



The Messenger

“To Know Christ and to Make Him Known” March 2019



“Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12

I have to admit, I find great joy in reading Scripture. I love reading scripture because every time I read it, I feel the presence of Christ. Sometimes I feel like I am sipping a cup of tea with a friend and listening to their heart. Sometimes I feel as if God has opened my soul and is pouring His healing oil directly into my heart. Other times I know I have come to hear the truth about myself, and something that I need to confess and seek repentance. I have at times felt like Holy Spirit was singing over me, blessing me with grace and spiritual gifts. Scripture can be like a cold glass of lemonade on a hot July day, soothing my parched soul and perking up my spirit. How could I walk away from this book? It is alive. It is one place I go to meet with my Savior, hear straight from the Father, and encounter Holy Spirit. I am more of who God made me to be, more of who God is calling me to be, more like my Savior every time I read its precious pages. So, for me the Bible brings great joy. How is it with you?

I know that for some the Bible is difficult. They feel lost. They feel overwhelmed. They feel inadequate. Or some have even confessed that they feel bored when they read it. Don't worry, I think we have all felt these things at one time or another. First, these are not simply words on a page. These are sacred words that the Living God breathes into life, and through them He will speak to us. “Okay, Pastor, but give me the plain truth. How can I read the Bible and not feel this way?” In a word, expectation. Open your Bible the same way you turn to a friend at lunch and lean in to hear what God has to say. Expect God to speak. Pray and ask Holy Spirit to speak to you clearly. I promise, the more you pray and invite Christ to breathe life into the words on the page, the more you will hear and experience God.

I met with a friend for lunch today. When we sat down at the table, we leaned in close so we could hear each other speak over the din of the restaurant. We started our conversation exactly where we had left off the last time we spoke. We listened to each other intently while we talked. We laughed and enjoyed our conversation. We shared our hearts and comforted each other. We challenged each other a little. We encouraged each other. We stuffed a lot of love and connection into an hour. We left planning the next time we would have lunch.

What if you began to approach reading Scripture, just like having lunch with your friend? What if you leaned in close and bravely opened yourself to hear every drop of what God is saying to you? What if you let him give you joy, comfort you, encourage you, challenge you? What if you made a date for the next time you were to meet? What if you poured yourself a glass of lemonade, relaxed, and leaned into whatever the God who loves you wants to say?

The words in the Bible are not just words, they are truly *“living and active.”* The Bible is the restaurant table where we go to meet our friend and Savior and listen close to every word He has to say. Because, trust me, Jesus loves you and will meet you in the pages of His book and you will leave better than you were before.

God loves you and so do I,

Melanie



**WORK DAY
at the
CHURCH**

Time to make the church buildings and grounds look good for the Easter season! Each Spring the Trustees plan a work day at the church to improve the appearance of our buildings and grounds. This year the date is **March 23rd**. Please come at **8:00am** and we will be done by noon. Bring yard tools, gloves, a pressure washer or whatever

else you think we might need to have done. Not all things being done will be outside so there is a spot for just about everyone! If you would like more information, please see Claude Burnett or call him at the church office.



Thrive

South West District Conference

THRIVE! Local Church Conference

Saturday, March 9, 2019 9 AM to 3 PM

Edgewater UMC

19190 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Cost: \$10.00 cash or check payable to "South West District" at the door.

Lunch, nursery care and children's activities provided.

This year's Thrive conference will provide information, inspiration and training. Learn adaptive, relational, and technical skills to move your church into uncharted territory. Begin the day with worship and hear from Rev. Alex Shanks, assistant to Bishop Ken Carter, and outgoing District Superintendent Rini Hernandez, both of whom attended the recent General Conference as delegates. Each participant will choose an afternoon workshop session; selections include creating healthy teams, hospitality and connection systems, digital communications and social media, finance, and disaster recovery.

