



**Ardella Baptist Church
1922-2022**

And so we celebrated because the LORD had indeed worked miracles for us. Psalm 126:3



Sunday, July 10th, 2022

Order of Service

Call To Worship: Pastor Mark A. Bedwell

*Worship Through Music: Jacob Kluttz
(Guest Pianist)*

Offertory Prayer: Pastor Max Braddock

*Worship Through Song:
This Is Amazing Grace
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
How Great Is Our God
All The Way My Savior Leads Me*

Prayer: Mike McCracken

*Message: Pastor Mark A. Bedwell
The State of the Church (Luke 17:11-16)*

Invitation: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

*Benediction: Pastor Ed Brown
(Ardella Pastor 1984-1987)*

Our Missionary Partners and Ministries

Ardella Helps

A Woman's Choice,

Agape Flights

Christian Law Association

Dream Center Lakeland

Embrace Widow Ministry

Faith Riders International

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCA - ELE

FB Cooperative Program

Frontline Ministry

Hope for Brazil

Hope Project International

Idols Aside

Lighthouse Ministries

Love Unveiled

Macedonian World Baptist Missions

Mission Hispana

Metropolitan New York Baptist Association (MNYBA)

One More Child

Pine Hill Macedonian Missions Member

South Florida Baptist Association

Servant's Heart Ministries

The Sulik Family-Missionaries serving in Krakow, Poland

WOW - Women of the Word - Ministry to Young Moms

Ardella Baptist Church, 2022

Sunday Mornings:

- Life Groups, Adult Bible Studies, for all ages, Student Ministry and Children's programs from Nursery-5th grade begin at 9 am.
- Worship Service begins at 10:30 am in the Worship Center.

Throughout the Week:

- Tuesday: 10 am Men's Prayer Group meets in the Conference Room.
- Tuesday: 10 am Embrace Widow Ministry Bible Study meets in Room 101 (beginning August 16th, 2022.)
- Wednesday Night Activities:
- Family Style Supper in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5 pm.
- Adult Bible Studies and prayer begins at 6:30 pm. Student Ministry and AWANA also begins at 6:30 pm. (AWANA follows the Polk County School Calendar.)
- Friday: WOW (Women of the Word) Ministry for young mothers and their children meets at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. (WOW follows the Polk County School Schedule.)



A Message From Pastor Mark A. Bedwell

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial was dedicated, the first issue of Reader's Digest was published, King Tut's tomb was discovered, and Ardella Baptist Church was born.

A lot has happened over the past 100 years. As with any church history, there have been good times, and there have been hard times. However, through it all, God has kept His hand of providence on this church. And 100 years later, we are still here.

If I could describe my emotions today in one word it would be "thankful." I am thankful for all of the people in our past who have paved the way for us to be here celebrating today. I am thankful to our current church family, and to all of the guests who chose to be with us today to celebrate this momentous occasion.

I am thankful to God for placing this church in Lakeland, Florida. He began it, He has sustained it, and He will continue to lead us forward in the years to come. Today, He is the focus of our celebration and praise.

Finally, I want to thank God and Ardella Baptist Church for allowing me and my family to be a part of this wonderful congregation. This is a special place filled with special people. We are truly blessed to share this day with people from the past and the present. I am looking forward to a wonderful day of celebration. To God be all the glory!



Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark Bedwell and his family on their first Sunday at Ardella Baptist Church. (May 2016)

The Pastors Of Ardella Baptist Church

John H. Dorman

July 1922 - Sept. 1929
July 1933 - Aug. 1933
Aug. 1934 - Aug. 1935
May 1945 - July 1954

