



# 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 +

**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.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish you joy and peace in the name of the Lord!

The tragic circumstances at the beginning of lent, a time of holy reflection has become a time of fear, frustration and fury. We have come to experience dark moments associated with correlations of circumstances and philosophies in the unloving action of one person to do harm. There is the temptation to blame and shout about what is wrong and what needs to be right but we may need to pause for a while to hear the voices of the times. The voices of families of those who no longer can speak for themselves. The parents, students, staff, authorities who serve and protect, the governing voices, Parkland, Florida, and indeed all of the United States must hear the cry for justice and truth. The prophetic voices of the young heralds calls for new messages of embodied love along with sensible rules that do all that is possible to promote life and the created order.

This is a time to ask how has been our walk with God in promoting life in Christ for our self, our homes and in our neighborhood. How are we experiencing God in our own life? How are we viewing persons in the light of Christ? And what does that tell us about our understanding of the nature of God and grace? It is the apostle Paul who advocated living by faith (2 Cor.5:7) as pleasing God in the body (2 Cor. 7:10). The need for inner renewal is balanced for the drive to renew our community. Now is our time to renew the inner person in Christ. Now is time also to do no harm, do good to all who would accept it and to use practical means to help stay in love with God. Let us love God with all our being and serve in the beauty of holiness.

We can also participate in raising our hearts in prayer to God for victims and those who inflict criminal acts. We need to be voices of reason and justice for our times by being informed, rejecting all appearances of evil. And I encourage all of us as far as it is possible, to write letters and petitions that urge common sense measures to curb gun violence. Also let us open ourselves to help those in our communities grieve and recover to live in love, joy and peace of God, with our prayers and presence. So like Jesus we may become humble servants at the feet of our neighbors as well standing tall to walk into **the “Jerusalem” of our times for justice, truth in power of divine love.**

Be encouraged in the love of Christ for one another.  
In Christ,

*Rev. Bancroft Williams*

# 40 DAYS OF LENT: FIND YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL PATH

UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino\*

During [Ash Wednesday services](#) on the first day of Lent, many United Methodist pastors will invite their congregations “to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word” (from the *United Methodist Book of Worship*). While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might “observe a holy Lent.”

There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Fasting

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping, or something else through the season. This is a [religious practice known as fasting](#). We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to [focus on devotional practices](#) like Bible study and prayer during the season.

## Bible reading

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The [Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide](#) and [Alive Now](#) will help guide you in this pursuit. Each day they provide a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about.

## Prayer

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding [more time in your life for prayer](#). You can experiment with [different ways to pray](#) during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

## Service

Another way to observe a holy Lent is [to take on a new](#) way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

## Rest

An important practice with which many of us struggle is [the spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath](#). We don't have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a [desktop meditation](#), listen to sermons on your commute, or [read a poem that feeds your spirit](#). Each can be a great way of enriching your Lent.



## Too Busy to Pray? See tips to fine more time.

UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino\*

Many people wish they could spend more time in prayer but are concerned about squeezing it in to an already crowded calendar. This advice from United Methodist pastors and church leaders will help you **move toward a deeper prayer life.**

### Make prayer a priority

Those *hoping* to find time for prayer will likely fail. You have to make time. “I like to compare it to exercise,” said Jan Reed, leader of the Centering Prayer Group at University United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. “We need exercise to keep our bodies healthy,” she continued. “We need prayer to keep our souls healthy.”

Reed recently asked her prayer group “what they would suggest for newcomers to prayer, and most of them said, ‘Just do it!’” a slogan of a brand of apparel one might wear while exercising. The connection to our health may be stronger than we know.

### Make an appointment with God

Set aside a specific time to pray. It may be first thing in the morning, in the evening, during your lunch break, your commute, or time spent waiting for the kids. Be creative. Then put the appointment in your calendar and keep it.

### Find a sacred place

The Rev. Joseph Kim of Manlius United Methodist Church in New York encourages us to have a place to pray as well. “My closet,” as Kim calls his prayer space, “is the front of the altar in the sanctuary.” But not all of us have daily access to our church buildings. “Wherever this would be,” Kim continued, “whether it is home, work, or in the car, finding your closet and time are important to deepen your prayer life.”

