

Merrell On The Move

Vision:

Merrell UMC is a Christian community sharing the love of Jesus Christ through the practice of our gifts and graces to become Christian disciples of excellence. Christian disciples are believing and those yet to believe (Christians and pre-Christians) being transformed in a life giving faith community, living the gospel out of biblical learning, with inspirational worship, growing in generosity, committed to transform communities with our service and accepting God's presence for all people through prayer.



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+ Merrell United Methodist Church +

3900 N. State Road 7 Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

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Pre-School: 954-731-2336

The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

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Spirit-led•Equipped•Empowered•Disciples

Mission: To create Spirit-led, Equipped and Empowered Disciples for the world.



“Building Up Each Other in Our Stories”

Sisters and brothers I take opportunity to reflect on Black history, Lent and Easter. During the month of February is commemorated in the USA as Black History month. The Merrell church family acknowledges the significance of the month with some affirmations. We affirm that God is good. We affirm that as people created by God our stories are good. Our stories are located in speech, song, poetry, play and movements. Our stories have values that are intertwined with other stories that are not colored with just black immigrant experiences. As theologian Dr. Joy Moore puts it, our stories contain “principles, promises and pronouncements.” Our study of the Apostles’ Creed attempted to challenge and remind us of the dynamic faith we have in God who seeks a new and dynamic community. This community encourages valuing and developing life, turning around chronic desperation to creative desire, lifting potentials in the love of God.

At this time let us take time to affirm who we are and to whom we belong. We should take the opportunity to reflect on our Christian and community witness as we view the snippets of the storied lives of persons familiar and unfamiliar to us. In those stories we should ask, “What qualities can be appreciated from their stories?” Equally relevant in our reflection is how those qualities be applied to my story today. As we listen to our storied lives perhaps we can hear afresh the story of God’s love pushing us to be re-shaped, re-focused and re-energized to move from a black history month to months of being equipped and empowered disciples to serve God and our neighbors of unique cultural heritages.

During this season of “holy Lent”, challenge yourself to set some time on purpose to take time of giving spiritual priority in our life. We give priority to prayer, bible reading, worship, witness, financial giving, almsgiving and doing justice. From today until Easter let us continue to prayerfully listen and respond to the awakening of God in our conscience and spirit. I have noted that in several holy conferencing the growing sense that members are seeking to faithfully serve God in the present. Can I invite you to join others in that prayer and conversation for spiritual development?

I offer to you some conversation points that have arisen over the years:

- ◆ Giving more time, talent and money to missions in the world. We are using Ash Wednesday, holy week or any special offering during lent for mission’s projects.
- ◆ Seek service and witness opportunities by assisting more persons not able to adequately to help themselves.
- ◆ Give increased assistance in scholarship, grants, and practical life and work preparation training for our young people.

I leave you with one word – (Swahili) **Harambe** (let us pull or work together).


Be Blessed.

From Christ’s servant in ministry with the saints,

Rev. Bancroft Williams

40 Days of Lent: Find Your Own Spiritual Path

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino*



During [Ash Wednesday services](#) on the first day of Lent, many United Methodist pastors will invite their congregations “to observe a holy Lent: by self–examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self–denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word” (from the [United Methodist Book of Worship](#)). While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might “observe a holy Lent.”

There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Fasting

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping, or something else through the season. This is a [religious practice known as fasting](#). We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to [focus on devotional practices](#) like Bible study and prayer during the season.

Spending extra time in Bible reading and prayer is a great way to observe Lent.

Bible reading

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The [Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide](#) and [Alive Now](#) will help guide you in this pursuit. Each day they provide a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about.

Prayer

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding [more time in your life for prayer](#). You can experiment with [different ways to pray](#) during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

Service

Another way to observe a holy Lent is [to take on a new](#) way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

Rest

An important practice with which many of us struggle is [the spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath](#). We don’t have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God’s presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a [desktop meditation](#), listen to sermons on your commute, or [read a poem that feeds your spirit](#). Each can be a great way of enriching your Lent.



South East District

Rev. Dr. Cynthia D. Weems, District Superintendent
536 Coral Way* Coral Gables, FL 33134* Office#305.445.9136 * Fax#305.442.0216
www.flsecdistrictumc.com

February 21, 2017

Dear Merrell UMC:

Please receive a warm thank you for your successful efforts to pay 100% of your apportionments for the calendar year 2016. This is significant and your leadership and entire congregation need to be recognized for it.

In our ministry settings there are many requests for our time, attention and financial resources. Your leaders have made an intentional effort to meet your church's full commitment of its conference apportionments and for that reason, many ministries at a conference, national and global level will be funded. Thank you.

