



# The Messenger

***"To know Him and to make Him known" January 2018***

Happy New Year! There are times woven into the fabric of our faith and culture that allow us the space to reflect on the gift of new life. Revelation 21 promises a day when the Lamb will finish making all things new and the power of Christ's resurrection will be known in every inch of our universe. Until that day, each new sunrise offers us the opportunity to see God's graces and mercies as new. Lamentations 3:22-23 remind us that: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning..." So in this season of new opportunities, a new year, a new day, I want to offer you an invitation, a spiritual practice, and a space to receive new mercies.

First, I want to invite you to join with me in making goals for 2018. Many people refuse to make resolutions because they fail to keep them in the course of year. So the practice of resolving to never eat chocolate again is not the same as setting goals. For me, the way I set goals is to think about what and where I want to be spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially by January 2019. I then think about what daily practices I will need to make to arrive at my destination. If I think about never or always I will fail. However, if I see my goals as a part of a larger part of my discipleship of Jesus Christ then with His strength and my daily devotion we can achieve these goals. Did I just tie discipleship to goal setting? Yes, I did. You see if I never set a goal, I will never achieve a goal and scripture calls us to grow in our likeness of Christ and press on toward the goal. We are to be a people on the move towards holiness. So where are you spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially? Where is God calling you to be this year?



In April 2016 I faced a pivotal decision to choose holiness in all areas of my life. I made that decision on the bridge in the picture on the left. That's me, all 240 pounds of me. I was hiking with my kids in Myakka River State Park when I realized the easy one mile hike to the hanging bridge wasn't easy for me at all. Once I climbed those treetop stairs that rose above the tree line, I knew I was in trouble. I could no longer do the things I wanted to do physically and I had to face why. I needed to set goals if I wanted a different future. I looked at my precious boys and knew that if not for me, I needed to do this for them. So, I began to journal about where I wanted to be and what it would take to get there. By October 2016 I completed one of my goals: to run a 5K! My journey included letting the Lord refine and

heal me in all areas of my life. It wasn't just losing weight and exercising. It was a journey to heal. It was a journey towards wholeness. This is my invitation to you, set some goals that will lead you towards wholeness in all areas of your life. My first goal was to start walking and keep walking, and to make a new goal every time I achieved one. By April 2017 I had completed my first half marathon.!

One of the spiritual practices that I added to my life was offering myself daily nourishment through God's Word. I know that sounds like I wasn't reading God's Word before, and that isn't true, I was. However, this time I nourished myself on God's Word and asked for God to show me His mercy, grace, love, and leadership enough for today. Just



today. Not the entire year. Just-one-day. I have this little prayer book that includes a practice of daily renewing my covenant with the LORD, using Scripture. In its instructions the prayer book says "The daily renewal of the will to worship and to service is of great importance, using scripture or other sentences of resolution." My favorite is Philippians 3:13-14: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Recently, I fell away from goals. I let life, transition to a new place, and my own fears take ownership over my time and mind instead of Christ. I sought out accountability and advice and a friend reminded me of this passage (that I had taught her). I just need to get up and press on. Adding the spiritual practice to your life of nourishing your soul on Scripture is a way of renewing your commitment, will keep you moving forward. None of us are done growing in the likeness of Christ yet. None of us have this whole life thing figured out. All of us need to keep moving forward and the only fuel that will accomplish this is straight from the heart of God. We need the Holy Spirit to help us move forward. Will you join me in committing to a practice of daily nourishing yourself on the Word of God and renewing your commitment to move forward? God's grace will cover all that is in the past, just get moving today.



Finally, let me offer you a little space. Sometimes the biggest barrier we have to moving forward is how harsh we are on ourselves. Let me offer you some space to receive grace and mercy and to give you permission to grant yourself grace and mercy. God's mercies are inexhaustible. Each morning, add to your daily practice the space to receive and give God's grace and mercy to yourself. Many sermons have been given about granting mercy and grace to others, more need to be preached on giving grace and mercy to ourselves. God's mercies and grace are new for YOU each morning. You, His precious child. You are loved. You have a purpose and place in His world and heart. You have been called and set apart for service. Spend time each day purposefully letting God love you, heal you, and renew you. For me, this happens best when I am running (probably because I don't talk well when I am exercising). Find your space. Make it a priority this year.

