



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.



FROM THE PASTOR

On Mission Together

Greetings one and all beloved. Let me take this opportunity to wish for all a blessed month of May. And speaking about May, we are participating in the Florida United Methodist Church initiative “On Mission Together” weekend. This initiative encourages us to have discussions as a congregation on what our work in evangelism and justice will look like in the months and years to come. Our Bishop, Ken Carter, is encouraging us to host a mission together weekend to connect with God, with each other and with the community. To be in a time of sharing and fellowship that will allow us to positively present the gospel message. We will work to promote Christ as Lord via our outreach ventures and offer all persons opportunity to connect, first time or rededicate ourselves to the power and saving grace of God via Jesus Christ. I believe Bishop Carter’s appeal is relevant and urgent in our times. Our response must be that we will be the message of Christ to the world with our bodies, our feet, our hands and our voices.

I encourage all of us to pray and participate in all that we will do as a church. We must prepare well and give our best to the Lord. I propose the following measures in preparation. Since all of the church— members, regular attending sisters and brothers and friends— will be involved directly or indirectly, I will focus several messages on evangelism and justice. I will try to meet with all of our groups to listen to what their understanding is of doing mission together. I will instruct the evangelism and mission teams to take the lead in organizing a weekend fun afternoon or night to discuss mission together for those who regularly attend church or those who just have an interest in what we intend to do. We will discover and work on project(s) that have a spiritual alignment with loving God and neighbors.

It is my prayer that this “On Mission Together” weekend will renew our focus on doing the work of God by being the representatives who embody the gospel. I also pray that, by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we will locally connect the good news with all people—those at our Health Fair, Food bank programs, young people events, and our fall revival services. These are challenging and exciting times in living the gospel relevantly in our communities. Come join us! Join with other congregations of the United Methodist Church in Florida on this exciting call in creatively doing mission together. God in Christ is depending on you and I to proclaim and demonstrate Agape that can renew our world.

Rev. Bancroft Williams

Happy Mother's Day



A Mother's Love

Helen Steiner Rice

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendoured miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

"Merrell in Action" ~ April



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

On Mission Together



2019 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 5-8, 2019

Florida Southern College
111 Lake Holingsworth Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33801
See Lay Leader Patricia Tabois



2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Annual Conference is almost here! We need a lot of smiling faces to help our guests have a wonderful experience! Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Greeters
- Guest Services
- Prayer Garden
- Ushers

Won't you consider volunteering at this year's Annual Conference?

To access all of the information and to sign-up!
<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/2019ACVolunteerOpps2019>

Deadline to sign up is 5/22/2019

We would like to ask that you consider signing up for multiple days and/or shifts!

Thanks, in advance!



Our Youth Need Your Help!

Please support Merrell's United Methodist Women's fundraising efforts to help our youth who will be attending Mission u this yea in Lakeland.

Mission u is sponsored by the Florida Conference of United Methodist Women each summer and it gives participants an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current mission study topics - with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. The fundraiser will be dinners, available for eat-in or take-out, on **May 31 at Ragsdale Hall, starting at noon until 5 p.m.**

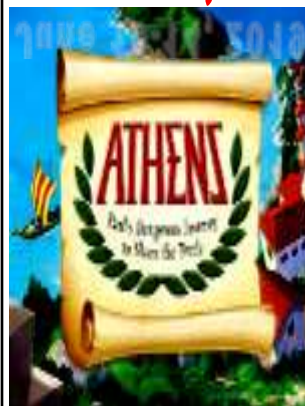
On the menu: Oxtails, Curried Goat, Curried Chicken, Escovitch Fish, Jerk Pork and Jerk Chicken. Ginger Beer and baked goods also will be offered.

Please tell your friends and family. And, you're encouraged to order meals in advance. They will be available, starting at noon. For more information, please see **Sis. Thelma McGeachy** or call

Sis. Hyacinth Henry at (954) 805-7339.

June 10-14, 2019

**SEE YOU AT
VBS!**



Now that the school year is coming to an end, it's time to prepare for VBS. Our week-long event is open to all ages and runs from June 10 to June 14 at Merrell. It ends with a community picnic on church grounds on Saturday, June 11, 2019, sponsored by the United Methodist Men's fellowship. This year's VBS theme is

"Athens

Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth."

Please share the date with family, friends and neighbors. VBS is open to all youth in our community.

As always, the church is seeking volunteers for teachers and support staff, including security and kitchen helpers. If you want to be a part of this year's excitement, please see **Rev. Hope McNeil-Williams**.



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



MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

"Discipleship and Mission" ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL INVITATION

Happy Ash Wednesday

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

Every Sunday morning at 9am in the East Lounge

•Call to Discipleship•Call to Ministry

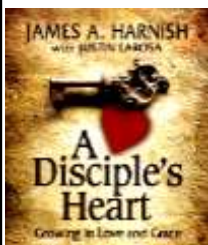
•The Spread of the Gospel

This quarter's lessons focus on several aspects of what it means to be called by Jesus as a disciple: offering hospitality, reaching the lost and salvation of all people. The lessons also explore the challenges Jesus' disciples faced as they faithfully exercised their call to ministry. Would you accept such a call?



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

MEETS ON MONDAYS
AT 4:00pm
East Lounge



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

Join Pastor Bancroft

Learn how to develop a pattern of daily Scripture reading, prayer, and personal reflection and guided questions to help define spiritual life goals and create strong church community bonds.

PLEASE JOIN US

East Lounge

PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday at 6:30pm

WHY DO I NEED TO PRAY?

Why do we pray?

