



# The Messenger

February 18, 2021

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

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## Worship Schedule

**8:30 a.m.** Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the Sanctuary. This service will be live streamed on Facebook and You Tube.

**11:00 a.m.** The Well service In-Person in the Christian Life Center. This service will be live streamed on Facebook and You Tube.

We will be wearing masks and safe distancing. Please register for worship by the Friday before each Sunday's worship service by going to the links below or by calling the church office at 228-863-9619 (Before 2:00 p.m. on Friday).

For the 8:30 sanctuary service, please use this link to register:

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

For the 11:00 Well service, please use this link to register:

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

## Note from Jon

*Ashes and Sackcloth. Lent began with Ash Wednesday which ushers in a season of repentance marked by prayer and fasting. The purpose of Lent is to lead us on a journey to the cross where Jesus died so that we could live. Lent helps us to remember that we all have been touched by the human condition known as sin. Sin is the root cause of relational, spiritual, emotional, and physical death. Ashes and sackcloth are biblical reminders of death, repentance, and our trust in a merciful God.*

When dreamed of you and me, God never intended that we be broken by sin. God, who is love, created us to be in a full and right relationship with Him, grounded and rooted in love. For love to be genuine, a person must be free to love or not to love. After all, no one wants to be loved because the other is forced to love them. Love always comes with freedom. That's how God made us – to freely abide in relationship with God.

Sin entered our world when human beings decided to trust themselves more than God. Made to be centered on God, we tried to make ourselves the center of life which turned disastrous. Imagine if you tried to brake your car by flipping the turn signal. You can try all you want to brake with your turn signal, but you will end up crashing. Your car is not designed to work that way. In a similar way, we are designed to have God at our very center.

Lent is that season when we especially evaluate our center. What is there at our center? Is God there, or did we shift God out and try to put something else in His place? Lent is an intentional time to pray and fast seeking to keep God, God's ways, God's characteristics, God's love and grace in our center so that we can live as we are designed to do. Lent is that season that also ends with Easter and the mystery of God's sacrificial act of love on the cross. Lent is a time to remember all that God has done and will do for you and me.

To help us walk through Lent worship and sermons for the Sanctuary and The Well services will focus on the process of repentance that leads to life. Join us for worship in-person or online. Another way to access the journey of Lent is to be part of our church-wide Bible study. Details are found in this newsletter. I hope you will take time this season to re-examine your center and to engage in prayer and fasting to deepen our connection to the One who made you, loves you, and redeems you.

Love in the name of Jesus, Jon

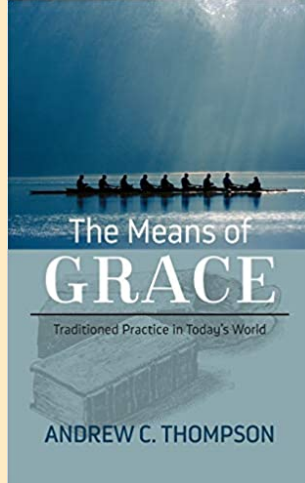
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## Upcoming Events

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**Shine On...** Lori Cripple and Emily Barlow for organizing and leading the Virtual Ladies Bible Study.



## **Church Wide Study "The Means of Grace"**

### **In Person/Zoom Spring Bible Study Begins Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

A new spring in-person/Zoom option Bible study will begin on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will meet in person in the sanctuary at 6:30 for a video and brief teaching time and then break out into small groups which will meet in rooms where we can practice social distancing. You can also participate on Zoom for the teaching and small group sessions. We will use "The Means of Grace" by Andrew Thompson. This resource offers practical ways of experience the Means of Grace that are key to our personal and corporate walk with Christ. Re-connecting with our Wesleyan roots, we will study scripture and learn the practices that open us up for God's transforming power. Having the book is not required but will enhance your experience. To register for this class, email our church office at [fumclb@cableone.net](mailto:fumclb@cableone.net) or call the church office at 228 863-9619.

It can be purchased at Seedbed or Amazon.



### **Lent Activity Bags**

We have prepared weekly activities that will deepen our experience of Lent. These are available for pick up in worship or we will be glad to deliver one to your home.

### **Lent Live Noon Monday Check-Ins**

During the season of Lent beginning on Monday, February 22, there will be a weekly noon live video check-in relating to our weekly Lenten activities. Join us for a 5 minute video on Facebook or YouTube that will help you deepen your experience.



