



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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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 Church Family,

On behalf of my family and the leaders of Merrell UMC, let me wish for you a peaceful, prosperous and spiritually enriched NEW YEAR! As we look forward to *the giver of that light* that revealed Jesus Christ to the world, may we give ourselves to the mission of telling all about the good news of God's love. God's love challenge us to be shaped in godliness that mirrors the heart of Christ Jesus. We need to reflect love, joy, peace, perseverance in doing all the good we can as far as it is possible, as an outpouring of God's love that reside in us. This love of God is something to be experienced fully when we submit and surrender our lives to the obedience of God's rule. The good news is that God wants us to return to a relationship with the divine and be removed from the pain and darkness that isolation inflicts negatively on people and creation. In the middle of human challenges, discomforts and pain, God sends light of his presence in community to heal and find honor for living.

Good news is at the heart of the Christmas message, the revelation of Christ to the Magi, the journey of Jesus to the cross, the new day of resurrection, and the explosion of the Holy Spirit. Our church family participates in this good news and we are to share the story. To share the story, we have to position ourselves with open hearts to hear from God and to move with God at this moment. With that in mind, I am calling all of us to our role as disciples who live by the grace of God's love to be faithful as evangelists. All of us have this calling to tell others about this wonderful story of God's persistent, just, caring and forgiving love. If you have experienced God's love through the kind hands of someone, or the miracle of a lifesaving act, or the healing of body, or even in seeing someone reject evil or selfish acts and transformed doing acts of love, you must share this good news.

With this in mind, church leaders and myself are challenged by this good news to take new directions and bold steps to be accountable and relevant together in our mission. We are going in new ways with all our ministry areas and innovating into new things. Let me offer some areas related to our calling. On our church calendar, we intend to have worship in the park as we take church to the community. Later in the year, we will have an all-church retreat that will lead into time of revival services that will focus on holistic healing and renewal. We will seek to be more intentional in reaching to young families and adults associated with this Church and allow God to do a work there. We are pushing for more accountability from our leaders and committee members via bi-monthly prayer and ministry reflection. We hope to get a directory draft out with the intention to connect all the church and eventually deepen our involvement in small groups. This last area will take some organization. We need to get our Justice ministry better prepared for the tasks ahead. And my (long time) vision is that we begin organizing for one or two mission outreach ventures locally and overseas. So I ask all of us to give the gift of time and talent in working together. Let us look to build up our fellowship as we look to the future and not dwell on the past.

