



Merrell On The Move

Special Edition



Spirit-led•Equipped•Empowered•Disciples

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

Worship
WITH US ONLINE

Sunday Worship - 10:00am

Tuesday Prayer meeting - 6:30pm

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/8163487727?](https://zoom.us/j/8163487727?pwd=c2dYWmxTbENPMDFnDM3d0hLbnJCQT09)

[pwd=c2dYWmxTbENPMDFnDM3d0hLbnJCQT09](https://zoom.us/j/8163487727?pwd=c2dYWmxTbENPMDFnDM3d0hLbnJCQT09)

Meeting ID: 816 348 7727

Password: 320128

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,8163487727# US (New York)

+13126266799,,8163487727# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

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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Pastors Desk



Father Day Blessing—June 21, 2020

Fathers

We honour you in your God given duty
May you walk free from the lies of the world
That say a father is not important

For we say that you are important
You are to be a light in darkness
A living example of God Himself

We bless you to be strong and courageous
To wear the full armour of God
To resist the devil, and to stand
Stand firm for your wives and children
Stand firm for the body of Christ

We bless you to go out and do great deeds for the kingdom of God
To become oaks of righteousness
To rise to the fullness of Christ
And to run hard the race that has been marked for you

We claim this blessing for you
That you would be counted righteous in this life
That by the grace of God you would be blameless
And that in so doing your children would be blessed

What you do in life echoes in eternity.
O God bless these men
And may their echoes be loud and full and pleasing in Your sight
throughout all ages.

~ **Kirk Loadman**



ALONE TOGETHER: THE 2020 PENTECOST PARADOX

The Pentecost story begins with a sentence that in previous years was easily overlooked: **“When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1 CEB). After weeks of separation due to stay-at-home orders, social distancing and quarantine, those seven words, “they were all together in one place,”** have renewed significance.

While the thought of being together for Pentecost worship on May 31, 2020, sounds good, for many of us it **will be impossible. We’ll have to settle instead for celebrating online, using Zoom, Facebook, YouTube or some other remote option as we have since March.**

We won’t see the red paraments in person, join the kids in singing “Happy Birthday” to the church during children’s time, or see our friends all dressed up in red for the day. Instead, we’ll worship from home, longing for the day when in-person worship will resume and we can again be together in one place.

Learn more

Watch 'We are not alone,' a virtual small group conversation about the significance of Pentecost in this time of social distancing.

Read 'What is Pentecost?,' a wonderful primer from Ask The UMC.

Find a church near you where you can celebrate Pentecost online.

Check out other inspirational resources for the global pandemic.

Pentecost 2020 reminds us that the Holy Spirit, who draws us together, is present with us while we remain apart.

Overcoming barriers

In Acts 2, we read the Pentecost story. With the rush of a mighty wind and individual flames of fire (the reason for all the red), the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples **in a powerful way. They then “speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak” (vs. 4).**

Language barriers between the disciples and those who gathered from all over the world to celebrate Shavuot, a harvest festival also known as Pentecost, are overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. Each person hears the disciples speak in his or her native language.

The disciples' invitation to join them in following Jesus is well received. "God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day," the Bible tells us. They went from small group to megachurch in a moment!

At the end of the story, the Holy Spirit's power to bring **people together is evident. The “community of believers”** worshiped, prayed, studied, and ate together. United Methodists are missing all of those things during these days of social distancing.

Alone together

The paradox of Pentecost 2020 is that we’re giving up our together time because we recognize our connectedness. Yes, we’re apart. But because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are not alone. Pentecost reminds us of our connection to God and one another.

Acts 2:47 tells us that the **first church “praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone.” Online worship and social distancing are a couple of ways we are following their example today.**

Pentecost 2020 reminds us of how good it is when we are **“all together in one place.” It also highlights that even when being together isn't possible, the Holy Spirit overcomes barriers like language and social distance to connect us with one another.**

While we’re apart, we continue to be the church for one another, because the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we are.

*Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Email him.

The story was published May 21, 2020.



