

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

Return Service Requested



Myrtle Grove
United 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:
Patsy Dean

Church Secy./Receptionist:
Cheryl Johnson

Finance Secretary:
Connie Boyd

Education Director:
Janet Boston

Mothers Morning Out:
Carrie Disouryavong

Membership Secretary:
Cheryl Johnson

Librarians:
Lou Hulien Brown
Carol Laguens

Our Vision Statement:
“Every member a good neighbor.”

Notes from the Grove

A monthly publication for
Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church

Web:<http://www.atthegrove.church> Email:church.office@mgumc.org

Volume 20, Issue 12

December 2023

Senior Pastor’s Note

“Merry Christmas!”

Every year around this time, I have a familiar experience. I’m out shopping, and I’ll go through the checkout line, and pay for my stuff. When the cashier hands me back the change, they’ll say “Happy Holidays,” or perhaps even “Merry Christmas.”

I realize that this comment is not always motivated by the cashier’s genuine interest in whether or not I enjoy my holiday. I’m aware that they may be saying this because they’ve been told to. But at least once every year, I have a cashier who looks me in the eye and says “Merry Christmas,” and really means it and it changes my whole day.

There really is something genuine to this whole idea of Christmas cheer. As Dec. 25th draws near, people warm up just a bit. If you’re out and around on Christmas Eve, you’ll notice that people are friendlier than on any other day of the year. Folks warm up when they are mindful of the Christ child’s birth and make an extra effort to practice the virtues the angel’s sing of - “peace on earth, goodwill towards men.”

When Christ entered our world, he didn’t come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives. It can be hard work to practice good will towards one another. John the Baptist’s message was that as we prepare for Christ to come into our lives, we can start to change our ways.

The Gospel accounts of Jesus’ ministry provide the blueprint for loving our neighbor in a busy and complicated neighborhood. Christ made a point of seeking out the broken and disenfranchised people of his day - the lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors - and he saw the value in each one of them. And in so doing, He helped them recognize the value in themselves.

This Christmas Season, let us recognize that just as faith is a decision, good will towards people is a series of decisions that work themselves out not in temporary holiday cheer, but in the details of everyday life.

Blessings,
Pastor Riley

Our Purpose Statement:
“Our Journey - Knowing, Loving, Serving, Sharing.”

Some Words from the Education Director

Advent and Christmas Season has arrived!

Mark your Calendars:

- Sunday, December 3 First Sunday in Advent
- Wednesday, December 6 11:30 am Christmas Fish Fry for Seniors
- Friday, December 8 6:00 pm Education Department Christmas Party
- Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday in Advent
- Thursday, December 14 6:00 pm Children’s Department “Dinner with Santa”
- Sunday, December 17 Christmas Music: Chancel Choir, youth musicians & Children’s Christmas Pageant
- Wednesday, December 20 Young at Heart
- Sunday, December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service

Thank you so much to the folks who participated in the Thanksgiving Brunch in November. The food was good and the company even better! As usual, you even cleaned up behind yourself! Thank you Riley for the message. Thank you also to Patsy Dean for playing the piano.

November was full of events such as Veteran’s Sunday (thank you Lee), National Bible Week and All Saint’s Day (thank you Chuck). Thank you to all of the Fall term teachers on Wednesday days/nights: Riley, Amanda, Isaac, Angie, Joyce, Jenn, Debra, Bryan, Amelia, Joelyn, Alisa, Rose, Connie, Sarah, Katie and Carrie. If you would like to come up on Wednesdays (day or night) and share your hobby with others-let me know!

The 80th Anniversary Celebration was fun and about 75 people joined us in a celebratory meal. The company was good and thanks to Bubbua Gordon we were entertained with a little country music from the time era our church was built. Thank you also to Carol Laguens for leading us in a few hymns! Thanks to Sonny’s BBQ we had a delicious meal as a part of our celebration! The committee members: Paddi Cain, Marianne Fuller, Sharon Hogan, Jean Rogers, Emy Bennet and Barbara Boston did a fine job and everyone should take the time to tell them as much.

