



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.



CAN YOU SEE CHRIST'S APPEARING?

Greetings to all in the light of the risen Christ. Easter is a time of celebration. We recall the story of Jesus Christ who as the Messiah and Lord overcomes death by raising to new life. New life in humanity relating to God in Christ is the ground for hope in realities of despair, desperation and disrespect. New life not only signify hope but also that change has come. The apostle Paul noted that “Christ died for our sins, in line with the scriptures, (Jesus) was buried, and he rose on the third day...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Paul asserted that the resurrected Christ “appeared” to a host of persons, some still alive at his writing, then at last to him. This appearing of Jesus Christ to Paul had a profound change on his life so much so that he preached that the crucified Jesus is the resurrected Christ and Lord. Paul defended the resurrection as a full embodied experience (1 Cor. 15:35-49). This experience human decay is replaced with that which cannot decay or die (1 Cor.15:50-58). The apostle encouraged the Corinthians to remain resolute in their faith as their labor (witness?) will have useful. The Resurrected Christ encourages life change with God for community.

Change is often appearing to us. In the city of Hollywood after representation to the city Board of Commissioners, street signs bearing names of confederate generals were removed to be replaced with other significant citizens of Florida. Our 21st century young people, whose cry and protest for stricter gun laws challenges for justice for those who have been silenced or are under constant siege related to gun violence. Change associated with the resurrection is in the air of the United Methodist Church as we dialogue about full LGBTQI inclusion in ordained ministry of the church. Change is appearing in Caribbean Jamaican church context as top new clergy leaders in three large Christian denominations are females.

The appearing of Jesus Christ in the story of John’s gospel is still alive with us. Look! Jesus is appearing to us for justice, care, love, healing and for truth among our neighbors and in creation. The cross that was a sign of death and terror became the crossroad of triumph at the resurrection. Our Lord appears at dawn to signal that dead situations do not have the final say. The Resurrection of Christ is narrating the changing story for human flourishing until God’s total rule. Where has God appeared to you lately? Will we use the Lord’s appearance to lift or to let down? Each day let us appreciate the hope and mystery of our God who self reveals or appears to us.

Rev. Bancroft Williams



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Commentary: Thoughts, prayers and advocacy

By Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. | March 21, 2018



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. in a 2012 file photo. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.

On Feb. 14, 17 people were killed at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Many learned of the news as they were preparing to attend Ash Wednesday services, which mark the beginning of the season of Lent. This was also Valentine's Day, and others were planning celebrations.

The murders penetrated the consciousness of our nation, as we began to learn of the deaths of students, teachers and staff. Not so long ago we had similarly learned of shootings at a Baptist church in Texas, a country music concert in Las Vegas and earlier at a nightclub in Orlando and an elementary school in Connecticut.

We were again in the tragic cycle of grieving and mourning, questioning and reflecting. United Methodists attend and teach at this high school and our churches are adjacent to it. How could we respond?

The repetitive cycle of mass shootings in public places had recently elicited responses that our "thoughts and prayers" were with the victims. And yet the repetitive nature of the trauma had begun to render this assurance, even if well-intentioned, as hollow.

In that moment I thought of one of my favorite chapters in the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 13, and a verse in that letter: "I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal..."

Some of you will recognize these words from scripture and the continuing refrain, "but do not have love..." It occurs to me that the critique of the language of "thoughts and prayers" is precisely the insight of the Apostle Paul. Thinking is one of God's great gifts to humanity. To think about someone is to allow them to enter one's mind. Prayer is one of God's great gifts to a Christian. To pray is to open our lives to the indwelling holiness of God.

The critique of "thoughts and prayers" is the perception that thinking and praying can be an avoidance of the response God is actually calling us to make. We were called to something more. Again, it was there in the scripture: "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." How, I wondered, could we love the students of Parkland, and the one who murdered them, and the survivors around them? My thoughts and prayers, in the present moment, were compromised if they could not be integrated with a love that hoped and endured.



It Happened at Merrell!



United Methodist Women's Sunday was Bold in Blue

The ladies were bold in blue as they marched into the church on Merrell's United Methodist Women Sunday, to "Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord. Yes, Yes, Lord"

- the chorus of "Trading My Sorrows." The guest speaker was retired educator Patrecia L. Williams, a deaconess at New Mount Olive Baptist Church, president of the American Baptist Women of the South and president of Greater Fort Lauderdale Church Women United. She brought home a message of:

"Pray, Serve, Advocate, Give."



Merrell hosts BOLD Justice Organization

Merrell was the host to dozens of Broward churches on March 20th part of **BOLD** Justice (Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice) push to educate and inspire the community to attend a larger gathering in April to fight for justice in our community.



Good Friday Concert Wows Crowd



Merrell's Annual Good Friday Gospel Extravaganza was a hit as hundreds showed up to hear recording artists George Banton, Shirley Willis, Joan Myers, Dr. Norris Weir and 2nd Chance wow the crowds with gospel hit after hit. The artists kept the crowd in the sanctuary clapping and for nearly four hours. What a wonderful way to usher in Easter Sunday.

