



# 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.*



Dear Friends,

Let me begin by wishing all a blessed Fourth of July, Independence Day. Take the time to reflect on the honor of living in these United States. We should not only wave flags, join in community events, share family time but pray for peace, justice, and prosperity of this nation. It is the potential of good and the resistance of unkindness why we pray for peace, justice, and prosperity. We are reminded that among American ideals are democracy, rights, liberty, opportunity and equality. By promoting freedom within the guidelines of the Constitution of the United States that we should regard all persons as children of God sharing mutual dependence.

The Scriptures point to the interdependence of people of God. True independence from the control of external powers depend upon cooperation for one purpose. I suggest that this one purpose should be to please God “because of God’s pleasure, grace, and mercy.” Pleasing God is motivated by following the constitution of God’s commandment to “love God with all our heart, being, and strength (Deut.6:5). This command is important to our salvation (read Independence from evil and obedience in God) that we are teach our children and future generations the importance of practicing loving God (Proverbs 22:6). We teach children and future generations to honor those who are parents or caregivers for the nations’ survival (Col. 3:20). We instead have created “them and us” binary separations that hurt and threaten peace and prosperity. It is easy to point fingers at people and situations that harm and threaten life while ignoring our needed love responses that witness truth to power and injustice today.

Living as God’s witnesses in these times of divisive politics, erosion of civility, separation of undocumented immigrant families, drug usage toward “self-destruction”, financial inequity threatening basic survival, health concerns associated with varieties of violence is important today. Methodists live by Holiness of Heart and Life, we must practice our love and obedience to a faithful God in America today. We ask God to renew our hearts and the hearts of our families over time, to love God, creation and people intentionally (Deuteronomy 30:6). We ask God to walk on a road that choses life instead of the one of destruction (Deuteronomy 30:16). We seek to learn from Jesus in the gospels, who cared for the outcasts, rejected, ignored and poor as exemplified in the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42). Jesus interaction with this Samaritan woman changed a whole community. They heard the witness of one seeking spiritual reality who was unloved and unlovable. Their response was to have direct encounter with Jesus (John 4:29-30, 39-42). This and other encounters with Jesus can encourage life giving and sustaining conditions that underline the ideals of the American Independence observance. So, this month of July while waving high our flags, let also wave the banners of God’s love in our hearts that will propel our practice of love to save the soul of our nation. Walk Good!

*Rev. Bancroft Williams*





*God bless America*

HAPPY  
4<sup>TH</sup> OF  
JULY

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

- The Declaration  
of Independence

July 4, 1776

# THE UPPER ROOM



## A Blessing Exercise

Blessing is the art of being spiritually present to others in prayer. It is asking for God to surround a particular person or situation with love, healing, and peace.

Begin by finding a comfortable and quiet place to pray the blessing prayer. Take several slow, deep breaths while letting go any tension in your neck and shoulders. Imagine that you are held in God's gentle, loving hands. Let yourself rest there and savor the quiet.

**1. Pray for yourself.** Focus on the light and warmth of God's love as it surrounds you. Rest in that light and warmth.

Bless me, God, with your love.

Bless me with your healing.

Bless me with your peace.

(Take a moment for several slow, deep breaths.)

**2. Pray for a good friend.** Bring them to mind as vividly as you are able. In this image, hold them in your heart and extend love and grace to them. Now imagine them in God's gentle, loving hands. Allow them to rest there in God's hands for a moment.

Bless them, God, with your love.

Bless them with your healing.

Bless them with your peace.

(Take several deep breaths.)

**3. Pray for someone for whom you do not have strong feelings.** This may be an acquaintance you cross paths with on occasion but don't know well.

Bless them, God, with your love.

Bless them with your healing.

Bless them with your peace.

(Take several deep breaths.)

**4. Pray for someone you dislike**—an enemy.

Imagine them in God's loving hands, and try to hold them gently in your heart. Release to God any anger or tension that may arise in you. Let these feelings go by setting them free to God's care.

Bless them, God, with your love.

Bless them with your healing.

Bless them with your peace.

(Take several deep breaths.)

**5. Finally, pray for all four people together—yourself, a friend, an acquaintance, and an enemy.** Extend God's blessing further to everyone around you, to everyone in your neighborhood, to those in your town, and eventually to all people, everywhere. Imagine that we all are held in God's hands, and are sustained by God's love.

Bless all people, everywhere, with your love.

Bless all people with your healing.

Bless all people with your peace.

(Take several deep breaths.)



# It's Happening in July at Merrell!



Merrell United Methodist  
**Men's Fellowship Annual**  
Spiritual Retreat



**ALL MEN ARE INVITED!!!**

**July 7, 2018**

Merrell United  
Methodist Church  
Ragsdale Hall  
8:00am  
Registration &  
Breakfast



Merrell UMC will host the Black Methodist for Church Renewal **BMCR** (South East District) **evening worship gathering on Sunday, July 29 at 4:00 PM.** We will have choirs and presentations from several congregations lifting the name of Jesus. Come out to learn and participate with Methodist churches in Christian mission in time such as this. It is free and will be an exciting time in the Lord. Place on your calendar today.



