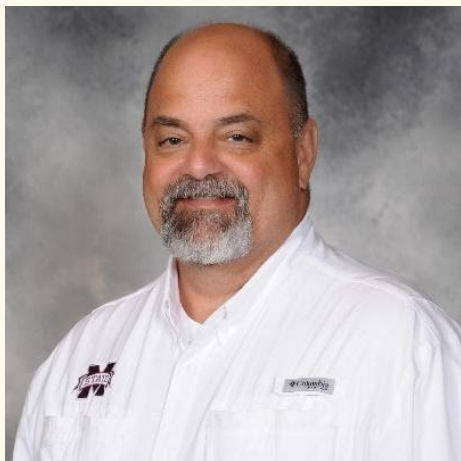


THE CIRCUIT RIDER

December 2022



These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

"The Days of Elijah" is a song written and recorded by Robin Mark. He released the song in 1996 and says the song was a reaction to world events in 1994. Mark says he was watching a "Year in Review" program and began to despair over the state of our world. This was the year of the Rwandan Civil war and the first cease fire in Northern Ireland. He said the review was full of sappy stories, happy stories, and tragic stories like the Rwandan war where an estimated 1 million people lost their lives, He says as he prayed, he began to feel much like the prophet Elijah. Elijah's story is told in the Book of Kings in the Old Testament. During his ministry Elijah felt isolated and alone in the culture in which he lived, yet God asked him to stand up and speak boldly on His behalf.

Advent is a time when we remember the birth of our savior and look forward to his future return. It's easy to get caught up in the Christmas culture wars and get offended at being told "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas". We can despair over the moral decay of our culture or the crass consumerism that has seemed to replace our religious observance of the birth of Jesus. We can feel alone and isolated in a society that no longer seems to value our faith. Or... Or we can celebrate. We can choose to announce the truth and reality that God loves his creation by our words and deeds. We can choose to help usher others into the Kingdom, by how we treat others and how we react to adversity. We can choose kindness and love rather than bitterness and anger. We can choose to share the story of Jesus by becoming part of His unfolding story. We can choose to be the person who stands in love and declares "Prepare the way of the Lord".

We may as Robin Mark sang be living in the "Days of Elijah". But we also have a choice in how we live there. Choose wisely my friends. Choose to be a herald of the Kingdom. Choose to announce the Lordship of the Christ. Choose Love.

**Blessings,
Bro. Cecil**

CENTENARY CHURCH CAMPOUT AT BOGUE CHITTO STATE PARK

Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, the church had 8 campers at the park. Friday night, Hope Bickham invited everyone to her camper for soup. Several members that were not camping came out and enjoyed the food and fellowship. Saturday everyone stayed near a campfire as it was cold. That evening everyone gathered at the McCormick's camper for 2 fires, hotdogs, sausage, trimmings and dessert. Ron Brumfield led Fire Team 1 and Fire Team 2 in a competitive Super Bowl Trivia game.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND TIMES

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the sanctuary during the Advent/ Christmas Season, please fill out a form which can be found in the office or the Narthex of the sanctuary. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. This is a fundraiser with proceeds designated to the Help Center of Churches

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 13th

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

The Memorial Christmas Tree is a project sponsored by Centenary Youth in order to purchase clothing for children at Christmas. You can honor /memorialize a person by having a light shine on our tree as a token of love at Christmas. A letter is sent to the person or family designated, informing them of this special gift of love.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 13th

GREENLEAVES

On December 20th, Greenleaves will meet at 5:00 p.m. instead of noon. A potluck supper will be enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall. Afterwards, we will travel to Tylertown, Mississippi to drive through the Christmas Lights at the park. Upon returning to Franklinton, we will again gather in the Fellowship Hall for dessert.

*******PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE OFFICE*******

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Communion Service will be December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

*****No Sunday School Classes on Christmas Day.*****

*****Worship Service will be at 10:30*****

CENTENARY CHANCEL CHOIR

The choir will be featured Christmas Day singing several selections as part of the worship service.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—CHRISTMAS

The women of Centenary will gather for their annual Christmas Party on December 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is to bring an ornament for the fun exchange.

Refreshments will be provided!

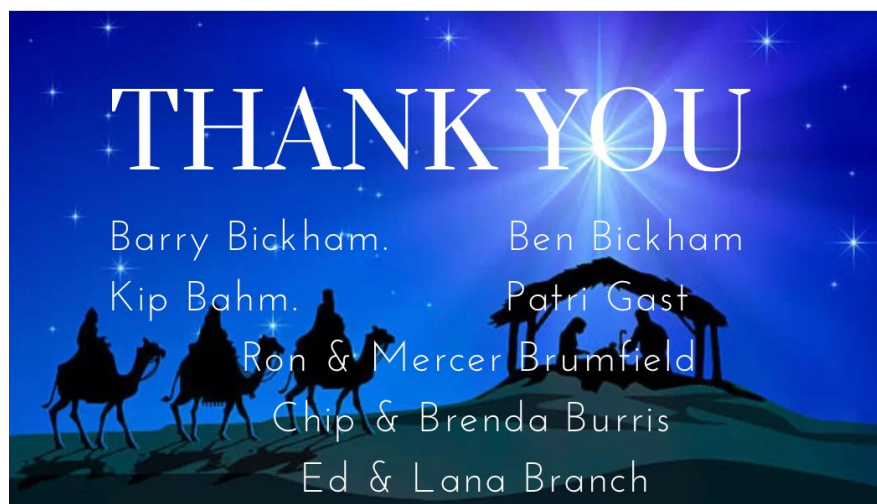
The UMW will meet on December 6th at noon for their regular monthly meeting.

