



The Messenger

First Methodist Church Long Beach
208 Pine Street
(228) 863-9619

firstmclb@gmail.com
www.fmclb.church

March 6, 2025

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace”

These are the words to a familiar chorus. They will serve to direct us during the season of Lent. Oftentimes during the season of Lent we fast from something and/or pick up a new habit in hopes of preparing ourselves for the glorious resurrection we celebrate on Easter Sunday. I encourage you to continue these practices as the Lord leads you. I also would ask that you consider creating space in your regular rhythms of life to take time and attention to “turn your eyes upon Jesus.” I challenge you to take time to simply focus on Jesus and him alone. Cast all your affection on him.

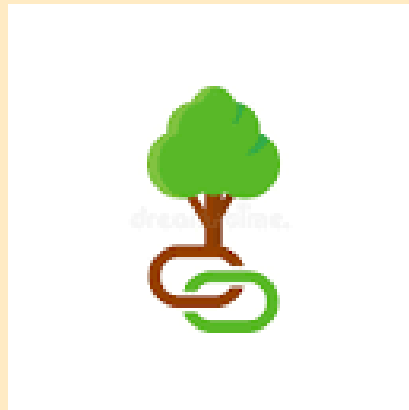
Our practices, the things we do and don’t do, certainly have an effect on our relationship with him, but I challenge you to simply be *with* him, look full in his wonderful face. I believe then the words of the chorus will ring ever true and “the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace!”

Be blessed by His presence!
-Ben

Announcements & Events



In an effort to promote safety and well being in the congregation, we have installed two AED's (defibrillators) @ the main campus. They are located in the lobby (just outside the sanctuary) and in the Christian Life Center (on the east wall).



Get connected through Linktree

Scan the code below to get connected to First Methodist Church Long Beach. You can sign up to get text messages and emails regarding upcoming events and newsletters. You can also access the main campus and The Well websites, as well as much more. If you have any questions contact the church office @ 228-863-9619.



Youth Calendar

MARCH:

- 5TH - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @6
- 9TH: YOUTH @5 MEET AT THE CHURCH- VOLLEYBALL AT THE BEACH (IF RAINING WILL STAY AT THE CHURCH FOR GAMES). ***DAYLIGHT SAVINGS***
- 12TH: DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 16TH YOUTH @5 - NEW SERIES - STORIES FROM THE GOSPEL - SENIORS WILL BEGIN THEIR SERIES - SEND OFF
- 19TH: DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 23RD YOUTH @5
- 26TH DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 30TH: YOUTH @5

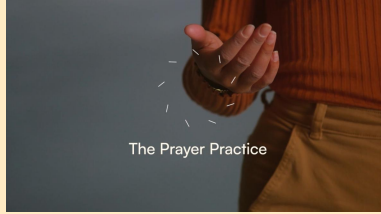
APRIL:

- 2ND: DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30
- 6TH: YOUTH @5
- 9TH: DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30
- 13TH YOUTH @5:30
- 16TH : NO HEART & SOUL
- 17TH: MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @7
- 20TH: HAPPY EASTER - NO YOUTH
- 23RD: HEART & SOUL @5:30
- 27TH: NO YOUTH - FAMILY EVENT CLC
- 30TH : HEART & SOUL @5:30



Daylight Savings

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed on Saturday, March 8th. Daylight Savings begins on March 9, 2025.



Lenten Study

March 12th - April 9th on Wednesday evenings 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. we will have a Lenten Study series on "The Prayer Practice" in the Christian Life Center. This study is for all ages and dinner will be provided.

3/12 - Taco Salad

3/19 - Chicken Spaghetti, Garlic Bread & Salad

3/26 - Red Beans & Rice, Garlic Bread & Salad

4/2 - Cheesy Taco Mac, Chips & Salad

4/9 - Chicken & Rice Casserole, Garlic Bread & Salad



Easter Eggs

In preparation for our annual Easter egg hunt, we will be collecting plastic eggs and candy/toys that we can use to fill them. We have one hunt for toddlers-elementary school age kids, and we have also added a hunt for our teenagers-college age kids! If you would like to donate any eggs or egg stuffers, you can bring them to any worship service or you can drop them off at the church office by April 2nd.

If you would like to be a part of the fun of prepping the eggs for the hunt by helping to stuff them, we will meet on Sunday, April 6th, at 3:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center at 208 Pine St.



The Methodist Women are hosting a Spring Fling Luncheon and all women of the church are invited.

WHEN: April 8, 2025

WHERE: Christian Life Center Main Campus

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

To ensure we have enough food, Please RSVP to Carolyn Rhoades @ 228-424-4975 or Shirley Gay @ 228-224-1349.

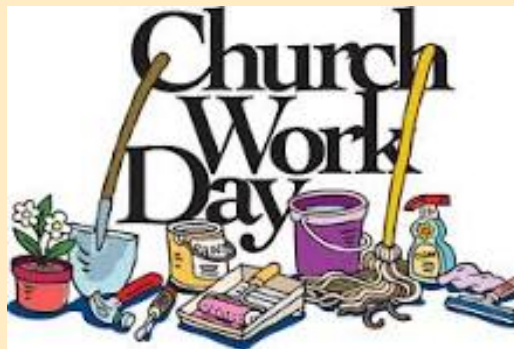


Save the Dates for Summer 2025

June 16-21: Camp Wesley Pines (for upper elementary & middle school students. See Lori Cripple for more information)

June 22-26: Vacation Bible School (for preschool & elementary students)

July 7-11: M28 Camp (for middle school & high school students. See Mary Woodruff or Mandy Long for more information).