9:00—9:30 am: Registration and Hospitality

9:30 am: Opening Session

- General Conference 2019 information session with Rev. Alex Shanks, assistant to Bishop Ken Carter and project manager for the Commission on the Way Forward
- Worship and communion with District Superintendent Rini Hernandez

12:00— 1:00 pm: Lunch (provided on-site)

1:00—2:30 pm: Workshop Sessions

2:30 pm: Sending Forth Prayer

Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5pae6gl>



Hey Church Family,

A lot is going on in our Student Ministries! Earlier this month, we took a crew to Rock the Universe, a Christian music festival at Universal Studios in Orlando, where students got to spend some time riding rides and watching some great concerts. The next weekend, some youth attended their first hockey game. This was simply an opportunity for us to spend some time doing something as a group. It was a lot of fun and the Tampa Bay Lightning won, which made their **youth pastor happy!**

We also took some kids to Riverside Retreat Center for the Refuel Winter Retreat. In a word, it was **AWESOME!** Refuel was designed to help students reset and refocus their relationship with God. One of the most telling examples of the weekend's impact is with the students cell phones. They were asked to hand them in when they got to the retreat center, so they wouldn't be a distraction throughout the weekend. When the weekend was over, some of the students complained because they had to check their phones all the time again. It's amazing how much we **all** can get distracted by the technology that surrounds us, and when we can put it down, put it away, and center ourselves on the task of finding God, life is truly more refreshed.

Finally, we're in the midst of Confirmation. We've got three students who are heading through Confirmation Class and they're learning so much about their faith and their place in the church. I can't wait to see how they grow to lead this Body of Christ in its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Get involved! These students need mentors and leaders that tether them more strongly to the church, and YOU can be a part of that. Contact Stuart (863.465.2422) for more information about how you can help.

God Bless!

Stuart

— HERE'S WHATS —
GOING ON
SAVE THE DATES



March 6 at Noon

Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

(drop in during your lunch for a few minutes)

6pm

Worship Services & Imposition of Ashes
In the Sanctuary

Health Care Center Service, March 10

The second Sunday of each month Memorial leads the worship service at Lake Placid Health Care Center. The service begins at 4:00pm. Please join us at 3:45 if you can help with the residents.

Chat 'n Chew Group

The Chat 'n Chew group will meet Monday, March 18 at *Bo David's* in Sun 'n Lakes (South). If you would like to join us, RSVP to Carole and Chip Eifler, at 465-0888



Saint Patrick's Day Brunch

9:30 AM

Rob Reynolds Hall

Wear Green



Craft Class

It is craft time again. Please join us on March 6 at 9:00am in the Lighthouse for a time of fellowship and crafting. For more information call Avis Keen at 465-7475. See you there!

H.O.O.I. News.

We are taking names of people wanting to go to the Dominican Republic Mission Trip July 1-8, 2019. If you are interested, please contact Troy White or Kathryn Durrance.



Memorial is looking to fill a few volunteer positions. Please email memorial@memorialumc.org if you are interested.

Webmaster: We are looking for a qualified individual to help us with our website management.

Sound Tech: Our sound techs are a crucial part of our ministries. Pastor Claude and Stuart will provide training.

Media Tech: We are seeking people to help us with our visual media on Sundays and develop the media.

Social Media Evangelist: We are looking for a few capable people to help us keep our Facebook page active and up to date. Additionally, these people would engage with our over 200 livestream viewers each Sunday. Must be very familiar with social media platforms.

JOY Bags

We will meet to assemble the JOY Bags on Monday, March 18 at 9:00am in the Kitchen/RRH. Please come join us. If you have any questions, call Ashley Tanner at 699-1447.



Classes Begin March 17 at 4:00pm

Are you interested in learning what it means to be a member of Memorial UMC? What it means to be a Methodist? What it means to be a Christian? Join us for our 3-week New Members Class on Sunday, March 17. Everyone is invited to attend. Anyone who wishes to transfer their membership or become a first time member of a church, or if you are simply curious, this is the first step.

Come check it out.

Email: receptionist@memorialumc.com to RSVP.



June 17-21

Vacation Bible School

Registration Opens March 1!

vbspro.events/p/38f33d



Dinner | Adult Class | Kids & Student Activities

5:30 PM Dinner

6:15 PM

Bible Study

Kids & Student Activities

7:00 PM Choir

Our Winter Term will run through April 10.