### Turn off the television

Remove distractions and pray. Reed reminds us, “We often spend at least 20 min a day doing insignificant things – checking emails, pattering around the house, watching TV, surfing the internet, etc.” We could instead invest that 20 minutes in deep communion with God.

### Pray with a group

Being part of a group may help motivate you to pray. Hixson United Methodist Church in Tennessee saw a group of moms come together to pray for their school-age children and the schools they attended. Years later, though most of their children have graduated, the moms still pray together every Friday morning. If you cannot find a group to join, start one by inviting some friends to pray with you.

## Pray as a family

Another group to pray with is your family. Send the children off to school with a moment of prayer. Give God thanks in the evening for all the blessings of the day. Pray with your spouse as you read the morning paper over breakfast. Pause to pray as you watch the evening news.

### Keep your Bible and prayer journal handy

Many people miss exercise classes because they cannot find their yoga mat or car keys in time. We can also significantly cut into our prayer time while looking for what we need. Keep your Bible, journal, and other tools where you can quickly locate them.

## Pray your calendar

If you are concerned about having time, pray for it. Pray through what the day ahead will bring – your meetings, children’s events, doctor’s appointments, and the like. A few moments in prayer may be just the right medicine to still your spirit despite a hectic schedule.

## Use resources

Getting a time of prayer started can be challenging. The Upper Room provides helpful resources like [their wonderful daily devotions](#), an [online Living Prayer Center](#), and [print resources on prayer](#).

Experiment with different methods

There is no right way to pray, as there is no right way to have a conversation with your best friend. The [Upper Room Living Prayer Center offers examples of several different methods](#).

Experiment with fresh ways to connect with God.

## Enjoy it

Kim warns against viewing prayer time as just another box to check on a spiritual to-do list. “When you approach prayer as your Christian duty, you would not enjoy its time,” he said. “You need to see prayer life as special time for dating with God.” He continued, “God who loves you dearly wants to spend time with you and to hear everything about your life.” Change your mindset from *having to* spend time with God, toward *getting to*.

## Keep going

Change takes time. There will be days when you will fall short. When that happens, forgive yourself and keep going. Remember the benefits of the deeper prayer life you seek. As Reed pondered her prayer group she said, “I think [its popularity] reflects the need for us in our hectic and busy society, to slow down, let go of frustrations, anxieties, and any of the crises we might be facing in our lives, and reconnect to God.”

**Setting aside more time for prayer will change every other part of our day.**

# Holy Week Schedule



We look forward to seeing everyone at these special worship services. Please bring a guest!

March 25 Palm Sunday 8am & 10am

March 29 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm  
Foot Wash/Love Feast

March 30 Good Friday 5:00pm  
Worship Service

April 1 Easter Sunday 6:30am & 10:00am



*All  
Merrell United  
Methodist Women*

Mr. Trotman will  
rehearse the choir on  
Sunday, March 11  
immediately following  
the 10am service

Dress attire:  
White dress, white  
shoes, blue striped  
scarf.

See your group leader  
for more information

Saturday, March 24  
DAY APART  
Ebenezer UMC

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*present...*

*"Pray, Serve, Advocate, Give"*

*Sunday*

*March 18*

*Join us in welcoming guest preacher  
Patrecia Williams, President,  
Church Women United,  
at the 10:00am worship service.*





## 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

## 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



## Merrell's Cultural Sunday

The congregation and guests turned out for fun, food and fellowship at Ragsdale Hall on Feb. 27 to bid goodbye to Black History Month. The vibrant colors, the delicious food, a presentation on different culture tell a wonderful story.

## Park Lakes Garden Project

Church family, our school partner, Park Lakes Elementary, has invited Merrell to Science Night on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6 p.m. where the school will have the opportunity to showcase our partnership to parents.

Some dedicated Merrell members recently joined the school, Waste Management, the City of Lauderdale Lakes and others in planting fruit trees – phase one of our partnership. Now, the school is preparing for the second phase, the PINK Serenity Garden, where teachers and students will have time to sit, think and talk in a place that provides beauty and peace. Please join the partnership. And come out for Science Night. This is a rewarding way to do outreach in our community.