As you set your goals, please know that my goals can never be yours. They are built around my life and condition. Be prayerful about where God is calling you to grow. Trust me, if you ask, He will lovingly, reveal to you where you need to grow. Let yours be driven not by what others are doing, or even what you think you should do, but where God is calling you into wholeness and holiness.

God loves you and so do I!

*Pastor Melanie*

P.S.

Let me offer you two opportunities. First, if you want to make an appointment for spiritual direction please email me at [mfierbaugh@memorialumc.com](mailto:mfierbaugh@memorialumc.com). I would love to pray with you and help you to form a personal discipleship plan. Second, if your goals include growing in your health physically (exercising and eating better) I want to invite you to join with me weekly for a Bible Study and accountability. If you are interested please email me.







## *The Staff of Memorial UMC*

*Wishes You a Blessed  
New Year!*



Melanie Fierbaugh  
Senior Pastor



Claude Burnett  
Pastoral Assistant



Jerry McCauley  
Visitation Pastor



Stuart Upton  
Youth Director



April McQuaig  
Administrative Assistant



Marie Whitcomb  
Finance Director



Sharon Coffin  
Receptionist



“Rocky” Leong  
Custodian



Julia Burnett  
Accompanist



Martha Oliveras  
Nursery Assistant



Hey there Memorial UMC Youth!

I'm Stuart Upton, and I'm the new Director of Student Ministries at Memorial. I'm really excited to meet and get to know each of you in the coming year. I don't know if you know this yet, but 2018 is going to be AWESOME! Just wait and see.

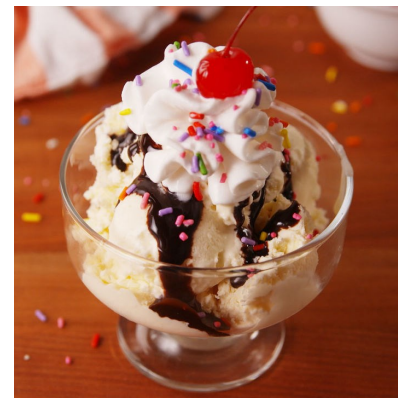
To kick it off, **Wednesday, January 10th**, we're going to get together for an Ice Cream Social at the Lighthouse at **6:30 PM**. We will play games, eat delicious dairy dessert, and learn a little bit more about one another. Youth, Parents, and Congregation members are welcome. Please RSVP with the church office to insure we have enough ice cream and toppings for everyone. [Memorial@MemorialUMC.com](mailto:Memorial@MemorialUMC.com) or 863-465-2422

Youth Group starts up on **Sunday, January 14th at 5:00 PM**. If you've ever wanted to know just how big God is and just how much God loves YOU, don't miss this first Youth Group night of the new year! It's going to be epic.

Let's get real here... there are lots of ways you can get plugged in at Memorial. Here's a weekly rundown of what you can get into at church:

**Sunday Mornings - 9:30a.....** Sunday School in the Rob Reynolds Hall  
**Sunday Nights - 5:00p.....** Youth Night in the Lighthouse (Beginning 1/14)  
**Tuesday Mornings - 6:45a.....** Prayer Breakfast in the Lighthouse  
**Wednesday Nights - 6:30p.....** Deep Dive Bible Study in the Lighthouse (Beginning 1/17)

Can't wait to meet you all! ~ Stuart Upton, Youth Director





01	Harold	Wood
04	Celia	Miller
07	Jerry	Kinsey
08	Sandra	Weber
10	Macel	Johnson
10	Ann	Lander
10	Robbye	Teal
11	Mary Ann	Layne
11	Stephanie	White
15	Norma	Buttrill
17	Alicia	Clark
17	Frances	Hadden
18	Brian	Cooke
20	Charles	Swift
21	Barbara	Cummins
22	Kevin	Clark
22	Paul	Dove
22	Natalie	Perez
27	Derrel	Bryan
27	Willard	Wegman
29	Kathryn	Durrance
31	Lecy	Martinez

### H.O.O.I. News

**H.O.O.I....**The Christmas trip to the Dominican Republic went very well. A multitude of children and adults were blessed because of your efforts and we would all like to thank you for your support, love, and prayers ~ **Troy White.**



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION

On January 2nd at 1:00 pm in Rob Reynolds Hall we will have the traditional

Memorial for our members who have passed during the preceding year. We will honor Ellen Jongens, Doris May, and Sandy Allen, remembering their many contributions of service through the years. Come and help us celebrate their lives ~ **Ruth Shutts**

We wish you a most wonderful and blessed start to your new year!