## Merrell United Methodist Church

**FARM SHARE**

**Health Fair**  
**Back to School Supplies**



Free Produce &  
Food  
Distribution

**July 28, 2018 10am-2pm**

**3900 N STATE ROAD 7 • LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL**



## 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	Summer break
Prayer Meeting	Tuesday	6:30PM	Sanctuary
Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30PM	Summer break
Men's Choir	Wednesday	7:00PM	Music Room
Dance Rehearsal	Wednesday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Dunamis Youth	Friday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



## "Justice and Mercy"

Every Sunday Morning at  
9am in the East Lounge

Topics:

\* God is just and merciful

\* Jesus calls for Justice and Mercy



## Become Part of Our Church Family

MERRELL  
WELCOMES  
INTERESTED  
PERSONS TO  
BECOME  
MEMBERS!

If you are interested in becoming a member, please meet with Pastor Bancroft today after the 10am Service in Ragsdale Hall.



## Love



## Grow



## Serve



## GO

Nominations committee is inviting members to hear the call to serve on a ministry area of the church. **Please indicate on the blue cards in the Narthex and give to ushers.** We calling on persons to serve as **Treasurer**, **Trustees**, as a **second Lay Leader**.

Also pray about serving on the Finance, Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, Worship areas (preparing Altar area/Praise and Worship), Sunday School Teachers (Children and Small Groups), Children's ministry, Visitation Ministry Team, Evangelism (to be renamed), and most importantly, Praying ministry team. If there is an area of interest please indicate to the pastor, Sis. Pat Tabois (Lay Leader) or any leader..

# Church News



## Bread Cart Ministry

**JULY 2 & 16**  
2:00PM—3:00 PM  
RAGSDALE HALL

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



*FEEDING WITH COMPASSION*

**SATURDAY, JULY 21**  
**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

## SEEKING DONATIONS FOR SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS!!!

### Health Fair Back to School Supplies

Church family, we're asking for donations to purchase backpacks and school supplies to give away to children in our neighborhood at our 2018 Back to School Health Fair. Last year, we collected more than 100 backpacks. This year, we want to do even better.

We're seeking donations or you can purchase items yourselves.

The Health Fair is on July 28, 2018  
We'll be collecting until July 22.

Thank you so much for helping to bless the children.



Pastor is calling for an all church meeting **August 19, 2018 after 10:00AM** worship @ **11:30 AM.**

Members and non-members can attend.

Pastor with team with update on our mission work in the Florida Conference and locally.

## SAVE THE DATE



The Consulate General of Jamaica  
Annual Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving

in celebration of  
**JAMAICA'S 56<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**  
Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.  
Cooper City Church of God,  
9191 Stirling Road  
Cooper City, FL 33328

Special Guest Speaker:  
Rev. Karl A. Francis  
Senior Pastor Living Word Open Bible  
Church Cooper City, Florida, USA

Officiating Minister:  
Dr. Clyde Bailey  
Executive Pastor  
Cooper City Church of God  
Cooper City, Florida, USA

For information contact the  
Consulate General of Jamaica  
at 305-374-8431  
or email [info@jamaicacgmiami.org](mailto:info@jamaicacgmiami.org)





Ettamerle Rapley 07/01  
 Estelle Webb 07/01  
 Gregory Duhaney 07/01  
 Stephanie Perrin 07/01  
 Lionel Brown 07/02  
 Rose Farquharson 07/03  
 Isaiah Noble 07/04  
 Lorraine Anderson 07/05  
 Louise Jones 07/08  
 Kaci Je'lyn Watson 07/09  
 Marjorie Newman 07/10  
 Eileen Mckenzie 07/11

Maudena Eccleston 07/13  
 Leona Henry 07/14  
 Andrew Wilks 07/14  
 Monet Xminis 07/15  
 Cynthia Barnett 07/16  
 Fitzroy Jones 07/18  
 Cynthia Fletcher 07/18  
 Gladys Thomas 07/19  
 Richard Oliver Jr 07/19  
 Anderson Carrington 07/19  
 Sybil Shirley 07/20  
 Evelyn Jones 07/20

Shani Campbell 07/20  
 Tiffany Richards 07/20  
 Clayton Young 07/21  
 Nadine Lynch 07/22  
 Raven Carty 07/22  
 Daphney Forrest 07/24  
 Ashli Maxwell-Stewart 07/24  
 Karl Black 07/25  
 Karla Black 07/25  
 Keisha Barton 07/28  
 Jeneice Bradshaw 07/29  
 Kadeem Barnett 07/30  
 Joyce Anglin 07/31

**+ 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](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.**