fellowship. Please bring a friend!

Youth Christmas Party

Please come join us for our Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Long's home located at 5007 Oak Court in Long Beach. Bring a fun pair of socks for dirty Santa gift! For more information, call Mary Woodruff at 228-324-9235.

College Christmas Party

We want to celebrate the holidays with you! We will be hanging out at the Lukes' home (20074 Commission Rd) on Monday, December 17th, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Please bring your friends and we will see you there!



Older Adult Kindred Spirits (OAKS)

Celebrate Christmas with the OAKS (Older Adult Kindred Spirits) on Wednesday, December 19th at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. The OAKS group of seniors meet monthly for food and fellowship. Please come and enjoy potluck with us. Hoping to see you.

Silver Foxes Exercise Class Brunch Immediately following our exercise class on Thursday, December 13th, we will have a Christmas Brunch. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Save the Date



Breathing Room

Ladies, are you feeling rushed and overwhelmed? Maybe your life could use some Breathing Room. Join us on Friday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center for a Ladies' Night Out. We will have dinner, fun with your friends, and hear a message about finding Breathing Room in our fast paced lives. Call or text Lori Cripple at 228-324-3622 to sign up.

Online Giving

Just a reminder, you can go to our website at funclb.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, 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, Mindy & George Barker, Nona Murphy, Porter Wescovich, Jesse McBride, Patricia Badeaux, and Steve Miller



We would like to express our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Dick Kinser.



We would like to welcome Michele Watkins into our family of faith here at FUMCLB.

We would like to welcome Connie Lord into our family of faith here at FUMCLB.

We would like to welcome Sarah Johnson into our family of faith here at FUMCLB.



A donation was given in memory of Woody Ellsworth by Bob and Carolyn Rhoades.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 9th

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 in Moore Hall (MH)

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

Monday, December 10th

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

Tuesday, December 11th

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

11:30 a.m. Polly Mincher Christmas Lunch at Joe's Italian Ristorante

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

Wednesday, December 12th

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

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

Thursday, December 13th

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

Friday, December 14th

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

Sunday, December 16th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship Cantata

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship Cantata

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 Christmas Party

5:00 p.m. MiB Christmas Party

Monday, December 17th

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

6:00 p.m. Circle 1 Christmas Dinner at Salute Italian Restaurant

6:00 p.m. College Ministry Party at the Lukes' home

7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting

Tuesday, December 18th

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

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

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

Wednesday, December 19th

11:30 a.m. Older Adult Kindred Spirits (OAKS) Luncheon in CLC

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

Thursday, December 20th

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

Sundays Sermons and Scriptures

Main Campus Sanctuary
Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher

December 9th

"Simply Jesus: The Shepherd of Peace"

Micah 5:2-5a

December 16th

Cantata "Child of Hope"

"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

December 9th

"The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Driven By Love"

John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:5-6

John 1:16 Matthew 20:28

December 16th

"The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Joy to the World"

Hebrews 12:2 Luke 2



Lights. I found a really good deal (more than half off) on Christmas lights from a major store after Thanksgiving. I placed an online order for five boxes so that we could decorate our house. The next week, I was in the same store, and saw that they still had these lights for the same price. So, I bought 5 more thinking that I could take back the ones I ordered online for a refund. I took the lights home and I put them up on our gutters and around the two crepe myrtles in the front of the house. I added a spotlight to shine on the front of the house and added more Christmas lights around a flower bed as well. The Christmas lights I had ordered were delivered and can you believe that I found more ways to use them? So now our house (in the front anyway) is lit up and looks very nice.

For me, the lights are not only about decorating but they have a deeper meaning that gets at the heart of why we needed Christmas - why we needed Jesus. The reason I put lights out during this time of the year is because of the darkness. Darkness falls earlier this time of the year and I have to say that the darkness really gets to me. The darkness effects my outlook, can effect my mood, and I feel it in my soul. So, I feel this need to beat back the darkness anyway that I can, and putting out lights warms my heart.

I know that for some of us, this time of year can be dark in other ways. Sadness and grief can darken the feelings of joy we think we ought to be experiencing, or we might be overwhelmed by the busyness of the season. We feel the pain of separation from those whom we love.

We believe that Jesus was given to the world by God for the purpose of beating back the darkness of life. This is captured in the familiar Christmas carol:

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:*

*yet in your dark streets shining the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

Jesus met darkness throughout his life - the darkness of sin, of human brokenness by disease, death and fear. Jesus met the most intense darkness the word has and darkness did not overcome the light of his life. In this midst of the season of Advent and the coming season of Christmas, I hope that you can experience the light of Christ that beats back any darkness.

Love in Christ, Jon

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Corner of Church Ave. and Pine Street
(228) 863-9619
Church email: fumclb@cablone.net

Church Website
www.fumclb.org

The Well Website
www.thewelllongbeach.org

Rev. Jon Kaufman, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Ben Barlow, Associate Pastor
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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.