



The Messenger

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

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March 20, 2025

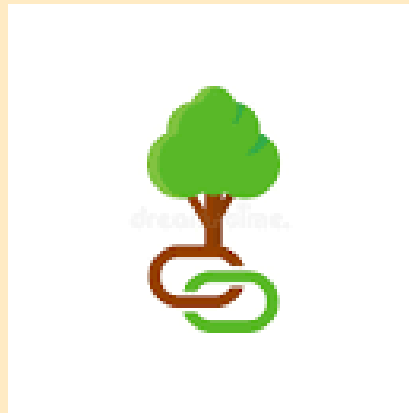
"It's not about the destination; it's about the journey." Like me, you've probably heard this adage before. It seems to be a challenge to not neglect the present for the sake of the future, or an invitation to experience the joy and the blessings along the way while moving toward the end goal. I don't believe it has to be an "either/or" but rather should be a "both/and." Life is about the moments along the journey as well as the hope of the destination. I tend to think of the season of Lent in the same way. As we travel toward Easter, we certainly focus on the destination, but we also want to experience the journey. Lent is the pathway that leads us to Easter. May all our attention and focus be on Christ -in the journey and the destination!

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

MARCH:

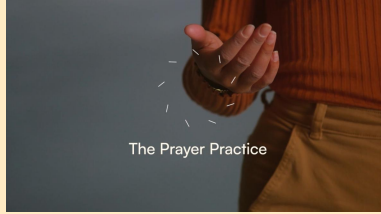
- 5TH - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @6
- 9TH: YOUTH @5 MEET AT THE CHURCH- VOLLEYBALL AT THE BEACH (IF RAINING WILL STAY AT THE CHURCH FOR GAMES). ***DAYLIGHT SAVINGS***
- 12TH: DINNER & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS @5:30 CLC
- 16TH YOUTH @5 - NEW SERIES - STORIES FROM THE GOSPEL - SENIORS WILL BEGIN THEIR SERIES -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



If you would like to reserve an Easter Lily to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory/honor of a loved one, please contact the church office @ 228-863-9619 or firstmclb@gmail.com. The cost is \$25.00 per lily and we have 30 lilies available on a first come first serve basis. You may pick up your Easter Lily after the 8:30 a.m. service.



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.

3/26 - 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.

FMCLB Youth M28 Sponsorship Sunday, March 30th and April 6th



Select an egg off the tree (located in the lobby of the Well or Main Campus) on March 30th or April 6th. The number on the egg will be the monetary amount of your sponsorship/donation that will go towards the youth M28 trip this summer. Please be sure to put "M28" in the memo line of your check. Thanks so much for your continued support!

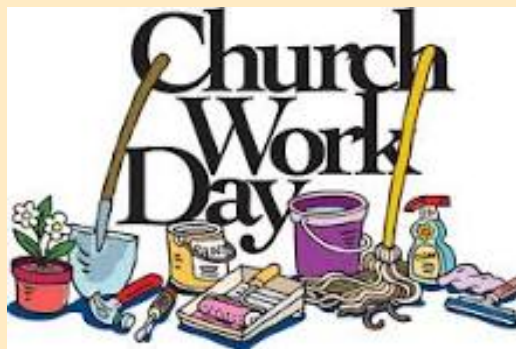


Save the Dates for Summer 2025

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 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



All Are Invited

Join us for lunch on Wednesday, March 26th @ 11:30 a.m. in the CLC. The program will be on nutrition. March is National Nutrition month and the Long Beach Food Pantry is in need of food. Items needed: canned soups, jiffy cornbread mix, instant mashed potatoes, peanut butter and jelly, and canned foods. Please bring your donations with you and your favorite dish to share for lunch.



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service

April 17, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

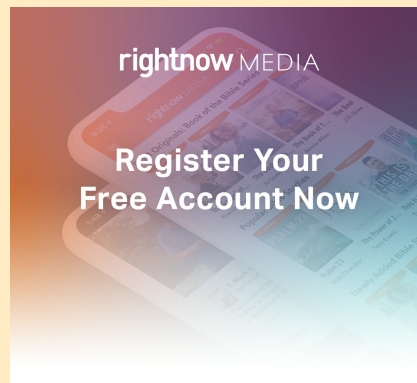
8:30 a.m. Easter Worship Sanctuary Service with a reception to follow in the Christian Life Center

10:00 a.m. Biscuit Bar @ USM Fleming Auditorium

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt @ USM

11:00 a.m. The Well Easter Worship @ USM Fleming Auditorium

Don't' forget to bring your fresh cut flowers to put on the cross outside the Narthex.



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 23rd

"Turn You Eyes Upon Jesus: We Turn to Jesus by Reading His Word"
Hebrews 4:12-13, Psalm 119:105

March 30th

"Turn You Eyes Upon Jesus: We Turn Toward Jesus to Find Our Identity"
2 Corinthians 5:11-21, 1 Peter 2:4-12, Isaiah 43



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

Donations have been given in memory of Dick Lyon by Betsy Bullard, Fred & Kaye Rendfrey, and Mike & Fai Lamberth.

Donations have been given in memory of Betty Stafford by Betsy Bullard & Fred & Kaye Rendfrey.

A donation was given in memory of Carolyne "Pete" McGee by Betsy Bullard.



We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Bill Stafford and family at the death of his wife, Betty Stafford.

We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Benjamin McGee and family at the death of his mother, Carlyne "Pete" McGee.

Calendar

Sunday, March 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, March 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, March 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, March 26th

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

11:30 a.m. O.A.K.S. Luncheon

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 27th

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

Saturday, March 29th

8:00 a.m. Church Work Day

Sunday, March 30th

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

2:00 p.m. Seashore Mission Lunch Prep in the CLC

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

Monday, March 31st

9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes

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

10:30 a.m. Seashore Mission Lunch Service

6:00 p.m. Middle School Concert in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 1st

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, April 2nd

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, April 3rd

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.

First Methodist Church | 208 Pine St. | Long Beach, MS 39560 US

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