

# Celebrating Sixty Years in Ministry



open hearts  
open minds  
open doors

## 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 +

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Email - [office@merrellumc.org](mailto:office@merrellumc.org)

Pre-School: 954-731-2336

The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

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Spirit-led • Equipped • Empowered • Disciples

*Mission:* To create **S**pirit-led, **E**quipped and **E**mpowered **D**isciples for the world.

# FROM THE PASTOR



## “Discerning God’s Leading”

This year, Merrell United Methodist Church celebrates 60 years of ministry in Lauderdale Lakes and the greater Fort Lauderdale community. Transitions in time, size, numbers and in demographic and economic realities have impacted the degree of our service to God. Effective and relevant ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ will require our discerning God’s leading for transformation now and the future. This is the transformation playbook of living in the presence of God’s love in contemporary society. Hence our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme, **Discerning God’s Leading** serves as a reminder that now, more than ever, we need connections that will ignite passion for a vital church fellowship witnessing Christ in community.

**Discerning God’s Leading** suggests two elements for considerations. The first element is, **discernment** which is showing good judgment. This showing of good judgment should contain — among others — ideas of being sensitive and perceptive to core values. The second element of the theme is God’s leading. Here, there is the suggestion of obtaining or allowance of guidance or leadership particularly of a spiritual nature. Here I may venture to point to the third person in the trinity, the Holy Spirit has always lead the church on mission. In sum, good judgment is essentially derived from God’s leadership that can drives inspiration as well as perspiration. Those who walked before us in the past have discerned God’s leading and the concern in our contemporary society that challenges all that we hold sacred and stable is how can we, the church, discern God’s leading today?

At the recent Florida United Methodist Church Annual Conference, Bishop Ken Carter led us as leaders to be “Leading Like Jesus” in listening and acting out of sensitive, selective and perceptive core values of the faith. That theme attempted to capture spiritual discerning in several ways. Here are my take on some highlights:

- ◆ Bishop Carter led the conference while undergoing treatment for a ruptured tendon with help from many. Physical deficiency cannot overcome Holy Spirit’s sufficiency.
- ◆ AME Bishop Adam Richardson responded to the murders at “Mother Emmanuel” in Charleston via prayer and walking among the grief and pain of victims’ families.
- ◆ Bishop Janice Huie encouraged faithful leading in the real changes.
- ◆ Rev. Bill Hybels (Willow Creek Christian Church) noted that in light of sharing the gospel will mean compassion and justice are important.
- ◆ Mr. Jeff James of Disney spoke about leading from vision and not only by regulations.
- ◆ Dr. Lucille O’Neal’s (mother of Shaquille O’Neal) testimony of chaos to college degrees to change agent for basketball players’ families and others reminded of following Jesus lead to allow God to use us where we are most effective.

If we are to **Discern God’s Leading** in today’s world, we may well consider allowing the authentic Jesus to show up in the here and now. Are we as a church willing to do the hard work of discernment of what God is intending with us in the world? Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme **Discerning God’s Leading** invites our

- Connecting with God in whose mission we are baptized,
- Listening to God even as we listen to our neighbors now,
- Showing up on God’s terms without obstacles of self and habits.

Let us be invited to hear God in our worship through prayers, singing and Scripture readings. Let us be invited to hear God in the world (**read Psalm 148**). Where is God leading lately? Walk Good.

From Christ’s servant in ministry with the saints,

*Rev. Bancroft Williams*

# Release and Receive

Troubled hearts and burdened souls  
Come with me into silence  
Bring your worries and concerns  
Bundle all that weighs you down  
Do not pack lightly  
Bring it all

Guilt, grief, sadness, struggle  
Anger, doubt, agitation, confusion  
Take all that is written in your heart  
Come with me and rest awhile

Close your eyes and shut the door  
An appointment with spirit awaits  
Take a breath, long and deep  
Take another; with great intention  
Pause from the sorrow  
Break from the fear  
Release attachments

Allow the fire to purify your soul  
Let go  
The peace of God is your blanket

*By Sis. Valerie Henry*



# It's Happening at Merrell in July

**Saturday, July 9 - Ragsdale Hall**

**ALL MEN ARE INVITED!!!**



Merrell United Methodist

**Men's Fellowship**

Annual Spiritual Retreat

**ALL AGES EVENT**

Guest Speakers

Dr. Janel Gordon

Rev. Raymond Anglin

Police Chief Andrew Dunbar

Rev. Dr. Melville Herron

Rev. Bancroft Williams

**"The Confident Man of God"**



**Deut. 31:1-8**

8:30am Registration & Breakfast

9:15am Devotion

10:20am Session I

11:15am Lunch

12:15am Session II

2:00pm Communion

Adjournment & Benediction

You don't have to be  
a member of any  
church to attend.

