



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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The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Spirit-led • Equipped • Empowered • Disciples

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



Christian greetings. During this month's celebration of Black History heritage, we want to take time to remember persons and groups exemplifying Christian service and values. Within the United Methodist Church, the witness of Methodists who are Black is important to our work and mission. Within this denomination, the comparatively small representation of black church witness is a testimony of those who stayed in the UMC facing opposition and

racism. One caucus or group that gave voice at the decision making table in relation to our world mission is the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR). The Florida United Methodist Conference website state,

“Today [Black Methodists for Church Renewal](#) represents more than 2,400 black United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African-American members in the United States.”

However, several churches that have completed their ministry journey will be closed at the next Annual Conference of the Florida UMC. Among them are very small Methodist churches. This is a painful exercise for those members, but when the people of God have stopped reaching their community and become too inwardly focused, we will die. The church, in that light, is dying but according the United Methodist Communication in places outside of continental US the UMC is growing. In the Florida Conference, we need to collaborate with our sister churches, particularly those with strong black representation for growth in Christian ministry.

With this working together in Christ on our vital witness, the BMCR is calling us to action. This month **our focus will be guided by the theme, “Our Time Under God is Now!” This is an opportunity to take stock not only on our historical heritage. Also we can relate that heritage to our calling under God to rise up and be the change God demand of us in our time. As Charles Wesley wrote in verse, “This is the time, no more delay! This is the Lord’s accepted day.” At this juncture of history we need to call people to the scripture way of salvation by exercising faith and works. So I appeal to us to love and work with each other. We call all leaders and members from Ash Wednesday to times of prayer and fasting in allowing God to lead us. I challenge all of us to get into groups that will study the word and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to make difference in the life of the community.**

As we recognize Black History month, we need to move ourselves to serve God as partners in the ministry of Christ. Let us move away from the nostalgia and the feel good postures by taking responsibility for our time under God to be the empowered servants of God in our contexts. Walk good.

Rev. Bancroft Williams



*Our Time
Under God
Is Now!*

Who We Are

BMCR is the organized Black caucus of the United Methodist Church. We are one of the United Methodist **denomination's five** U.S.-based ethnic caucuses. BMCR represents and is dedicated to more than 2,400 Black United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African American members across the United States.

The BMCR caucus is vital because of its:

- Keen concern for the future of African Americans in the denomination;
- Ability to advocate for the interests and inclusivity of Blacks in the general church structures
- Exceptional nerve to serve as the spiritual agitating conscious of the church,

- Determination to raise up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocates for the unique needs of Black people in The UMC.

OUR VISION

A renewed transformed unified body of Christ on mission in the world.

