



Merrell On The Move

Vision:

Merrell UMC is a Christian community sharing the love of Jesus Christ through the practice of our gifts and graces to become Christian disciples of excellence. Christian disciples are believing and those yet to believe (Christians and pre-Christians) being transformed in a life giving faith community, living the gospel out of biblical learning, with inspirational worship, growing in generosity, committed to transform communities with our service and accepting God's presence for all people through prayer.

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+ Merrell United Methodist Church +

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Pre-School: 954-731-2336

The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Spirit-led•Equipped•Empowered•Disciples
Mission: To create Spirit-led, Equipped and Empowered Disciples for the world.



Emancipation as Service, Suffering and Sacrifice

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. While away in my time for reflection and refreshment, I have been enjoying new space and thinking about the word emancipation or freedom. Emancipation observances will occur over the next few days in relation to the African slave trade to the new world with colonialism for some 100 years. Time is used to remember the past and reject any acts that would enslave people in modern ways. So we say thanks for those who have informed us of our past and how we are able to forge a hopeful future.

In the spirit of thanks, let me express my gratefulness to Bro. Sam Bradley and Sis. Lorna Smith for holding the preaching “fort” for me. I am also thanking in advance the Rev. Dr. Melville Herron as our preacher for next week services. Let me further thank all the teams who contributed over the weeks in caring for our members and friends. Finally, thanks to the church and coordinators of the Back to School Health Fair for contributing to a good event.

When we reflect on emancipation, at its core is freedom experienced as servants of God. The Christian’s duty is to contribute toward freedom that lifts the wellbeing of persons and protect the earth. Christian stories are filled with emancipation themes of freedom, support, independence economically and rejecting any effort of obstruction of human striving. Proclaiming from pulpit speak to the freedom God offers to live out our faith. Sharing food and offering services to our communities assist in living out our faith as love in public action. It is important that all church members hold their calling as ministers of the gospel as service, suffering and sacrifice. It is not enough to attend Sunday morning services alone, but to make it our duty to participate with our ministries and others you may wish to establish. To be emancipated spiritually and physically is get involved in the activity of God’s love.

In the Scripture, Jacob was fearful on return to his brothers’ Esau house. Jacob had to “wrestle” with God (Divine presence and direction), and be emancipated from his fear and mission to be Israel. Israel was now available to be used to fulfill God’s purpose (Genesis 32:22-32). What is our wrestling with God for our own emancipation or freedom? Freedom from fearful minds, broken hearts, neglected persons, discouraged children, serving somewhere in the life of people for the joy of being present. Where is God calling you to be? What is God calling you to do? You are not alone if you struggle with the next move. God is there to help you through. The pastor and the church are available to walk with you. All you need to do is to make yourself available now. Wrestle with God and allow God to emancipate your ministry and possibilities for the community.

Rev. Bancroft Williams



INDEPENDENCE

THE STORY OF EMANCIPATION

August 1, 1834 marked a special day for Africans in British colonies as it was the day they received freedom from slavery. In Jamaica, the Emancipation Declaration was read from the steps of the Old Kings House in Spanish Town, St Catherine, the country's capital at the time.

The bill for the abolition of slavery in the British colonies received the royal assent on August 28, 1838. It stated:

Be it enacted, that all and every one of the persons who on the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty four, shall be holden in slavery within such British colony as aforesaid, shall, upon and from and after the said first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, become and be to all intents and purposes free and discharged from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and forever manumitted.

The passage of this bill in the British Parliament in England enabled approximately 311,000 enslaved Africans in Jamaica and hundreds of thousands more across the colonies the freedom for which many of their predecessors had fought and died. However, the Africans did not receive full freedom until four years later, as all slaves over six years old were subjected to a mandatory six-year period of apprenticeship. The ex-slaves would work - without pay - for their former masters for three-quarters of the week (40 hours), in exchange for lodging, food, clothing, medical attendance and grounds on which they could grow their own provisions. They could also, if they chose, hire themselves out for additional wages during the remaining quarter of the week. With this money, an ex-slave could then buy his freedom.

Emancipation Day was officially introduced as a public holiday in Jamaica in 1893. The 'First of August' celebrations, however, were discontinued in 1962, when Jamaica gained independence. It was replaced by Independence Day, then observed on the first Monday in August. Emancipation Day was re-instituted in 1997 by then Prime Minister PJ Patterson as a national holiday celebrated on August 1. Independence Day was also fixed at August 6.



