



The Messenger

July 23, 2020

Upcoming Events



Shine On...

Since we have been live streaming in the last few weeks, we have had several people that have stepped up to learn new skills and help make it possible. They are: Josh Law, Carolyn Owen, Mary Woodruff, Mandy Long, Will Long, Brian Chancey, Roger Burk, Perry Schmidt, Chris Hankins, Joe Barlow, and Rob Myers.

We give thanks for the persons who have come forward to help us with broadcasting our services live on Sunday mornings. We are still seeking others who can help with broadcasting the services.

No experience is necessary and volunteers who choose to serve will be trained on the devices used for streaming worship online. Contact the church office at fumclb@cableone.net to volunteer.

Fall Discipleship Project

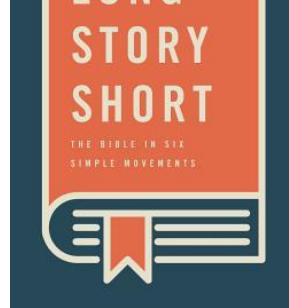
We are launching a new 6 weeks Bible study for people of all ages on Thursday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. We will begin with teaching and video for all and then break out into small Zoom groups for relationship building and for processing the teaching. If you are already part of a small group, your group could be a part of this and have your own Zoom group in breakout sessions.

We are planning on using the book, "The Long Short Story," by Joshua McNall which is an overview of the major themes of the Bible. It

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Joshua McNair which is an overview of the major themes of the Bible. It is insightful, easy to process, and the author has a good sense of humor which is evident in the writing. All are invited to be part of this journey in discipleship.



Mobile Food Pantry

Our church has partnered with Feeding the Gulf Coast to sponsor a Mobile Food Pantry. We are providing 120 homes with boxes of 50 pounds of food which includes protein, canned or fresh produce, dairy, and grain to anyone who has a need including our church members or members of the Long Beach community. We will have a drive thru pick up on the west side of the lobby at the Main Campus on July 30th, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. If you would like to receive a box of food, please call the church office at 228-863-9619 to reserve your box.



Children's Ministry Service Opportunities

We will be making blessing bags and blankets for Open Table this month. Blessing Bags- Open Table ministry serves the homeless community in downtown Gulfport once a month. They provide food and other items, including blessing bags. These are Ziploc bags filled with hygiene supplies and other things that could make life a little easier for those who need it. Your family can put together some blessing bags and place them in a collection bin outside the lobby doors on Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m at your convenience. Open Table ministry serves on the second Saturday of every month with the next date being Saturday, August 8th. *Items that could go in a blessing bag are:*

** Hygiene items such as: toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth, soap, hand sanitizer, comb, chapstick*

** Extra items such as: small candles, bug spray, batteries, socks, etc.*

No-Sew Fleece Blankets- Open Table ministry also hands out blankets when they are available. A fun way your family could donate a blanket is by making a no-sew fleece blanket. It would take about 2 yards of two fleece pieces. A good website with instructions is <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Fleece-Tie-Blanket>. Of course, you could always donate a blanket you already have that is in good condition! Blankets can also be dropped off at the church at your convenience!

School Supplies- As our schools prepare for beginning the Fall semester - we ask that you pray for the administrators, teachers, staff, and students. Our schools and families need our support through this time.

We also are collecting school supplies -*paper towels, tissues, small bottles of hand gel, and sanitizing wipes* that can be placed in a collection bin outside the churches lobby doors on Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



United Methodist Women News and Activities

In keeping with the Guidelines issued for the COVID-19 pandemic by the Bishop and Governor Reeves, the UMW Executive Board voted to cancel all church-wide group meetings for 2020. This includes the October Rummage/Bake Sale and Christmas Tea. We will miss the fellowship but this is best for our membership. In January 2021, we will evaluate the situation and make plans for future meetings and activities. Questions? call Joyce St. John at 865-0051.



Family Photo Scavenger Hunt

Come join us for a Photo Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, August 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. Your family (or whoever is in your car) will be your team! We will text a list of the photos to be taken to participating people. You can start at whatever location you are at and drive around to take the pictures needed! You will end up at the church to claim your reward, and you can enjoy a free sno-cone from The Sweet Escape sno-cone truck! This scavenger hunt is for people and families of all ages! For more information, contact Lori Crippel at (228)324-3622.

