



The Messenger

June 12, 2020

Upcoming Events



Shine On...

Our wonderful leaders and many volunteers that have helped plan, organize, and implement Vacation Bible School this year!

Worship	Small Groups	Outreach Ministries	Church Office
<p>Sunday morning worship will continue online until further notice. We will try an outdoor Sunday evening prayer worship option for those who feel comfortable being in outdoor groups. The service will include prayer, scripture, and Holy Communion. We will practice social distancing and wearing a mask will be encouraged. Masks will be provided if you do not have one. This worship option is subject to change when conditions dictate.</p> <p><i>While some people feel safe in returning to in-person indoor worship, the majority do not yet feel safe. According to our recent survey, more people were comfortable outdoors than indoors. Those that are at risk, are encouraged to stay safe at home.</i></p>	<p>Adult and youth classes/groups can begin to meet on campus the week of June 21st while following the current guidelines of the Mississippi Annual Conference. Gatherings can be scheduled through the church office. Online or outdoor participation will continue to be an option. We will continue to be in contact with small groups and assist them accordingly with their needs</p> <p><i>It's very difficult to maintain social distancing and sanitation with children. It is safer and more manageable for us to hold off on in person, indoor groups until June 21st. Groups will need to be scheduled in spaces available to ensure cleaning and sanitation between groups.</i></p>	<p>Backpack Buddies and Open table will continue to operate. Backpack buddies will stay connected with the needs of the school system and distribute food as needed. Open Table will continue to deliver food once a month at the 19th street park and at Seashore mission. All outreach ministries will be operate using safe distancing and sanitary guidelines recommended by the Mississippi Annual Conferencing of the UMC. As ministries need assistance we will advertise opportunities to serve to those who are at lower risk.</p> <p>Sew Blessed ministry will continue to supply masks as necessary.</p> <p><i>Vulnerable populations are continuing to live with food insecurity. We believe that the mission of serving their needs remains our calling. We will practice safe protocols.</i></p>	<p>The Church office will be open by appointment. Church staff who are able will continue to work from home.</p> <p><i>Protecting our staff, and their families remains a high priority. This makes cleaning and sanitation of our buildings more possible.</i></p>



Worship Under the Oaks

This Sunday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m., we will offer a Sunday evening prayer worship option for those who feel comfortable being in outdoor groups. We will meet in front of Moore Hall under the oak trees. Please park in the large west parking lot or to the north of the Christian Life Center or Moore Hall. We are reserving parking spots surrounding the prayer service space for tailgating type seating (every other parking spot will be left empty)

We are going to practice social distancing between individuals/families. Masks for will be available for you to use and take with you. To reduce risk, we are asking that you bring your own bread and grape juice and chairs. Communion can be observed with the bread only, in unusual circumstances such as what we are experiencing now. We will have some sealed packets with a wafer and juice for those who may forget.

The prayer service liturgy will be available on our Facebook pages before the service.



Group Meetings

In consultation with our COVID-19 advisory team, we have decided that the week of June 21st would be the right time to afford you that opportunity to resume in-person gatherings with some safety protocols. Once you are ready to resume, the next step would be to contact the church office (228) 863-9619. We will work with you to determine a time and location on

campus for you to meet.

We ask that you not begin meeting on campus until you have scheduled through the office. This includes our outdoor spaces.



Prayer Vigil

There will be a prayer vigil held on June 13th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Long Beach Town Green. We will gather as a community to pray for an end to hate, racism, discrimination, and for the victims of violence.

We will adhere to CDC guidelines of social distancing. Please wear a mask.
Limited quantities will be available for those that don't have one.

Youth Schedules for June and July



to come)
JULY 12-15th - Virtual BigStuff (details to come)
JULY 19th - Social Distance UMYF 5-6:30 Heritage Hall
JULY 22nd - Heart and Soul 5:30-7
JULY 26th - Senior Send Off (details to come)
JULY 29th - Heart and Soul 5:30-7

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 Havens, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Wanda Miller, Chrissy Edwards, Lois Jones, Connie Durham, Janis Slade, Pat Newcomb, Shayla Hosey, Shorty Haulk, Dawn Rhoades, Jo Holyfield, Cathy Yates, Marie Ward, Ricky Bullock, John French, Chuck Cruthirds, Hank Viehmann, Sharon Pierce, Charlie Gibson, Sherry Alley, Andrew Beets, Alice Krass, Jack Bullock, Conrad Johnson, Adeline Humphrys, Dorothy Tingo, Lynn Jordan Beck, Cory Miller, Ron Durham, Verona Murphy, Charlie and Ann Munter, Spencer Humphrey, Bill Denmark, Sally Poarch, Sam McCauley, Lane Tucker, Pam Upton, and Martha Hart

*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office.



