



First Methodist Church

Long Beach

208 Pine Street

Corner of Church Ave. &
Pine St.

(228) 863-9619

firstmclb@gmail.com

Rev. Ben Barlow

228-806-2787

Email address:

benbarlow@mac.com

The Vision

Our vision is our intended destination or goal. The vision of First Methodist Church Long Beach is to know Jesus and make Jesus known.

The Mission

Our mission is the roadmap for achieving our vision. The mission of First Methodist Church Long Beach is to connect, coach, and commission people to know Jesus and make Jesus known.

The Messenger

October 1, 2026

Church Is Halftime, Not Game Time

In Ephesians 4:11–12, Paul reminds us that God has given leaders to the church “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

I love thinking about the church through the lens of a football game. Sunday morning is halftime—not game time.

At halftime, the players come off the field. They catch their breath, get refreshed, listen to the coach, make adjustments, and get refocused for the second half. But they don’t stay in the locker room. The purpose of halftime is to prepare them to go back onto the field.

That’s what the church should be for us.

Monday through Saturday is game time. It’s where we live out our calling as disciples of Jesus—loving our neighbors, serving others, sharing the gospel, showing grace, and being the hands and feet of Christ wherever God has uniquely placed us.

Then we gather on Sunday for our “halftime.” We worship together, open God’s Word, encourage one another, receive correction and direction, and allow God to renew our hearts. We come in tired, distracted, and sometimes discouraged, but we leave reenergized and refocused for the week ahead.

The goal isn’t simply to have a great Sunday. The goal of Sunday is to equip us for Monday.

So, when we gather each week, let’s remember why we’re here. We’re not coming to sit in the stands and watch someone else play. We’re coming into the locker room to be equipped, encouraged, and sent back onto the field.

Church is halftime! The mission is the game!

-Ben

Upcoming Sermons

October 4, 2026

Grace Alone
Acts 15:1-35

October 11, 2026

God's Guidance
Acts 15:36-16:10

October 18, 2026

Jailhouse Prayers
Acts 16:11-40

October 25, 2026

Scriptures on the Sabbath in the Synagogue
Acts 17:1-15

November 1, 2026

An "Unknown" God
Acts 17:16-34

Calendar

Sunday, October 4th

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 in the Youth hall
5:00 p.m. In-Betweens in the SBS room

Monday, October 5th

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

Tuesday, October 6th

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

Wednesday, October 7th

10:00 a.m. Respite Ministry in the Side by Side rm.

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir in the Choir room

Thursday, October 8th

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

4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bride's parlor

Sunday, October 11th

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, October 12th

Office Closed

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

Tuesday, October 13th

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

Wednesday, October 14th

10:00 a.m. Respite Ministry in the Side by Side rm.

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir in the Choir room

Thursday, October 15th

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

4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bride's parlor

Sunday, October 18th

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 in the Youth hall

5:00 p.m. In-Betweens in the SBS room

Monday, October 19th

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

6:00 p.m. First Methodist Women in the CLC

Tuesday, October 20th

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

Wednesday, October 21st

10:00 a.m. Respite Ministry in the Side by Side rm.

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir in the Choir room

Thursday, October 22nd

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

4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bride's parlor

Sunday, October 25th

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 in the Youth hall

5:00 p.m. In-Betweens in the SBS room

Monday, October 26th

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

Tuesday, October 27th

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

Wednesday, October 28th

10:00 a.m. Respite Ministry in the Side by Side rm.

11:30 a.m. O.A.K.S. Luncheon in the CLC

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice in Youth Hall

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir in the Choir room

Thursday, October 29th

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

4:00 p.m. Prayer Group in the Bride's parlor



Acolyte Schedule

October 4th Amiyah
October 11th Collins
October 18th Jacen
October 25th Jack



We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to Mary Westmoreland and family at the death of her husband, Jim Westmoreland.

We wish to express our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of Wayne Ward.



A donation was given in memory of Nancy Ruff by Melissa Francis.

Donations were given in memory of Michael Tate by Melissa Francis & Stephen and Deborah Cantrell.

Donations have been given in memory of Jim Westmoreland by Betsy Bullard, John & Barbara Fales, Henry & Kathy Edmondson, Allen & Sharon Lantz, MS Alpha Gamma, F.E. & Donna Hutchings, Vic Watts, Mike & Kathy Cook, James & Deborah Drennan, Robert & Kimberly Guillen, Richard & Cynthia Bouchard, Stephen & Teresa Ladner, and Terry & Kathy Kurts.

A donation was given in memory of Wayne Ward by Betsy Bullard.

A donation was given in memory of Iantha Hines by Fred & Kaye Rendfrey.

A donation was given in memory of Gerald Lon-thair by Betsy Bullard.



