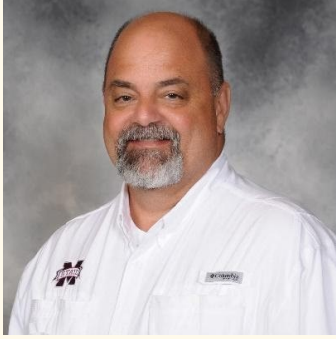


THE CIRCUIT RIDER



January 2023

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, “The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior”, Judges 6:12. Apparently Gideon is on my mind lately. It’s a great story and I invite you to read all about Gideon and his exploits in chapters 6-8 of the Book of Judges.

Gideon was certainly perplexed by this statement from the Angel of the Lord. He didn’t feel as though God was with him and he most assuredly didn’t feel like a mighty warrior. The Midianites and the Amalekites were running amok in Israel. Scripture tells us they were pillaging and plundering their way across the country. Livestock were being stolen or slaughtered. Crops were trampled or destroyed. Gideon was threshing wheat using a wine press to hide from the Midianites. He felt far away from God. In fact, he really blamed God for all the oppression he and the Israelites were suffering.

He also didn’t see himself as much of a warrior. He tried to protest when the Angel addressed him as a mighty warrior. He said that he was the least of his father’s children. And he was from the least clan and least tribe to boot. In Gideon’s mind, there surely had to be someone more qualified to lead an army and liberate the Israelites from oppression.

I think we all have times where we identify with Gideon. Maybe there are times we don’t feel like God is really with us. Maybe we don’t feel worthy of being called to do anything for God. Or maybe both. Let me help clear some of this up for you. God, throughout scripture, uses the ordinary for his purposes. He seems to always call the least qualified, the least imposing and the weaker person to be his warriors. And God is always near to us, even when we distance ourselves from Him, He is there, just waiting on us to turn back to Him.

One of the great lessons of Gideon’s story is that the victory belongs to God, not us. God chooses to use the less qualified and less worthy folks among us so that we can’t brag about the victory being won by our strength or cunning or ingenuity. The battle and the victory belong to God.

I pray that you begin to see yourself this year as the mighty warrior that you can be. You might think of yourself as weak or insignificant, but God sees you as the warrior for his kingdom that he is creating you to be. Just let God do his thing with you, yield yourself to his Lordship and let yourself be used. The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior, now go live like it is true.

**Blessings,
Bro. Cecil**

**FRANKLINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE
CENTENARY'S NATIVITY FLOAT**



Thanks to our children and Jamie Maise for the Christmas Music. Unfortunately, we failed to take pictures. Everyone enjoyed their performance!

Parents of children, please look for a letter from the church concerning 2023 Children's Program. As the church moves into the new year, we are placing an emphasis on our children. We are excited for the future!

HAPPY NEW YEAR CENTENARY

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY



MISSIONS

This report comes to Centenary from Selline in Kenya.

PROGRESS REPORT ON SCHOOL UNIFORMS 2022/2023



THE WORK HAS BEGAN

On Wednesday, November 2, 2022, Centenary United Methodist Church in Franklinton wired \$1,925 USD to Church's Account. On Thursday, November 3, 2022, \$1,925 USD arrived safely into the church account @the rate of Kenyan Shillings 118.42 per dollar, giving us a total of Kenya Shillings 224,991 for the school uniforms. On behalf of Chepkoiyo community and Kamasai missionary area where most children have been selected to benefit from the 2023 support, we thank you all at Centenary United Methodist Church in Franklinton, USA.

We identified 100 students from two schools, within Chepkoiyo village and Kamasai missionary area. The tailor is currently in the progress of taking measurements, work done 80% so far. Before we break for Christmas holiday, she shall have taken all the measurement in Kamasai area. Sewing of uniforms will begin on 28th of December through mid January 2023. Because of increase in prices of materials, each uniform (Girls-shirt and dress; Boys-shirts and shorts) will take Kenya Shillings 1,500 per student. Th remaining Kenya Shillings 74,991 will be used to purchase face masks to benefit other children too within the schools.

This report samples pictures and stories of few children from Chepkoiyo, Mission School, to demonstrate the criteria the church leaders used to select beneficiaries and what some of the student beneficiaries had to say when asked to say a work to friends at Centenary.

May our Lord God continue to bless you all with good health and perfect peace. May our good Lord continue to bless your ministry.



**Moureen Jebichii
Class 7**



"Because of you, I can smile"

"I may not know you, I may have never met you. But one thing that we know is that you are the angels God has sent to help my family."



"Thank you for your love and kindness. You have taught me to know what it means to love a strange."