J.M. Cooley

Sept. 1929 - Sept. 1930

J. Walter Allen

Sept. 1930 - Aug. 1932

J. Oliver Campbell

Aug. 1932 - July 1933
Aug. 1933 - Aug. 1934

Vester Ghent

Aug. 1935 - Aug. 1937

J.M. Parrish

Aug. 1937 - July 1944

J.E. Sinclair

July 1944 - May 1945

H.H. Cunningham

Aug. 1954 - March 1956

Buford H. Chilcoat

April 1956 - Jan. 1962

Charles R. Newman

Feb. 1962 - Dec. 1966

Jimmy Creel

Jan. 1967 - May 1970

Weeks Dubose

July 1970 - April 1974

Tom Scarlett

July 1974 - Jan. 1976

Mack Chambers

March 1976 - Sept. 1984

Edward K. Brown

Dec. 1984 - July 1987

E. J. Brinson

Sept. 1987 - Dec. 2008

David Morton

Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2015

Mark A. Bedwell

May 2016 - Present

Interesting facts...Ardella Landmark Missionary Baptist Church had its beginnings in the Medulla Methodist Church building near the present location of Medulla Elementary School. The church was organized on July 9th, 1922 after a series of meetings conducted by L.N. Smith. Regular meetings would be held the third Sunday of each month. D. H. Dorman was called as pastor. Initial members were Lawrence L. Smith, Edna Smith, Mary E. Hays, Edward L. Hicks, Clara M. Hicks and Annie Drawdy.



Dinner on the Grounds

Traditionally, dinner on the grounds happened Sunday afternoons, under the big oak trees in the front yard of the church. This family activity is a traditional pot luck style event that was well attended.

*Fun Historical Facts Recorded in the Early Church
Minutes and How it Has Impacted Our Community*

- 1922 - Ardella is established
- 1923 - Wooden building was completed
- 1927 - Bought another tank for church camp
- 1927 - Established box system for church offerings
- 1928 - Special offering for Florida Baptist Association as their bank failed
- 1930 - Moved prayer meeting from Friday to Wednesday
- 1935 - Organized Arch Street Baptist Church in Mulberry
- 1940 - Organized young peoples meeting and hired a janitor for \$2/month
- 1941 - Changed the name to Ardella Missionary Baptist Church
- 1942 - Began receiving offering Sunday morning and night
- 1945 - Installed indoor toilets
- 1948 - Organized Ladies Auxiliary
- 1951 - Organized Eastside Baptist Church in Mulberry
- 1954 - Parsonage was completed
- 1958 - Organized Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Meade
- 1962 - Mission offerings \$85 per month; Florida Baptist Schools
\$35 per month; Pastor \$80 per week
- 1973 - Organized Center Road Baptist Church, Venice
- 1973 - Endorsed Macedonian Service Foundation
- 1974 - Sponsored Tharrpi Joseph as missionary to India
- 1974 - Sponsored Mike and Judy Thompson as missionaries to Japan
- 1975 - Endorsed Hollis Ledbetter as a missionary to Israel
- 1975 - Endorsed George Garner as Chaplin in the Army
- 1976 - Recalled Ledbetters from Israel due to political and religious
problems in Israel

A Brief History of Ardella

Ardella's history reveals a way of life in Central Florida in the late 1800s and early 1920s and 1930s. A revival was held at the beautiful little Methodist Church located on the land which is now Medulla Elementary School. The evangelist was known by his countrymen and was a Christ-follower. He was also known as a Baptist.

It seemed the Methodist were out numbered, and Old Medulla Baptist had just decided to become Southern Baptist. Ardella founders were a small group and, according to history, they wanted only the Bible for their guidance. Their goal was to make their community a better place to live, worship, and educate their families. The community leaders agreed a church was needed.

The land was donated, tall pines were cut with an ax, sawed into dressed lumber - plans were drawn and the finished carpenters of that day donated skills, and soon a little frame church was ready for services. A pump organ was donated. The music was sweet and old fashioned songs were sung.

According to Hampton Dunn's Lakeland History (pages 17 & 18), "In the decade of the 1870s...Lakeland was yet unborn. The metropolis was Medulla with a post office and two stores..."

An influx of families came fast during the 1920s. Jobs were plentiful at the Standard and Christina Phosphate Mines. Good industries included farming, cattle, and phosphate mining, and that is why we became Imperial Polk County.