Birth of a Nation

In February 1962, a new Constitution was approved by the Legislature and the Premier Norman Manley called General Elections.

Alexander Bustamante was elected in April and became the first Prime Minister of Jamaica. On August 6, 1962, Jamaica became an Independent Nation and a member of the British Commonwealth.

Jamaica becoming an Independent Nation, now meant that Britain, no longer controlled the affairs of the country. It was now the responsibility of the newly elected Prime Minister and the locally elected Cabinet.

Independence also meant that a Constitution, symbols, emblems, an army, Jamaican currency and passports had to be developed for the country.

As an Independent Nation, Jamaica assigns Ambassadors overseas who represent the country. They sign treaties on behalf of Jamaica and become members of various international organizations. This is important, as it gives Jamaica equal rights on various issues relating to international trade, policies and treaties.

Every year on August 6, (previously first Monday in August), Jamaicans celebrate the removal of our dependence on Britain, to control specific functions of the country. At this time we also honour all those persons who were responsible for the transfer of power.

In October, during National Heritage Week (third Monday in October), we also honour our six National Heroes and one Heroine, in recognition of their contribution to the birth of our nation.

Emancipation Celebrations



Trinidad and Tobago

On 1 August 1985 the [Trinidad and Tobago](#) became the first country in the world to declare a national holiday to commemorate the abolition of slavery. It replaced Columbus Discovery Day, which commemorated the arrival of Christopher Columbus at Moruga on 31 July 1498, as a national public holiday. The commemoration begins the night before with an all-night vigil and includes church services, street processions past historic landmarks and addresses from dignitaries including an address from the President of Trinidad and Tobago.^[13]



[Antigua](#) celebrates carnival on and around 1st Monday of August. Since 1834 [Antigua](#) and [Barbuda](#) have observed the end of slavery. The first Monday and Tuesday

in August was observed as a bank holiday so the populace can celebrate Emancipation Day. Monday is [J'ouvert](#), a street party that mimics the early morning emancipation.



[Anguilla](#): In addition to commemorating emancipation, it is the first day of "August Week", the Anguillian [Carnival](#) celebrations. [J'ouvert](#) is celebrated August 1, as Carnival commences.



[The Bahamas](#): Celebrations are mainly concentrated in Fox Hill Village, [Nassau](#), a former slave village whose inhabitants,

according to folklore, heard about their freedom a week after everyone else on the island. The celebration known as the Bay Fest, beginning on August 1 and lasting several days, is held in the settlement of Hatchet Bay on the island of Eleuthera, and "Back to the Bay" is held in the settlement of Tarpum Bay, also on Eleuthera.



[British Virgin Islands](#): The first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of August are celebrated as "August Festival".



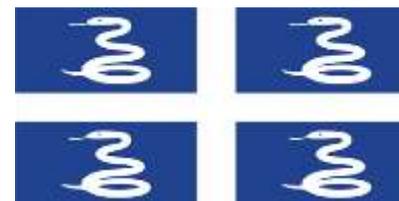
[Saint Kitts and Nevis](#): The first Monday and Tuesday are celebrated as "Emancipation Day" and also "Culturama" in Nevis.



[Dominica](#): The first Monday is celebrated as August Monday.



[Grenada](#): The first Monday in August is celebrated as "Emancipation Day" with Cultural activities.



[Martinique](#) commemorates emancipation with a national holiday on May 22,^[14] marking the slave resistance on that

day in 1848 that forced Governor Claude Rostoland to issue a decree abolishing slavery.



[Guadeloupe](#) commemorates emancipation on May 27.



[Saint Martin](#) has a week-long celebration around May 27, commemorating the abolition of slavery.

It Happened at Merrell in July

Back to School Health Fair
draws a crowd

The summer rains came, but didn't dampen the spirits of the attendees at this year's Back to School Health Fair and backpack giveaway. More than a dozen vendors showed up to share space on the church grounds. There were hotdogs, hamburgers, sno-cones, face-painting and a bounce house for the kids and loads of information for parents, including a return of the popular "doctor's chats," information on pre-need, health care, voting rights, financial health, and more.

As Merrell celebrates its more than 60 years in this community, it is stepping up its outreach in our community. This is the church's second health fair, where more than 100 backpacks were given away.

We want to thank our church family, our community, our vendors and most of all, we thank God for blessing us with this health fair.