Evans Kipleting is grateful

Joylene was working in a field for food money when told she would receive a uniform.

**Dennis Kipkemboi
One of ten children**

**WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL
FRIENDS AT CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST MEN

DECEMBER, 2022

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JAN. 8TH AT 7 AM

The Centenary United Methodist Men met on December 4th and heard an informative presentation by Frances Varnado, Superintendent of Schools for Washington Parish.

She stressed how important the school nutrition program is to most of the Parish's students as an overwhelming majority of them are on the Free Meals program. She pointed out that extended holidays place extra burdens on families because of the loss of these two daily meals.

She also pointed out that starting in January, 2023, the parish will be opening an Early Learning Center in the Thomas area on property donated by Dr. Jerry and LouAnn Thomas which will help prepare incoming Pre-Kindergarten students for the education process.

Our next breakfast will be on JANUARY 8TH as the first Sunday in January is New Year's Day and our speaker will be Dr. Robbie Brown, retired local dentist and friend of Centenary's Annual Blood Drive. He will share with us his experiences from the Camino De Santiago Pilgrimage which he participated in earlier this year.

Mark your calendar for January 8th and come enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by Barry, Jack, and Ben Bickham and some great fellowship.

GREENLEAVES

December 20th, Greenleaves met at the church for supper and then traveled to Ty-lertown to view the Christmas Lights. Everyone enjoyed the lights and it was a first-time experience for some. After returning to Franklinton, the group gathered at the church for dessert. Thanks to Brenda Locke for beautifully decorating the Fellowship Hall. The next gathering is January 17th at noon.



**Thank you Advent Readers
Sharron & Clyde not only read but
dressed in coordinated outfits!**





The 2023 Altar Flower list for Sunday Mornings has been mailed. The following dates are open:

1/8, 2/12, 3/26, 4/30, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 7/30, 10/8, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10

If you are interested in providing the flowers on one of these dates, please call the office.

The church has several very nice artificial arrangements that you can use and not have to purchase flowers. The church ask for a \$25 donation in order to purchase other arrangements in the future.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1/3 Patri Gast | 1/5 Aaron Logan |
| 1/6 Jessica Walker | 1/6 Sandra Miller |
| 1/9 Fabian Logan | 1/15 Genevieve Brannon |
| 1/15 Kay McCain | 1/17 Ben Bickham |
| 1/18 Elizabeth Ard | 1/20 Ellen Meyer |
| 1/20 Jennifer Green | 1/21 Clyde Oyler |
| 1/29 AnaMarie Locke | |



BEGIN 2023 WITH THE BOOK CLUB-JANUARY 16TH-11:00 AM
The Broken Girls by Simone St. James

MISSION REPORT

The Mission Team met on December 15th. Plans were made for the first half of 2023. On Sunday, Feb. 12th, a chicken dinner fundraiser will be held at the church with proceeds going to the United Methodist Children's Home. The team will provide a meal for about 100 youth at a Youth Camp in Hazelhurst, MS on Saturday, March 25th. The Church Picnic is being planned at the Bogue Chitto State Park in conjunction with a church campout. Pavilion #1 has been reserved for Saturday, April 29th. The mission team will cook chicken. In May, the team will boat the Bogue Chitto and collect trash. A foreign mission trip to Kenya is being considered. This trip is affiliated with the church/school that we raise money for their school uniforms. Theses plans represent an exciting beginning to 2023.

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, Steve Bush, Polly Carter, Roland Carter, Patti Catalano, Willie Chauvin, Kelli Darbonne, Amy Dudley, Lee Anna Dudley, Kathy Dykes, Bill Ferrante, Elaine Forrest, Prentiss Forrest, Chet Green, Sue Johnson, Pat King, Margerite Lipani, Cecil Locke, Donna Locke, Betty Logan, Ed Lyles, Peggy Lyles, David McBride, Lylia McInnis, Margie McInnis, Bobbie Brumfield Miller, Steve Wise.

Families of: Susan Kilroy Chapman, Jason Jarrell, 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.

Baby McCain-Parents: Connor & Natalie McCain, Centenary Grandparents: Kelvin & Kay McCain, Centenary Great Grandmother: Mary E. Richardson.

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.

**IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE CHURCH DURING OFFICE HOURS
CALL 985-8393808. OTHERWISE 985-515-0135 OR 985-335-7662**

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

1/3 UMW-noon 1/16 Book Club-11 am 1/17 Greenleaves-
1/19 Council Meeting-6 pm 1/24 Piecemakers-9:30 am

Centenary United Methodist Church
1015 Cleveland Street
Franklinton, Louisiana 70438