**Bring a  
friend!**

**GOD BE  
PRAISED!!!**

# It's Happening at Merrell in July

MERRELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*60th Anniversary Community Event*

Health Fair



Back to School Supplies



MCA  
MEDICAL CENTER AFFILIATES

**Saturday, July 23, 2016 - 10AM-2PM**

3900 N STATE ROAD 7 • LAUDERDALE LAKES • FL

954-731-2323 • [office@merrellumc.org](mailto:office@merrellumc.org)



*\*Come Fellowship with us!\**



Food Distribution ~ Face Painting ~ Live Music



Fellowship ~ Fun ~ Food ~ Prizes  
Free Health Screenings and Doctor talks

Backpack give away!



# Announcements & Events

Bread Cart Ministry

**Tomorrow!!!**

**July 4 & July 18**

2:00—3:00 PM

RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note:

You will be required to sign in.



Merrell

**Tuesday**

**JULY 5**

**& Monday**

**July 18**

**11:00am - 4:00pm**

**Ragsdale Hall**

*Free Bread  
& Ministry*



## Merrell's UMW Unit To participate in Mission u in Daytona Beach



Merrell's UMW unit will be leaving to participate in the Florida Conference UMW's *Mission u* at Bethune Cookman University in Daytona Beach from July 7-10, 2016. Included in Merrell's contingent are members of our youth ministry. Topics include and Climate Justice, Latin America: People and Faith and The Bible and Human Sexuality. Mission u provides an opportunity to study issues impacting society based on [current mission study topics](#) with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women.

## Merrell United Methodist Church Thrift Shop Community

**SALE**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2016**

**7:00AM—4:00PM**

**Clothing, household items and much more!!!**





## 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

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

### Merrell 60th Anniversary

**Did you get your Polo Shirt!!!!**  
 You can get your shirt today in your favorite color and wear it in Merrell Style to celebrate our 60th Anniversary"



Please see members of the Evangelism Team today in Ragsdale Hall.

Donation \$25.00.

Polo Shirts are available in a variety of colors

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cups For Sale

Merrell's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cups have finally arrived. They're \$7.00 apiece. These items are a part of our commemoration of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in this community.

Stop by Ragsdale Hall and get yours today!!!!



SPPRC IS SEEKING COMMITTED PERSONS  
 Office help (3-hour shift in morning or afternoon): Greet those who contact Merrell UMC in person and over the phone with your warm disposition. Computer skills a bonus, but not a must. **WE NEED YOU!!!!!**

Sign up sheet available in the Narthex



Stephanie Perrin 07/01  
 Gregory Duhaney 07/01  
 Lionel Brown 07/02  
 Rose Farquharson 07/03  
 Isaiah Noble 07/04  
 Lorraine Anderson 07/05  
 Sylvia Walker 07/06  
 Louise Jones 07/08  
 Kaci Je'lyn Watson 07/09  
 Marjorie Newman 07/10  
 Eileen Mckenzie 07/11  
 Maudena Eccleston 07/13

Andrew Wilks 07/14  
 Leona Henry 07/14  
 Monet Xminis 07/15  
 Cynthia Barnett 07/16  
 Cynthia Fletcher 07/18  
 Fitzroy Jones 07/18  
 Gladys Thomas 07/19  
 Anderson Carrington 07/19  
 Tiffany Richards 07/20  
 Sybil Shirley 07/20  
 Shani Campbell 07/20

Clayton Young 07/21  
 Nadine Lynch 07/22  
 Raven Carty 07/22  
 Ashli Maxwell-Stewart 07/24  
 Daphney Forrest 07/24  
 Karl Black 07/25  
 Karla Black 07/25  
 Keisha Barton 07/28  
 Jeneice Bradshaw 07/29  
 Kadeem Barnett 07/30  
 Joyce Anglin 07/31/  
 Robert Trout 07/31

**+ The Staff +**

**The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor**

Email: [pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org](mailto:pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org)  
 Claudette Meatley, Certified Church Administrator  
 Email: [claudette@merrellumc.org](mailto:claudette@merrellumc.org)  
 Bro. Louis Trotman, Director of Music  
 Sis. Shirley Smith, Director Preschool  
 Email: [Preschool@merrellumc.org](mailto: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](http://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. Diana Dann

**Adm. 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. Rowena Martin

**Campus Ministry**

**Representative**

Sis. Judith Gohagen

**Disaster Coordinator**

Bro. Lovell McKail

**Worship Ministries**

Sis. Deloris Ellis

**Youth**

Judy Gohagen

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](mailto:office@merrellumc.org) or place it in the box on the office door. Deadline for announcements: **WEDNESDAY at NOON.**