



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

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Spirit-led•Equipped•Empowered•Disciples

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



Christian Building Strategy

New Year greetings to all. The year 2017 has the potential to offer us new beginnings and hopeful possibilities. However, this year already continues the human struggles for peace, wellbeing and fight for survival. Economic, environmental, political and social influences on world cultures continue to affect our lives in real time. However, thinking about living as a Christian today have given me some **courage to sing, “If it had not been for the Lord on my side, tell me where would I be.” There is reason** to assert that God has blessed us even as I pray for the safety and wellbeing of our sisters and brothers in continents, countries and cities who are struggling or have given up hope.

Christians are not exempt from living in reality. That is a good thing as Christians live out their **discipleship in Christ among people and without walls. The Christian is called in baptism to be “light and salt”** - good news in a seemingly dark and tasteless neighborhood. Our neighbors need us as the **body of Christ, the Church that connects with, communicates to and embodies for the world God’s invitation to love.**

Embodying the love of Christ Jesus demand disciplined deliberate engagement. Our loving efforts **cooperates with the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, allowing God’s work to be done in and through us.** So the Holy Spirit not only energizes and infuses but connects with and communicates to **the body of Christ God’s own heart. Knowing the “heart” of God’s love shapes and motivates our heart** for sharing our story of God in Christ.

Sharing our story in God with our neighbors is a sign of living our faith as “light and salt”. This journey of faith in these time is connected with our mission statement. The mission at this congregation is to create Spirit-led, Equipped and Empowered Disciples (SEED). This year let us further our efforts in our tasks to learn together how to grow our SEED. Let us study the Scriptures together and join a study group. Let us pray together for clarity in our daily tasks. Perhaps you can pledge time to offer one tenth of your week or month in giving some service to our neighbors by way of ministries of the church. Get more involved in the ministry of caring for our children and young people in church and community. Let us encourage each other toward good works. Focus your efforts not on the unknown **but that which we can do by faith in Christ. Let us be reminded that we need to “...build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” (Jude 20-21).** Let me invite us to allow you as being SEED to be watered and nurtured to yield fruit that will gain souls and communities for Christ this year.

From Christ’s servant in ministry with the saints,

Rev. Bancroft Williams

BUILDING FAITH RELATIONSHIPS

This space is intended for reflection on bible themes with focus on building disciples as lively and loving neighbors. [Your comments are welcomed].



Saving Grace of God to All [LETTER OF TITUS]

The letter of Titus is one of the pastoral letters in the New Testament. From the Trinitarian perspective of God one dominant theme of the pastoral letters is about the saving grace of the gospel. In them are instructions how to talk about the Christian gospel in words and deed. In the letter of Titus, Christian talk and practice in relation to **conversion is located in talking (teaching) “sound doctrine.” The CEB translation in Titus 2:1 says it in this way-“...talk in a way that is consistent with sound teachings.”**

Sound teaching reject any activity of rebellion, idle talk and emphasis of narrow cultural or self interests in special revelation of God.

Read Titus 1:10-16

What are the opposing or contending views to the gospel in the letter?

What were some attitudes deemed unfit for good works? [Titus 1:3-16]

Read Titus 2:1-10

Notice the groups or responsibilities relations that should adhere to sound teaching. Name some relationships that reflect talk about sound teachings today.

Read Titus 2:11-14 emphasis on eagerness (zeal) for good works.

God’s salvation is available to who?

List the areas of training for good works. (12-13).

Zeal for doing good in relation to the gospel should be and enable activity rather than activity that diminishes, or disables.

Salvation grace of God (2:14) is not only necessary **for the “guilt of sin” but also from the “power of sin” (according John Wesley).The end result of God’s salvation is toward a holy life free from sin. Talking about God’s salvation grace should reflect to community a message of a kind and merciful God. Zeal for God’s love should be connected with love of the neighbor.**

Read Titus 2:15-3:2 on sharing gospel with those outside of Christian community.

Why should Christians be concerned with the wellbeing of outsiders of the community?

What is Titus [Christian witness] encouraged to be?

How can you better relate to your neighbors using example of this letter to Titus?

The saving grace of God suggest the need for Christians to be equipped and empowered by being built up in the faith. Living out our faith sensible require the study and practice of biblical truths. Good faith talk is associated with sound teaching and learning.

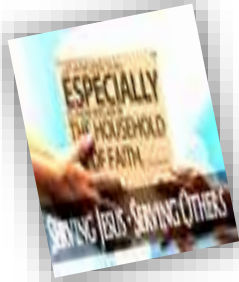
Pastor Bancroft Williams

It Happened at Merrell





FARM SHARE



Church family, we want to start 2017 by adding an important outreach ministry to our roster. We have partnered with Farm Share, a large-scale, nonprofit food bank in Homestead that distributes free fresh produce and other foodstuff.

For Merrell, this ministry will connect to our community in a most personal way. And it is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of God through Christ.

