



The Messenger

January 7, 2021

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

Worship Schedule

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

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

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Note from Jon

Happy New Year! Saying “Happy New Year” usually feels like just something you are supposed to say. I don’t know about you, but for me, this simple exclamation – “Happy New Year,” is covered in a layer of hope – hope that the pandemic will abate this year, hope that the divisiveness on the national scene will begin to heal, and hope that those who are ill will find healing, those who are grieving would be comforted, and those who have suffered economically will be strengthened.

Perhaps for us, “Happy New Year” can mean trust in God who brings peace and joy in all circumstances. Perhaps a happy new year for us can be about trusting God more. Perhaps it can mean leaning on God’s understanding more and our own understanding less.

For me, “Happy New Year,” also means craving the light of God. To me, darkness is accompanied by fear, confusion, hopelessness, scarcity, futility, and pointless rancor, useless conflict, and base self-interest. Darkness is not of God and it is not for us.

The New Testament letter of Ephesians provides this word, “For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.” Ephesians 5:8-10

What if a Happy New Year for us would be found in the pursuit of the light that is good

and right and true? What if we sought to please the Lord instead of pleasing others or ourselves?

As I write this, it is January 6th, the day of Epiphany, when the church celebrates the revealing of Christ to the world through the story of the Wise men who followed the light of the star and found a savior. When they did so they were overwhelmed with Joy. The pursuit of the light that is Christ, will do that for you. May we all be overwhelmed with the light of Jesus and truly have a Happy New Year.

Love in Christ, Jon

Upcoming Events



Shine On... Amanda Wood and all the wonderful volunteers that gave of their time to help distribute 512 meals at the Christmas Eve Luncheon and donate the leftovers to Seashore Mission.



We are making plans to start confirmation classes in February. If you have an 8th grade student and would like to sign them up, please call the church office at 863-9619.



Worship & Group Meetings

Our Sunday morning worship services will continue to be held virtually. Groups that would like to meet in person at the church can schedule a time to meet outside by calling the church office.

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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 Title and Scripture

January 10th at both services

"Baptism - A New beginning" Mark 1:4-11

Please have a candle and a small cup of water ready for the worship services.



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, 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, Lane Tucker, Pam Upton, Lil Jobe, Merle Burman, Rena Krol, Jo Holyfield, Lorrie Schiro, Kathy Hogan, Cynthia Wilson, Louise Travis, Candy Claeys, Jim & Louise Alexander, Virginia Barnes, Dawn McGinn, Cindy Gates, John Bull, Jake DeHut, Betty Gibson, Lee Carver, 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 Lois Kaufman by Bob & Muzette Chatham, Bob & Carolyn Rhoades, Larry & Beth Lewis, Jerry & Marilyn Leone, Richard & Grace Gingles, and Betsy Bullard.

A donation was given in memory of Kenneth Cargill by Bob & Carolyn Rhoades.

Donations were given in memory of Alice Krass by Bob & Muzette Chatham, Andy Crouch, Sandra Schmidt, David & Carol Reeves, McCabe Dental Clinic, Frances Cruthirds, Juanita Combs, Larry & Beth Lewis, Jerry & Marilyn Leone, Richard & Grace Gingles, Nell Williams, Nancy Curtin, and the Sonshiners Sunday school class.

Donations were given in memory of James "Bubba" Murray by Bob & Muzette Chatham, Richard & Grace Gingles, Bob & Carolyn Rhoades, Jerry & Marilyn Leone, Suzanne Simmons, and Dale and Susan Foy.

A donation was given in memory of Sam McCauley by Jerry & Marilyn Leone.

A donation was given in memory of Marda Burton by the Aldersgate Sunday school class.

A donation was given in memory of Shirley Lee by David and Carol Reeves.



We would like to extend our Christian love and sympathy to Richard and Teresa Burton at the death of Richard's mother, Marda Burton.

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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.