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 in observance of the New Year's Holiday

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!  
Psalm 113:3 ESV

### Memorial United Methodist Church

500 Kent Avenue  
Lake Placid, FL 33852-8976

863-465-2422 Office

863-465-2826 Fax

[Memorial@MemorialUMC.com](mailto:Memorial@MemorialUMC.com)

[www.MemorialUMC.com](http://www.MemorialUMC.com)



Office Hours

Monday ~ Thursday

8:30 AM through 4:30 PM



# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10 AM</b> Change of Pace  <b>1 PM</b> United Methodist Women Meeting (RRH)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Worship <b>5 PM</b> Youth Fellowship (LH)	<b>8</b> Children Start Back to School LVCS	<b>9</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> HS Prayer Group (LH) <b>10 AM</b> Change of Pace <b>6 PM</b> Finance Meeting (Office) <b>7 PM</b> Trustees Meeting (LBC)	<b>10</b> <b>No Craft Class</b>  <b>6 AM</b> Prayer Group  <b>6:30 PM</b> Ice Cream Social (LH-RSVP) <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Worship <b>5 PM</b> Youth Fellowship (LH)	<b>15</b> <b>No School in Observance Of Martin Luther King Day</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> HS Prayer Group (LH) <b>8 AM</b> LP Ministerial Association (Hospital) <b>10 AM</b> Change of Pace  <b>6 PM</b> LVCS Board Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>No Craft Class</b>  <b>6 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>18</b>  <b>12 PM</b> Newsletter Deadline  <b>1 PM</b> Mary Martha Group (MBC)	<b>19</b> <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>  <i>Just a friendly reminder...</i>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Worship <b>5 PM</b> Youth Fellowship (LH)	<b>22</b> <b>6 PM</b> Chat 'n Chew	<b>23</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> HS Prayer Group (LH)  <b>10 AM</b> Change of Pace	<b>24</b> <b>No Craft Class</b>  <b>6 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7 PM</b> Choir	<b>25</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Manna Board Meeting (LBC)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>8:30</b> Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Worship  <b>2:30 PM</b> H.O.O.I. Board Meeting (RRH) <b>5 PM</b> Youth(LH)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>6:45 AM</b> HS Prayer Group (LH)  <b>10 AM</b> Change of Pace	<b>31</b> <b>No Craft Class</b>  <b>6 AM</b> Prayer Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7 PM</b> Choir			



## **Sunday School Classes at 9:30am**

Nursery	Martha Oliveras	Birth—5	Nursery
SonShine Club	Volunteers	K-3rd Grade	Clubhouse
45 Zone	Scott & Sally Durban	4th & 5th Grade	Upper Room
Ladies Bible Class	Team of Teachers	Discussions & Lectures	Ladies Bible Class
Men's Bible Class	John Causey	Discussions Class	Men's Bible Class
Pathfinders	Melissa Russell	Discussions Class	Room 203
Wesley Fellowship	Troy White	Discussions Class	Room 204

### **Current Small Groups—Heart Groups**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ladies 6 PM</b>	<b>217 N. Main Street</b>
	<b>Carlene Clark</b>	<b>863-441-0200</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Adults 7 PM</b>	<b>114 Lakefront Court NE</b>
	<b>George Hill</b>	<b>863-465-2503</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Adults 7 PM</b>	<b>158 Blue Moon Avenue</b>
	<b>Hartman's</b>	<b>863-465-0695</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Men 8 AM</b>	<b>McDonald's</b>
	<b>Claude Burnett</b>	<b>863-464-0330</b>

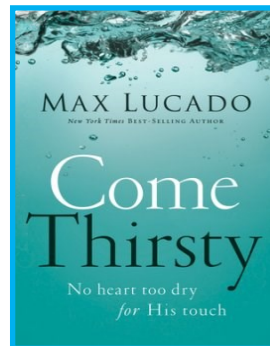
### **Weekly Worship Schedule**

**Worship Services**  
8:30am and 10:45am

**Fellowship**  
9:15am to 10:40am

**Sunday School**  
9:30am

### **Mary Martha Group**



The Mary Martha Group will meet January 18th at 1 PM in the Men's Bible Classroom. We will study three chapters from Max Lucado's book Come Thirsty. The chapters we will study are 4. When Death Becomes Birth, 5. With Heart Headed Home, 6. Hope for Tuckered Town. We look forward to studying together.  
~ *Ruth Shutts*