



# 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.*



Dear family and friends,

A blessed 2018 to you and yours in the grace and peace of God.

Our Christian journey starts and ends in the love of Christ Jesus. This journey has twists and turns with times of highs and lows. It is good to acknowledge that good news is readily available through these changing scenes of life. Changes in life circumstances, such as deaths, educational achievements, employment, illness, signs of aging, among others is within our realities. Thank God for his grace and mercy through changing times.

Charles Wesley recognized the grace and mercy of God through changing times:

“And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face?

Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace!”

As we move beyond past conflicts and troubles we hear:

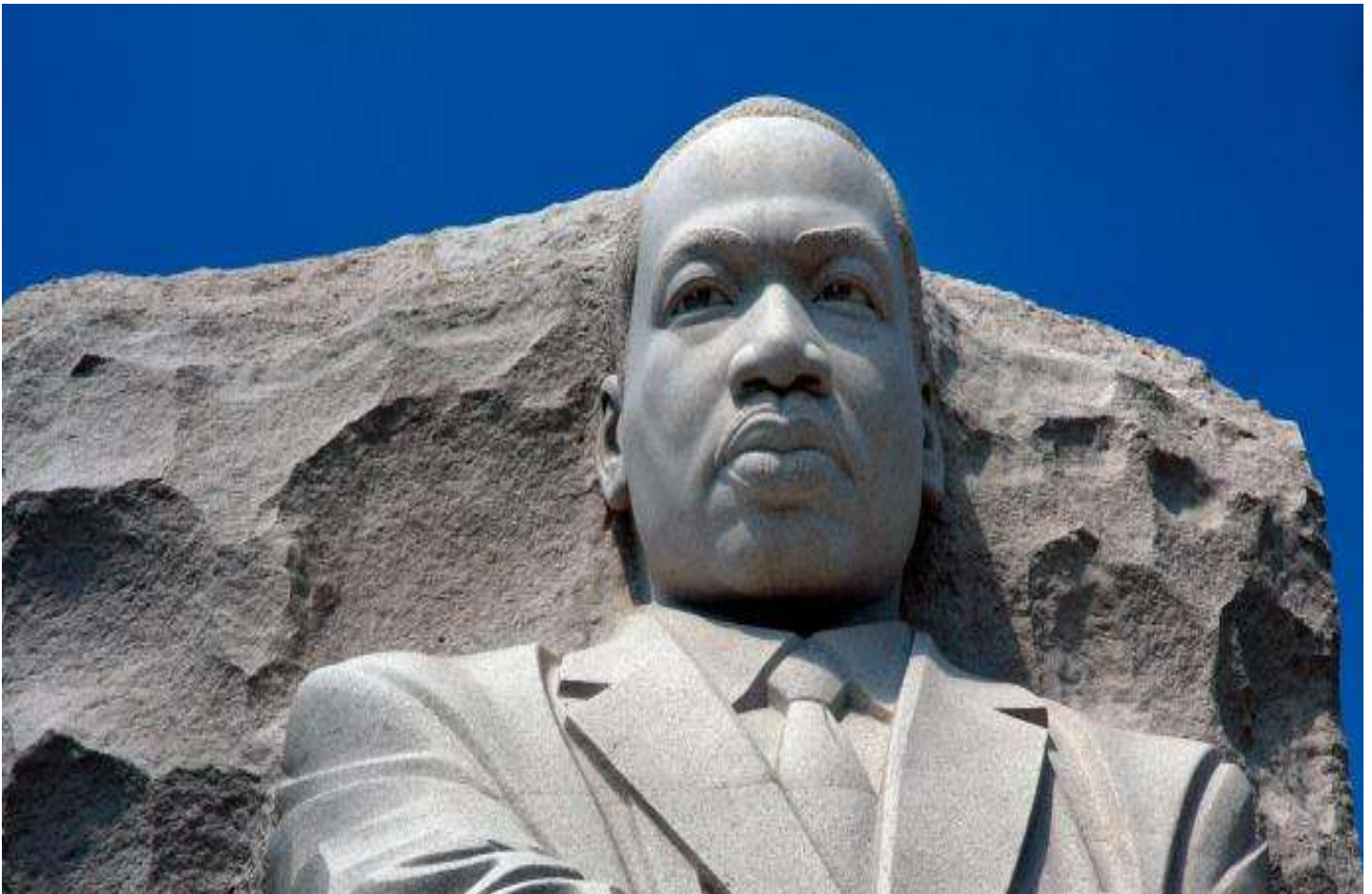
“But out of all the Lord hath brought us by His love;  
And still He doth his help afford, and hides our life above.”