We are now seeking volunteers to assist in packaging and distributing the groceries to help the needy in our community. Pastor Bancroft is appealing to those so moved to share the love of Christ to sign up in the Narthex or call the office.

We need drivers, packers, workers to help with the distribution - anyone who wants to help with this very important ministry.

Many thanks to those volunteers who have already signed up to be a part of this ministry, Please stay tuned for forthcoming information from our Pastor for the first meeting to be convened.

GIVING STATEMENTS

WILL BE AVAILABE STARTING NEXT WEEK

TITHES & OFFERING ENVELOPES

We thank God for you and your gifts to Merrell United Methodist Church throughout 2016.

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 2017 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.** Thank you.

Norma Williamson, Financial Secretary



Home Bound and Shut-ins:

Astley Bowie; Randall Kelly; Helen Searing; Gladys Thomas; Leahnora Walker; Martha Ricketts; Robert & Nova Trout; Ronald Davenport; Almenia Ingram; Olive Rice

Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center:

Raymond Champagnie (Rehab at Regency); Julia Franks; Joy Hyatt (Courtyard at Inverrary Assisted Living); Gabriel Henry (Ann Storck Center, Inc. School, Fort Lauderdale); Clara Barton (Life Care Center at Inverrary); Edward Snape (Health South Sunrise Rehabilitation); Chaldean Davis (Margate Health Center).

Special Prayer Request:

Sylvia Walker; Ceceline Marriott; Coral Baston; Elroy Rhule; Erma Brown; Susan Harris; George Riviears; Maizie Richards; Barbara Plowright; Dorothy Bennett; Ivan Isaacs; Titus & Muriel Meatley; Inez Williams; Grace Harrison; Alyssa McDoom; Jane Williams, Lucy Rodriguez; Leonie Williams; Pamela McKaye; Dorna James; Hyacinth Thompson; Elaine Keizes; James Andrews



We regret to announce the death of Lawrence Young, brother of Bro. Winston Chang who passed away on December 27, 2016. May God comfort you with His perfect peace, and may his loving light gently guide you through the darkness of this hour.

*Funeral Service
Saturday, January, 7, 2017— 1:00pm
J.W. Kingdom Hall
11351 W. Broward Boulevard
Plantation, FL 33325*

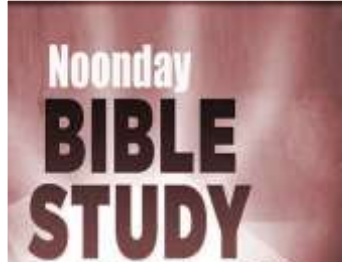


Sunday Worship Times

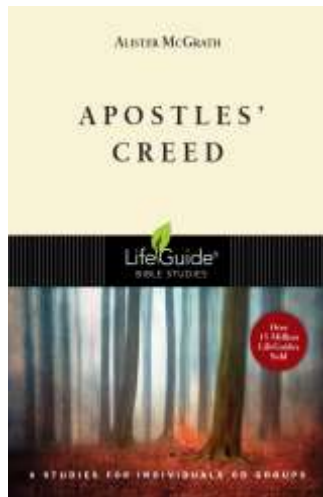
Contemporary Worship	8:00AM	Sanctuary
Adult Bible Study	9:00AM	East Lounge
New Members Class	9:10AM	Room 17
Youth Bible Study	9:30AM	Ragsdale Hall
Traditional Worship	10:00AM	Sanctuary
Every Fourth Sunday	6:00PM	Sanctuary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bible Study	Monday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Bible Study	Tuesday	Noon	Chapel
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



Apostle's Creed All Church Study



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Throughout the year Pastor Bancroft will encourage attentive approaches to learning the Scriptures by integrating some Sunday Sermons with the Bible Studies.

Starting the 2nd Sunday in January he will be leading a six week study on the

Apostle's Creed for the whole church. We will focus on foundation tools in building up our Christian faith and witness of Jesus Christ.

The historic creeds strive to summarize some basic Christian understanding of the revelation of God. It is the intention that we will learn more about our faith and mature to serve God in practical and unique ways in the world. The author of this bible study, *Apostles' Creed* is Alister McGrath from the "Life Guide Bible Studies series." Let us learn together to build each other up to make disciples for Christ.



Creation: A Divine Cycle

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Calling all saints, ladies and gentlemen, to come out and study the Word. It is critical to our spiritual maturity.

When: **Every Sunday morning at 9am**

Where: **in the East Lounge**

Topics: The Savior has been born

Praise from and for God's Creation

The Birthing of a New Community

This quarter's lessons reminds us that with the Advent of the Savior, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God set in motion the fulfillment of the divine plan of Salvation.

Through Luke's gospel, the Psalms, and the epistle to the Galatians, we will explore God's ongoing actions in blessing and reconciling the whole of Creation.

