

**Myrtle Grove Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 3225**  
**Pensacola, Florida 32516**

**Return Service Requested**



**Myrtle Grove**  
**Methodist Church**

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 3225  
1030 N. 57th Avenue  
Pensacola, FL 32516  
Phone: 850-456-7463/7464  
Fax: 850-456-1897

**Office Hours:**

Mon-Thu, 9:00 am - 3:00pm  
Closed Noon - 1:00pm Lunch  
Closed Friday

**Pray for Your Staff:**

**Senior Pastor:**

Riley Richardson

**Choir Director:**

Jamie Broxson

**Youth Director:**

Isaac Richardson

**Pianist: Volunteers**

**Church Secy./Receptionist:**

Cheryl Johnson

**Finance Secretary:**

Connie Boyd

**Education Director:**

Janet Boston

**Mothers Morning Out:**

Carrie Disouryavong

**Membership Secretary:**

Cheryl Johnson

**Librarian:**

Carol Laguens

# Notes from the Grove

A monthly publication for  
**Myrtle Grove Methodist Church**

**Web:**<https://www.atthegrove.church> **Email:**[church.office@mgumc.org](mailto:church.office@mgumc.org)

*Volume 22 Issue 4*

*April 2025*

## *Senior Pastor's Note*

Greetings in Christ!

In 1977, Singer/Songwriter Dallas Holm wrote a song that ultimately became the Song of the Year award winner. The song had a simple title but a profound message, and it was "Rise Again".

Some of the lyrics are as follows:

Go ahead, drive the nails in My hands;  
Laugh at me, where you stand  
Go ahead, and say it isn't Me;  
The day will come when you will see  
'Cause I'll rise, again  
Ain't no power on earth can keep Me down!  
Yes, I'll rise, again  
Death can't keep Me in the ground

The song was written in a way that Jesus was saying no matter what is done to keep Him in the grave; it would simply be a futile effort in the end. He said those words as He spoke in an illustrative manner in John 2:19 (NKJV) 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

It all became quite clear after Jesus rose from the grave, but at the time, it was so difficult to understand since rising from the dead was not something that happened every day!

John 2:21-23 (NKJV) 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

The promise of Easter was that no matter what is done to keep Christ down, it would all be defeated at the Resurrection. We now can look back and know that indeed the promise was kept! We believe the Word of God and know that Jesus not only rose from the grave, but He is alive even now, making intercession for His people.

Our world has been and continues to be going through challenging times. Yet, this same Jesus who kept His promise the first time will keep His promise and come again!

As we gather to celebrate Easter Sunday/Resurrection Sunday, we will be sure to look back in appreciation, but look forward in anticipation! He is a Promise Keeper!

Let's continue to keep our Brothers and Sisters around the world in prayer at this time as well. God knows and sees all!

He is Risen!

Pastor Riley

## *April Birthdays*

3 - Trisha Birtsch  
4 - Ray Booth  
7 - Bernie Roevers  
11 - Angie McLeod  
13 - Connie Boyd  
16 - Sue Wing  
19 - Ruth Sumpter  
20 - Linda Webb  
26 - Donna K. Johnson  
27 - Cheryl Johnson  
30 - Sharon Hogan

**Our Vision Statement:**

***"Every member a good neighbor."***

***Our Purpose Statement:***

***"Our Journey - Knowing, Loving, Serving, Sharing."***

**Some Words from the Education Director**

**Mark your Calendars:**

**Tuesday, April 1** Special Election  
No AARP Taxes

**Wednesday, April 2** 1:00 pm Classes  
1:00 pm Gardening Class "Vegetables in Pots"  
5:00 pm Dinner  
6:00 pm Classes, Youth & Choir

**Thursday, April 3** 9:30 am Ladies Small Group

**Sunday, April 6** Communion Sunday  
11:30 am Handbell Choir  
4:00 pm Prayer Team

**Monday, April 7** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm AARP Tax Assistance  
5:00 pm TOPS  
6:30 pm Scouts

**Tuesday, April 8** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm AARP Tax Assistance

**Wednesday, April 9** 1:00 pm Classes  
1:00 pm Gardening Class "Easy Herbs"  
5:00 pm Dinner  
6:00 pm Classes, Youth & Choir

**Thursday, April 10** 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study/Small Group  
6:00pm United Methodist Men

**Saturday, April 12** 9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

**Sunday, April 13** Palm Sunday  
Children's Palm Processional  
  
Cherub Choir performs  
Mini drama (Peter, James & John) "Palm Sunday"  
Sign Language class performing "He Lives"  
11:30 am Handbell Choir  
4:00 pm Prayer team