God’s love keeps us alive in and we can only offer praise.

Our love in Christ Jesus is a journey of celebration, communion and cooperation. We will celebrate among other occasions, the 100th birthday recognition of Sis. Una Anderson. Great is God’s faithfulness. Our communion together will deepen in God when we study and serve out of the living Word. We need to give more time to study, reflection, and being shaped by love. We will be doing a church-wide disciple study before and during Lent. Our love also lead into cooperation in this work with God. Our work together is demanding bold and diligent leaders, along with faithful and willing members taking the gospel every place. We will work with our talent, time and treasure over by the Park Lakes Elementary School this year for example. Are you feeling this love of God for others or simply for yourself? What are you going to do about it?

To conclude, our beliefs and practices involve our hearts and minds. We love God with our whole self and values, and take this same love to our neighbors. During 2018 allow the Spirit to refresh our life and our mission through the word of God. Our work and worship together in to transform life. So we serve without seeking to get accolades or rewards. We study the word to learn how to live in these modern times. In short, we will work to do the will of our Lord. The urgency of living out of the alive Word has motivated a church theme for his year. The theme is “**Faith in Christ is partnership with God.**” Let us do our part in 2018 in faithfully working for God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit hear us and help us! Peace!

*Rev. Bancroft Williams*



*Photo by Maile Bradfield, United Methodist Communications ,*

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington was dedicated by President Obama on Oct. 16, 2011.

## **United Methodists share MLK's dream**

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was the face of the African-American civil rights movement throughout the 1960s until his assassination on April 4, 1968.

The United Methodist Church recognizes “the right of individuals to dissent when acting under the constraint of conscience and, after having exhausted all legal recourse, to resist or disobey laws that they deem to be unjust or that are discriminately enforced.” Therefore, many United Methodists joined King in his march toward equality, and in his wake, those United Methodist voices continue to advocate for justice for all, as their faith calls them to.

Though King's death was years or even decades before they were born, his vision has influenced countless young people who reflect and give gratitude for how the struggles of previous generations have benefited them and shaped their lives. People of all ages are grateful for King's leadership and for those United Methodists who walked with him.

*(Source: United Methodist Communications)*



Home Bound and Shut-ins:

Astley Bowie; Randall Kelly; Gladys Thomas; Leahnora Walker; Martha Ricketts; Almenia Ingram; John Thomas; Susan Harris; Elaine Khaeel.

Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center:

Julia Franks; Joy Hyatt (Courtyard at Inverrary Assisted Living); Gabriel Henry (Ann Storck Center, Inc. School, Fort Lauderdale); Edward Snape (Health South Sunrise). Rehabilitation); Erma Brown (Active Senior Living Residence, Tamarac); Ronald Davenport (St. Joseph Rehab).

Special Prayer Request:

Sylvia Walker; Elroy & Sonia Rhule; Maizie Richards; Dorothy Bennett; Muriel Meatley; Inez Williams; Jane Williams; Lucy Rodriguez; Elaine Keizes; Joyce Anglin; Clare Dixon; Trevor Martin; Patsy Hudson; Delores Barnett; Evelyn Jones; Vireena Daley; Leonie Christie; Genevieve Christie; Beverly Maylor, Vivia Barrett; Vivienne & Findlay Wray; Millicent White. Ingrid Modie; Gertude Doe; Dawn Mullings. Dr. Nova Trout and family; Crystal & Jonathan Maldonado; Sharon Jeffers family; Lenon Smith; Veronica Holder & family; Dizzierene Cox & family.