In the challenging times in which we live, worship and serve we know that ministry often feels like it is harder than ever before. Yet, so many churches in our district show signs of health and vitality. Worship numbers are increasing, ministries with young people are growing, small groups are flourishing, and financial commitments are being honored. All of these things are signs of health. Congratulations for the ways in which your church expresses these signs of vitality. They are not the only signs, but they are important.

Please know that I am here for you in any way possible to help to strengthen your church and community. We are in this together, and I am grateful to serve alongside you.

Many best wishes for 2017 and keep up the good work!

Grace and peace,

Cynthia D. Weems

UPCOMING EVENTS

FARM SHARE

Food Distribution



Various food stuff will be available to those in need in our South Florida Community

PICK UP LOCATION:
MERRELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3900 N. STATE RD 7
LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL 33319

Contact: 954-731-2323 for more information

Next Distribution:
March 25th
10 a.m - 3p.m



Join us for the Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course at Plantation UMC, Plantation, Florida. March 25-26, 2017

Choose from one of these three courses:

- *Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course* - This course is designed to equip new church leaders.
- *Go Preach* - This course provides people who are called to preach occasionally specific suggestions to explore preaching in more details.
- *Worship Planning* - This course is about planning worship services.

For further information, registration, and schedule, visit our webpage:

<http://www.southeastdistrictfac.org>

Or contact the church office

954-731-2323

Calendar schedule for the Lenten Services

Theme: **"BREAK OFF AND BUILD UP"**

March 8	Wednesday	3 Rules: Do No Harm
March 15	Wednesday	3 Rules: Do Good
March 22	Wednesday	3 Rules: Stay In Love With God
March 29	Wednesday.	Challenge of Unanswered Prayer
April 5	Wednesday	Why God's Love Prevails
April 9	Palm Sunday	Walk in Destiny
April 13	Maudy Thursday	Foot Wash/Love Feast
April 14	Good Friday	Worship Service
April 16	Easter	Resurrection Change



Sunday Worship Times

Contemporary Worship	8:00AM	Sanctuary
Adult Bible Study	9:00AM	East Lounge
New Members Class	9:10AM	Room 17
Youth Bible Study	9:30AM	Ragsdale Hall
Traditional Worship	10:00AM	Sanctuary
Every Fourth Sunday	6:00PM	Sanctuary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bible Study	Monday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Bible Study	Tuesday	Noon	Chapel
Prayer Meeting	Tuesday	6:30PM	Sanctuary
Men's Choir	Wednesday	7:00PM	Music Room
Dance Rehearsal	Wednesday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Dunamis Youth	Friday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Choir Rehearsal	Saturday	4:00PM	Music Room

THERE IS A FRESH WIND BLOWING IN MERRELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Announcement

UMW Choir for UMW Sunday
March 19
Please meet Mr. Trotman today after
service for rehearsal.
Thank You

CALLING ALL WOMEN TO SHARE

OUR VISION *Turning Faith, Hope and Love into Action on Behalf of Women, Children and Youth around the World*

GREETINGS:

United Methodist Women is an organized group of women working under the authority and example of Jesus Christ. Our main focus and purpose is to do mission with women, children and youths locally and globally. UMW is involved in several ministries such as:

- (a) Making blankets for young babies;
- (b) Bread cart ministry which feeds families once a month;
- (c) Women in Distress,
- (d) Jim Russo Prison Ministry,
- (e) Angel Tree (for children who has a parent incarcerated);
- (f) Christmas baskets (for Merrell home bound);
- (g) Brooke Howell Home for Retired Deaconesses (Epworth Village);
- (h) Children Home (contribution);
- (i) Church Women United (least coin);
- (j) In House Hospitality (our time, talent & money); Pre-school Outreach (acts of kindness).

We celebrate UMW54.. years of service on Sunday March 19, 2017 and are inviting all women to join us in our celebration. We would also welcome new persons who wish to become members to contact Sis. Rose Farquharson, Chair of Membership and Outreach or Hyacinth Henry, Vice-President of UMW.

Announcements



Bread Cart Ministry

March 6th & March 20

2:00—3:00 PM—RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: You will be required to sign in.