Donations were given in memory of Lewis and Dixie Alexander by Lil Jobe, Pat Oakes, Betty Allen, Paul Hicks, David & Carol Reeves, Margaret Blount, Jim & Becky Collins, Shorty & Sharon Haulk, Allen & Bobbye Lynn Lantz, Kate Halbrook, Christye, Stacye, Myra, David & Tiffany.

Donations were given in memory of Dixie Alexander by Bob & Muzette Chatham, Mikey & Carolyn Graham, Betsy Bullard, Leslie and Gordon Stanfield, Joe McClammy, John & Patricia Sneed, Gregory and Joe Ellen Tappan, Joyce Whitfield, and Susan and Bob Whitfield.

A donation was given in memory of Lewis Alexander by the Barker/Bennett Family.

A donation was given in memory of Jim Miller by Lucy Reagan.

A donation was given in memory of Mike Hill by Jim & Becky Collins.

A donation was given in memory of the Corleys by Allen & Bobbye Lynn Lantz.



Dear Church Members,

Lois Jones and family wish to thank those of you that took the time to "Drive-by" on Mother's 98th birthday. Thanks also for the beautiful cards. This has been a very difficult time for everyone, and your efforts made it extra special. Thanks also to Joyce and Doug St. John for helping organize the parade and helping with the party that everyone enjoyed at Seashore Highlands. God Bless all of you!

Lois and Family

Weekly Calendar

Saturday, June 13th

6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil at Long Beach Town Green

Sunday, June 14th

6:30 p.m. Worship Under the Oaks in front of Moore Hall

Sunday, June 21st

Father's Day

6:30 p.m. Worship Under the Oaks in front of Moore Hall

Monday, June 22nd

7:00 p.m. Youth Movie Night in Heritage Hall

Wednesday, June 24th

5:30 p.m. Youth Heart and Soul in Heritage Hall

5:00 p.m. Pathways To Hope in the Good News Classroom

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Service live on First United Methodist Church Long Beach
facebook page and Youtube
[youtube.com/channel/UCLsZywuTbpyvAucvdZOndhQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLsZywuTbpyvAucvdZOndhQ)

10:00 a.m. service live on The Well facebook page and Youtube

6:30 p.m. service Worship Under the Oaks in front of Moore Hall



I shared this on Facebook in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in the streets of Minneapolis. A lot has happened since then across our country. As a nation, we seem to be moving toward change in acknowledging the racial bias at work in our culture. As a disciple of Jesus, I seek the counsel of the biblical witness which includes the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I want to be formed by Christ and Christ alone.

"I am a person with limited vision. I see through the eyes of privilege and place. However, I am not content to keep seeing others through my eyes. And I don't want to see the world and my neighbors through the eyes of the left or the right - of the conservative or the liberal.

I yearn to see through the eyes of Jesus who sees me with eyes of grace. He sees beyond my skin. He sees beyond my failures and faults which are many. He sees me not in terms of my appearance but in terms of my heart.

Over and over, we learn of the God who knit us all together as one who does not see as human beings see; the Lord looks on the heart.

Jesus lived that out. He saw the crowds who followed him who were poor, hungry, and tired, but Jesus looked on them with compassion "for they were like sheep without a shepherd." In the days of Jesus people were given labels which defined how they were seen. Not much has changed.

But Jesus looked at the thief, the sinner, the fisherman, the tax collector, the Roman soldier, the Pharisee, the scribe, the Samaritan woman, the leper, the dying child, the zealot, the sick, the foreigner, the gentile, the clean, the unclean, the bleeding woman, the man born blind, the lame, the outsiders, the insiders, the religious, the nonreligious, the peasants and kings.

He saw through their labels to SEE THEM. He saw them all as people made in the image of God. He saw them as valuable and worthwhile - people worth dying for.

There is a lot I don't see. My vision is limited. My prayer for myself is that God takes away my eyes so that I can truly see as Jesus sees. My prayer for the world is that God gives us the kind of vision to clearly SEE, not in terms of a label or an appearance but to see the heart. What would the world be like if we could all see through the eyes of Jesus?"

I give thanks for our diverse church family. Some of you have already helped me to see things I haven't seen. Thank you for that. God is doing good things among us and will lead us all to a better, more complete future where we will not be known by our outward appearance but known by our resemblance to our God.

Love in Christ, Jon

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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.