



The Messenger

November 24, 2020

First United Methodist Church
208 Pine Street
Corner of Church Ave. & Pine St.
(228) 863-9619
fumclb@cableone.net

Worship Schedule/Registration

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the Sanctuary & on Facebook.

11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person in the Christian Life Center & on Facebook.

Please register for worship by noon on Friday before each Sunday's worship service by calling the church office at 228-863-9619 or by going to the links below that can be found on our website at fumclb.org.

8:30 a.m. Service <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-united-methodist-church-long-beach-830-am-sanctuary-service-tickets-111240118188>

11:00 a.m. Service

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-well-service-at-1100-am-tickets-111240523400>

We have resumed children's church, Well Jr., and the nursery. Please use the above registration links to reserve your child's spot.

Note from Jon

“A few years ago, my mother stepped out of my life – but then Martha stepped in.” We heard these words spoken by one of Martha Hart's students at her memorial service at the Town Green this past Sunday afternoon. This young woman bravely stood and approached the microphone to share what Martha had done for her when she was in deep pain. Martha stepped into her life to love and encourage her, and that act of love changed her life.

I wept (along with most of us) when I heard her tell this story. I wept for the pain this young woman had experienced and I wept for joy

because Martha's love stepped into her life. I heard this and I became lost in wonder at the question – Is this why God stepped into the world? Did God step into our world in Jesus because he saw our pain, our brokenness, and our sense of lostness? Did God weep as I did? The answer is “yes.” But here is the thing, if I could weep in pain over the one broken heart, how much more pain might God have experienced over the brokenness of an entire world.

As I think about our upcoming Advent season, I think about God stepping into a broken world, at war with itself and in deep pain. Philips Brooks who, in 1867 wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” includes these lyrics:

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

The good news is that God still steps into the world broken by sin, by storm, by Covid, by racial strife, by national and international divisions, by war and poverty, and by a sense of being left out and left behind in a rapidly changing world. The good news is that God still sees our pain, our brokenness, our grief, and our sin and enters in to love us and to help us to be transformed. Because God stepped into our world life can be new and whole again. I invite you to “receive Him still,” and trust that the dear Christ will enter in.

Love in the name of Christ Jesus, Jon

Upcoming Events



Advent Calendar

December 13th

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Madrigals at both services

5:00 p.m. Youth Party at the Long's home

December 20th

8:30 a.m. Cantata “Lessons & Carols”

A combination of live and virtual voices.

5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas in the CLC

December 24th

11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Luncheon

4:00 p.m. The Well Christmas Eve Service CLC

4:30 p.m. The Sanctuary Christmas Eve Service

6:00 p.m. The Well Christmas Ever Service CLC

6:30 p.m. The Sanctuary Christmas Eve Service

December 27th

Virtual Services Only

*All services we will wear masks and social distance.



Christmas Eve Luncheon

This year we will host our annual Christmas Eve Lunch on Friday, December 24th from 11am -1pm, to-go style. We will be following all CDC guidelines. This means that our volunteer pool will be limited due to capacity limitations around food prep areas. We will have one team prepping, cooking, and packing boxes and one team, outside, giving to-go boxes to individuals and families as they drive thru the line. All volunteers must wear face masks and food service gloves, if in kitchen area. If you would like to volunteer the day of, please contact Amanda Wood at 228-547-9514. For those who cannot make the event, but would like to help in some way, we have several needs: food (turkeys, hams, rolls, stuffing/dressing, vegetable side dishes, desserts), masks (making some to give away), and hand sanitizer (small bottles to give away).

**You may donate the ingredients to make the dishes or prepare the dishes. Hams may be donated un-cooked as they take less time to bake. Turkeys may as well, but if you are able, please bake your turkey ahead of time. All food ingredients & prepared dishes may be dropped off outside of the CLC under the awning (parking lot side) December 22 & 23 from 5PM-7PM. Please have your name, with reheating instructions listed somewhere on the dish. Someone will be waiting outside to receive your donation. We will NOT have food drop-offs on Christmas Eve morning.



Christmas Cantata

Join us on December 20th at the 8:30 service for the choir cantata "Lessons and Carols." It will be virtual with some parts live. Come and hear the story of

the birth of Christ through scripture and songs. Hope to see you there!