To sign up for the Family Photo Scavenger Hunt, go to:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-photo-scavenger-hunt-tickets-114132316832>



Group Meetings on Zoom

If you would like to participate in one of these classes on Zoom, please contact the following people: Sonshiners - Glenda Hull @ tgkhull@me.com, New Horizons - Karen Merkle @ jkmerkle@cableone.net, Aldersgate - David Roots @ davidwroots@verizon.net, Jon Kaufman Smallgroup @ jklongbeach@gmail.com.



Give the Gift of Life

On July 28th from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., we will be having a blood drive in the Christian Life Center. To make an appointment, go to Redcrossblood.org.



AMAZON SMILE DIRECTIONS

1. Your first step, is to select FUMCLB as your charity. Simply go to the following link and logon to your Amazon account: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/64-0334099>
 2. At that point, verify that you are choosing FUMCLB as your charity. Then click the button to start shopping as usual.
 3. In future shopping trips to Amazon, ALWAYS go to the link <http://smile.amazon.com> to ensure that your shopping produces donations for our church. If you shop at the regular Amazon link, you will NOT produce donations.
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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 Boats, Alice

Hank Viermann, Sharon Pierce, Charlie Gibson, Sherry Alley, Andrew Beets, Alice Krass, Jack Bullock, Adeline Humphrys, Dorothy Tingo, Lynn Jordan Beck, Cory Miller, Ron Durham, Vernona Murphy, Charlie and Ann Munter, Spencer Humphrey, Bill Denmark, Sally Poarch, Sam McCauley, Lane Tucker, Pam Upton, MJ Kalif, Lil Jobe, Adam Wood, Rena Krol, and Martha Hart

*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 863-9619 or by email to prayer@fumclb.org.



A donation was given in memory of Helen Bohears by Betsy Bullard.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 26th

- 8:30 a.m. Online Worship Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Online Worship The Well

Tuesday, July 28th

- 12:00 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Christian Life Center (CLC)

Wednesday, July 29th

- 6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in the CLC

Thursday, July 30th

- 10:30 a.m. Mobile Food Drive Pick Up

Sunday, August 2nd

- 8:30 a.m. Online Worship Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Online Worship The Well
- 5:00 p.m. Family Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, August 5th

- 6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in the CLC

Sunday Online Worship

8:30 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)

11:00 a.m. service live on The Well facebook page and Youtube
[youtube.com/user/TheWellLongBeach](https://www.youtube.com/user/TheWellLongBeach)



Things can change very quickly, can't they? Right after we resumed in-person worship and were beginning to think bigger, we received word from the Governor's office about Harrison county being one of the 13 counties that were under new restrictions due to the increase in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations. Then, the next day we received word from our Bishop of the Mississippi Conference that United Methodist churches should cease in person activities for the time being.

We quickly shifted again to online worship which proves again that nothing can stand in the way of us carrying out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and to love God and our neighbors. I think of the words Jesus spoke when he gave Simon a new name - that of Peter which means "rock." Jesus said at that point, "You are Peter and on this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it."

As disappointed as I am, and I'm sure many of you are, we are not able to function in the ways in which we are accustomed, but our mission continues and I am convinced that not even Covid-19 will prevail against us. Our Church Council, our staff, Ben, and myself are committed that even when our world changes, our mission will not change to help people come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. So, we are continually envisioning new ways we can accomplish this.

A BIG part of our plans for the Fall was a new model for discipleship envisioned by a

representative team (our Discipleship team) of our whole church for that would involve single persons and families - people of all ages. We envisioned a night to come together to share a meal at table groups, making or renewing friendships while breaking bread, a common teaching for all persons, and then break away for small group time before returning to table groups for dessert and follow up.

As it turns out of course, it won't quite happen in the way we envisioned but we decided we can still launch this Discipleship project, but with a different method. So, the plan now involves launching a Bible study for all persons on Thursday, August 27th at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We will begin with teaching and video for all and then break out into small Zoom groups for relationship building and for processing the teaching. If you are already part of a small group, your group could be a part of this and have your own Zoom group in breakout sessions.

We are planning on using the book, "The Long Short Story," by Joshua McNall which is an overview of the major themes of the Bible. It is insightful, easy to process, and the author has a good sense of humor which is evident in the writing.

We invite all of you to pray about being part of this study which is intended to help us grow closer to God and to one another in closer bonds of Christian community.

I ask for your prayers for our church leadership as we navigate through this time of pandemic. Thank you for your prayers and your encouragement as we seek to follow the one who is Lord of all.

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@thewelllongbeach.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.