



The Messenger

August 5, 2021

First United Methodist Church
208 Pine Street
Corner of Church Ave. & Pine St.
(228) 863-9619
firstumclb@gmail.com

Update from our Church Council

Our church council has begun meeting to make decisions about our practices around worship and group gatherings. We value meeting in person and to help make this safer, we have decided to practice safe distancing and highly recommend wearing masks. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available.

Note from Jon

Fatigue. That's what I'm feeling lately. Over the last year, there have been decisions that had to be made that were unprecedented due to the pandemic. Working with our church Covid Advisory Team, we navigated through a pandemic while making decisions for the church in how we meet, when we meet, where we could meet and under what guidelines we could meet. I had to work through disappointment around what we, as a church, had to cancel, postpone, or modify. And now with the steep rise in the number of cases, we are again facing the need to make decisions that affect our church, and I can feel within me the decision fatigue returning.

I also think about other leaders in hospitals, schools, and local, state, and federal governments who have an extraordinary number of decisions to make knowing that whatever decision is made, there will be people not happy with the outcome.

Which leads me to another source of personal fatigue, the amount of anger I witness on social media and news platforms. I cannot remember a time when we, as a country, have experienced the level of divisiveness and angry rhetoric. As a person with a personality type that seeks peace, the levels of argument are fatiguing. "What

can I do?" is a question I keep asking. Fleeing in the form of shutting it all off is not really an option. I need to know what people are experiencing if I am going to be a pastor, I can't check out.

I can't run away but I can run to Jesus, which is my best option in all seasons, not just this one. I can also decide to spend more time with Jesus in scripture and prayer than I do perusing the news or social media. Hanging over my computer desk in my office is a large print of Rembrandt's painting, *Return of the Prodigal*, which depicts the homecoming of the younger son from Luke 15. The son is worn out, his clothes are worn out, shoes are falling apart, hair has fallen out – he is exhausted. But the son kneels with his head leaning on the chest of his father wrapped in his embrace. This image is a daily reminder of the strength, rest, and peace not found in anything in the world as it is found in our Father's embrace. This is the truth that keeps me going, that keeps me looking up for the light of Christ.

So, in this season, I am resolved to kindness, to spend more time with Jesus seeking deeper dependence on Jesus for peace and strength, and to pray for those in our world who find themselves in leadership position in this difficult time.

May the peace and love of Christ be with all of you. Jon

Upcoming Events

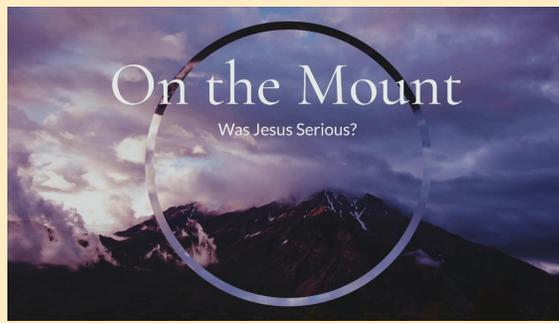


Shine On... All students, teachers, and school personnel as they head back to school.



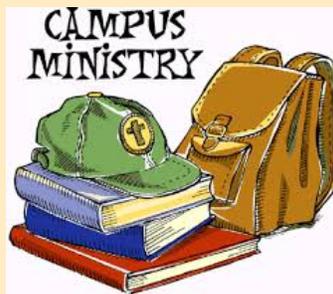
Backpack Blessing

It is back to school time! We will have a special prayer time and backpack blessing during all worship services this Sunday, August 8th. Please make sure to bring your backpack or school bag when you come to church!



Was Jesus Really Serious Study

We are beginning a group study on Zoom based on our worship series. It begins Thursday, August 5th at 6 pm. We will go deeper into the study on Matthew 5-7. Use the Zoom Id 860 1666 2899 to join the Zoom meeting on Thursday night or call the church office at 228-863-9619 for more information.



College Ministry

Our college students will be headed back to classes soon. If you are a college student or know of one (any age!), please call the church office so we can get your name on the list. If you would like to serve on our college ministry team by sending cards and encouragement to our college students, please let the church office or Lori Cripple know!

