



The Messenger

December 10, 2020

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

Worship Schedule

Due to the sharp rise in the number of COVID-19 cases statewide and here on the Coast, along with the strong recommendation from the Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, our COVID-19 Advisory Team has made a difficult decision to move our Sunday morning in-person worship services to only live broadcasts for the next two Sundays. Because we know the Christmas season is an important time of the year to gather together in person, we are working very hard to come up with a safe and creative way to celebrate Christmas Eve as a church family. Our COVID-19 Team is committed to meeting weekly to consider all options before us. Please pay attention to your email and our social media pages for further details on service information. We look forward to seeing you online this Sunday morning!

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship on Facebook @fumclb

11:00 a.m. The Well service on Facebook @thewelllb

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Note from Ben

It is getting too dark too early! If you know me well, you know that I detest "Falling Back" when it comes to Daylight Savings Time. There is a certain level of apprehension that comes that weekend in the Fall when the time changes. Many have told me that they love it because it means an extra hour of sleep. Well, you can have your extra hour! I want it to be daylight beyond

5pm.

The cruel reality is that not only does nightfall come sooner but the sun rises later. You see my real issue is a lack of sunshine. December 21st is Winter Solstice. The longest night and the shortest day. I crave daylight and sunshine. I think this is one of the reasons people find it hard to be "Merry and Bright" this time of year. Another reason, perhaps, is that this is a time of year when the difficulties of life are amplified. Whether it is the recent loss of a loved one, the jarring news of an illness, broken relationships, job cutbacks, and well. . . 2020. This year, especially, we want to acknowledge that the Christmas Season is often more melancholy than merry.

In an effort to remind one another that our faith is rooted in something, or better yet, someone that meets us in the midst of our darkness and difficulty, I want to invite you to join me for our "Blue Christmas" service. On Sunday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m. as we approach the longest night of the year, to read some scripture and share in music and prayer. We want to come together on this day to acknowledge our grief, frustration, even sadness and seek to find hope in the good news of a coming savior.

Love in Christ, Ben



A poinsettia has been placed by:

John Armstrong in memory of Ann Armstrong.

John Armstrong in memory of Kristi Gillis.

John Armstrong in memory of Kenzley Gillis.

Wayne & Irene Brown in honor of our family.

Betsy Bullard in memory of family and friends who have passed.

Betsy Bullard in honor of family and friends.

Tommy, Jamie, & Addison Carroll in memory of Evelyn "Evie" Diane Carroll.

Tommy, Jamie, & Addison Carroll in memory of Diane Saul.

Tommy, Jamie, & Addison Carroll in memory of Mary Helen Ladner.

Chancey family in honor of the FUMC Long Beach church family.

Chancey family in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Blount, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Burford, and Mr. & Mrs. Herman Chancey.

Bob & Muzette Chatham in memory of Bob's parents, Ruben & Catherine Chatham.

Bob & Muzette Chatham in memory of Muzette's parents, James & Velma Howard.

John, Lori, Kaylee, & Madelyn Cripple in memory of Lori's parents, Garry & Karen Ruff.

John, Lori, Kaylee, & Madelyn Cripple in honor of Nancy Ruff.

Lori Cripple in honor of all the volunteers who have adapted and shifted to continue the ministries of the church this year.

Joyce Griffith in honor of Jesus Christ.

Joyce Griffith in memory of my husband, Donald Griffith.

Aurelia Hagin, Greg Hagin, & Tina Hagin Delaporte in loving memory of my husband, Ronny Hagin.

Aurelia Hagin and Ronda Hatch in loving memory of our father, Rev. Percy Hatch.

Aurelia Hagin & Ronda Hatch in loving memory of our mother, Birdie Mae Hatch.

Randy Hart in memory of Martha Hart.

Paul Hicks in loving memory of my wife, Marlene Hicks.

Paul Hicks in honor of my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Joan Holyfield in honor of our church staff.