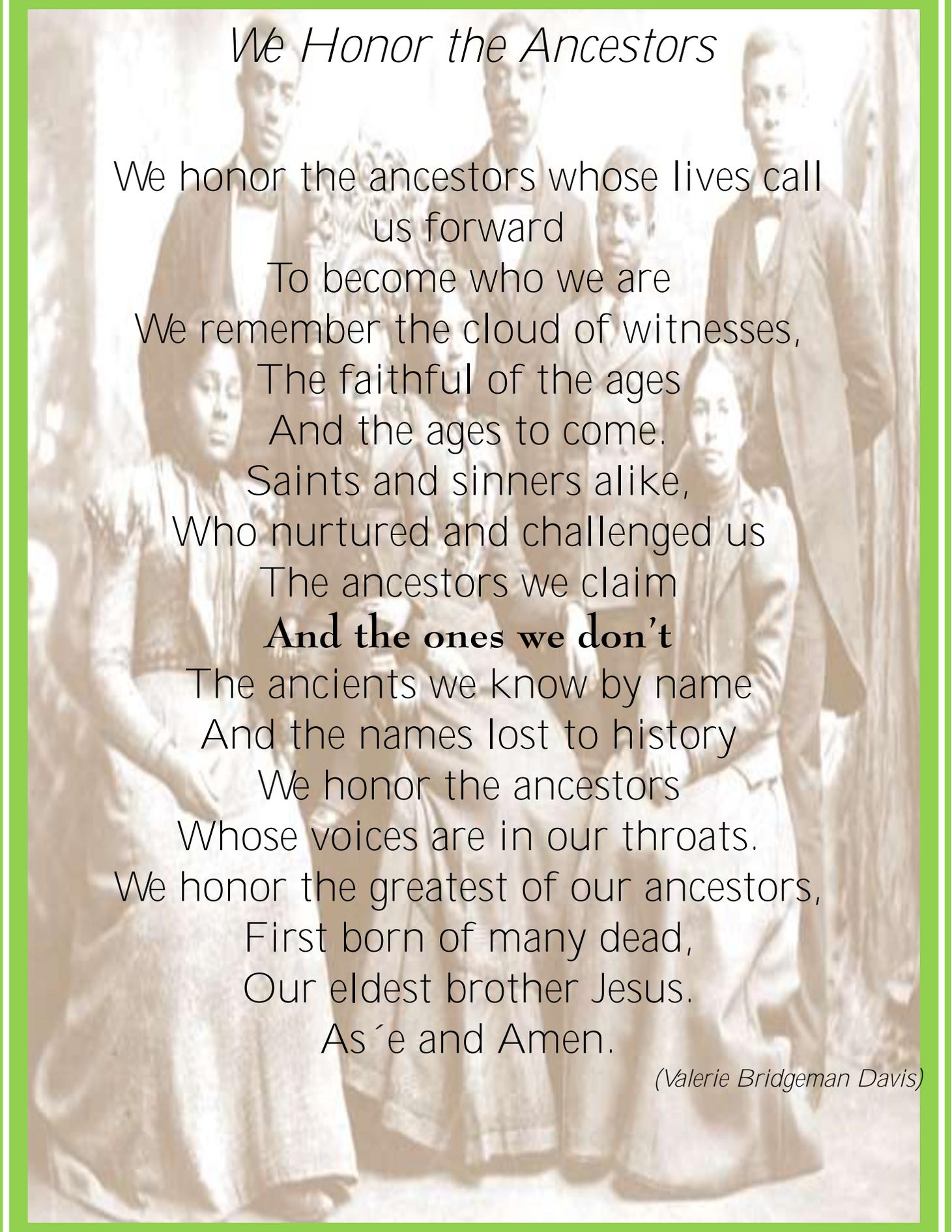
OUR MISSION

The mission of Black Methodists for Church Renewal is to raise up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocate for the unique needs of Black people in the United Methodist church.

OUR PURPOSE

- ◆ To empower Black Methodists for effective witness and service among pastors, laity in local churches, conferences, schools, and the larger community.
- ◆ To encourage and involve Black Methodists and others in the struggle for economic and social justice.
- ◆ To expose latent and overt forms of racism in all local, regional, and agencies and institutions of The United Methodist Church.
- ◆ To act as an agitating conscience on all boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church in order **to keep them sensitive to the needs and expressions of a “genuinely” inclusive and relevant Church.**
- ◆ To keep before the Church the crucial issues facing us by initiating action and supporting Church **agencies which realistically deal with the needs of Black people; i.e., issues spelled out in “The Findings of Black Methodists for Church Renewal” and the other occasional documents adopted by BMCR.**
- ◆ To initiate, develop, and implement strategies and instruments for the development, maintenance, and growth of strong Black local churches.
- ◆ To provide an instrument through which we can educate and cultivate the Black constituency of our Church toward a greater knowledge of missions within the U.S., Africa, and within the Caribbean.
- ◆ We, the people called Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc., created in the image of God, confess our Faith in a living and just God. We call ourselves and the entire United Methodist Church **to repentance, to rebuild God's Church as a community of faith, to declare the traditions and stories of the Bible and Black culture, to reclaim the black community and to liberate all people from racism and injustice everywhere.**

 **BMCR**
SUNDAY February 4, 2018



We Honor the Ancestors

We honor the ancestors whose lives call
us forward

To become who we are

We remember the cloud of witnesses,

The faithful of the ages

And the ages to come.

Saints and sinners alike,

Who nurtured and challenged us

The ancestors we claim

And the ones we don't

The ancients we know by name

And the names lost to history

We honor the ancestors

Whose voices are in our throats.

We honor the greatest of our ancestors,

First born of many dead,

Our eldest brother Jesus.

As ´e and Amen.

(Valerie Bridgeman Davis)



“Say It with Flowers on the Altar”

Merrell's Flower's Ministry is blooming with beauty and the angel behind the Flower Ministry is Hyacinth Henry,

who arranges the beautiful bouquets gracing our altar each Sunday.

For years, she has used her unique talents to make the artistic arrangements for the glory of God to welcome and inspire worshipers. The flowers also are used to commemorate a loved one or an event in their lives - like marking birthdays, graduations, memorials, anniversaries and more.

If you want to participate in the Flower Ministry, please fill out a form in the Narthex, give it and your check for \$35 to an usher or drop them at the church office during the week. You can also become a "Flower Angel" by signing up for a Sunday not already taken.