SPPRC MEETING

TUESDAY, march 7 @ 7:00PM - ROOM 17



LYDIA CIRCLE

THURSDAY, march 9 - 7:00pm

Ragsdale Hall

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, march 11 @ 10:30AM

ROOM 17

YOUTH MEETING

FRIDAY, march 10, 17 & 24 @ 7:00pm

RAGSDALE HALL

Pre-school COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, march 15 @ 7:00PM ROOM 17

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY march 16 @

7:30PM ROOM 17

worship COMMITTEE MEETING

saturday, march 18 @

2:00PM ROOM 17



RUTH CIRCLE

TUESDAY, march 21 @ 10:00am

Ragsdale hall

Finance Committee

TUESDAY, march 21 @

7:00PM - ROOM 17

CHURCH COUNCIL

TUESDAY, march 28 @ 7:00pm

RAGSDALE HALL

Celebrating our
Grace,
Gratitude
Generosity

Thank You from The Meatley's Family

Sis. Claudette Meatley and family wishes to express sincere thanks to Pastor Bancroft and Merrell church family for all of the love, prayers, phone calls, visits, and gifts received during her father's illness and passing.

On behalf of my family, I offer you our most sincere gratitude and love.

Sis. Mabel Hill and Sis. Roslin Scott

Thanks to Merrell Church family for the love, support and prayers received during the recent loss of our beloved sister in Jamaica. God bless you all.



UNITED MANAGED CARE
ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP, INC.

UNITED MANAGED CARE ALZHEIMERS'S SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

10:30AM—1:30PM

PRESENTATION/LUNCHEON

MERRELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RAGSDALE HALL

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.umcasg.org



Khadija Anderson 03/01
 Helen Earle 03/01/
 Mamita Marcelle 03/01
 Neville Buchanan 03/02
 Winston L Chang 03/02
 James Johnson 03/02
 Renee' Moore 03/05
 Orel Hill-Hudson 03/06
 Jaeden Royes 03/07
 Ashari Singh 03/07
 Joyce Lewis 03/08

Herbert Crosby 03/09
 Norma Lynch-Smith 03/10
 Eugene Perderaux 03/10
 Jasiah Williams 03/10
 Norma Rankine 03/11
 Melvin Henry 03/14
 Jaelen Buck 03/15
 Grace Herron 03/15
 Vernetta Gordon 03/18
 Martha Ricketts 03/19

Annette Browne 03/20
 Paul Francis 03/21
 Brandon Tabois 03/23
 Uliet Black 03/24
 Luletta Brooks 03/24
 Sean Mills 03/24/
 Diana Hanley 03/28
 Dennis Barton 03/29
 Hopie Howard 03/29
 Hartley Royes 03/29

+ The Staff +

The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor

Email: pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org
 Claudette Meatley, Certified Church Administrator
 Email: claudette@merrellumc.org
 Bro. Louis Trotman, Director of Music
 Sis. Shirley Smith, Director Preschool
 Email: Preschool@merrellumc.org
 Mr. Leroy Satchell, Custodian

MEMBERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Merrell welcomes interested persons to become members.
 We invite you to contact the Pastor by calling the Church Office.

BAPTISMS

Performed at the Sunday Service, contact the Church Office.

MARRIAGES

Performed after consultation with the Pastor

In time of **illness or sorrow**, please call the Pastor
 or the Church Office promptly.

Visit our website

www.merrellumc.org

Our Church Leaders

Church Council

Sis. Eileen Tucker

Lay Leader

Sis. Patricia Tabois

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Sis. Lorna Smith

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Sis. Yvette Smith

Admn. Assistant to Pastor

Sis. Claudette Meatley

Finance Committee

Bro. Wayne Ranger

Treasurer

Bro. Eric Royes

Financial Secretary

Sis. Norma Williamson

Prayer Ministry

Sis. Uliet Black

Trustee

Bro. Franklyn Coombs

Evangelism/Outreach Ministries

Sis. Valerie Henry

Preschool Board Chair

Sis. Thelma McGeachy

United Methodist Women

Sis. Thelma McGeachy

United Methodist Men

Bro. Lovell McKail

Visitation Ministry

Sis. Dizzierene Cox

Stewardship

Bro. Winston Chang

New Members Committee

Sis. Rose Farquharson

Membership Secretary

Sis. Phillipa Daniels

Campus Ministry

Representative

Sis. Judith Gohagen

Disaster Coordinator

Bro. Lovell McKail

Worship Ministries

Sis. Deloris Ellis

Youth

Sis. Judy Gohagen

Sis. Keisha Coombs-Newman

Thrift Shop

Interim Coordinator

Sis. Phylis Brown

*Bulletin Announcement Forms are available in the church office area on the office door. Please return form(s) via email: office@merrellumc.org or place it in the box on the office door. Deadline for announcements: **WEDNESDAY at NOON.***