There will be no Ladies’ Prayer Breakfast in December. The next one will be Saturday, January 20 at 9 am.

The Silver Patrol delivered Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets to the shut-ins during the month of November. In December, we will be delivering Christmas presents donated by the Wesleyan Women.

Continued on Page 3

Sunday Activities

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

Worship
Service
Opportunities

Wednesday Activities

- Choir Rehearsal - 6:00pm

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

New Member:

Alisa Templeman
Joined 11-19-2023

Death:

Willina Wyant
John Boyden
Gertrude Wright

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.

December Prayer List

December 1-2

Larry & Theresa Gillespie, Lacey
Thomas & Rachel Goodloe
Bubba & Susanna Gordon
Elrena Greeney
Mark Harper
Chris Harris, Heather Johnson, John Johnson, Chris Harris, Jr., Ashleigh, Haleigh, Aleigh, Chance

December 3-9

Cody Harvison
Renee Hedden
Paul & Barbara Henderson
Beth Herndon
James & Katie Hewett, James, Nathan
Sharon Hogan
Khloe Howard

December 10-16

Ronnie Marie Ingram
Cheryl Johnson
David & Donna Johnson
Robert & Donna Johnson
Shep & Nancy Jones
Carol Laguens
Lynn Lanneau

December 17-23

Dannie Law
Grady & Maxine Lea
Suzie Leitman
Kay Lemons
Eunice Lewis
Joyce Lewis

December 24-31

Jesse & Phyllis Lough
Tom & Lynn Love
Jimmie Macon
Daniel Marlow, Brianna, Logan
Brenda Matchett
Michael & Donna Matthews

SISTERS IN SERVICE

The Sisters in Service Circle wishes to thank our church family for all their support of our fundraising for ministries in the Pensacola community. We had a very successful coupon book sale and several of you have already purchased the lovely soy candles that Lilibeth Zimmerman's sister made for us to sell. In November these candles were scented for fall and in December we will have the wonderful smells of Christmas. Please stop by our table in the Fellowship Hall to check these out as gifts for your friends and family.

If you are cleaning closets before Santa brings you some new outfits, we would be grateful for donations of previously worn pieces that would be a blessing to the homeless people who we serve at the Washburn Center. We also take gently used towels for their laundry area. Our final visit to this ministry for 2023 will be on December 30th. We have a collection basket in the Fellowship Hall for any donation items you would like to drop off.

Once again, we sincerely thank you all for helping us to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to those less fortunate than ourselves. If any ladies are looking for a group to do mission work with in the new year, the SIS meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at MGUMC. We start off with a light meal followed by a devotion time and then a discussion of upcoming ministry opportunities. We would love to have you join us. Contact Carol Laguens at 850-456-5611 if you have any questions! May you and your family have a safe and blessed holiday season!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Remember that our MGUMC Library has a wonderful assortment of fiction and non-fiction books that can be checked out by our church family. Fiction books are located on the left side between the windows and non-fiction books can be found along the back wall and on the right side. Simply fill out the card in the back of the book and place it in the file box on the table. There is a card catalog on top of the metal filing cabinet if you are looking for a specific title or author.

Please notice that there is a shelf to the right labeled CHRISTMAS BOOKS if you would like something special to read this month. Help yourself to any of the FREE BOOKS on the table by the door to the kitchen.

Some Words from the Education Director (Continued from Page 2)

Advent is here and that means a few annual traditions will be honored. There will be a table of Advent material out in the Fellowship Hall. There will be **Advent devotionals** for all generations. There will also be an **Angel Tree** with the needs of some of our church and scouts for the holidays. Just go by the Fellowship Hall and select an Angel off the tree. Everything is anonymous. Deadline to return items for distribution is Sunday, December 17. There will also be a table for you to leave **Christmas cards** for fellow church folks!