Sunday Worship Times

Contemporary Worship	8:00AM	Sanctuary
Adult Bible Study	9:00AM	East Lounge
New Members Class	9:10AM	Room 17
Youth Bible Study	9:30AM	Ragsdale Hall
Traditional Worship	10:00AM	Sanctuary
Every Fourth Sunday	6:00PM	Sanctuary

WEEKLY EVENTS

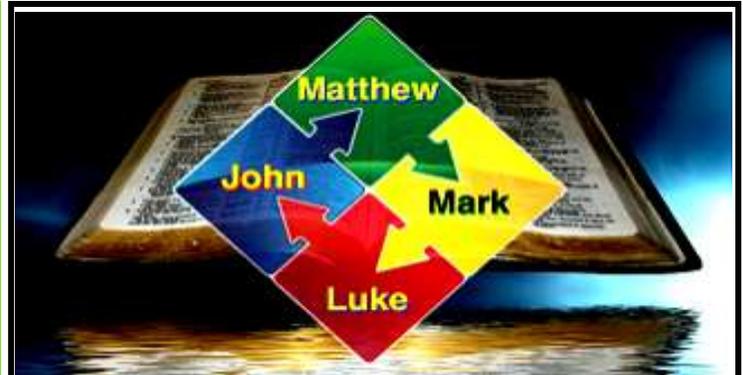
Bible Study	Monday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Bible Study	Tuesday	Noon	Chapel
Prayer Meeting	Tuesday	6:30PM	Sanctuary
Men's Choir	Wednesday	7:00PM	Music Room
Dance Rehearsal	Wednesday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Dunamis Youth	Friday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Choir Rehearsal	Saturday	4:00PM	Music Room



Online Tithing

Going on summer break? Won't be able to attend church for a week or so? Don't want to be bothered with writing checks? Comfortable paying your bills online? Then, why not tithe online by using

Merrell's **Vanco Merchant Services?** Vanco is approved by the Florida Conference and the service is now growing in popularity at many churches in the conference. Merrell has been using it for the past two years and it has proven to be very reliable and stable. If you want more information on how to set up your online profile, please check with the church office or church Treasurer Eric Royes, or log into our website www.merrellumc.org



LET'S GET READY FOR THE RALLY OF THE GOSPELS!

Congregation, by now you know of our ongoing Rally of the Gospels fundraiser, with the finale set for September 24 in the sanctuary. Everyone in the congregation is assigned to one of the four major Gospels according their birthday. January through March are assigned to Matthew; April through June are assigned to Mark; July through September are assigned to Luke and October through December are assigned to John.

Check with your Gospel team leader, posted on the board in the Narthex, to see what activities are planned to raise funds.

We've invited choirs and special guests from other churches to help us celebrate. Please join us as we raise the rafters while raising funds to help Merrell continue to do mission and ministry in our community.



Church family, please don't forget to drop your offering in the baskets near the ushers when you come up for the Lord's Supper during First Sunday Communion. Whatever we collect goes into our **Good Samaritan Benevolent**

Fund and are used to assist our neighbors with immediate needs, as vetted by Pastor. The needs could be assisting with small children, helping to pay an emergency light bill, etc. Please place your offering in the basket as you make your way up for Communion.

Announcements



Bread Cart Ministry
August 7 & 21
 2:00PM—3:00 PM
 RAGSDALE HALL
 Please Note: **You will be required to sign in.**



FEEDING WITH COMPASSION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



LYDIA CIRCLE
 THURSDAY, August 10 - 1:00pm
 Ragsdale Hall

MERRELL UMC FARM SHARE

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
 SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 @ 10:30AM IN ROOM 17

Free Produce & Food GIVEAWAY



Next Distribution
AUGUST 26th
 10:00 a.m - 1:00p.m
 Please Note: **You will be required to sign in.**



RUTH CIRCLE
 TUESDAY, August 15 @ 10:00am
 Ragsdale hall

Finance Committee
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 15 @ 7:00PM - ROOM

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING
 THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 @ 7:30PM ROOM 17