God knows everything already anyway. He's almighty, sovereign, and in control of all things. What could we possibly add to His wisdom with our feeble attempts at prayer? It's a great question.

FIRST, WE PRAY
BECAUSE WE
ARE GOD'S
CHILDREN, AND
HE LOVES TO
HEAR FROM US!

Zephaniah 3:17

SECOND, WE
PRAY
BECAUSE IT
DEEPENS OUR
TRUST IN
GOD.

Philippians 4:6-7

THIRD, WE
PRAY
BECAUSE IT
CAUSES US TO
DEPEND ON
GOD.

Isaiah 40:26

FOURTH, WE PRAY
BECAUSE IT GIVES
US THE CHANCE
TO EXPRESS
OURSELVES
COMPLETELY TO
THE LORD.

Psalms 62:8

FIFTH, WE
PRAY BECAUSE
OUR PRAYERS
MOVE THE
HEART OF
GOD.

James 4:2

SIXTH, WE PRAY
BECAUSE IT'S AN
AMAZING WAY
THAT WE GET TO
BE INVOLVED WITH
WHAT GOD IS
ALREADY DOING
IN OUR WORLD.

1 Thessalonians 5:25

PRAYER

"God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil." - Mother Teresa

Announcements



Bread Cart Ministry MONDAY, MAY 6 & 20

2:00PM—3:00 PM
RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: You will be required to sign in.



thursday, MAY 9 - 7:00pm
LYDIA CIRCLE-Ragsdale hall

FRIDAY MAY 10, 17, 24
YOUTH MEETING 7:00PM—RAGSDALE HALL

SATURDAY, MAY 11 at 10:30Am
EVANGELISM committee- ROOM 17

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 at 7:00pm
PRESCHOOL BOARD MTG- ROOM 17

THURSDAY, MAY 16 at 7:00pm
TRUSTEES committee- ROOM 17

saturday, MAY 18
Worship committee- 2:00PM - ROOM 17



TUESDAY, MAY 21 - 10:00am
RUTH CIRCLE-Ragsdale hall

Tuesday, MAY 21 at 7:00pm
Finance committee- ROOM 17

TUESDAY, MAY 28 at 7:00pm
CHURCH COUNCIL- ROOM 17

FARM SHARE

FRIDAY, MAY 10 & 24
SATURDAY, MAY 11 & 25
10:00 a.m - 1:00p.m

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



WOMEN OF PRAISE MINISTRY
PRESENTS
Butterfly Garden
Tea Party
An Afternoon of Tea & Fashion
Sat. May 18th, 2019 3pm - 7pm
Merrell United Methodist Church
3900 N State Rd. 7
Lauderdale Lakes
\$25

**Dress Down
Casual Attire**
**Summer
Worship
Service**

It has become a tradition at Merrell that Summers (Memorial Day through Labor Day) are casual dress. As we move into summer, we will relax a little and not be so formal in our Sunday dress - cool, casual, and comfortable (but appropriate!) is the key. You will notice that our ministers, choir members and acolytes even take a break from the formality of wearing robes during this casual time. We invite you to join us each Sunday, to casually “rest and refresh” your summer spirit!



Erica Brown 05/02
 Adelaide Rainford 05/03
 Joyce Alladin 05/03
 Elliott Stanley 05/03
 Jennifer Dixon-Reid 05/03
 Almenia Ingram 05/04
 Herma Sherwood 05/05
 Christian Johnson 05/07
 Michelle Miller-Ranger 05/09
 Soleil Morton 05/09

Heather Richards 05/11
 Jasmine Carrington 05/11
 Lorna Smith 05/12
 Kito Barnes 05/13
 Jennie Rosinski 05/15
 Leanora Christie 05/15
 Joshua Christie 05/15
 Rudolph Shirley 05/16
 Nina Cox 05/19
 Fitzroy Gordon 05/22

Dejon Brooks 05/22
 Godfrey Barnaby 05/23
 Jaquanna Williams 05/23
 Breanna Nesbeth 05/23
 Cynthia Lee 05/24
 Avis Duhaney-Walcott 05/24
 Dorothy Brown 05/24
 Ricardo Morrison 05/24
 Desiree Barnes 05/29
 Roshea Lewis 05/31
 Roshawn McKnight 05/31

✦ The Staff ✦

The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor
 Email: pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org
 Sis. 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

Visit our website

www.merrellumc.org

Our Church Leaders

Church Council Sis. Eileen Tucker	United Methodist Women Sis. Thelma McGeachy
Lay Leaders Sis. Patricia Tabois Sis. Lurow Hall	United Methodist Men Bro. Lovell McKail
Lay Member to Annual Conference Sis. Lorna Smith	Visitation Ministry Sis. Dizzierene Cox
Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee Sis. Yvette Smith	Stewardship Bro. Winston Chang
Admn. Assistant to Pastor Sis. Claudette Meatley	New Members Committee Sis. Rose Farquharson
Finance Committee Bro. Wayne Ranger	Membership Secretary Sis. Phillipa Daniels
Financial Secretary Sis. Norma Williamson	Campus Ministry Representative Sis. Judith Gohagen
Prayer Ministry Sis. Ullet Black	Disaster Coordinator Bro. Lovell McKail
Trustee Bro. Franklyn Coombs	Worship Ministries Sis. Ettamerle Rapley
Evangelism/Outreach Ministries Sis. Valerie Henry	Youth Sis. Judy Gohagen
Preschool Board Chair Sis. Thelma McGeachy	Thrift Shop Sis. Keisha Coombs-Newman
	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.**