Announcements & Events

JANUARY 2017

MON 2  Bread Cart Ministry 2:00—3:00 Ragsdale Hall	wed 4 Dunamis dance rehearsal 6:30pm Ragsdale hall I	sat 7  meeting 3:00pm room 17	mon 9 Bible study 7:00pm Ragsdale
TUE 10 Noon day bible study—Chapel Prayer meeting 6:30pm—East Lounge SPPRC— 7:00PM —room 17	wed 11 Dunamis dance rehearsal 6:30pm Ragsdale hall I	THU 12  LYDIA CIRCLE 7:00pm Ragsdale Hall I	
FRI 13 YOUTH MEETING 7:00pm Ragsdale Hall I	SAT 14 EVANGELISM MEETING 10:30am room 17	MON 16  Bread Cart Ministry 2:00 to 3:00pm Ragsdale Hall Bible study 7:00pm—Ragsdale Hall I	Tue 17  ruth CIRCLE 10:00am Ragsdale Hall I Noon day bible study—Chapel Prayer meeting 6:30pm—East Lounge Finance ministry meeting 7:00pm—room 17
wed 18 Dunamis dance rehearsal 6:30pm Ragsdale hall I Preschool board meeting 7:00pm—room 17	THU 19 Trustees committee mtg 7:30PM—ROOM 17	FRI 20 YOUTH MEETING 7:00pm Ragsdale Hall I	
sat 21 worship ministry 10:30am—room 17	mon 23 Bible study 7:00pm Ragsdale Hall I	TUE 24 Noon day bible study Chapel Prayer meeting 6:30pm—East Lounge Church council Meeting 7:00pm Ragsdale hall I	wed 25 Dunamis dance rehearsal 6:30pm Ragsdale hall I
FRI 27 YOUTH MEETING 7:00pm Ragsdale Hall I	mon 30 Bible study 7:00pm Ragsdale Hall I	TUE 31 Noon day bible study Chapel Prayer meeting 6:30pm—East Lounge	

2017 SOUTHEAST DISTRICT TRAINING

Live Your Faith: You Matter!

A day of learning for church members and leaders

Keynote Speaker: **The Rev. David McEntire**, Senior Pastor First UMC of Lakeland, FL
How does your leadership role help you live out your faith?

More info to come in

February 4, 2017 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Christ Church United Methodist 4845 NE 25th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308



Florence Ricketts 01/01
 Michelle Nichols 01/01
 Makeda Francis 01/01
 Guyan Coombs 01/03
 Nikia Jack 01/03
 Vinnetta Love-Grey 01/04
 Mabel Williams 01/05
 Nasir Brathwaite 01/05
 Marjorie Young 01/05
 Chester Brooks 01/06
 Jasmine Forbes 01/06
 Estelle Webb 01/07
 Ayden Wilson 01/07
 Richard Smith 01/08
 Anthony Black 01/09
 Muriel Cornelius 01/10

Camille Robinson 01/10
 Michaele 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
 Ian Myrie 01/13
 Sarah Grant 01/14
 Eric Royes 01/14
 Jacqueline Goodall 01/14
 Rupert Sherwood 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/
 Valerie Perrin 01/28/
 Godfrey Solomon 01/28
 Valerie Schroeter-Perrin 01/28
 Angela Saintil 01/29
 Robert Cumley 01/30
 Stephen Weir 01/30
 Tavja Love 01/31

+ 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

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| <p>Church Council
 Sis. Eileen Tucker</p> <p>Lay Leader
 Sis. Patricia Tabois</p> <p>Lay Member to Annual Conference
 Sis. Lorna Smith</p> <p>Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee
 Sis. Yvette Smith</p> <p>Admn. Assistant to Pastor
 Sis. Claudette Meatley</p> <p>Finance Committee
 Bro. Wayne Ranger</p> <p>Treasurer
 Bro. Eric Royes</p> <p>Financial Secretary
 Sis. Norma Williamson</p> <p>Prayer Ministry
 Sis. Uliet Black</p> <p>Trustee
 Bro. Franklyn Coombs</p> <p>Evangalism/Outreach Ministries
 Sis. Valerie Henry</p> <p>Preschool Board Chair
 Sis. Thelma McGeachy</p> | <p>United Methodist Women
 Sis. Thelma McGeachy</p> <p>United Methodist Men
 Bro. Lovell McKail</p> <p>Visitation Ministry
 Sis. Dizzierene Cox</p> <p>Stewardship
 Bro. Winston Chang</p> <p>New Members Committee
 Sis. Rose Farquharson</p> <p>Membership Secretary
 Sis. Rowena Martin</p> <p>Campus Ministry Representative
 Sis. Judith Gohagen</p> <p>Disaster Coordinator
 Bro. Lovell McKail</p> <p>Worship Ministries
 Sis. Deloris Ellis</p> <p>Youth
 Judy Gohagen
 Keisha Coombs-Newman</p> <p>Thrift Shop
 Interim Coordinator
 Sis. Phylis Brown</p> |
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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.**