



# The Messenger

**First Methodist Church Long Beach**  
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**[www.fmclb.church](http://www.fmclb.church)**

**February 6, 2025**

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I'm not familiar with persecution, at least in a biblical sense. However, I do know what it's like to have your kids make fun of the way you talk! Apparently there is a correct way to say the word "acorn" and apparently it sounds like it is spelled, "a-corn." I tend to pronounce it "a-kern!" As you have probably heard me say, I have a fascination with oak trees. I stand in awe at their beauty, their strength, and their resolve -especially in times of drought, flood, and wind. I have been collecting acorns over the last couple months and will plant them in the Spring with the hope of propagating my own oak trees. I am amazed at how many acorns fall from a single oak tree -each one with the potential to become a giant oak tree itself that will one day reproduce. Thousands of acorns come from each single oak tree. I think about our lives and the potential we have to propagate the good news of the Gospel. I have said before that the Gospel comes to us on its way to someone else. We were never meant to be the end of God's saving work. We are called to pass on what we receive. We are to reproduce what God has birthed in us. I pray we find ways this day and everyday to pass on what we first received from Christ!

Blessings,  
-Ben

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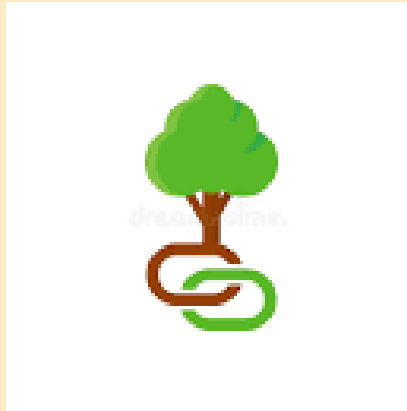
## Announcements & Events

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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).

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### 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

## January: Daniel

19th: Youth @5  
22nd: Heart & Soul @5:30  
26th: Youth @5  
29th: Heart & Soul @ 5:30

## February: Daniel

2nd: Youth @5  
5th: Heart & Soul @5:30  
9th: Souper Bowl Luncheon, 11-1 CLC - Super Bowl party @Barlows  
12th: Heart & Soul @5:30  
16th: Youth @5  
19th: Heart & Soul @5:30  
23rd: Youth @5  
26th: Heart & Soul @5:30



## YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY

February 9, 2025 at the Barlow's, 706 Briarwood Dr. Long Beach.

Kick off is at 5:30 p.m. so arrive prior. Menu is "Totchos" and fixings. Bring a party food if you would like, but not necessary. Come and enjoy the game.



**Join us for A Girls' Night Out Event** on Friday, February 21st, in the Christian Life Center at 208 Pine St from 6:30-9:00 p.m. We will share a meal, have lots of fellowship, and spend some time in devotion. It is a free event, but we do ask that you register by the 18th. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby, or you can register through our Facebook event. We hope you will join us and bring a friend!

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### **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).

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**SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY 2/9 11:00-1:00**

Youth Fundraiser for their summer trip to M28 in North Carolina. Donations will be accepted at the entrances to the CLC. Come enjoy a variety of soups and the grilled cheese station. Thanks for your support!



### **Methodist Women News**

The Methodist Women invite you to attend the meeting on Monday, February 17th, 6:00 PM in the CLC. The featured speaker will be our own Janis Miller author of "Joy Comes with the Mourning, a study of loss, grief, and runaway pigs". This is a Bible based book and study guide which is presented with Janis' wit and humor— a "not to be missed" presentation of God's unfailing love, grace, and comfort.



## Men's Dining In

Men's Dining In on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. The menu will be pork ribs, potato salad, roasted vegetables, and peanut butter cake. We also need volunteers for the kitchen and set up crews. If you would like to attend please RSVP and volunteer to David Roots ([davidwroots@verizon.net](mailto:davidwroots@verizon.net)).

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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!

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# Upcoming Sermons

## February 9th

“Daniel: Handwriting on the Wall”

Daniel 5:1-30

## February 16th

“Daniel: Lion’s Den”

Daniel 6:1-28



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, 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](mailto: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.

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### In Loving Memory

A donation was given in memory of Wanda Miller by Rhonda Roberts.

A donation was given in memory of Rick Beeson by Betsy Bullard.

A donation was given in memory of Eris Adams Blake by Betsy Bullard.

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We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to John & Sally Blake and family at the death of John's mother, Eris Adams Blake.

We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Kirk Beeson and family on the death of her husband, Rick Beeson.

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### Church Finance Report



2025 YTD Budget  
Receipts +LIG: \$24,403

2025 YTD Budgeted  
Expenses: \$25,151

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## *Calendar*

### **Sunday, February 9th Scout Sunday**

- 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. Souper Bowl Luncheon in the CLC
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Super Bowl Party @ the Barlow's, 706 Briarwood Dr.

### **Monday, February 10th**

- 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 11th**

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

### **Wednesday, February 12th**

- 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. 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 13th**

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

### **Sunday, February 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, February 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 Group Mtg. in the CLC

### **Tuesday, February 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, February 19th**

- 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. 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 20th**

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

**Friday, February 21st**

6:00 p.m. Women's Night in the CLC

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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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