“Have You Ever Felt Blue at Christmas?”

Join us on Sunday, December 20th at 5 pm for a Blue Christmas Service in the Christian Life Center (CLC). We recognize that for many people, grief is accentuated during the Christmas season. This year will be an especially difficult year for many of us. Some are experiencing grief after losing a loved one. Others are experiencing grief after job loss, a broken marriage, or other personal life events. Many of us carry burdens everyday. Add to all of this a global pandemic and it seems there is an extra heaviness this year. Our Blue Christmas service will acknowledge these griefs and through worship, scripture, holy communion, and song, we will look to the Hope that comes at Christmas.



Advent Special Mission Offering

As we think about the incarnation of Jesus, who came to be with us, we are taking an opportunity in Advent to support a ministry that is with some of the most vulnerable, the homeless community. Specifically, we are choosing to support Seashore Mission of Biloxi, and their ministry in serving the homeless population of the Gulf Coast. Please bring your donation to worship the Sundays during Advent and on Christmas Eve.



Christmas Hymn of the Day

Jane Cockrell will be providing us with a Christmas Hymn of the Day. It will begin the first Sunday of Advent (November 29th) and go through Epiphany (January 6th). If you are interested, please send your name and email to Jane at: nuffkids5@cableone.net or you can send her a text with your name and email address at (228) 806-1865.



Advent Wreath Kits

We know that so many of us are missing out on our Advent and Christmas traditions this year, so we wanted to send an Advent tradition home with you! Introducing our "At-Home Advent Wreath Kit!" Inside the kit you'll find a wreath base and candles to assemble your wreath. You get the freedom to decorate the wreath in your own style! You'll also find a devotion and scripture guide to the Advent Wreath. And we're including some hot chocolate! But save that hot chocolate for Sunday, December 27th and on that day our worship services will be online only and you'll want to enjoy your hot chocolate as you watch. The devotions and scripture guide begins on November 29th, so pick up your kits before then. (Kits are 1 per family.)

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping for Christmas!

Follow instructions below and give to your church.

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.

Update Your Key Cards

Please make sure to come by the church office to update your key card. Don't forget to call when you arrive. (228) 863-9619



Sermon Titles and Scriptures

Advent Series “The Incarnation”

Sermon Titles and Scriptures

November 29th

Sanctuary Worship & The Well Worship
“Why the Incarnation?” Isaiah 9:1-7 Matthew 4:12-17

December 6th

Sanctuary Worship & The Well Worship
“Jesus Came to Save” John 3:1-21

Calendar

Sunday, November 29th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship
11:00 a.m. The Well Worship in the CLC & Online
3:30 p.m. Creative Ministry in Moore Hall

Monday, November 30th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the parking lot

Wednesday, December 2nd

5:00 p.m. Heart & Soul on Zoom
6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in the CLC

Thursday, December 3rd

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the parking lot

Sunday, December 6th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship
11:00 a.m. The Well Worship in the CLC & Online
12:00 p.m. Drive Thru Communion in parking lot
3:30 p.m. Creative Ministry in Moore Hall
5:00 p.m. UMYF in Youth Hall

Monday, December 7th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the parking lot

Wednesday, December 9th

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

Thursday, December 10th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the parking lot

Saturday, December 12th

11:30 a.m. Open Table Ministry

Flower Calendar

The 2021 Flower Calendar is in the lobby. You can sign up by calling the office or signing up in the lobby.



PC Havens, Kayne Troutman, Debbie & John 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, 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, Lil Jobe, Merle Burman, Rena Krol, Jo Holyfield, Lorrie Schiro, Kathy Hogan, Cynthia Wilson, Louise Travis, and Candy Claeys, Jim & Louise Alexander, John Armstrong, Virginia Barnes, Dawn McGinn, Cindy Gates, Bubba Murray. and Adam Wood

*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.



Donations were given in memory of Sam McCauley by Andy Crouch and Bob & Muzette Chatham.

A donation was given in memory of Martha Hart by Louise Ray.



Shine On...

All of those volunteers that have helped go out in our community to remove debris after the hurricane.

Rev. Jon Kaufman

662-279-4993

Email address: jon.kaufman@fumclb.org

Rev. Ben Barlow

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.