



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Len McRaney  
12298 Shorecrest Rd.  
Biloxi, MS 39532



## FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



**From the Pen of Brother Len:**

### God's Box of Chocolates

Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on tv promising to be the only love you need, chocolate cookies, Chocolate candy bars, Chocolate bells--**CHOCOLATE!** I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: **"Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get."** (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut— Well... I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

**"When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee--God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable." ([Heb. 6:16-18](#), the Message)**

You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the verse above continues to encourage us: (vs.19-20)

**"We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek."**

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Phone #s:** (228) 392 – 5970 (office)  
(601) 938 – 7967 (Bro. Len)

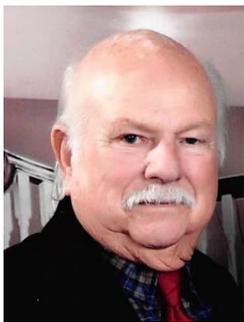
**Office Hours:** M – F (closed W), 9 AM – Noon  
**Email:** [coalvilleumc@cableone.net](mailto:coalvilleumc@cableone.net)  
**Web:** [www.coalvilleumc.org](http://www.coalvilleumc.org)

To receive the UM Conference Newsletter, the Circuit Rider, go to [www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1049](http://www.mississippi-umc.org/pages/detail/1049).

To receive the Seashore District newsletter email [seashore@mississippi-umc.org](mailto:seashore@mississippi-umc.org) or call (228) 284 - 4199.



### *Our Thoughts and Prayers Go out to the families of*



**Charles Gonzales**, a friend and member of our church, who passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

*Please continue to pray for Kay as she takes this next journey and also dealing with her health issues.*



**Curtis Felsher**, long – time friend and member of our church, who passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

*Mrs. Neicy and her family need our prayers and she also has health issues.*



Thank you to all who were able to come to the prayer time last Sunday afternoon. Prayers for the nation and others touched the heart of our awesome God and He is always pleased when we obey. If you weren't able to be there you will have another opportunity to join others in prayer. We will let you know when as soon as we are able.

February is here and a time many share thoughts of love through gifts and cards. In the scripture we read about God's love and ours. 1 John 4 says:

..... God's love is made complete in us."

Love is a choice and an action. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to love.

May each one of us ask God to reveal to us someone who needs our love that we may have neglected. When we love it is God's love working through us. We live in a hurting world and the need is there. Begin now praying about this and intentionally seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in this. Write on a note card a verse on one side and a prayer on the other to give to them.

You may already be praying specifically for someone to accept Jesus as Savior or someone who needs encouragement. Communicate with them and begin praying 'with' them. Put God's love into action by text, call, and/or card. Let this be continually.

Remember the song, "What the World Needs Now" ... is love, sweet love, not for some but for 'everyone'...Put a smile on His face. God has the camera & video ready.....get busy! 😊

# CORNERSTONE

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual soup and cake fundraiser this year. It has been going well and soon we will have a total of funds raised and determine how it will be used after February 7th.

We hope everyone is doing fine and hanging in there during these trying times; they seem to be going on forever. We continue to pray for the families that have lost loved ones during this time and ask that God bring them peace and comfort. Also prayers for the members of our church and community, our country, and the world.

We recently had a children's church lesson that used our shadow, as an example, to help the children better understand that God is always with us. It taught them that, just like God, our shadow is always with us. You can't run away from it; it won't leave you. In Matthew... Jesus gives us the great commission to go out to make disciples. He explains that though it seems he is leaving us he will always be with us... (Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20.)

So let's not get discouraged during these trying times. Let's try to keep our eyes on the blessings we are receiving and remember that God is always with us.

Here is a piece of a song by Mercy Me called *God with Us*.

*Lord, You know  
Our hearts don't deserve Your glory  
Still You show  
A love we cannot afford*

*Like hinges straining  
From the weight*

*My heart no longer  
Can keep from singing*

*All that is within me cries  
For You alone be glorified  
Emmanuel  
God with us*

*My heart sings a brand new song  
The debt is paid, these chains are gone  
Emmanuel  
God with us*



**Birthdays**  
**Anniversaries**  
**Monthly Events**  
**Scheduled Meetings**  
**Weekly Events**  
**CLC – Christian Life Center**

**FH – Fellowship Hall**  
**S – Sanctuary**  
**CW – Contemporary Worship**  
**TW – Traditional Worship**  
**AB – Administrative Board**  
**CB – Cornerstone Band**

**CM – Communications Meeting**  
**DD – Dixie Doll Twirlers**  
**FL – Fellowship Luncheon**  
**Pm – Prayer Ministry**  
**SL – Senior Luncheon**  
**WOW – Women of Worth**

February 2021						
◀ January						March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Terri Crawford</b> 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC  6 PM, CB, S	<b>2</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	<b>3</b> <b>Wes Householder</b>	<b>4 Bruce Bleil</b> <b>Jacob McGrew</b> <b>Ryland Nguyen</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH  6 PM, CB, S	<b>5</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>6 May Nell Holland</b>  <b>All Day, CB, CLC</b>
<b>7</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  <b>Carter Nguyen</b>  6 – 8 PM, UMYF & YA, CLC	<b>8 Devry Cothorn</b> 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC  6 PM, CB, S	<b>9</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	<b>10</b> <b>Frank Robinson</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH  6 PM, CB, S	<b>12</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>13 Cole Foretich</b>
<b>14</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  6 – 8 PM, UMYF & YA, CLC	<b>15</b> 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC  6 PM, CB, S	<b>16</b> <b>Gregory Rushing</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	<b>17 Amy Nguyen</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH  6 PM, CB, S	<b>19</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>20 Beverly Jones</b> <b>Wayne Taylor</b> <b>Ginger Trochesset</b>
<b>21</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  6 – 8 PM, UMYF & YA, CLC	<b>22</b> 3 – 6 PM, DD, CLC  6 PM, CB, S	<b>23 Tim Ludlow</b> <b>Christian Fayard</b> <b>Jimmy Wendling</b>  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	<b>24 Cathy Walker</b> <b>Michael Dyer</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 AM, Pm, FH  6 PM, CB, S	<b>26 Richard Gibbs</b>  7 PM, AA, FH	<b>27 Krysten Curry</b> <b>Emilee Ramsey</b>
<b>28</b> 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  6 – 8 PM, UMYF & YA, CLC	<b>Backpack Blessings</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> – Oatmeal/grits</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> – Beanie Weenies</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> – Ramen Noodles</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> – Ravioli</b>					