A Cultural Affair for Black History Month

Cultural Sunday will be on February 25 after the 10 a.m. worship service in Ragsdale Hall. Please invite your friends and join us for food, fun and fellowship.

This is an opportunity to bring your delicious cultural cuisine to share and to wear your best African finery commemorating your culture.

Bring your fungee, fly fish, and fritters, your roasted breadfruit and bakes, your conch and curry and roti, your cassava and saltfish, your jerk pork and johnny cake, your pelau, pepperpot, collard greens and cornbread.

Please make enough to serve at least 20 guests. We are also looking to set up tables with items representing different islands.

Contact Hyacinth Henry & Barrington Berry for more information. A signup sheet will be in the Narthex.

Our New Garden Ministry with Park Lake Partners



If you had passed by Park Lakes Elementary early one morning recently, you would have spotted Merrell parishioners with a green thumb and a generous heart bending, digging, poking and prodding the earth to prep and plan for a spring planting at our partner school.

The church donated fertilizer, compost, mango, avocado, lemon, orange and other fruit trees for the first round of planting.

This is a fun and fulfilling way to participate in Merrell's efforts to do more community outreach and to help our youngsters understand and appreciate nature and our environment. Merrell joins the City of Lauderdale Lakes, Waste Management and others in working with teachers and students in the school's science class.

A second round of prepping and planting is coming up soon. If you want to volunteer, please see Pastor Bancroft or Lay Leader Pat Tabois. And stay tuned for more information.



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

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](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



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



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL "Faith in Action"

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



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.

BIBLE STUDY



ADULT BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAYS AT 12 NOON—THE CHAPEL
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM—RAGSDALE HALL

Announcements



Bread Cart Ministry

February 5 & 19

2:00PM—3:00 PM

RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: You will be required to sign in.

Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00pm

SPPRC MEETING

ROOM 17



THURSDAY, February 8

7:00pm

LYDIA CIRCLE

FRIDAY February 9 & 16

YOUTH MEETING

7:00PM—RAGSDALE HALL

saturday, February 10 10:00am

Hospitality committee

Churchwide clean-up

ragsdale hall

saturday, February 10 @ 10:30am

EVANGELISM committee

ROOM 17

THURSDAY, February 15

TRUSTEES MEETING

7:30PM - ROOM 17

saturday, February 17

Worship committee

2:00PM - ROOM 17



TUESDAY, February 20 - 10:00am

RUTH CIRCLE

Ragsdale hall

Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00pm

Finance committee

ROOM 17



FEEDING WITH COMPASSION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MERRELL UMC FARM SHARE

Free Produce & Food

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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

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



tuesday, February 27

Church council meeting

7:00PM - ROOM 17

The Merrell United Methodist Men's Fellowship

The Pre-Valentines Banquet

Friday, February 9, 2018

7:00 PM—1:00 AM

Renovated Polish-American Club

935 Rock Island Road, North Lauderdale,

Donation: \$60.00

Dress: Formal

Music by: DJ "Donavan"

Tickets are STILL available!!!

Please see any United Methodist Men for tickets

The Youth Group's

"SWEET TREAT"

bake sale will be on 2/11/2018

after the 10am service in Ragsdale

Hall. Please come out and support.



VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE



Rev, Hope McNeil-Williams 02/01
 Valrie Henry 02/03
 Tiana McDonald 02/03
 Thelma McGeachy 02/04
 Everton Kelly 02/04
 Dudley Mills 02/05
 Manu Barnes 02/06
 Janet Davis 02/07
 Dizzierene Cox 02/08
 Annette Smith 02/08

Carmeta McKail 02/09
 Horby Turner 02/09
 Hyacinth Henry 02/11/
 Mykala Ranger 02/11
 Randall Kelly 02/11
 Joyce Boothe-Holman 02/11
 Mavis Pusey 02/11
 Joan Chambers 02/11
 Sydney Wood 02/11
 Dorien Earl 02/14
 Gloria Hudson 02/15
 Andrew Holder 02/15

Sakeena Kenton 02/17
 Javaunie Harrigan 02/18
 Verna Jackson 02/19
 George Riviears 02/21
 Kenneth Farquharson 02/23
 Stanley Martin 02/24/
 Fitzroy Lawrence 02/24
 Zharayah Warner DeSuza 02/24
 Errol Cameron 02/26
 Monica Powell 02/27
 Ralph Williams 02/28

+ 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. 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.**