The churches, including Merrell, are asked to come out to the Nehemiah Action meeting on **Monday, April 23, at St. David's Catholic Church, 3900 S. University Dr., Davie, starting at 7 p.m.** The Nehemiah Action meeting is where research is presented to invited public officials on community problems and the officials are asked for immediate, specific commitments to implement solutions in our community. **BOLD** Justice's goals include reducing juvenile arrests, providing better living conditions for senior citizens and helping the mentally ill.



This Friday, April 6 at 7pm
See you all in Ragsdale Hall!!
Join us for all-age churchwide

Family Fun Night!

***BRING YOUR FAVORITE
SNACK, SODA AND GAMES!***

Please see
Bro. Barrington Berry today
10am service for more
Information.





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



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS AT 12 NOON—THE CHAPEL



South East District

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES
2018 LAY SERVANT CLASSES

APRIL 14TH & 15TH

Christ Church UMC

4845 NE 25th Ave,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY BASIC COURSE
GO PREACH

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SCHEDULE

Saturday 7:30 AM Registration & Breakfast
8:00AM & 12:00PM Course Instruction
12:00PM – 1:00PM Lunch
1:00PM – 5:00PM Course Instruction
Sunday 1:00PM – 3:00PM Course Instruction

Course Fee: \$50.00 Includes course materials, light breakfast
and lunch on Saturday.
To register click on this link

<https://florida-reg.brtaapp.com/SouthEastDistrictLayServantMinistryTraining>

FOR for additional information contact
Connie Bookholt, Lay Servant Ministry
Director at 954-440-4187 or
cbookholt@nationalgroup.com

"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

April 2 & 16

2:00PM—3:00 PM
RAGSDALE HALL

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

Tuesday, april 3 at 7:00pm
spprc- ROOM 17



Umm fellowship meeting
Saturday, april 7 - 3:00pm
Room 17



thursday, april 12 - 7:00pm
LYDIA CIRCLE-Ragsdale hall

FRIDAY april 13, 20, 27
YOUTH MEETING 7:00PM—RAGSDALE HALL



TUESDAY, april 17 - 10:00am
RUTH CIRCLE-Ragsdale hall

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

THURSDay, april 19
TRUSTEES MEETING 7:30PM - ROOM 17

saturday, april 21
Worship committee- 2:00PM - ROOM 17



FEEDING WITH COMPASSION

SATURDAY, APRIL 21
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

MERRELL UMC FARM SHARE

Free Produce & Food Items

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
10:00 a.m - 1:00p.m

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



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ARTIST IN THE HOUSE!!!

Sis. Millicent White

She is one the artist participating a Fine Art Show

March 28 thru April 28, 2018.

Tamarac Community Center
8601 West Commercial Blvd

featuring our own Sis. Millicent White artwork.

Part of the proceeds will be donated to Merrell United Methodist Church.



Volunteers needed for Park Lake garden project!

Church family, our school partner across the street, Park Lake Elementary, needs help for the next phase of its outdoor garden on the school grounds.

We need volunteers to show up at the school on **April 5 around 10:00 a.m.** to help with clearing the grounds for the spring planting. The school wants to create a Serenity Garden of pink blossoms, where teachers and students will have time to sit, think and talk in a place that is provides beauty and peace.

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.

If you like the outdoors, please check out this worthwhile partnership. It's fun. If you can join us Friday, please see Lay Leader **Pat Tabois**.



Alexandria Fletcher 04/01
 Adrian Lowe 04/01
 Jean Walters 04/02
 Courtney Mills 04/02
 Danielle Brooks 04/02
 Vireena Daley 04/04/
 Murlene Salmon 04/04/
 Olive Harte 04/04
 Icent Sidden 04/05
 Pearl Lewis 04/06
 Dwayne Beckford 4/6
 Wayne Beckford 4/6
 Hortense Ormsby 04/08
 Norma Williamson 04/08
 Nioka Myrie 04/08
 Carl Walcott 04/10/
 Clare Dixon 04/10

Owen Webb 04/10
 Kristi Anderson 04/11
 Jazmine Hyacinth 04/11
 Leoma Isaac 04/11
 Jermaine Barnaby 04/12
 Dennis Mullings 04/13
 Shawn Perrin 04/13
 Lemara Williams 04/13
 Syan Tullis 04/14
 Rhys Williams 4/15
 Monique Nichols 04/15
 Claire Smith Hall 04/17
 Barrington Berry 04/17
 Sharonda Sapp 04/17
 Marcus Watson 04/17
 Andrew Pryce 04/17

Kamar Smith 04/17
 Leonard Rhoden Mr. 04/18/
 Fay Anderson 04/18
 Conroy Bennett 04/19
 Joycynth Campbell 04/21
 Gwenneth Gayle 04/23/
 Vera Evans-Duncan 04/24
 Myra Hamilton 04/24
 Adia Barnes 04/24
 Justin Barnaby 04/25
 Avril Brathwaite 04/26
 Javone Shelland 04/26
 Naryiah Hinson 04/26
 Alma Coombs 04/27
 Collis Sewell 04/29
 Karlene Ellis 04/29

✦ 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.**