**Dinner is a suggested donation of \$5 per person of \$15 per family*



Firm Foundation Adult Bible Study

Have you ever wondered what it means to be Wesley and what are the core

beliefs of Methodists? This short term class will explore the power of Wesleyan theology that includes:

- The Lordship of Jesus Christ
- Engaging scripture meaningfully
- The power of the Holy Spirit
- The promise of sanctification
- Living with undivided purpose
- Fostering dynamic discipleship

The foundational principles that have guided Methodist thought from the beginning of John Wesley's countercultural movement remain rich resources as we explore what it means to remain faithful disciples in the tradition of the Wesleys.



April 13 —10AM-Noon

Join us for one of our largest outreach events of the year!

Email memorial@memorialumc.com to volunteer.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

Saturday, March 10, 2019 at 2:00am.



March

BIRTHDAYS

					1 Wes Clark	2 Nancy Reed Sam Rogers
3	4	5 Liam Fierbaugh Amberlee Rogers	6	7	8 Chrissy Villareal	9 Nancy Crooks Ginger Keimel
10	11	12	13	14 Jan Hunt	15	16 Betty Sue Vinson Jessie Sanders
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Art Long
24	25 Barbara Bullard	26 Charles Reynolds	27 Ann Harvell	28 Peggy Branch	29 Dan Durrance	30 Cheryl Mysliwy
31 Bob Hartman Ana Taylor						

March

EVENTS

					1	2
3 Communion Sunday YOUTH 5pm LH	4	5 10:00AM Change of Pace (LBC)	6 6am Prayer Group 9:00am Craft Class Noon Ash Wednesday 5:30 Dinner 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service Kids & Youth 7:00 Choir	7	8	9 Thrive SW District Conference
10 4:00pm LP Healthcare Worship Service YOUTH 5pm LH Spring Forward!	11	12 10:00AM Change of Pace (LBC)	13 6am Prayer Group 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Bible Study Kids & Youth 7:00 Choir	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day Brunch 9:30 AM New Members Class 4 PM YOUTH 5pm	18 9:00am JOY Bags (RRH) 6:00pm Chat 'n Chew	19 10:00AM Change of Pace (LBC) 7:00pm Church Council (LH)	20 6am Prayer Group 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Bible Study Kids & Youth 7:00 Choir	21	22	23 8:00am Church Work Day
24 YOUTH 5pm 31	25	26 10:00AM Change of Pace (LBC) 6:00PM LVCS Board Meeting (LBC)	27 6am Prayer Group 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Bible Study Kids & Youth 7:00 Choir	28	29	30



Sunday School Classes at 9:30am

Nursery	Martha Oliveras	Birth-5 years old	Nursery
SonShine Club	Volunteers	K-3rd Grade	Clubhouse
45 Zone	Scott & Sally Durban	4th & 5th Grade	Upper Room
Youth Class	Cory Fierbaugh	6th-12th Grade	Rob Reynolds Hall
Ladies Bible Class	Sherryl Wolfe	Discussions & Lectures	Ladies Bible Class
Men's Bible Class	John Causey	Discussion Class	Men's Bible Class
Pathfinders	Melissa Russell	Discussion Class	Room 203
Wesley Fellowship	Troy White	Discussion Class	Room 204

Small Groups-Heart Groups

Monday	Ladies 7pm Cheryl Mysliwy	125 Eventide Ave 863-414-5370
Thursday	Adults 7pm Hartman's	158 Blue Moon Ave 863-465-0695
Friday	Men's 8am Claude Burnett	McDonald's 863-464-0330

Weekly Opportunities

Sunday Worship	8:30am & 10:45am	Sanctuary
Sunday Fellowship	9:15-10:40am	Rob Reynolds Hall
Sunday School	9:30am	Various
Sunday Youth Night	5:00pm	Lighthouse
Wednesday Youth Deep Dive	6:30pm	Lighthouse

Memorial United Methodist Church

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Office 863-465-2422 Fax 863-465-2826

Memorial@MemorialUMC.com

www.MemorialUMC.com

Office Hours 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Thursday

206 Melanie Fierbaugh-Senior Pastor

203 Claude Burnett-Pastoral Assistant

204 Kathy Phypers- Confidential Secretary

207 Stuart Upton- Youth Director

214 Lakeview Christian School