**Monday, April 14** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm AARP Tax Assistance  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
10:00 am Guild Circle  
5:00 pm TOPS  
6:30 pm Scouts

**Tuesday, April 15** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm AARP Tax Assistance (Last Day)  
Newsletter Articles Due

**Wednesday, April 16** Holy Week  
No Classes/Dinner/Youth

**Thursday, April 17** Office Closed

Sunday Activities

Sunday School 8:30 am  
Worship 10:00 am  
Handbells 11:30 am  
Prayer Team 4:00 pm

**Worship  
Service  
Opportunities**

Wednesday Activities

1:00pm Daytime Classes  
6:00pm Evening Classes  
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Addresses & Other Changes, New Members, Baptisms, Transfers, & Deaths**

**Deaths:**

John-Annie Roberts  
William Scott

**If you move, please let the office know your new address. Also, if your phone number has changed, please let the office know.**

**Reminder to All Sunday School Classes, Groups and Scouts**

**We ask that you be sure to clean up the room(s) that you use whenever you are here. There is a vacuum in the custodian's closet (M5) for you to use. Please return the vacuum when you are finished. Thank you for helping to keep the church clean.**

**April Prayer List**

**April 1-5**

Ray & Sue Booth  
Barbara Boston  
Janet Boston  
Nancy Bowman  
Chuck & Connie Boyd  
Barbara Boyden  
Tabitha Bray, Jonathan Daniels, Bo Law

**April 6-12**

Hayden Brown  
James Brown  
Bill Brown  
Douglas Brown, Jr.  
Daniel & Jamie Broxson, Cameron, Grace  
Lynda Brunelle  
Tom & Mary Buntin

**April 13-19**

Marjorie Byrd  
Tom & Sharon Cacciatore  
Clark & Paddi Cain  
Richard & Judy Cannon  
Mary Carrick  
William & Joan Carter  
Joyce Childers

**April 20-26**

Elaine Clark  
Lavern Cooper  
Tom & Linda Danks, Katie  
Kay Dickey  
Jeanette Dickinson  
Aniya Didley

**April 27-30**

Nora DuBois  
Bill & Maureen Dunbar  
Marcus English  
Ola Farrington  
Janet Faxon  
Jim & Suzanne Ferguson

### Sisters in Service

The Sisters in Service mission circle wishes to thank our church family for generously supporting our discount coupon book sale these past two months. This has been the quickest selling of all 40 of the books we had available. We get to keep 50% of the profits to use for our work at the Washburn Center for the Homeless, meals at the Ronald McDonald House behind Sacred Heart Hospital, and financial support to other charities including H.E.R. Foundation for women veterans, Bright Bridge Ministries in Brownsville, Safe Harbor for unwed mothers, the Christian Motorcycle Association, and Jesus Christ Love and Care Ministry. Without your kindness, none of this would be possible. Also, if you should happen to be spring cleaning your closets, we would be grateful for any donations of warm weather clothing (t-shirts, shorts, and jeans), tennis shoes, and gently used towels. Thank you for helping us serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to the needy in our community.

### Church Library

The MGUMC LIBRARY has received boxes of 2nd hand books and are getting them shelved as quickly as possible. We have 5 new books from a Guideposts mystery series on the upper shelves to the left of the windows. And for our gentlemen, we have a whole lower left shelf of westerns by the great Louis L'Amour. If we receive books that aren't doable or are duplicates of books already on the shelves, we place them on the "Free to a Good Home" table outside the kitchen. Remember, there are always an assortment of non-fiction books on the back and right side shelves, plus many devotionals and grief support books to the right inside the door. To check out a book, simply put your name on the card from the back cover and place it in the black file box on the table. Return books by leaving them on the table for the librarian to re-shelve. Come and browse to check out something new for your springtime reading enjoyment.

### Mothers Morning Out

Our church's preschool program has been thriving this year, providing a nurturing and engaging environment. With a focus on early childhood education, we aim to foster a love for learning through play-based activities that promote social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each week, our dedicated teachers introduce new themes and hands-on projects that encourage creativity and exploration. From arts and crafts to story time and outdoor play, the children are provided with diverse experiences that stimulate their imaginations and help them build important skills. Parents have expressed their gratitude for the sense of community and support that the preschool program offers. Open enrollment for the fall school year has begun. Please contact me if you have additional questions. Thank you for your continued support!

