



The Messenger

First Methodist Church Long Beach
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www.fmclb.church

November 21, 2024

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

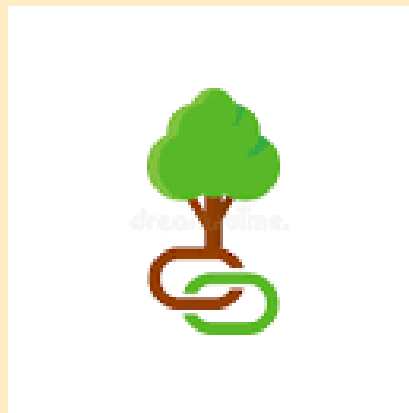
This passage of scripture has reminded me often to slow down and not worry about what is to come. In situations where I faced an unknown future or a seemingly impossible obstacle, this passage has directed me to calm down and be at peace. Best part is though, that not only does the Apostle Paul instruct me to not be anxious, but he offers a prescription on how to make it a reality. It's simple. Prayer coupled with Thanksgiving. I've been to Sunday School enough to know the right answer is usually prayer, but Paul takes it one step further and reminds us to give thanks. Gratitude expressed changes how we see things. Gratitude expressed in difficult situations can bring about the peace of God -the peace that transcends all understanding! So, as you face the difficulties of life and as you approach God with your concerns, make sure you season your prayers with gratitude! It can change everything!

-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.





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*



Poinsettia

If you would like to place a poinsettia (in memory or honor of someone) in the sanctuary for the Advent Season, complete the order form which is located in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the office. The cost of the plant is \$15.00 each and the deadline to order is December 2, 2024.



Advent Schedule 2024

In just a few short weeks, our church will enter the season of Advent and we will begin preparing our hearts for the celebration of Christmas. We will have many opportunities to spend this time of year together!

- On Sunday, Dec 1st, The LBHS Madrigals will be singing at both of our services.
- On Sunday, Dec 8th, the First Methodist Women will hold their Annual Christmas Tea at the home of Carolyn Rhoades at 2:00 p.m.
- On the 8th, we will also have a potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center (CLC) of the main campus. We will wrap the Angel Tree gifts that were provided, and there will also be cookie decorating.
- On Tuesday, Dec 10th and Thursday, Dec 12th, our church has the privilege of hosting the LBMS/Harper McCaughan choirs (the 10th) and the LBHS choir (the 12th). As part of our desire to be extravagantly generous when we can, we will host a reception before each choir.
- On Saturday, Dec. 14th College Ministry Party @ 5:30 p.m. @ The Barlow's.
- On Sunday, Dec 15th, our Chancel choir will lead us in worship with their Christmas Cantata at our 8:30 a.m. sanctuary service. That evening, Mandy Long will host our youth group for a Christmas party.
- On Monday, Dec 16th, our Methodist Women will be sharing a meal together in the CLC at 6:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, Dec 18th, There will be a Blue Christmas service at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by fellowship time at 6:30 p.m. (bring your favorite Christmas treat to share). Afterward, our Well band will lead us with a night of Christmas music in the CLC.
- On Thursday, Dec 19th @ 6:00 p.m., we will gather in the CLC and then head out into the community for an evening of Christmas caroling!
- On Tuesday, Dec 24th, we will have our annual Christmas Eve Lunch at 11:00 a.m. Also on the 24th, We will worship together for Christmas Eve with a service at USM at 4:00 p.m. and a service in our sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to celebrating the season of Advent with you!



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.



Angel Tree Program

Soon it will be time for our annual Angel Tree program. Through this program, our church partners with the Long Beach School District to provide Christmas gifts for our local students and their younger siblings whose families need a little extra support this time of year. Tags will be located in the lobby of each campus starting on Sunday, November 24th. We ask that you take a tag with a child's information on it, shop for the requested items on the tag, and bring the gifts back by the morning of December 8th.



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



Typewriter Needed!

If you have an electric typewriter that the church office could borrow for a few days, please contact the office at 228-863-9619 or firstmclb@gmail.com.



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



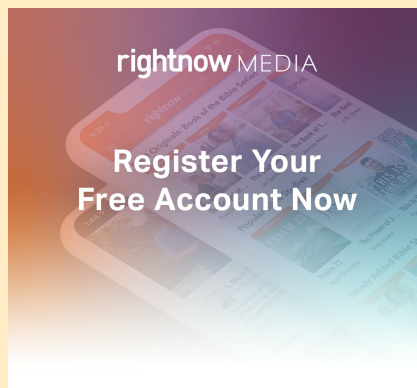
Changes to the Church Directory

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

November 24th

"Generosity Leads to Gratitude"
2 Corinthians 9:1-15

December 1st

"The Wonder in the Journey: Joseph's Story"
Mathew 1:18-25



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.



The Serrato family would like to thank everyone for their food, prayers, love, and support. Your generosity and love mean the world to our family. God Bless.



We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Sally Poarch and family at the death of her husband, Warren Poarch.

We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Mike & Christi Tate and family at the death of Christi's stepfather, Johnnie Saunders.



In Loving Memory

A donation was given in memory of Merle Burman by Fred & Kaye Rendfrey.



Acolytes

November 24th Raleigh
December 1st Malaina
December 8th Owen
December 15th Jack

Church Finance Report

YTD General Budget Receipts: \$654,743

YTD Expenses (actual expenses \$649,605
less \$55,290 Line-item gifts): \$594,315

FINANCIAL REPORT



Net receipts: \$60,428

Calendar

Sunday, November 24th

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

Monday, November 25th

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

Wednesday, November 27th

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, November 28th

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 29th

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 30th

8:30 a.m. Mom's in Prayer in the Bridal Parlor

Sunday, December 1st

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 meet @ the church for Progressive Dinner

Monday, December 2nd

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

Tuesday, December 3rd

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

Wednesday, December 4th

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 5th

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

4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bridal Parlor

Saturday, December 7th

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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