



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

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+ Merrell United Methodist Church +

3900 N. State Road 7 Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

Office - 954-731-2323 Fax – 954-731-3320

Email - office@merrellumc.org

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.



This year church's mission and vision emphasis has been about serving our neighbors.

Passionate Worship

The times of worship has allowed for renewal of relationships in Christ Jesus. There has been a fluctuation in attendances in comparison to previous years due to migration (economic factors) and many elderly falling ill or becoming home bound. Our times in worship include the visitation of several community organizations who serve in needy. Our special services have allowed for spiritual renewal in members and visitors alike.

Radical Discipleship

We have increased our numbers with the addition of 19 new members, with only two being young ladies. It worth noting that the congregation have many who attend worship and have yet to full commitment into membership. Some are already taking an active role in various activities.

Intentional Discipling

Sunday school for the children is functioning but the church has to reach out to more parents and kids from pre-k to late teens in order to increase participation. The Adult Sunday school has one class with steady attendance. A plan to establish small groups is more of a necessity now than ever for spiritual maturing and service.

Salty Service

Our visiting teams continue to faithfully share the grace of God with the home bounds, hospitalized and sick. The church facilitates the giving of food packets to many needy persons in the community. The **Congregation participated in several outreach efforts including helping families to have a day's meal in** relation with Parks Lake Elementary School, offering food packets during special times to needy neighbors, Health Fair where community was met by medical professionals and where children received a full backpack of school gear, and participating in Farm Share food relief program.

Extravagant Giving

We are appreciative of the strong support of members in the financial viability of the church. We are to look at seminars, stewardship drives and encouragement to tithe as measures to improve our giving.

Set Back and Hopeful Future:

During the year our Thrift Shop was seriously damage when a motor vehicle ran into the building. This have affected our income and we hope to effect repairs after Trustees finalizes contractor. Hurricane Irma damaged trees and the church buildings and parsonage did not sustain some damages. As Disciples of Christ we are being summoned by the Holy Spirit to do more in today. To this end we are having conversations as to the next steps we need to be taking together to be faithful to the pull of the spirit to "love our neighbors."

Rev. Bancroft Williams



Youth Give Pastor A High 5 Salute

Merrell's dynamic Youth Ministry created a novel way to let Pastor Bancroft know how they feel about him during Pastor Appreciation Week and all times. The youth lined up around on one side of the sanctuary, out the door and up the other side.

To the delight of the congregation, Pastor had to take a strut down and back as dozens of youngsters gave him reasons for their High-Five salute.

While the congregation showered him with a more traditional manner, the youths came up with one of the most creative ways in recent memory of letting Pastor know just how much he is loved.



Results of our Congregational Conversation

Church family, we gathered right after our combined worship service on October 29 to discuss issues and fresh ideas for ministry at Merrell.

The issues were: What's working well? What needs improvement? What mission/ministry concern is important to me? How should we respond to social change? How will I participate to be a change-maker in the world? Not all questions were addressed, but **here's a sampling of some comments:**

What works: **Pastor's sermon; music,** organist, fellowship after worship, greeters, ushers; congregational warmth; Thrift Shop ministry.

What needs improvement: Bridge gap between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m, worship service; more spiritual growth and improved attendance at Bible studies; bereavement ministry; mid-week church service; more small groups. Pastor Bancroft will have a full summary of the comments and will be following up as we go forward.

Hopeful Harvest

Let me sow seed of kindness
Plant a worthy word of cheer.
Turn a broken heart from sorrow
Sever chords that threaten fear.

Let me lift some sagging spirit
Soothe its gnawing pain away.
Let my labor in thy service
Count for profit—Lord, today.

Use whatever lies within me
Or remains in backward mile.
Help me weed out hopeful plantings
That thy Harvest is worthwhile.

Written by: Sis. Valerie Henry

Black Methodists Gather To Celebrate Unity

Merrell joined dozens of parishioners on October 29 who showed up at Harris Chapel United Methodist Church to celebrate unity of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) caucus through faith and fellowship.



The BMCR, Florida Caucus is part of the United Methodist Church's five U. S. based ethnic caucuses. Locally, Merrell is part of the **BMCR's** Southeast and Central Atlantic districts, whose purpose is to promote black church unity by fostering the teachings of John Wesley through collaboration and development of clergy and laity.

Early this year, the local caucus started meeting under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Simon Osunlana of St. John UMC in Fort Lauderdale. One of its first efforts is to invite all Methodist churches with predominantly black congregations to a Fifth Sunday celebration of praise and worship.

The first was July 31 at St. John. Merrell joined in the second celebration at Harris Chapel on October 29. Michelle McMahon, of our Praise and Worship team, lent her beautiful voice to raise the rafters with her rendition of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

The next celebration of unity will be at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Miami at 5:00 p.m. on January 28, 2018.

All of Merrell is invited to come out to find out more about the BMCR. Light refreshments will be served.



Merrell Helps a School Yard Garden Grow



Pastor Bancroft, Mayor Hazelle Rogers, and Interim Principal Wendell Johnson

Calling all Merrell parishioners with a green thumb and a generous heart. Do you have the patience to help teach some schoolkids in our own backyard to grow a tomato from seed, a callaloo sucker from the ground up, clusters of collard greens, a bountiful banana bush?

We have just the church ministry for you. Merrell has been invited to participate in a garden project at

Park Lakes Elementary School, coordinated by Lauderdale Lakes Mayor Hazelle Rogers.