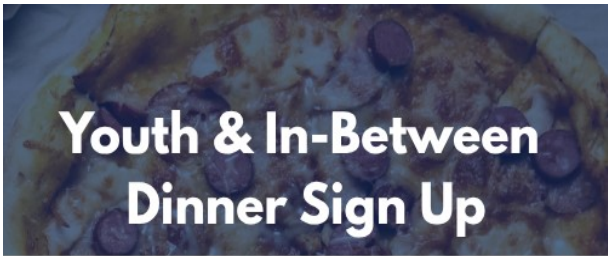
Janis Slade, Shorty Haulk, Sharon Haulk, Lynn Jordan Beck, Joyce St. John, Jay Reagan, Pam Serrato, Ryan Serrato, David Serrato, David Berry, Mildred Dilley, Jesse Draime, Ensleye Draime, Maddy Devlin, Patricia Badeaux, Linda Bass, Bob Bullard, Anne Ladner, Paul Hicks, Jim Collins, Glenda Hull, Natalie Schmidt, Dawn Rhoades, John Fales, Becky Collins, Lauren Sullivan, Corbin Altese, Penny Tripp, Jim Westmoreland, Billy Stafford, Gary Cook, Carol Cook, Leah Hayes, Bruce Mathes III & Alexis Stephens, Dan Tisdale, Diane Johnson, Adam Dugger, Richard Gingles, & Farra Wicks.



Our annual Charge Conference/District Rally will be Sunday, November 1st at 5:00 p.m. at New Prospect Methodist Campground in Vancleave Mississippi. All are invited to attend.



The O.A.K.S. Luncheon will be October 28, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. All are invited! Please come and share fellowship along with your favorite dish.



Jesus fed the 5000, but he started with the fish and loaves of a boy in the crowd! Maybe he wants to start with you to feed our students this Sunday!

Sign up to feed dinner to our students by scanning the QR code!



Methodist Women Fall Rummage/Bake Sale

Come and shop at the Rummage/Bake sale on Saturday, October 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the CLC. There will also be Pulled Pork Sandwich plates available from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. \$12.00 All proceeds go to Missions.



Youth Group October Calendar:
October 4 - No Youth: Enjoy Fall Break!
October 11 - 40 students and adult volunteers are attending Beach Retreat in Panama City!
October 18 - Youth Group
October 25 - Youth Group

Youth Group meets from 5-7 PM in Heritage Hall at 208 Pine Street. Enter through the door with the mosaic cross painted on it. Pick up is in the Christian Life Center. If your student drives to youth, have them park in the Christian Life Center parking lot and walk over to Heritage Hall. Thanks for your help with this!



4th-6th Graders

In-Betweens October Calendar:
October 4 - No In-Betweens: Enjoy Fall Break!
October 11 - In-Betweens
October 18 - In-Betweens
October 25 - In-Betweens
November 1 - Southern Promise Land Trip
More info to follow.

In-Betweens meet from 5-7 PM in the Side By Side room in Moore Hall at 208 Pine Street. Enter in the double doors that face the city park. Pick up is at the Christian Life Center!



Christmas is coming soon! Our church is honored to host several community events and church gatherings during the month of December. We want our church to be warm, welcoming, and festive for these events!

This year we are going to have several trees on display in the Christian Life Center. We are inviting our church's ministry groups to each decorate one of these trees. Groups can decorate their tree to represent their ministry or decorate it in a fun or traditional way. We will decorate trees between November 22nd and December 4th. If your ministry group would like to participate, please email Emily at emilyharrisonbarlow@gmail.com or call the church office.



Trick or Treating

Rather than hosting our own Trunk or Treat and asking the community to come to us this year, our Family Ministry team made the decision to join the City of Long Beach at their **Tricks, Treats, Trail** event by hosting a booth to represent our church on Oct 24th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We would love to have all of our families join us at the Senior Center in Long Beach to come by our booth and share in the fun! We will be handing out candy and information about our church to hundreds of kids! We are collecting donations of candy through Wednesday, Oct 21st. You can bring it to Sunday morning service or to the church office throughout the week. Thank you in advance for your support!

First Methodist Church
208 Pine Street
P.O. Box 375
Long Beach, MS 39560
www.fmclb.church



Family Ministry Meeting

Do you want to be a part of a team that plans events for kids and families in our church? We will begin working soon on activities for 2027. If you think family ministry planning might be something God is calling you to, call Lori Cripple at [228-324-3622](tel:228-324-3622) to start that conversation!



Family Serve Day

On Saturday, November 14th, our kids and youth along with their parents will have the opportunity to serve alongside our Open Table Ministry. We will collect items to make blessing bags, provide desserts, serve at the park, etc. Look for more information about how to participate coming soon!