

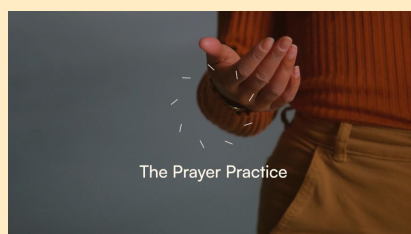


The Messenger

First Methodist Church Long Beach
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February 20, 2025



"The Prayer Practice"

I recently read that "prayer is simply the medium through which we communicate and commune with God. The practice of prayer is learning to set aside dedicated time to intentionally be with God, in order to become like him and partner with him in the world." I love the articulation of prayer existing to both communicate and commune with God. Far too often I feel like we only treat prayer as a means of communication. We thank God for what he has done and then ask him to do something else. We are also invited to commune with him. We, or maybe more specifically "I" fail to remember prayer can and should also be a time to simply be "with" Jesus.

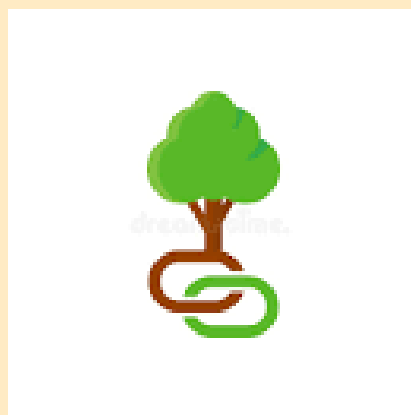
For the season of Lent we will spend five consecutive Wednesday evenings growing in our understanding and appreciation of the practice of prayer as a means of being with Jesus in order to become like Him and partnering with him in everyday life. I hope you'll join us for dinner and discussion at 5:30pm. We will wrap up promptly at 7:00pm. We will begin with an introduction on March 12 and then the following four Wednesdays we will cover: Talking to God, Talking with God, Listening to God, and Being with God. This will be a great opportunity for folks at any level of faith or any stage of your discipleship journey. I hope you'll join us!

Blessings,
-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

FEBRUARY:

- 19TH: HEART & SOUL @5:30
- 23RD: YOUTH @5
- 26TH: HEART & SOUL @5:30

MARCH:

- 2ND: YOUTH @5
- 5TH - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @6
- 9TH: YOUTH @5
- 12TH: DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 16TH YOUTH @5
- 19TH: DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 23RD YOUTH @5
- 26TH DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 30TH: YOUTH @5

APRIL:

- 2ND: DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30
- 6TH: YOUTH @5
- 9TH: 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



Our Women's Ministry and Men's Ministry are partnering in the collection of stuffed animals for our local law enforcement departments and their Cuddles for Kids program. If you would like to contribute to the program, please bring a

small stuffed animal (10-15 inches) to one of our worships services this Sunday (the 23rd) or to the church office by Tuesday, February 25th!



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.



The OAKS luncheon will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center (CLC). Our speaker will be Susan Jones with Summerfield Senior Living. Starting a new year, we would like to try some new meals. Please bring your favorite Gumbo, Chili, Soup, Sandwiches or Dessert to share.



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 a 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.

rightnow MEDIA

Register Your
Free Account Now

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

February 23rd

"Daniel: 2 Visions + 2 Interpretations + 1 Prayer"

Daniel 7:1-9:27

March 2nd

"Daniel: End Times"

Daniel 10:1-12:13



PC Havens, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Wanda Miller, 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, Rick Beeson, 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, Betty Stafford, Rocky Ruello, Rosalie Allely, Teresa Burton, 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.



We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Mike & Christi Tate and family at the death of Christi's dad, Johnny Johnson.



Church Finance Report

2025 YTD Budget
Receipts +LIG: \$80,698

2025 YTD Budgeted
Expenses: \$84,058

Calendar

Sunday, February 23rd

- 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, February 24th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
- 10:00 a.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room

Tuesday, February 25th

- 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, February 26th

- 10:00 a.m. Side by Side Ministry - Respite room
- 11:30 a.m. O.A.K.S. Luncheon in the CLC
- 2:00 p.m. Seashore Mission Lunch Prep CLC
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Heart & Soul in Youth Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Men's Small Group in the Sonshiners
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room
- 7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in Choir room

Thursday, February 27th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
10:30 a.m. Seashore Mission Lunch Service
4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bridal Parlor

Sunday, March 2nd

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 3rd

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes
10:00 a.m. Women's Small Group in the Side by Side room
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 4th

Office Closed

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 5th

10:00 a.m. Side by Side Ministry - Respite room
5:30 p.m. Youth Heart & Soul in Youth Hall
5:30 p.m. Men's Small Group in the Sonshiners
6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice in Choir room

Thursday, March 6th

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bride's Parlor

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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