



The Messenger

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

firstmclb@gmail.com
www.fmclb.church

December 5, 2024

“When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.” (Matthew 1:24)

“Mary responded, I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” (Luke 1:38)

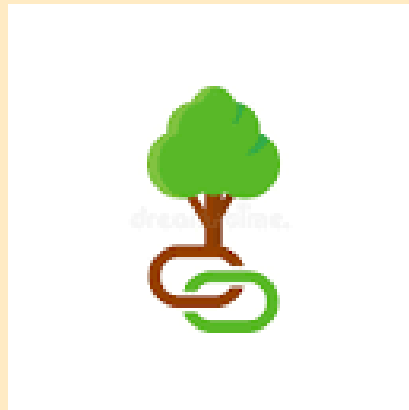
The narrative of Jesus’s birth is quite miraculous to say the least! The timing, the prophecies fulfilled, visits from angels, literally the stars aligning, all for the purpose of accomplishing God’s work to bring redemption to the world! There is quite a bit to marvel at, not the least of which is the setting and lack of public fanfare. One of the pieces of this whole movement of God’s gracious providence that strikes me most is the obedient response of Mary and Joseph. They are each visited separately by angels and informed of their role in God’s plan of ushering in the Messiah, the Lord. They are both put in a rather strange and difficult position, yet both respond with obedience. They individually say “yes” to God’s work and agree to do their part. I’m more convinced than ever that our obedience to God’s call on our lives opens the door of blessings not only for us, but for so many others. I hope you’ll be encouraged this Christmas season to say yes to His call on your life -whatever that may be!

-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.





Potluck Dinner and Angel Tree Wrapping Party

Join us this Sunday night, Dec 8th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center to wrap all of the gifts that are being brought in for 96 Angel Tree kids. You are welcome to bring your own scissors, tape, wrapping paper, bags, etc., or you can use the supplies we will have at church! Before we wrap the gifts, we will share a potluck meal together. Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, or dessert to share with everyone else. We will also have cookies to decorate after dinner! It is a really fun night of good food and good fellowship while preparing some Christmas cheer so you won't want to miss it!



The Methodist Women

*First Methodist Church
Long Beach*

Cordially Invite You To

CHRISTMAS TEA

For All Ladies of the Church

*Sunday, December 8th
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.*

*2 Chimney Cross
Long Beach*

*Friends and Daughters are Welcome
Questions call 228-424-4975*



O.A.K.S. Christmas Luncheon

The O.A.K.S. Christmas luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 18th at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. All are invited for lunch and please bring your favorite dish to share. Our program will be a Christmas craft.



Advent Schedule 2024

Dec. 8th, First Methodist Women Annual Christmas Tea at the home of Carolyn Rhoades at 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 8th, Angel Tree gift wrapping with cookie decorating and potluck @ 5:00 p.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 10th, LBMS/Harper McCaughan Choirs 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Pre-reception 5:00 p.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 12th, Long Beach High School Choir 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Pre-reception 6:00 p.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 14th, College Ministry Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. @ The Barlow residence.

Dec. 14th, Sonshiner's class Christmas Party @ 6:00 p.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 15th, Christmas Cantata at our 8:30 a.m. sanctuary service.

Dec. 15th, Youth Group Christmas party 5:00 p.m. @ the Long residence

Dec. 16th, First Methodist Women Christmas Meeting & Potluck 6:00 p.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 18th, The O.A.K.S. Christmas luncheon @11:30 a.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 18th, Blue Christmas service at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Dec. 18th, An evening of Christmas music featuring The Well Band at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite Christmas treat to share.

Dec. 19th, Christmas Caroling @ 6:00 p.m. meet in the CLC.

Dec. 24th, Community Christmas Eve Lunch at 11:00 a.m. in the CLC.

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight service at USM at 4:00 p.m. and a 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Dec. 29th, Combined Service 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. No service @ USM.



Community Wide Christmas Eve Luncheon

First Methodist Church will be hosting its annual community-wide Christmas Eve luncheon. We are entering our 15th year serving the community. We will provide a hot meal, at no cost, and fellowship in the Christian Life Center, located at the main campus from 11AM-1PM. We plan to serve approximately 500 people. This event is not possible without the help from our

congregation. We would appreciate you walking alongside us in this ministry and being the hands and feet of Jesus. There are signup sheets for volunteer opportunities as well as food donation and preparation opportunities, located in the lobbies of the main campus and The Well. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Wood via email, aeswood@gmail.com.