Ardella grew from the original six charter members in 1922 to 107 by the end of 1929. The name, Ardella, came from a traveling missionary. He had a daughter named Ardella and the six charter members in 1922 loved the name.

As membership and needs grew, the little wooden framed church was given to a member for their home and was moved to another location. Later, a more substantial brick sanctuary was built; then a Fellowship Hall, kitchen and dining, and then the multi purpose building.

Today, 100 years later, the descendants of these founders (eight generations) still attend Ardella, and it is still a center of leadership and activity. It has grown from the original one acre to 17 with plenty of parking and is a place to find HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and the fellowship of JOY.

Written by Mary Smith Howell (Descendent of Founding Members)

A Little History

Excerpts from Ardella's History, written by Mary Smith Howell
(Descendent of Founding Members)

"The land was donated. Tall pines were cut with an axe—sawed into dressed lumber. Plans were drawn and the finished carpenters of that day, donated skills, and soon a little frame church was ready for services. A pump organ was donated. The music was sweet and old fashioned songs were sung."



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LIFE GROUPS: SUNDAY MORNINGS

Life Groups are our Sunday morning small-group Bible studies. Our **Life Groups meet each Sunday morning at 9 am** for fellowship, light refreshments, prayer, and Bible study.

These groups are made up of people who are single or married of all ages; people like you and me, living life together based on **Acts 2:42-47**. The focus of Life Groups is to teach the Bible, help disciple people to Christ, help them grow in Christ, build relationships, and live life together as we follow Jesus. Please stop by the Welcome Desk, take a Life Group brochure and speak with someone about a Life Group just for you. Hope to see you in a Life Group next Sunday morning. ~ *Pastor Max*

2022 CHRISTMAS MUSICAL INTEREST MEETING

After an extended hiatus due to COVID, Ardella is excited to relaunch our annual Broadway style Christmas Musical! Help is needed both onstage and off, so whether you are interested in set construction, sound and lights, video production, Christmas tree light engineering, costumes, props, set design and paint, choreography, food and concessions, adult choir, lead cast, ensemble cast, kids ensemble, or any other of the many of areas to participate, join us next **Sunday, July 17th at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall** to preview this year's production and sign up to be a part! If you have any questions, please see Kim Bedwell.



GRIEF SHARE: YOUR JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY

It hurts to lose someone. If you're grieving over the death of a family member or close friend, you can find help at GriefShare. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare groups meet weekly for 13 weeks to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.



We will **begin a GriefShare group on Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 pm**. You can get more information and **sign up for the group today in the Foyer**. The cost of the 13 week program and Participant Workbook is \$20.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

SLOPPY JOES, CHIPS AND DESSERT

5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall / **Sign up in the Foyer**
\$4 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 Family (2 adults + kids)
(Please note: Menu is subject to change due to availability of ingredients.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PASTORAL GREETING TIME: MEET PASTOR MARK & KIM
All GUESTS!! Today right after the worship service in the Coffee Shop.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Room 108

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Room 110

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL INTEREST MEETING

Next Sunday, July 17th at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall

EMBRACE WIDOW & SINGLE WOMEN FELLOWSHIP/BBQ/POOL PARTY

Saturday, July 22nd at 12:30 pm (1415 Royal Forrest Loop, Lakeland, FL 33811)

Sign up in the Foyer .

JIM & FLO ELLIOTT'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

You are invited! Saturday, July 23rd Drop In 1 to 3 pm in Worship Center

GRIEFSHARE: YOUR JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY

Begins Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 pm. **Sign up today in the Foyer.**

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, August 14th at 9 am. Sign up begins next week.

THE CALVARY ROAD BIBLE STUDY

Attention Men!! Pastor Max will lead this seven-week study beginning Tuesday, August 16th at 6:30 pm. Cost \$7. Sign up begins next week.

"We strive to be a healthy family where all generations grow as disciples of Jesus Christ."