Kind Regards ~  
Carrie Disouryavong

### Some Words from the Education Director

(Continued from Page 2)

- Thursday, April 17** No Ladies Bible Study/Small Group  
6:00 pm "Last Supper" Drama
- Friday, April 18** 10:00 am Good Friday Daytime Service & Brunch  
6:00 pm Good Friday Service  
School is out
- Saturday, April 19** 2:00 pm Easter Family Celebration
- Sunday, April 20** Easter Sunday  
7:30 am Sunrise Service  
8:00 am Pancake Breakfast  
  
8:30 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Easter Sunday Service  
Mini drama "Women from the Tomb"  
Performances by the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir & Lacey Gillespie
- Monday, April 21** 5:00 pm TOPS  
6:30 pm Scouts
- Wednesday, April 23** 1:00 pm Classes  
5:00 pm Dinner  
6:00 pm Classes, Youth & Choir  
6:00 pm Gardening Class "Know Your Tools"  
Secretaries' Day
- Thursday, April 24** 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study/Small Group  
11:00 am Senior's Brunch & Games & Bingo  
6:00 pm Sisters in Service
- Sunday, April 27** 11:30 am Handbell Choir  
4:00 pm Prayer Team
- Monday, April 28** 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
5:00 pm TOPS  
6:30 pm Scouts
- Wednesday, April 30** 1:00 pm Wednesday Daytime Classes  
1:00 pm Gardening Class "TBA"  
5:00 pm Dinner  
6:00 pm Night Classes/Choir/Youth

We will be starting a **Young Adult/Couples class** soon in Sunday School. If you are interested or have someone in your family that may be interested, let me know.

Watch for a **"Holy Week" flyer** with a listing of all activities that will happen during that special week. There will be events for everyone!

We will also be putting together a flyer with all of the **upcoming Gardening Classes** listed. I have been asked for these dates from our gardening enthusiasts in our church.

We will have one designated day of the month for a **"Senior's Activity"**, the fourth Thursday at 11:00 am, every month. What we do on that day will change each month in a cyclical fashion. Once a quarter we will have "Lunch Bunch", once a quarter we will have "Young at Heart" and once a quarter we will have "Games & Puzzles". I will send out reminders and you only have to remember one day and time: fourth Thursday at 11:00 am! **April will be lunch & games/puzzles/ bingo!** Bring food to share and a friend! (You do not have to attend this church to participate.)

**The next Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, April 12 at 9 am.** I realize this represents a change in our monthly schedule. I can't really do Egg Hunt with the families and Ladies' Prayer Breakfast in the same day. I decided to move us up one week (just for April). Bring breakfast food to share. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact me for more information. I would also encourage you to invite your praying friends to participate regardless of whether or not they attend our church.

Janet Boston, New Cell (850) 384-6963, jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com, Facebook Messenger as well

Church Congregation,

The financial results for February and the year are listed below:

Month	Income	Expenses
January	\$29457	\$35853
February	\$28475	\$33795
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$57932</b>	<b>\$69648</b>
<b>Excess</b>	<b>-\$11715</b>	
<b>Income/ Expenses</b>		

Two expenses occurred, causing negative cash flows: replacing the air conditioner and repairing the van. Also, the utilities cost was higher due to below-average temperatures and water leaks. On a positive note, spending averaged 40% less in most budgeted areas. Our staff is doing a significant job tracking spending and using resources prudently.

The financial outlook is cautious; the Finance Committee will meet in April to reevaluate budget spending levels based on the first quarter results. We are grateful for the additional contributions from members, especially the Saints, who have exceeded expectations in tithing!

As always, you can contact me if you have questions or concerns. Blessings.

Kevin Saighman,  
Finance Chairman  
Email: saighusa@gmail.com

## Lent

Have you ever thought about the joy in sacrifice that Lent provides? Most of us don't delight in sacrifice; in fact, in our daily lives, we often do our best to avoid challenges and practices that push us outside of our comfort zones. In Christianity, there is a beautiful irony between joy and sacrifice, and we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to embrace this uniquely during Lent. In one of his Lenten messages, Pope Francis shared, "Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

When we grow closer to God by denying our will, we say "yes" to a life of abundance with Him. Our God is a benevolent God; He will not hold back His grace from those who honor Him and choose challenging things to grow and give Him glory. Christ even tells us Himself, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Without question, Lent is a time for conscious penitence and spiritual preparation for Easter. And it is important to remember that God loves us whether we make Lenten changes or not. At the same time, Lent provides us an opportunity to make God a greater part of our life, and to take our faith to new levels. Stewardship is a God-centered way of life — a spiritual way of living that, above all, acknowledges God's presence in all we do.

Lent is a time for every one of us to do more than simply deny ourselves; we need to welcome God into our lives in greater ways so that when we get to Holy Week and Easter, we have an even greater appreciation for the sacrifice the Lord made for us. Talk about pure joy!

May you and your loved ones enjoy a holy and joyous Lenten journey.

Pastor Lee