This idea is welcomed by Pastor Bancroft Williams, who has been trying to find just the right idea to partner with Park Lakes, thus fulfilling an obligation from the Florida Conference that all United Methodist churches find a way to help at-risk neighborhood schools.

Mayor Rogers invited Merrell to join with the city to find open spaces at Park Lakes, clear the grounds, plant seeds and watch them grow – all while showing youngsters what it means to grow their own food and learn to appreciate the environment.

Pastor Bancroft joined Mayor Rogers and other community and corporate representatives for a meet-and-greet at Park Lakes and the enthusiasm was overwhelming to get the project going. A ground prep meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9 and a kickoff for Nov. 28. **If you'd like to join this Green Thumbs** ministry, please see Lay Leader Pat Tabois. And stay tuned for more information.

PARK LAKES ELEMENTARY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
In addition to the garden program at Park Lakes, the school is asking Merrell and other community partners **to donate to the school's incentive program for its teachers and students.**

Here are some of the items the school is collecting funds for: Novelties, trophies and books for their Accelerated Readers in grades 1-5. Cost: \$1,000.00

Certificates, trophies, paints, creative items for the Art Club-Creative Hands program. Cost: \$200.00

Books, gift cards for Book Clubs. Cost \$250.00

Novelties, ice cream for Kids of Character. Cost \$500.00

Math pencils, wrist bands, math flash cards for Magnificent Math Program. Cost: Gift cards to Walmart, etc.

Please see the full list in the Narthex. If you want to donate, please contact the church office.

COME GROW with us

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	Tuesday	Noon	Chapel
Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30PM	Ragsdale Hall
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 vacation? 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



MERRELL WELCOMES INTERESTED PERSONS TO BECOME MEMBERS!

CONFIRMATION & NEW MEMBERS CLASS EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:15AM - ROOM 17

PLEASE SEE SIS. ROSE FAROUHARSON AFTER TODAY'S 10:00AM SERVICE OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE : 954-731-2323



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.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

All saints, ladies and gentlemen, are encouraged to come out and study the Word...

When: Every Sunday morning at 9am
Where: in the East Lounge

Topics: Signs of God's Covenants

Called into Covenant with God
An Everlasting Covenant

This quarter's lessons consider the major covenants God made with His people on behalf of the Earth and the human community.

IT'S HAPPENING AT MERRELL!



THIS TUESDAY AT MERRRL IN RAGSDALE HALL
PLEASE SEE FLYER IN NARTHEX
FOR INFOMATIOMN



Bread Cart Ministry Tomorrow November 6 & 20

2:00PM—3:00 PM
RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: You will be required to sign in.

SPPRC meeting

Tuesday, November 7 @ 7:00PM
ROOM 17



LYDIA CIRCLE

THURSDAY, NOV. 9 - 7:00pm
Ragsdale Hall

YOUTH MEETING

FRIDAY November 10 & 17
7:00PM—RAGSDALE HALL

EVANGELISM committee

saturday, NOV. 11 @ 2:00PM - ROOM 17

PRESCHOOL BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, nov. 15 @ 7:00PM IN ROOM 17

TRUSTEES MEETING

THURSDay, NOV. 16 @ 7:30PM - ROOM 17



RUTH CIRCLE

TUESDAY, NOV. 21 @ 10:00am
Ragsdale hall

FINANCE meeting

tuesday, NOV. 21 @ 7:00PM - ROOM 17

Church council meeting

tuesday, nov. 28 @ 7:00PM - ROOM 17



FEEDING WITH COMPASSION

SATURDAY, Nov. 18
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MERRELL UMC FARM SHARE

Free Produce & Food

Next Distribution
November 18
10:00 a.m - 1:00p.m

Please Note: You will be required to sign in.



Please join

Pastor Bancroft every
Tuesdays in the Chapel
and Wednesdays in Rags-
dale Hall for an enlightening
and stirring study.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS—12 NOON
WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM

THE PARABLES OF JESUS in the Gospels

PLEASE JOIN US EVERY 1ST THURSDAY
FOR



MARRIED COUPLES' Fellowship

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017
7:00PM IN THE EAST LOUNGE



Arnella Smith 11/01	Lorna McCalla 11/08	Denise Campbell 11/20
Cameron Cox 11/01	Lurow Hall 11/08	Patrania Williams 11/22
Cil Lawrence 11/02	Sarah Colson 11/08	Gene Garvey Salmon 11/24
Alyssa James 11/02	Gaston Fagan 11/09	Jasir Christmas 11/24
Blondel Jarrett 11/03	Dora Belisle 11/09	Patricia Ferguson 11/26
Dahlia Reid 11/06	Lloyd Thompson 11/10	Samantha Stirling 11/27
Kiara Hoston 11/06	Sandra Scott 11/10	Pauline Hughes 11/27
Clara Barton 11/07	Nurisha Griffith 11/10	Akeem Henry 11/27
Pamella D'Aguilar 11/07	Marcell Earl Tucker 11/16	Millicent White 11/28
Rosemarie Henderson 11/07	Franklyn Coombs 11/17	Rochelle Gordon 11/28
Christopher Rankine 11/07	Jodi Anderson 11/17	Hyacinth Thompson 11/29
Vaughn Victor 11/07	Thomas Jordan 11/19	

✦ 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 DISCIPLESHP

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

Thrft Shop

Interim Coordinator

Sis. Phylis 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.**