Joyce Hood in memory of Martha Hart.

Joyce Hood in memory of Rev. Robert Huffman.

Joyce Hood in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Otis Reagan.

Joyce Hood in memory of Ron Reagan.

Joyce Hood in memory of Garry Ruff.

Joyce Hood in honor of the Aldersgate Sunday school class.

Joyce Hood in honor of Glenda Hull for keeping our prayer list updated every week.

Joyce Hood in honor of Marsha & Kevin Bishop and children.

Joyce Hood in honor of the church staff.

Joyce Hood in honor of Nancy Ruff, Melissa Francis, and Lucy Reagan for helping me during all the storms.

Jon, Ann, Erin, Lauren, & Ryan Kaufman in memory of Leon & Lois Kaufman.

Jon, Ann, Erin, Lauren, & Ryan Kaufman in memory of Paul Bravender.

Jerry & Marilyn Leone in honor of our children and grandchildren, Erika, Glen, Blair, Olivia, and Cecilia.

Jerry & Marilyn Leone in honor of Mandy, Jane, and our virtual choir.

Andy & Mandy Long in memory of Quincy & Mary Long and James Holifield.

Andy & Mandy Long in honor of the dedicated musicians of the church.

Pete McGee in honor of my great-grandsons, Bowen, Sebastin, and Kavock.

Kristina Mutter in memory of my mom and dad, Mary Jean McGee and Benard Mutter.

Ray Napier in memory of Louie & June Rogers.

Ray Napier in memory of Norma J. Napier.

Glenn Parker and Wynn Applewhite in honor of the Parker and Applewhite families.

Lucy Reagan in memory of my husband, Ron Reagan.

Lucy Reagan in memory of my parents, Bob & Doris Morrow.

Jessica Rishel Sandrock, Jennifer Rishel Franklin, and Brent Rishel in memory of our dad, Larry Rishel.

Jessica Rishel Sandrock, Jennifer Rishel Franklin, and Brent Rishel in honor of our mom, Darlene Coludrovich.

Sinclair Rishel in memory of Betty Sinclair.

Peggy Rowell in memory of Albert Rowell.

Peggy Rowell in memory of Dana Rowell.

Nancy Ruff and Becky Hutto in memory of Ron Reagan, our beloved brother.

Nancy Ruff, Becky Hutto, and Lucy Reagan in memory of Otis D. and Kathryn A. Reagan.

Nancy Ruff in memory of my beloved husband, Garry Ruff.

Nancy Ruff in honor of my stepchildren, Lori Cripple and Paul Ruff and their families.

Nancy Ruff in honor of my children, Charles and Brian Head and their families.

Upcoming Events



Advent Calendar

December 13th 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Service 11:00 a.m. The Well Service
Virtual Services Only

December 20th 8:30 a.m. Cantata "Lessons &
Carols" Virtual Service 11:00
a.m. The Well Service Virtual Service 5:00
p.m. Blue Christmas (More information to follow)

December 24th 11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve
Luncheon (Drive Thru) The Sanctuary and The Well Christmas
Eve Services (More Information to follow)

December 27th 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Service 11:00 a.m. The Well Service
Virtual Services Only

Office will be closed December 23, 24, 25



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 a virtual service only. Hear the story of the birth of Christ through scripture and songs.



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.

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

December 13th

Sanctuary Worship & The Well Worship
"We Receive the Gift of Incarnation" Luke 1:26-56

December 20th

Sanctuary Worship & The Well Worship
"We Continue the Incarnation" Acts 1:6-11 1 Corinthians 12



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, John Bull, Doug Capps, Betty Gibson, 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 Jim & Diane Miller and Fred & Kaye Rendfrey.



We would like to extend our Christian love and sympathy to Rev. Jon Kaufman and family at the death of his mother, Lois Kaufman.

We would like to extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of James "Bubba" Murray.

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Rev. Ben Barlow
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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.