Please join us on Saturday mornings from 8:30—9:30 a.m. in the Bridal room @ the main campus to pray for our kids. "We are moms who accept you wherever you are in your Christian prayer life, even if you've never had one. It's a safe place. It's a learning place where we grow and care for one another. God is there with us, teaching us how to pray openly and honestly to Him for our children and schools." For more information call/text Haley Rishel at 228-861-4411.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

November:

- 20th - 5:30 Heart and Soul
- 24th - NO YOUTH - Happy Thanksgiving
- 27th - NO Heart and Soul - Happy Thanksgiving

December:

- 1st - Progressive Dinner - meet at the church @5
- 8th - Angel Tree Wrapping in the CLC @5
- 15th - Christmas Party - Long's house - bring a pair of socks for dirty Santa
- 18th - Blue Christmas @ 5:30 and Christmas carols @7 in the CLC

Will resume youth on January 5th @5.

WE WISH YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS



Don't forget to get your key card updated before the end of the year.



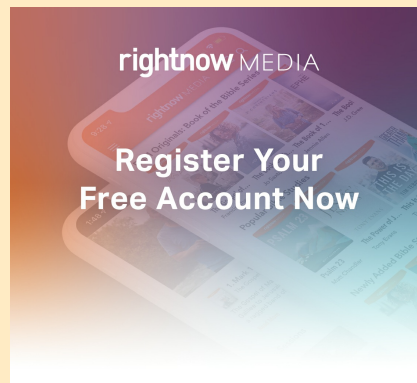
Changes to the Church Directory

If you are accessing our church directory from your computer, the new url is <https://fmclb.ctrn.co>.

If you are accessing the directory from your phone through an app, it is called Online Member Directory.

If you are already signed up for the directory: Make sure you are logged out of the app. When you are on the home screen, tap the 3 line menu in the upper left corner. On this page tap +add new directory. Enter fmclb for the mobile code. Your username and password will be the same.

If you are a new user, once you have the new app opened, click + Add New Directory. You will next enter the mobile code for our church which will be fmclb. If you have questions about getting a username and password set up, please contact Lori Cripple at lcripple@hotmail.com!



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

December 8th

"The Wonder in Anticipation: Mary's Story"
Luke 1:26-38

December 15th
"The Wonder of Arrival: Shepherds"
Luke 2:8-20



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, Pam Upton, 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, Jake Dehut, 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, Sissy Meadows, David Berry, Leiland Humphrey, Kathy Hogan, Mildred Dilley, Rose Draime, Jesse Draime, Maddy Devlin, Patricia Badeaux, Linda Bass, Bob Bullard, Anne Ladner, Paul Hicks, April Ross, Jim Collins, Nan Nabor, Kendra Reed, Glenda Hull, Betty Stafford, Rocky Ruello, 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 Terry & Glenda Hull and family at the death of Terry's mother, Donna Lynn Palmer.

We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Bill & Shirley Gay and family at the death of Shirley's sister in law, Dorothy Mach.



In Loving Memory

Donations were given in memory of Warren Poarch by Terry & Glenda Hull, Jim & Becky Collins, Mike & Fai Lamberth, and Larry & Beth Lewis.



Acolytes

December 8th Owen
December 15th Jack
December 22nd Raleigh

Church Finance Report

YTD General Budget Receipts: \$673,382

YTD Expenses (actual expenses \$672,641



less \$57,212 Line-item gifts): \$615,429

Net receipts: \$57,593

Calendar

Sunday, December 8th

- 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. Methodist Women Tea
- 5:00 p.m. Potluck & Angel Tree Wrapping CLC

Monday, December 9th

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

Tuesday, December 10th

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Side-By-Side room
- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Choir Concert

Wednesday, December 11th

- 10:00 a.m. Side-By-Side Respite Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in the Youth Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir in the Choir room

Thursday, December 12th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
- 4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bridal Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. High School Choir Concert

Saturday, December 14th

- 8:30 a.m. Mom's in Prayer in the Bridal Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Sonshiner's Class Christmas Party in the CLC

Sunday, December 15th

- 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary & Online Worship Christmas Cantata
- 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 Christmas Party The Longs' House

Monday, December 16th

- 9:00 a.m. Silver Foxes in the CLC
- 6:00 p.m. First Methodist Women Mtg. CLC

Tuesday, December 17th

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

Wednesday, December 18th

- 10:00 a.m. Side-By-Side Respite Ministry
- 11:30 a.m. O.A.K.S. Luncheon CLC
- 5:30 pm. Blue Christmas service in the sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. An Evening of Christmas Music in the CLC with The Well Band

Thursday, December 19th

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

6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling meet @ the church
Saturday, December 21st
8:30 a.m. Mom's in Prayer in the Bridal 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.

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

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