EMPTY STOCKING

Hope Bickham and Kay McCain are directors of the Empty Stocking Fund. Applications for assistance at Christmas are distributed to the schools and families are selected based on financial need with the oversight of school personnel. If anyone would like to adopt one of these families and purchase the items on their list, please call the office, Hope or Kay.

FRANKLINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE—SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD AT 6:00 PM

Be sure to come out and see Centenary's Float depicting the Nativity Scene. Thanks to Hope Bickham for making this happen.



MISSIONS

The Mission Team visited Southeastern on Wednesday, November 16th. At the Wesley Foundation, the team served jambalaya, peas, and dessert to about 280 students. Thanks to all that brought brownies and cakes.



**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE MISSION TEAM
NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 8th at 6:00 p.m.**

COFFEE ON THE PATIO

Thanks to Lana Branch for organizing and providing the refreshments for our November gathering. Several guests came by and everyone enjoyed the fellowship.



PIECEMAKERS

Our Centenary Piecemakers made the quilts below. Mary Beverly spoke in church announcing the quilts would be given to the children at the new Methodist Children's Home. Following the worship service, members of the congregation came and prayed over the quilts. Pictured below is an employee of the Children's Home, Mary Beverly, and Sharron Bickham.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Percy Frazier was the guest speaker at the November Breakfast. His topic was Safe Driving. The men will meet on December 4th at 7:00 a.m.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 12/3 Hope Bahm Smith
- 12/3 Madison Logan
- 12/4 Scott Reedy
- 12/8 Olivia Richardson
- 12/12 Craig Meyer
- 12/12 David Brocato
- 12/13 Polly Carter
- 12/16 Lori Ann Johnson
- 12/18 Clay Carter
- 12/21 Mike McCormick
- 12/23 Renee Burris
- 12/23 Camden Barber
- 12/29 Callie Foreman
- 12/31 Kip Bahm

To: Methodist Church Family

*Thanks so very much for all
the PRAYERS, CALLS, CARDS,
and SUPPORT during my
recovery.*

Bless the Church & church family.

*GOD BLESS
DAVID BURRIS*

PRAYER LIST

Irvin Andre, Kathy Andre, Terrance August, Clara Jo Beaushaw, Jay Beverly, Hallie Blalock, Al Bontrager, Lynn Bourgoyne, Stacey Breaux, Lyndle Bullard, Bob Burris, David Burris, Polly Carter, Roland Carter, Patti Catalano, Kelli Darbonne, Kathy Dykes, Elaine Forrest, Prentiss Forrest, Chet Green, Sue Johnson, Pat King, Margerite Lipani, Donna Locke, Betty Logan, Ed Lyles, Peggy Lyles, David McBride, Lylia McInnis, Margie McInnis, Bobbie Brumfield Miller, Steve Wise.

Families of: Rev. Jerry Means, Frank Porter, Robert Dale Smith, David Corkern, Rita Niehouse, Jo Jane Kern, Belita Schilling, Steven Dong, Gayle Foret, Shelton Carpenter

TEDDY BEAR BABIES

Baby Boy Wallace-Parents: Ryan & Blaire Bienvenu Wallace, Grandparents: Paul Bienvenu and the late Stephanie Miller Bienvenu, and Centenary Great Grandmother Sandra Alston Miller.

Baby Girl Tregre-Parents: Cody & Sofia Tregre, Centenary Grandparents: Don & Sarah Tregre, Centenary Great grandmother: Margie Dunnington, Centenary Great uncle: Jeffery Dunnington.

OUR MILITARY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gavin Berne, Carson Fontenot, Megan McCain, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Dr. Rebekah Schott, Lee McCain, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne, Gavin Brumfield.

Pastor: Cecil Locke
Secretary: Faith Bahm
Custodian: Lee Dudley

Choir Director: Bonnie Pope
Treasurer: Julie Foret
Nursery: Felecia Forrest

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

office@cumcfranklinton.org

1015 Cleveland Street, Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/3 Franklinton Christmas Parade 12/4 Men's Breakfast 12/6 UMW
12/7, 14, 21 Triple F 12/15 Council Meeting 12/19 Book club
12/20 Greenleaves 12/24 Christmas Eve Service

Centenary United Methodist Church
1015 Cleveland Street
Franklinton, Louisiana 70438