Church Work Day

We will have an all-hands church work day on Saturday, March 29th. More information to come.

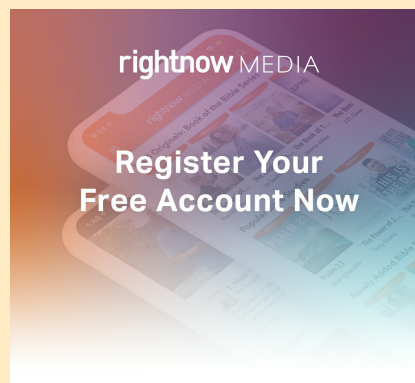


Pulled Pork Fundraiser

Sunday, March 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center the Methodist Men will host a Pulled Pork Fundraiser for scholarships for Home of Grace. The cost is \$12.00 per plate. The menu will include pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, and corn slaw.



The Women's & Men's Ministry would like to thank everyone for all the donations to Cuddles for Kids, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



I'm excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (it's been called the "**Netflix of video Bible studies**"). This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** from leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for



personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**.

To get started, simply use the scan code above and create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!



Upcoming Sermons

March 9th

"Turn You Eyes Upon Jesus: We Turn to Jesus to Protect our Faith"
Hebrews 12:2

March 16th

"Turn You Eyes Upon Jesus: We Turn Toward Jesus in Prayer"
Matthew 6:5-13



PC Havens, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Janis Slade, Shorty Haulk, Marie Ward, Sherry Alley, Andrew Beets, Adeline Humphrys, Dorothy Tingo, Lynn Jordan Beck, Cory Miller, Spencer Humphrey, Louise Travis, Candy Claeys, Dawn McGinn, Cindy Gates, John Bull, Joyce St. John, Harry Brax, Pete Seyfarth, Charles & Lisa Oliver, Imogene Hoffman, Pam

Buell, Johnny Kersnac, Linda Robison, Ricky Bullock, Tyna Youngblood, Mark Ernst, John Quinn, Gary Smith, Jerry Bowlin, Joanne Jenkins, Betty Stafford, John Miller, Jay Reagan, Genia Humphrey, John McCardle, Emily Romano, Cindy Tredway, Steve Burton, Pam Serrato, Ryan Serrato, David Berry, Leiland Humphrey, Kathy Hogan, Mildred Dilley, Rose Draime, Jesse Draime, Maddy Devlin, Patricia Badeaux, Linda Bass, Bob Bullard, Anne Ladner, Paul Hicks, Jim Collins, Nan Nabor, Kendra Reed, Glenda Hull, Rocky Ruello, Rosalie Allely, Teresa Burton, Natalie Schmidt, and Leo LaCour.

*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 863-9619 or by email to firstmclb@gmail.com.



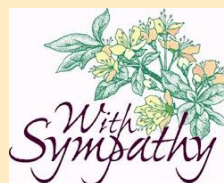
The 2025 Altar Flower calendar is in the lobby @ the main campus If you would like to sign up to place the flowers in the sanctuary.



In Loving Memory

A donation was given in memory of Johnny Johnson by Betsy Bullard.

A donation was given in memory of Richard Lyon by Betsy Bullard, Claudia Cuevas, & John Blake.



We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Linda Lyon and family at the death of her husband, Richard "Dick" Lyon.



Church Finance Report

2025 YTD Budget
Receipts +LIG: \$135,611

2025 YTD Budgeted
Expenses: \$125,031

Calendar

Sunday, March 9th

- 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday school/Discipleship groups @ both campuses
- 11:00 a.m. The Well Worship at USM & Online
- 11:00 a.m. Men's Ministry Pulled Pork Fundraiser
- 5:00 p.m. Youth in the Youth Hall

Monday, March 10th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
- 10:00 a.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting in the CLC

Tuesday, March 11th

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Side-By-Side room
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room

Wednesday, March 12th

- 10:00 a.m. Side by Side Ministry - Respite room
 - 5:30 p.m. Lenten Study "The Praying Practice"
- In the CLC
- 7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall
 - 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in Choir room

Thursday, March 13th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
- 4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bridal Parlor

6:00 p.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room

Friday, March 14th
Office Closed

Sunday, March 16th

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday school/Discipleship groups @ both campuses

11:00 a.m. The Well Worship at USM & Online

5:00 p.m. Youth in the Youth Hall

Monday, March 17th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes

10:00 a.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room

6:00 p.m. Methodist Women in the CLC

Tuesday, March 18th

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Side by Side room

6:30 p.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room

Wednesday, March 19th

10:00 a.m. Side by Side Ministry - Respite room

5:30 p.m. Lenten Study "The Praying Practice"

In the CLC

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in Choir room

Thursday, March 20th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC

4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bride's Parlor

6:00 p.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room

Rev. Ben Barlow

228-806-2787

Email address: benbarlow@mac.com

Our Mission

Make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

To be a church that makes disciples that Live Like Jesus, Love Like Jesus,
and Serve Like Jesus.



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