



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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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.



Witnessing Daily About our Resurrected Lord

Recently, while outside the parsonage getting prepared to attend a Sunday early worship service one of my neighbors came across to talk. He shared with me about his new life in Christ and how excited he was about his changed perspective about living. His resurrection experience came about when he surrendered to the love and grace of God while rejecting those creature comforts of wealth and self-love. God removed all those things that once defined him, while offering new opportunities that blessed him and his family. His Christian testimony challenged my trust and encouraged my witness in Jesus Christ.

In our worship we too must see the resurrected Lord in all that we are and do. Many times we use the liturgical calendar as our guide in planning worship together as United Methodists. On first Sundays we share communion at the Lord's Table. At this table we remember the immeasurable and precious gift of the love of God through the body and blood of the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ. Here we are fed, encouraged, healed, nurtured, and as well as sealed by the Holy Spirit to live out our stories of faith until the rule of God is fully established on the earth.

For the remainder of the month of May, in our liturgy let us recognize the resurrected Lord's presence and power in the celebration with mothers and motherly figures during mother's day. We are reminded for example, "**Do not despise your elderly mother**" in Proverbs 23:22. Let us endeavor to embrace grieving, happy, lonely, struggling and weary women of God and all category of mothers with words and acts of love and respect as community. The third Sunday in May, our liturgy will remind us of our apostolic and evangelical Christian heritage. The community of faith called Methodists placed among the wider witness of the Church is to live out our discipleship in words and deeds of love. Christian witness of the love of God that is good news brings renewal to communities. Then we look to the last Sunday in May, Ascension Sunday which falls on Memorial Day weekend. As Christ Jesus was preparing to ascend to heaven, these words were left for the disciples and today's church. "**You are witnesses of these things.**" (Luke 24:48). Resurrection is not just the promise of new life, it is available life now in Christ Jesus.

Let us continue the Easter experience by living this new life in Christ in our daily encounters. We are empowered to live out our stories as witnesses. As was done to the disciples (apostles) Jesus, "lifted his hands and blessed" us, and thereby commissioning all of the faithful to display our faith in God to all persons. May you have a blessed month as witnesses of Christ Jesus.

Rev. Bancroft Williams

It Happened at Merrell

Easter Sunrise Service

As the sun rose on Easter Sunday morning, casting off the early morning shadows, some 40 members and visitors showed up for Sunrise Service in Merrell's east parking lot, including praise and worship led by Rochelle Lightfoot and an early morning message from Pastor Bancroft Williams. A beautiful morning brought in a happy Easter Sunday.,



Merrell's Good Friday Gospel Concert drew a packed house with gospel greats Judy Mowatt, Joan Myers, Shirley Beckford, Second Chance, and Merrell's own Norma White and Ken Parker. The concert, a fundraiser for church improvements, had the crowd on its feet and dancing in the aisles. Here, Ken Parker wows a packed audience with crowd favorite, "Jacob's Ladder."



It Happened at Merrell

Merrell Preschool Appreciation Sunday

Merrell's congregation celebrated our Preschool students, parents and teachers who came to the 10:00 a.m. worship service for Merrell Preschool Appreciation Sunday. The children performed "Every Move" and "Give Your Heart to Jesus." After service, the congregation was invited to take a quick tour of the Preschool to see its colorful new state of the art playground equipment, recently dedicated by Pastor Bancroft Williams.



Preschool Graduation Date Set

Preschool Director Shirley Smith invites the church the annual Preschool graduation to see 28 students march in wearing their cap and gowns. The ceremony will be 4:00 p.m. June 8 in Ragsdale Hall.



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

It's Happening at Merrell in May



Memorial Tribute to Sis. Violet Jordan

Please come out at 3:00 p.m. on **May 20, 2017**

to celebrate the life of our sister

Violet Mahoney Jordan, who left us a year ago last May.

The celebration of her life will be in the sanctuary.

Refreshments will follow in Ragsdale Hall.

"Gone But Not Forgotten

Though your smile is gone forever,

And your hand we cannot touch, Still we have so many memories

Of our dear sister Violet, who we loved so much."

Thelma McGeachy President, Merrell UMW

www.MeePhotos.com

Church YARD SALE

Stewardship Yard Sale benefiting the Rally of the Gospels

Congregation, the Stewardship Ministry is coordinating a Spring Yard Sale May 27, 2017 to help toward our big **Rally of the Gospels** fundraiser.

The Gospels are **Matthew** (Jan-March), **Mark** (April-June); **Luke** (July-Sept) and **John** (Oct.-Dec.).

For those whose birthdays fall within the different Gospels, contact your team leaders to see how to participate in the Yard Sale. The Yard Sale will be from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. Come join us! Proceeds will go to the Sept. 24 Rally of the Gospels fundraiser. Please see Avis Duhaney Walcott or Gwenneth Gayle for more details.

Announcements



Merrell
United Methodist
**Disaster
Response**
Committee

Meeting
May 11
7:00PM
Room 17

worship COMMITTEE MEETING
saturday, may 20 @
2:00PM ROOM 17

CHURCH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, may 23 @ 7:00pm
RAGSDALE HALL



LYDIA CIRCLE
THURSDAY, may 11 - 7:00pm
Ragsdale Hall

MERRELL UMC
FARM SHARE



YOUTH MEETING

FRIDAY, may 12, 19 & 26 @ 7:00pm
RAGSDALE HALL

Next Distribution
May 27th 10:00 a.m - 3:00p.m
MERRELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3900 N. STATE RD 7
LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL 33319
Contact: 954-731-2323 for more information

Various food items will be available to
those in need in our South Florida
Community

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, may 13 @ 10:30AM
ROOM 17

Bread Cart Ministry May 15

2:00PM—3:00 PM
RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: **You will be re-
quired to sign in.**



RUTH CIRCLE Luncheon
TUESDAY, may 16 - 12 Noon
KING'S BUFFET
Oakland Park Blvd



2017 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 8-10, 2017
Buena Vista Palace Hotel
1900 Buena Vista Drive
Orlando, Florida 32830

Finance Committee
TUESDAY, may 16 @ 7:00PM - ROOM 17

Pre-school advisory
WEDNESDAY, may 17 @ 7:00PM ROOM 17

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY may 18 @
7:30PM ROOM 17



Adelaide Rainford 05/03	Jasmine Carrington 05/11	Cynthia Lee 05/24
Joyce Alladin 05/03	Lorna Smith 05/12	Avis Duhaney-Walcott 05/24
Jennifer Dixon-Reid 05/03	Kito Barnes 05/13	Dorothy Brown 05/24
Almenia Ingram 05/04	Leanora Christie 05/15	Ricrdo Morrison 05/24
Herma Sherwood 05/05	Rudolph Shirley 05/16	Alexandria Tenner 05/25
Patricia Thomas 05/05	Ukweli Hoston 05/18	Jeremiah Noble 05/25
Mark Holder 05/07	Elroy Rhule 05/19	Mary Strautz 05/27
Christian Johnson 05/07	Jahvell Thomas 05/21	Ryan McClean 05/28
Michelle Miller-Ranger 05/09	Dejon Brooks 05/22	Desiree Barnes 05/29
Soleil Morton 05/09	Godfrey Barnaby 05/23	Roshea Lewis 05/31
Heather Richards 05/11	Breanna Nesbeth 05/23	Roshaun McKnight 05/31

✦ 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

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.***