A Pastoral Letter to United Methodists
of the Southeastern Jurisdiction
June 5, 2020

Brothers and Sisters:

As president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops my heart rejoices over the bold, courageous, and compassionate offering of confession, lament, and call to action by our white brothers and sisters of the SEJ College and the gracious acceptance of this act of truth telling as we journey toward the Beloved Community. It is our belief that such actions enhance our work and witness to a hurting community seeking moral leadership in this time of racial upheaval.

We see this statement as a reversal of the sentiments of the letter sent to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by a group of clergymen that caused him to write the eloquent and **brutally honest** “**Letter From a Birmingham Jail.**”
<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/letter-birmingham-jail>

We have longed for white voices of power and influence to stand with us. It is an amazing gift to hear and work with colleagues joining voices in solidarity with African Americans who have been both prophet and victim. It is only when the privileged who have benefited from the evils of racism take a stand that real change happens. It is our prayer that the church, the nation, and our world will no longer place the burden on the oppressed to liberate themselves. It is impossible to free yourself when the power of systemic injustice has its knee on your neck.

We pray that what follows will serve as a model for our brothers and sisters who have lived a life of white privilege to speak a gracious yet painful word of truth as we journey together toward real transformation, hope, and love in this racially charged atmosphere. We share this work of solidarity with these words from our fellow White Bishops with thanksgiving and hope that others will join us.

Bishop Leonard Fairley

We, the White Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, call upon all United Methodists to stand with and see our Black brothers and sisters.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with our Black Bishops in the Church who have consistently named and called out the systemic and sinful practice of discrimination that has been pervasive in the United States since the first slaves walked the shores of this land. For our failure to join our sisters and brothers we ask forgiveness.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with the Black Communities across our Episcopal Areas recognizing that we who have been in positions of power and privilege have been silent. In our silence we have and do sin. We implore all United Methodists across the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to exercise influence and power to be agents of repentance, reconciliation, reformation, and restoration in a system that has failed to bring hope to all God’s children of color.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with all persons who live in fear of the very systems designed to protect them.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with all persons whose anger has reached the point of intolerance due to failure after failure to change systemic racial injustice which has created the climate where black lives can be snuffed out without consequence.

As White American Bishops, we stand up, stand with, and stand against any systems of injustice that treat people differently because of the color of their skin. We call on the people called Methodist to live fully into our baptismal vows to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.

We believe that the soul of our nation needs to be examined which means that each person, individually, needs to engage in self-examination. Self-examination includes educating oneself about the roots of racism from slavery to lynching to racial segregation and Jim Crow to contemporary presumptions of guilt, incarceration, and police violence. Self-examination means scrutinizing **one’s beliefs, attitudes, and actions.** A beginning place is for each of us to read “**Letter From a Birmingham Jail**” written by Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. [See link above.]

God calls us individually and collectively to take action. In our Baptism we are called to accept the freedom and power given by God to resist evil, injustice, and oppression however, wherever, and whenever they are present.

We, the White American Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Church, cry out to the people of The United Methodist Church to unite our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our strength now to step into this present brokenness by seeing those we have chosen not to see. We do so believing that out of the pain of the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, and countless others whose names have faded, that these senseless killings will stop and healing can begin.

Let us now, this day, stand up and stand with our Black brothers and sisters so that we will be united as one body in Christ, redeemed by his blood. May we be one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory.

This is our deepest prayer.

The Holy Work Before Us

We now ask you to join us in recommitting ourselves to non-violently exposing and opposing injustice, racism, and violence even when it resides in our own hearts. We must not allow our righteous indignation and prophetic calls for justice to become spiritually hollow with no moral integrity to speak into a world that is in desperate need of the fresh bread of hope.

We hear and see it in the protests. The world grows weary of injustice where the marginalized become voiceless and invisible living at the mercy of power. If we are unwilling to walk the path of Jesus Christ and truly acknowledge white privilege, then all our statements simply become high sounding pontificated documents joining other statements gathering dust on the shelves of empty promises.

With your prayers and actions joined with ours, we can answer the cries we hear in the midst of protests—cries of injustice, fear, and anger, that when gone unanswered turn violent. If Jesus is indeed the answer let us dare to see one another as beloved children of the living God deserving of love, mercy, and justice.

We offer our example to the church. In the name of Jesus Christ this is our work and we dare not abandon it or the world because we desire privilege and power over what the Lord requires of us.