## **Camp Wesley Pines**

Camp Wesley Pines is planning to host summer camps this year. There are a limited number of spots available for each camp session so early registration is important. Our church will be taking kids to both the older elementary camp (kids entering 4th-6th grade) and the junior high camp (kids entering 7th-9th grade) the week of June 14th-18th. If you have a child interested in going to camp this summer, please contact Lori Cripple at (228-324-3622) or [lcripple@hotmail.com](mailto:lcripple@hotmail.com) for more information!



## **Worship DVDs Available**

If you are unable to worship with us online because of internet problems and would like to have a DVD of the service delivered to you to view, please contact us at the church office at 863-9619.

## FEBRUARY 2021

- 2/7 - NO YOUTH - SUPER BOWL  
CONFORMATION BEGINS 10:00 AM
- 2/14 - NO YOUTH - MARDI GRAS BREAK
- 2/21 - ALL YOUTH - NEW SERIES  
"WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?"  
A STUDY OF THE SERON ON THE MOUNT
- 2/28 - ALL YOUTH

Heart and Soul will begin Wednesday, February  
24th - watch for reminders



### **Worship Under the Oaks Begins Sunday, February 21st at 10:00 am**

We are excited to announce that on Sunday, February 21 at 10 am we will begin a new outdoor service under the Oak trees in front of Moore Hall on our church campus. This is across the street from the park. This worship service is being added for those of us who are ready for connecting with God and with others in an outdoor setting, but are not ready to worship inside. It is designed to be a simple, 30 minute service with music, scripture, prayer, and a message. This will be an on-going worship service during this Covid-19 season. Please bring a chair, but we will have some for those who forget.

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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.
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### Sermon Title and Scripture

#### February 21st

Sanctuary Worship "Brought Back to God" 1 Peter 3:18-22

The Well Worship "God Pursues" Jonah 1

#### February 28th

Sanctuary Worship "You Can't Earn a Gift" Romans 4:13-25

The Well Worship "Rock Bottom" Jonah 2

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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, 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, Kay Milam, Joyce St. John, Johnny Kersnac, 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](mailto:prayer@fumclb.org).



Donations were given in memory of Rena Krol by Katherine Randall, Iantha Hines, John & Patricia Sneed, Jim & Becky Collins, Nancy Lockhart, Mr. & Mrs. John Heath, JoAnn Carruba, Charles & Maggie Chambers, John Blake, Fred & Kaye Rendfrey, Gerald & Marilyn Leone, Lori & Don Mazingo, Wayne Roberts Family, Butch & Amy Haulsee, Margie Young, Brenda Teague, Randy & Angela Pannell, BXS Insurance, & UMW Polly Mincher Circle.

Donations were given in memory Inez Hammack by Richard & Grace Gingles, John Blake, & Wayne Roberts Family.

A donation was given in memory of Sam McCauley by John Blake.

A donation was given in memory of Lois Kaufman by John Blake.

Donations were given in memory of Matt Waugh by Betsy Bullard, and Robert & Mary Anne Simpson.

Donations were given in memory of Alice Krass by John Blake and Joyce Robinson .



We would like to extend our Christian love and sympathy to Jane Waugh and family at the death of her husband, Matt Waugh.

We would like to extend our Christian love and sympathy to Bo Clark and family at the death of his father, James Clark Sr.

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# Calendar

## **Sunday, February 21st**

- 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Under the Oaks
- 11:00 a.m. The Well Worship in the CLC & Online
- 3:30 p.m. Creative Ministry in Moore Hall
- 5:00 p.m. All Youth

## **Monday, February 22nd**

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

## **Tuesday, February 23rd**

- 12:00 p.m. Women's Virtual Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Virtual Bible Study

## **Wednesday, February 24th**

- 5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul
- 6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Virtual Bible Study

## **Thursday, February 25th**

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the parking lot
- 6:30 p.m. In Person or Online Church Wide Bible Study

## **Sunday, February 28th**

- 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Under the Oaks
- 11:00 a.m. The Well Worship in the CLC & Online
- 3:30 p.m. Creative Ministry in Moore Hall
- 5:00 p.m. All Youth

## **Monday, March 1st**

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the parking lot
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

## **Tuesday, March 2nd**

- 12:00 p.m. Women's Virtual Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Virtual Bible Study

## **Wednesday, March 3rd**

- 5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul
- 6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in the CLC
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Virtual Bible Study

## **Thursday, March 4th**



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

6:30 p.m. In Person or Online Church Wide Bible Study

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Rev. Jon Kaufman

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Rev. Ben Barlow

228-806-2787

Email address: [ben@thewelllongbeach.org](mailto: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.