Rev. Bancroft Williams

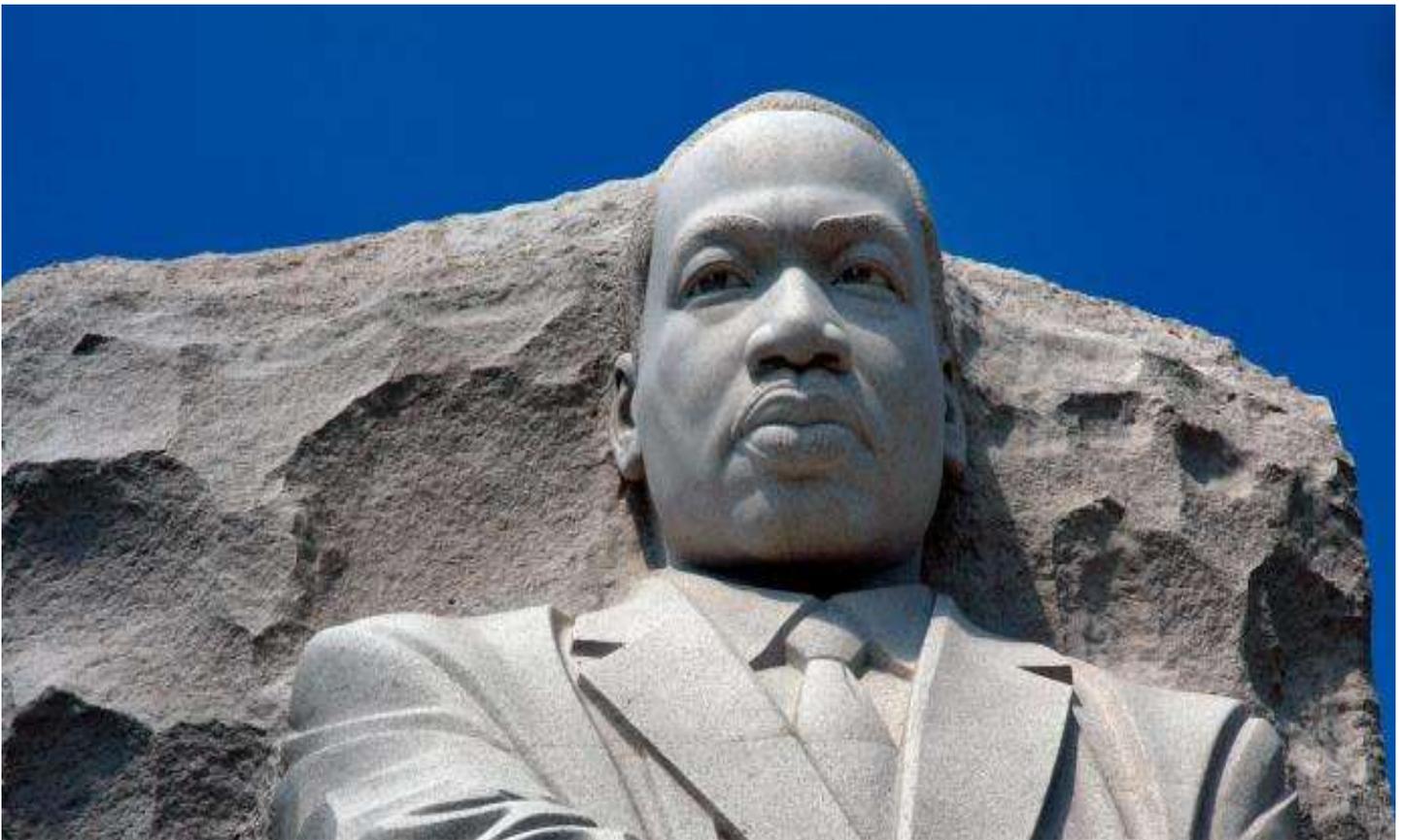


Photo by Maile Bradfield, United Methodist Communications ,

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington was dedicated by President Obama on Oct. 16, 2011.

United Methodists share MLK's dream

As we ready ourselves for January 21, 2019, observing MLK Day, we take time to remember that Dr. King was the face of the African-American civil rights movement throughout the 1960s until his assassination on April 4, 1968.

The United Methodist Church recognizes “the right of individuals to dissent when acting under the constraint of conscience and, after having exhausted all legal recourse, to resist or disobey laws that they deem to be unjust or that are **discriminately enforced.**” Therefore, many United Methodists joined Dr. King in his march toward equality, and in his wake, those United Methodist voices continue to advocate for justice for all, as their faith calls them to.

Dr. King's vision has influenced countless young people who reflect and give gratitude for how the struggles of previous generations have benefited them and shaped their lives. People of all ages are grateful for his leadership and for those United Methodists who walked with him.

(Source: United Methodist Communications)



Commission on a Way Forward

Council of Bishops



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Way Forward” report ready for special General Conference

In February, a worldwide gathering of United Methodists will assemble in St. Louis to act on items around the global church’s deep divide over homosexuality. In a special General Conference, the United Methodist Church will address a decades-long division over how the church should minister with LGBTQ individuals.

At the 2016 General Conference, delegates asked the Council of Bishops to come up with solutions and the 32-member Commission on A Way Forward was born. After multiple meetings over a period of nearly 2 years, the group will present three plans to delegates at the special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis.

The One Church Plan

- ◆ This plan is recommended by the Council of Bishops.
- ◆ It adds assurances that pastors and conferences do not have to perform same-sex weddings or ordain “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy if they do not wish do so.
- ◆ It would remove the Book of Discipline’s restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality
- ◆ Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — may maintain the current restrictions as listed in the Book of Discipline.

The Connectional-Conference Plan

- ◆ It creates three new theologically-based central conferences: traditional, progressive and unity.
- ◆ It allows congregations to align with one of three conferences based on their policies on LGBTQ issues, be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches.
- ◆ This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

The Traditionalist Plan

- ◆ This plan would affirm the Book of Discipline’s current language and seek to strengthen enforcement.

What we can do:

As the General Conference date approaches, our United Methodist Church leaders are asking us to take time to prayerfully reflect on the implications of each plan. For more information, google UMW Commission on a Way Forward. To read the Council of Bishops’ report in its entirety, go to website www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward. There is also a Facebook page: UMC Commission on a Way Forward.

Church News

It Happened at Merrell!

Food Distribution Program Changes

Church family, Merrell is in the process of applying to take over the Feeding with Compassion food distribution program, which has been dissolved as of December 31, 2018.

Merrell's monthly Farm Share will continue until we find out about the new program. If the church's application is successful, it means Merrell will have an expanded, more efficient food distribution program.

The Feeding With Compassion program was operated by Bro. Horby Turner and volunteers on our campus for the past eight years. Merrell extends its appreciation to Bro. Turner for his organization's service in our community.

See Sis. Eileen Tucker for additional information.

This was the face of Christmas, the season of our Savior's birth at Merrell. Our Chrismon Tree, our members giving them most welcoming congregational smiles, our poinsettias decorating our Altar, our young ones paying rapt attention to the message during the Children's Moment. It was a time of joy, of celebration of welcoming the birth of Christ in the most beautiful way.



Volunteers needed for Thrift Store

Merrell's Thrift Store would like to offer its heartfelt thanks all of its volunteers and the community for their support in 2018. We are looking forward to continuing our much needed outreach service to our community in 2019.

We are open from Wednesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the church campus.

We are seeking additional volunteers - male and female - for our Friday shift. If you are able to spare three hours from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., please let us know. Please contact Mrs. Phylis Brown or the Church office.

May God richly bless you in the new year.