Please join us in this holy work of dismantling racism in its subtle and overt forms. If not us, who? If not now, when?

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Bishop Lawson Bryan

Bishop Kenneth L. Carder

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter

Bishop Ray Chamberlain

Bishop Young Jin Cho

Bishop Charles Crutchfield

Bishop Lindsey Davis

Bishop Leonard Fairley

Bishop Bob Fannin

Bishop David Graves

Bishop Larry Goodpaster

Bishop Al Gwinn

Bishop Jonathan Holston

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.

Bishop Charlene Kammerer

Bishop James King

Bishop Clay Lee

Bishop Paul Leeland

Bishop Sharma Lewis

Bishop Richard Looney

Bishop William T. McAlilly

Bishop Lawrence McCleskey

Bishop Jack Meadors

Bishop C. P. Minnick, Jr.

Bishop Joe Pannel

Bishop Bob Spain

Bishop Thomas B. Stockton

Bishop James Swanson

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

Bishop Mike Watson

Bishop William Willimon

Bishop Dick Wills

The Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction
of The United Methodist Church

Appreciating our Pastor

Our church family took the time to demonstrate our appreciation of the Rev. Dr. Bancroft Williams whose hard work has kept our church together during this pandemic.

First, a drive-by: A hard rain did not dampen spirits as a steady stream of dedicated parishioners recently did a post-worship Sunday drive-by with balloons, signs, horns, noisemakers and posters.

Next, red, heart-shaped balloons filled our sanctuary during Pentecost Sunday. Each balloon carried the name of a church ministry and a special message to Pastor. In addition to Sunday worship, he coordinates - via Zoom - the Tuesday Prayer Meeting, Wednesday Bible Study and Youth meetings on Fridays.





Funeral Arrangements

A viewing for brother Godfrey Solomon will be from
4:00pm to 7:00p.m. Thursday June 11, 2020

Elijah Bell Funeral Home,
3750 N. State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes.

Funeral Service

Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Elijah Bell Funeral Home

Interment

Sunset Memorial Gardens, 3201 NW 19th St.,
Fort Lauderdale.

The Rev. Dr. Bancroft William, officiating.

No more than 50 people are allowed into the funeral home at one time. Anyone wishing to attend the viewing, service and interment at the cemetery must wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

The family plans to hold a celebration of Brother Solomon's life at a later date.



In
Partnership with



FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES

Drive-Thru Only!!!

Saturday, June 13 & 27

11:00AM - 2:00PM

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



Junette Stevens 06/04
 Jennifer Hartley Wilson 06/04
 Gianna Royes 06/04
 Colin Smith 06/05
 Alicia Bennett 06/06
 Patricia Tabois 06/07
 Andrew Christie 06/07
 Zelda Alcock 06/09
 Cleon Tabois 06/09
 Winston Marsh 06/10
 Nicole Barnaby 06/10
 Laila Fletcher 06/10
 Sheyanne Myrie 06/11

Taniya Richards 06/11
 Lloyd Murray 06/12
 Hyacinth Perderaux 06/12
 Leoni Williams 06/14
 Joyce Browne 06/16
 Martha Royes 06/16
 Iceline Allen 06/17
 Dahlia Campbell 06/17
 Justice Forbes 06/17
 Semaj Morton 06/17
 Cameron Shaw 06/17
 Casmine Pelle 06/18
 Ann Rose-Thomas 06/18

Dorothy Bennett 06/20
 Michaelah Ward 06/20
 Theodore Parrish 06/21
 Winnifred DaCosta 06/22
 Vivian McGeachy 06/22
 Linda Davis 06/23
Daisy Riviears 06/24
 Ruby Amritt 06/24
 Daphnie Chang 06/24
 Reneka Burleigh 06/24
 Joan Nichols 06/26
 Dorothy Ingram 06/27
 Joyce Kennedy 06/30
 Delbert Connell 06/30

✦ The Staff ✦

The Rev. Dr. 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

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. Ettamerle Rapley

Youth

Sis. Judy Gohagen

Sis. Keisha Coombs-Newman

Thrift Shop

Coordinator

Sis. Phylis Brown

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.**