MISSION u 2017: Learning Together for Transformation of the World

On July 13, around 5 o'clock in the morning, 24 youths and adults gathered in Merrell's parking lot bowed our heads as Senior Pastor Bancroft Williams led us in prayer, then climbed aboard a bus heading to Mission u, at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach. We joined five more passengers already aboard from Village UMC. This year, Merrell was blessed with a record number of people from Merrell attending. We were even more blessed by the manner in which God provided for us – especially some of our youth - to get there. Mission u registration and other costs initially were challenging, but God is good. One moment, we thought we would not be able to accommodate everyone. The next moment, our prayers were answered. In addition to generous contributions from the Merrell family and our different ministries – UMW, UMM, the Youth Ministry – we were honored to have Burton UMC and its UMW chapter become one of our benefactors. This year, Burton did not have any youths attending Mission u. The church decided to sponsor some of Merrell's youth. We cannot thank Burton - and our own Merrell family – enough for the love they showered on us. This year's Mission studies were: Living as a Covenant Community, Climate Justice and, for our youth, Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the US. As we learn and study, we discover that Covenant Living calls us to acts of mercy and justice. We thank you all for your support!

-Thelma McGeachy, UMW president, Merrell United Methodist Church





George Henry 08/01
 Judith Gohagen 08/01
 Stuart Smith 08/01
 Una Jones 08/03
 Deloris Ellis 08/04/
 Herbert Lee 08/05
 Tasanee Craig 08/05
 Daphne Scarlett 08/06
 Zaria Howard 08/06
 Sherna Perrin 08/08
 Phyllis Brown 08/09
 Beverly Wilson 08/09
 Cleo Crooks 08/10

Jaired Fyffe 08/10
 Dale Cameron 08/11
 Savion Myrie 08/12
 Bernadette Henry 08/12
 Beverly Smith 08/13
 Joan Kalloo 08/14
 Keisha Coombs-Newman
 08/14
 Andrea Anderson 08/15
 Ashton Patterson 08/15
 Patricia Caines 08/16
 Bertha Dawson 08/17/
 Wayne Ranger 08/18
 Crystal Richards 08/18

Inez Williams 08/19
 Sydne Gordon 08/20
 Violet Warner 08/22
 Phyllis Dacosta 08/22
 Maureen Beckles 08/23
 Errol Smith 08/25
 Marcella Tate 08/27
 Pernella Kitson 08/27
 Claude Turnbull 08/27
 Henderson Haynes 08/27
 Gloria Nembhard 08/28
 Rowena Martin 08/28
 Robyn Marsh 08/28
 Yvonne Francis 08/30
 Hyacinth Tracey 08/31

+ The Staff +

The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor

Email: pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org
 Claudette Meatley, Certified Church Administrator
 Email: claudette@merrellumc.org
 Bro. Louis Trotman, Director of Music
 Sis. Shirley Smith, Director Preschool
 Email: Preschool@merrellumc.org
 Mr. Leroy Satchell, Custodian

MEMBERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Merrell welcomes interested persons to become members.
 We invite you to contact the Pastor by calling the Church Office.

BAPTISMS

Performed at the Sunday Service, contact the Church Office.

MARRIAGES

Performed after consultation with the Pastor

In time of **illness or sorrow**, please call the Pastor
 or the Church Office promptly.

Visit our website

www.merrellumc.org

Our Church Leaders

Church Council

Sis. Eileen Tucker

Lay Leader

Sis. Patricia Tabois

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Sis. Lorna Smith

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Sis. Yvette Smith

Admn. Assistant to Pastor

Sis. Claudette Meatley

Finance Committee

Bro. Wayne Ranger

Treasurer

Bro. Eric Royes

Financial Secretary

Sis. Norma Williamson

Prayer Ministry

Sis. Uliet Black

Trustee

Bro. Franklyn Coombs

Evangelism/Outreach Ministries

Sis. Valerie Henry

Preschool Board Chair

Sis. Thelma McGeachy

United Methodist Women

Sis. Thelma McGeachy

United Methodist Men

Bro. Lovell McKail

Visitation Ministry

Sis. Dizzierene Cox

Stewardship

Bro. Winston Chang

New Members Committee

Sis. Rose Farquharson

Membership Secretary

Sis. Phillipa Daniels

Campus Ministry

Representative

Sis. Judith Gohagen

Disaster Coordinator

Bro. Lovell McKail

Worship Ministries

Sis. Deloris Ellis

Youth

Sis. Judy Gohagen

Sis. Keisha Coombs-Newman

Thrift Shop

Interim Coordinator

Sis. Phyllis Brown

Budget Director

Bro. Dudley Mills

Bulletin Announcement Forms are available in the church office area on the office door. Please return form(s) via email: office@merrellumc.org or place it in the box on the office door. Deadline for announcements: **WEDNESDAY at NOON.**