END OF YEAR

GIVING STATEMENTS

TITHES & OFFERING ENVELOPES

We thank God for you and your gifts to Merrell United Methodist Church throughout 2018. 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 2019 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. Also, please watch out for the End-of-Year statements in the Narthex before the end of January.

Norma Williamson Financial Secretary



Online Tithing

- ◆ Going on vacation?
- ◆ Won't be able to attend church for a week or so?
- ◆ Don't want to be bothered with writing checks?
- ◆ Comfortable paying your bills online?

Then, why not tithe online by using Merrell's [Vanco Merchant Services](http://www.merrellumc.org)? Vanco is approved by the Florida Conference and the service is now growing in popularity at many churches in the conference. Merrell has been using it for the past two years and it has proven to be very reliable and stable. If you want more information on how to set up your online profile, please check with the church office or church Treasurer Eric Royes, or log into our website www.merrellumc.org



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



"Our Love for God"

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

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

Where: **The East Lounge**

Topic: **God commands our Love, Respect and Obedience, Loving God by Trusting Christ, Love Songs that Glorify God.**

This quarter's lessons begin with God's demands for our complete and undivided love and then we explore our own responses to God's love especially during the Advent season.



Church family, please don't forget to drop your offering in the baskets near the ushers when you come up for the Lord's Supper during First Sunday Communion. Whatever we collect goes into our Good Samaritan Benevolent Fund and are used to assist our neighbors with immediate needs, as vetted by Pastor. The needs could be assisting with small children, helping to pay an emergency light bill, etc. Please place your offering in the basket as you make your way up for Communion.

Announcements



**Bread Cart
Ministry**
January 7 & 21
2:00PM—3:00 PM
RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: You will be required to sign in.

FARM SHARE

SATURDAY, JAN 26
10:00 a.m - 1:00p.m



Free Produce & Food Distribution

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

LYDIA CIRCLE
THURSDAY, Jan 10 - 7:00pm
Ragsdale Hall

YOUTH Choir Practice & Bible Study
FRIDAY January 11, 18 & 25
7:00PM—RAGSDALE HALL

EVANGELISM committee
saturday, Jan 12 @ 10:30am - ROOM 17



RUTH CIRCLE
TUESDAY, Jan 15 - 10:00am
Ragsdale hall

FINANCE meeting
tuesday, Jan 15 - 7:00PM - ROOM 17

PRESCHOOL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, Jan 16
7:00PM IN ROOM 17

TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY, Jan 17
7:30PM - ROOM 17

Worship committee
saturday, Jan 19
2:00PM - ROOM 17

All Liturgists are requested to attend.

Church council meeting
Tuesday, Jan 22
7:00PM - ROOM 17



South East District

Mark your calendars!
Southeast Training Event

Saturday, February 9, 2019
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Christ Church
4845 NE 25th Ave., Fort Lauderdale

ALTAR FLOWERS



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!

Let 2019 be your year to express yourself with beautiful blooms on the altar! Flowers may be given in honor of, in memory of, in thanksgiving for or in celebration of. Please participate in our flower ministry by claiming your Sunday on the calendar in the Narthex. Simply pick a Sunday, write in your name, then fill out the Altar Flower Form. Drop it in the offering plate at least two weeks before your chosen Sunday. Donations are \$35.00 per vase. Your name will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin.

BIBLE STUDY



ADULT BIBLE STUDY
RESUMES JANUARY 8

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



Florence Ricketts 01/01
 Michelle Nichols 01/01
 Makeda Francis 01/01
 Guyan Coombs 01/03
 Nikia Jack 01/03
 Braeden Bennett 01/04
 Vinnetta Love-Grey 01/04
 Mabel Williams 01/05
 Nasir Brathwaite 01/05
 Marjorie Young 01/05
 Heather Smith Berry 01/06
 Chester Brooks 01/06
 Jasmine Forbes 01/06
 Khiyem Smith 01/06
 Estelle Webb 01/07
 Ayden Wilson 01/07
 Schijah Frazer 01/07
 Schjai Frazier 01/07
 Richard Smith 01/08
 Anthony Black 01/09

Muriel Cornelius 01/10
 Camille Robinson 01/10
 Michaelae 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
 Cheryl Serrant 01/13
 Ian Myrie 01/13
 Sarah Grant 01/14
 Eric Royes 01/14
 Jacqueline Goodall 01/14
 Rupert Sherwood 01/15
 Lovell McKail Jr 01/15
 Calvin Anderson 01/16
 Caryll Gordon 01/16

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/
 Victoria Curry 01/25
 Mikayla Gordon 01/27
 Valerie Perrin 01/28/
 Godfrey Solomon 01/28
 Valerie Schroeter-Perrin 01/28
 Juleen Francis-Frazer 01/28
 Angela Saintil 01/29
 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](#)

Our Church Leaders

Church Council

Sis. Eileen Tucker

Lay Leaders

Sis. Patricia Tabois

Sis. Lurow Hall

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

Ettamerle Rapley

Youth

Sis. Judy Gohagen

Sis. Keisha Coombs-Newman

Thrft 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.**