## Merrell embraces Bold Justice movement

Merrell has started off 2018 with an increased profile with Bold Justice (Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice).

On Feb. 22, dozens of members showed up at a Networking meeting at Ragsdale Hall, and signed on to invite others to work in the organization this year. On Tuesday, March 20, Merrell will host a rally starting at 7 p.m. to raise awareness and commitment for the upcoming Nehemiah Action meeting.

A Nehemiah Action meeting is where research is presented to invited public officials on community problems and the officials are asked for specific commitments to implement solutions in our community. Important goals include reducing juvenile arrests, providing better living conditions for senior citizens and helping the mentally ill. Like last year, this year's meeting will be on Monday, April 23, at St. David's Catholic Church, 3900 S. University Dr., Davie, starting at 7 p.m.

## "Acknowledging God"

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

When: Every Sunday morning at 9am

Where: in the East Lounge

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

Topics: Follow in My Ways

All Glory and Honor

Give Praise to God

This quarter's lessons focus on ways God's people in the past, like Abraham and Solomon, have acknowledged the greatness of God by following His guidance. We too can acknowledge God's greatness by praising God in all circumstances and dedicating our lives to His work.



# Announcements



## Bread Cart Ministry

**March 5 & 19**

2:00PM—3:00 PM

RAGSDALE HALL

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



*FEEDING WITH COMPASSION*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17**

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

## MERRELL UMC FARM SHARE

Free Produce & Food

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24**

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

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



thursday, march 8 - 7:00pm  
LYDIA CIRCLE-Ragsdale hall

FRIDAY march 9, 16, 23  
YOUTH MEETING 7:00PM—RAGSDALE HALL

THURSDay, march 15  
TRUSTEES MEETING 7:30PM - ROOM 17

saturday, march 17  
Worship committee- 2:00PM - ROOM 17



TUESDAY, march 20 - 10:00am  
RUTH CIRCLE-Ragsdale hall

Tuesday, march 20 at 7:00pm  
Finance committee- ROOM 17



**ALL ARE INVITED  
TO ATTEND!!!**

**MARCH 20 AT  
7:00PM  
MERRELL UMC**

## BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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

**Please support our Gospel Concert!**

Merrell United Methodist

\$25

Merrell United Methodist Church  
Presents

**gospel  
extravaganza**

MARCH  
30TH  
@ 7PM | 2018

3900 N. State Rd 7  
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319  
(954) 731-2323



George  
Benton



Shirley  
Willis



Joan  
Myers



Dr. Norris  
Weir



2nd Chance



Hosted by  
John T  
"WHS Radio"



FEATURING

FOR TICKET PURCHASE: PLEASE CONTACT 954-731-2323 OR



Helen Earle 03/01  
 Mamita Marcelle 03/01  
 Khadija Anderson 03/01  
 James Johnson 03/02  
 Winston L Chang 03/02  
 Renee' Moore 03/05  
 Orel Hill-Hudson 03/06  
 Ashari Singh 03/07  
 Jaeden Royes 03/07  
 Joyce Lewis 03/08  
 Herbert Crosby 03/09  
 Eugene Perderaux 03/10

Norma Lynch-Smith 03/10  
 Jasiah Williams 03/10  
 Norma Rankine 03/11  
 Monica Maxwell 03/12/  
 Michaela Wedderburn 3/13  
 Melvin Henry 03/14  
 Grace Herron 03/15  
 Jaelen Buck 03/15  
 Delores Martin 03/16  
 Vernetta Gordon 03/18  
 Kole Cousins 03/18  
 Martha Ricketts 03/19/

Annette Browne 03/20  
 Neville Buchanan 03/21  
 Paul Francis 03/21  
 Sonia Turnbull 03/23  
 Brandon Tabois 03/23  
 Sean Mills 03/24/  
 Luletta Brooks 03/24  
 Uliet Black 03/24  
 Diana Hanley 03/28  
 Hopie Howard 03/29  
 Dennis Barton 03/29  
 Kendra Black 03/30  
 Shanice Curry 3/30

**+ 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](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.**