Prayer Meeting Begins on Wednesdays

In the midst of trying times, our prayer ministry team feels called to seek an intentional life of prayer. On Wednesdays, at 6pm, we have begun a weekly time of prayer for our community, the needs of our world and for our church to offer support and the encouragement of God's abiding presence. Those who feel led to this time of prayer are invited to come at 6pm every Wednesday evening to pray in the Good News Room in Moore Hall at the church campus. Call the church office at 228-863-9619 for more information.



ALL OAKS ACTIVITIES

Due to the masking restrictions put in place this past week, the OAKS organization will not be scheduling any activities at FUMCLB or in the community for the time being. Any future announcements will be posted in this newsletter.



Rummage Sale Update

Due to health concerns, there will be no rummage sale in October. We will re-evaluate in May, 2022.



There will be no youth this Sunday, August 8th. Have a great start back to school!



New Directories

We will begin printing updated directories. If you would like to update your photo or information, you can go to our online directory (CTRN) and make needed changes. If you need assistance in updating your information, please contact the church office at 228-863-9619.

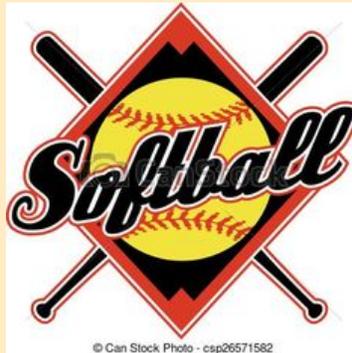


iPhone Needed

We are in need of an iPhone 10 or newer for streaming. Please contact the church office at 228-863-9619 if you are able to help.

New Church e-mail Address

The new e-mail address for the church is
firstumclb@gmail.com



Men and Women's Softball Schedule

Men

August 9th @ 6:15 pm
August 9th @ 7:30 pm
August 10th @ 6:15 pm

Women

August 9th @ 6:15 pm
August 12th @ 7:30 pm

All games will be played at the Gulfport Sportsplex.

Upcoming Sermons

August 8th

Main Campus Worship "On the Mount: Being Salt & Light?"
Matthew 5:13-20

The Well Worship "Esther"
Book of Esther

August 15th

Main Campus Worship "On the Mount: Inside-Out Righteousness?"

Matthew 5:21-30

The Well Worship "Esther"

Book of Esther



Amazon Smile

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.



PC Havens, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Wanda Miller, Lois Jones, Connie Durham, Janis Slade, Shorty Haulk, Jo Holyfield, Marie Ward, John French, Chuck Cruthirds, Hank Viehmann, Charlie & Betty Gibson, Sherry Alley, Andrew Beets, Adeline Humphrys, Dorothy Tingo, Lynn Jordan Beck, Cory Miller, Ann Munter, Spencer Humphrey, Pam Upton, Lil Jobe, Lorrie Schiro, Louise Travis, Candy

Claeys, Virginia Barnes, Dawn McGinn, Cindy Gates, John Bull, Jake DeHut, Farra Wicks, Joyce St. John, William Hall, Harry Brax, Pete Seyfarth, Jimmy Sample, Steve Wood, Charles & Lisa Oliver, David Berry, Imogene Hoffman, Pam Buell, Johnny Kersnac, Linda Robison, Ricky Bullock, Bill Boshears, and McLellan baby

*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.



We would like to express our Christian love and sympathy to Robby & Leslie Barker at the death of Robby's father, Ronnie Barker.

Calendar

Sunday, August 8th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

11:00 a.m. The Well Worship at USM Fleming Auditorium & Online

Monday, August 9th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC

Tuesday, August 10th

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in Moore Hall

6:00 p.m. Recovery Group Moore Hall

Wednesday, August 11th

6:00 p.m. Prayer Ministry in the Good News Room

6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, August 12th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC

Sunday, August 15th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

11:00 a.m. The Well Worship at USM Fleming Auditorium & Online

5:00 p.m. Youth - Watch for Remind

Monday, August 16th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC

Tuesday, August 17th

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the CLC

6:00 p.m. Recovery Group Moore Hall

Wednesday, August 18th

6:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, August 19th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC

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.