The second annual **Christmas Fish Fry for Seniors** will be Wednesday, December 6 at 11:30 am. Thank you to the Men’s Club for their hard work and sponsorship of this event.

The **Education Department Christmas party** will be Friday, December 8 at 6:00 pm. If you are a teacher on Sundays or Wednesdays (day or night), Children’s Church teachers, Silver Patrol members, Small group leaders, Scout leaders, Drama team members, etc. then you are invited to participate. We will provide the meat, dinner rolls and drinks. You bring the side dishes and sweets.

“Dinner with Santa” for the children and their families will be Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 pm. Come and have your picture made with Santa, make crafts and eat! A good time will be had by all!

Christmas music Sunday will be on December 17 at the 10:00 am service. The **Chancel Choir** will sing and the children will present their **Christmas Pageant**. There will also be **music and singing by 3 of our very talented youth!**

Young at Heart will be Wednesday, December 20 at 10:30 am. We will enjoy listening to the Blue Anchor Bells. They are a talented group of Navy wives who sing music from the 1930s-40ish. They will present their Christmas program to you for your entertainment. We need to pack the Fellowship Hall to welcome them.

There will be a **Christmas Eve Service** this year even though Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will meet Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. Come and hear Hannah and Grace Colyer present their talents to you!

How many of you would be interested in reviving a version of the **“Widow’s Walk”**? Working with a **Handbell choir**? We have had a few people show an interest in the Handbell Choir, but we have not been able to find a volunteer director. What about sitting on a committee to plan events for **families and young adults**?

I have been meeting with a core group of volunteers to take a look **at present and potential programs**. We would love your input about what you would like to see happen in our church and community. We really want to be a “cradle to the grave” church! If there is a program that we no longer do that interested you and your family or a program that you see other churches doing, let me know and we will look into it.

Please watch the weekly bulletins for any other upcoming dates and events.

Janet Boston
(850) 456-7463 x5
jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

Children's Department

Advent and Christmas Season has arrived!

Mark your Calendars:

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday in Advent

Friday, December 8 6:00 pm Education Department Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 14 6:00 pm Children's Department "Dinner with Santa"

Sunday, December 17 Christmas Music: Chancel Choir, youth musicians & Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service

Thank you parents and teachers for providing the nonperishable foods for your children to donate on Harvest Sunday. Also thank you to everyone who brought their Bible on National Bible Week. Thank you to Mr. Marcus and Ms. Barbara for putting together the prize bags.

If you are looking for a holiday project that your whole family can participate in, I have just the thing for you! **The Angel Tree** will be up in the Fellowship Hall as soon as Advent Season starts. Your family can select an anonymous Angel and fill out their Christmas wish!

Also during **Advent** there will be **devotionals** for all ages on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Take whatever you need! Also **Santa's post office** will be up and running. The children can slip a note to Santa in his mailbox. There are also slips of paper with **Santa's website and phone number** on them!

The **Education Department Christmas party** will be Friday, December 8 at 6:00 pm. If you are a teacher on Sundays or Wednesdays (day or night), Children's Church teachers, Silver Patrol members, Small group leaders, Scout leaders, Drama team members, etc. then you are invited to participate. We will provide the meat, dinner rolls and drinks. You bring the side dishes and sweets.

Continued in the next column.

Children's Department Continued

"Dinner with Santa" for the children and their families will be Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 pm. Come and have your picture made with Santa, make crafts and eat! A good time will be had by all!

Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 am we will have a presentation of the **Children's Christmas Pageant**. If you need a copy of the music and would like your child to participate, come see me. The **Christmas Eve service** will be Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 pm.

Myrtle Grove Elementary has asked me to see if there are any individuals who may be interested in mentoring children at their school. Each school tries to identify children who are at risk due to challenges at home or school. If you would like to be a part of mentoring a child at MG Elementary School, please let Janet know.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children's Department events!

Janet Boston
(850) 456-7463 x5
jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

Bloodmobile
Sunday, December 10, 2023
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.



Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 17, 2023
10:00 A.M.