Also Please pray for...

Our pastor, our bishop, our district superintendent, our local church, the community, our sister churches, our government leaders and those in military service.



**Monday**  
**January 15, 2018**  
**4:00pm**  
**Ragsdale Hall**

**All ministry Leaders, committee members and members interested in serving** are requested to attend a planning session to discuss our vision, our mission focus, our priorities and challenges for the New Year. We will also set the church's calendar for 2018. Please submit your church event dates and projections to the church office if you haven't already done so that the calendar of events will be available for our January 15th meeting.

# Church News



You are cordially invited  
to

The Birthday Celebration of  
**Sis. Una Anderson**

Who will be **100** years old

To be held on

**Sunday, January 14th 2018**

Merrell United Methodist Church

3900 N. State Road 7

Lauderdale Lakes, FL

Church Service begins at 10AM

Reception immediately after the

Thank  
you



## A Servant After God's Own Heart

Reverend Bancroft Leighton Williams answered the call from a bereaved family to travel miles and endure frigid weather to conduct the final service and burial for their loved one, *Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Trout, Sr.* Reverend Williams, you officiated over a beautiful funeral ceremony for our loved one. We appreciate you for your presence that gave peace and tranquility to the *Trout* and *Corbin* families as they moved through a very agonizing season. Also, we thank the staff and members of Merrell United Methodist Church who provided support for the Trout family.

*Family and Friends of Robert J. Trout, Sr.*

END OF YEAR

# GIVING STATEMENTS

## TITHES & OFFERING ENVELOPES

We thank God for you! Your gifts to Merrell United Methodist Church throughout 2017. Because of your contributions, our congregation has been able to support the work of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, and around the world. Church family, if you need a box of envelopes for your 2018 tithes, they are in the Narthex. Please take a box only if you need one. The envelopes are the exact same as the previous year. Also, please be sure you print your name and address on the envelope when you give each week. End of Year Giving Statements will be available by the end of January 2018. Thank you.

*Norma Williamson Financial Secretary*



### 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](http://www.merrellumc.org)? 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](http://www.merrellumc.org)



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.



### MERRELL WELCOMES INTERESTED PERSONS TO BECOME MEMBERS!

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

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



### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL "Faith in Action" RESUMES JANUARY 7th

James 2:18 - I will show you my faith by my deeds.

All saints, ladies and gentlemen, are encouraged to come out and study the Word of God. Every Sunday morning at 9am in the East Lounge

Topics:

- ◆ The Early Church proclaims Faith in Christ
- ◆ A Living Faith in God
- ◆ Self-Controlled, Upright and Godly Faith

**This quarter's lessons explore the two-fold nature of Faith** as belief and action. Scriptures from **Acts** show various examples of proclaiming faith in Christ. The **Book of Daniel** shows faith in action as being sincere, obedient, bold and strong. In **the Epistles**, we see how our actions as individuals and as communities demonstrate our **Faith in Christ**.

# Announcements



## Bread Cart Ministry

**January 15**

2:00PM—3:00 PM

RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: **You will be required to sign in.**



*FEEDING WITH COMPASSION*

**SATURDAY, JAN 20**

**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

## MERRELL UMC FARM SHARE

Free Produce & Food

**SATURDAY, JAN 27**

**10:00 a.m - 1:00p.m**

Please Note: **You will be required to sign in and bring bags to collect items.**



EVANGELISM committee  
saturday, jan 13 @ 10:30am - ROOM 17



## MERRELL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**SATURDAY, jan 13 - 3:00pm**  
ROOM 17



## RUTH CIRCLE

**TUESDAY, jan 16 - 10:00am**  
Ragsdale hall

FINANCE meeting  
tuesday, jan 16 - 7:00PM - ROOM 17

PRESCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, jan 17  
7:00PM IN ROOM 17

TRUSTEES MEETING  
THURSDay, jan 18  
7:30PM - ROOM 17

Worship committee  
saturday, jan 27  
2:00PM - ROOM 17

Church council meeting  
tuesday, jan 30  
7:00PM - ROOM 17



**South East District**

## Annual District Training Event 2018

A training opportunity for all clergy and lay leadership in the SE District. (Be sure your new 2018 leaders are updated in your church dashboard in order for them to receive email updates and an invitation to this event.)

### Where are you? Life on the Disciple's Path

Keynote Speakers: The Revs. Jim Harnish and Justin LaRosa  
Authors of A Disciple's Path and A Disciple's Heart

**Saturday, February 3, 2018 at**  
**Christ Church UM, Ft. Lauderdale**

**Schedule:**

**8:15 – 8:45 am Registration**

**8:45 – 10:00 am Opening Worship and Keynote**

**10:15 – 1:00 am Break-Out Sessions and lunch**

Registration will open in mid-December. Stay tuned!

## BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**RESUMES JANUARY 9**

**TUESDAYS AT 12 NOON—THE CHAPEL**  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM—RAGSDALE HALL**



Florence Ricketts 01/01  
 Michelle Nichols 01/01  
 Makeda Francis 01/01  
 Guyan Coombs 01/03  
 Nikia Jack 01/03  
 Braeden Bennett 01/04  
 Vinnetta Love-Grey 01/04  
 Mabel Williams 01/05  
 Nasir Brathwaite 01/05  
 Marjorie Young 01/05  
 Heather Smith Berry 01/06  
 Chester Brooks 01/06  
 Jasmine Forbes 01/06  
 Khiyem Smith 01/06  
 Estelle Webb 01/07  
 Ayden Wilson 01/07  
 Schijah Frazer 01/07  
 Schjai Frazier 01/07  
 Richard Smith 01/08  
 Anthony Black 01/09

Muriel Cornelius 01/10  
 Camille Robinson 01/10  
 Michaelae Kirnon 01/10  
 Leanora Walker 01/11  
 Kadeem Hudson 01/11  
 Una Anderson 01/12  
 Sadie Williams 01/12  
 Royal Aiken 01/12  
 Tae-Jauhna Cole 01/12  
 Marley Brooks 01/12  
 Cheryl Serrant 01/13  
 Ian Myrie 01/13  
 Sarah Grant 01/14  
 Eric Royes 01/14  
 Jacqueline Goodall 01/14  
 Rupert Sherwood 01/15  
 Lovell McKail Jr 01/15  
 Calvin Anderson 01/16  
 Caryll Gordon 01/16

Nova Trout 01/17  
 Rondon Forbes 01/17  
 Roslin Scott 01/17  
 Maizie Richards 01/18  
 Xoriunstance Brown 01/19  
 Gloria Richards 01/21  
 Cynthia Poyser 01/21  
 Elaine Khaleel 01/23  
 Margo Haynes 01/23  
 Kay Chin-Fletcher 01/25  
 Victoria Curry 01/25  
 Mikayla Gordon 01/27  
 Valerie Perrin 01/28  
 Godfrey Solomon 01/28  
 Valerie Schroeter-Perrin 01/28  
 Juleen Francis-Frazer 01/28  
 Angela Saintil 01/29  
 Stephen Weir 01/30  
 Tavja Love 01/31

**✦ The Staff ✦**

**The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor**

Email: [pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org](mailto:pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org)  
 Claudette Meatley, Certified Church Administrator  
 Email: [claudette@merrellumc.org](mailto:claudette@merrellumc.org)  
 Bro. Louis Trotman, Director of Music  
 Sis. Shirley Smith, Director Preschool  
 Email: [Preschool@merrellumc.org](mailto: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](http://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. 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](mailto:office@merrellumc.org) or place it in the box on the office door. Deadline for announcements: **WEDNESDAY at NOON.**