

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:
Jonathan Abbott
Pianist:
Patsy Dean
Church Secy./Receptionist:
Cheryl Johnson
Finance Secretary:
Connie Boyd
Education Director:
Janet Boston
Mothers Morning Out:
Carrie Disouryavong
Membership Secretary:
Vernon Ard/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 1

January 2023

Senior Pastor’s Note

Making New Year Commitments

And he said to them all, If any person will come after me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23

When missionary Dr. David Livingstone was working in Africa, a group of friends wrote him: "We would like to send other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?" Dr. Livingstone sent this message in reply: "If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

There’s a big difference between just being interested in doing something and actually making a commitment to doing it! Just being interested allows us the freedom do a thing only when our circumstances permit. But making a commitment to do that thing means accepting no excuses and no reservations – it means putting aside our fears and reservations moving forward till we see the end result! Dr. Livingstone was looking for results, and this required men of commitment!

It's the start of a New Year so we all begin thinking towards those resolutions. Actually, I am not a big fan of them. I think that we generally don't follow them anyway. Instead of making New Year Resolutions why not make New Year Commitments? What commitments could we make to our Lord, our families, our jobs and our congregation?

Hopefully, the New Year will hold peace and happiness for you. But beyond that, I hope that 2023 is a year of spiritual growth for you. If you make the right commitments, 2023 can be a year in which you grow closer to God, spend more time reading His Word, and make prayer and reflection a part of your everyday routine. Those are lofty-sounding goals, but they’re not out of reach with the right attitude, the right tools, and a bit of personal discipline. A good example to follow would be that of the church in the book of Acts: *“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)*

In closing, I do want to thank all of you for the commitments you accomplished in 2022! I thank my God for your commitment to the Mission and Ministry of MGUMC. Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness!

Pastor Riley

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

Some Words from the Education Director

What a wonderful Christmas Season we had this year! We gifted 34 youth, children and scouts in our church and honored 33 seniors with gifts. We celebrated Advent with our retired ministers and their spouses. The Men’s Club held their first annual Christmas fish fry for seniors and widow/widowers. The Fellowship Hall was full! We had 17 join us from Tranquil Villas alone. We enjoyed a nice dinner and music from the Escambians at the Education Department party. The children entertained us with their Christmas Pageant. Those were the cutest angels, shepherds and wise men ever! (21 children participated.) The Escambia High School chorus had their annual Christmas concert at our church and the sanctuary was full of family, friends, church members and community visitors! On Christmas Eve, we enjoyed two services. The daytime service came with a delicious brunch cooked up by Barbara Boston, Suzie Leitman and Dottie Ford. Also, the service was wonderful and we thank Lee Bateman, Chuck Boyd and Patsy Dean for that! The candlelight service was beautiful and we enjoyed seeing your family members and some old friends! Thanks to Rita Barton and Norma Owen we all enjoyed a wonderful brunch on Christmas morning. It was a delight to spend Christmas day with our church family. We passed out Christmas treats to 16 children and welcomed our newest addition to our church, little Miss Kalieesi Cheyanne Few. I know everyone is looking forward to the new year!

The next Ladies’ Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, January 21 at 9 am. 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. Unity at a time like this is vital to our community.

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. **Right now there is a large bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall where you can write that information.**

Mark your calendars:

Sunday, January 1 New Year’s Day
Epiphany Sunday (expect a visit from some Magi)

Wednesday, January 4 School starts back

Sunday, January 8 Baptism Sunday. We will welcome John the Baptist.

Wednesday, January 11 Wednesday Day time and evening classes start again

Sunday, January 15 Human Relations Sunday

Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed)

Saturday, January 21 9:00 am Ladies’ Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, January 22 Ecumenical Sunday
National Prayer for Christian Unity

Janet Boston
Education Director
(850) 456-7463 x5

Sunday Activities

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

Worship
Service
Opportunities

Wednesday Activities

Daytime Classes - 1:00pm
Youth Elevate - 6:00pm
Small Groups - 6:00pm
Choir Rehearsal - 7:15pm

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

No Activity

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.

January Prayer List

Jan. 1-7

Emma Richardson
Riley & Angie Richardson
Ardis Riddell
John-Annie Roberts
Bud & Jean Rogers
Robert Rogers
Sheila Romaine

Jan. 8-14

James Rueff, Jr.
Lavanda Russell
Kevin & Linda Saighman
Claudia Savage
William & Ellen Scott
Brandon Sims
Truett & Anne Sims

Jan.15-21

Clyde Smack
Ron & Cindy Small
Bonnie Smith
Susan Smith
Karl & Kathy Snyder
Joe & Melissa Stevenson, Landon & Lida
Susie Stevenson

Jan. 22-28

Harry & Linda Stump
John & Kimberly Sturm, Megan, John, & Aria
Lou Sturm
Ruth Sumpter
Joyce Thiam, Zakariya
Bull & Lisa Toquothty

Jan. 29-31

Shirley Towne
Emma Tucker
Gerald Turman
Anna Van Buuren
Marian Wallace
Ray Ward

Wednesday Night Community Programs

We just ended our Fall Term for the Community Program. I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays! We will resume classes in our Winter Term on Wednesday, January 11th at 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. At 1:00 pm we can expect to enjoy Art for Adults, Computers for Seniors, a study on the Life of Christ, Beginning Crocheting and possibly some gardening classes. On Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm, we will have youth, God’s Little Explorers and the Girls of Grace for the children. The adults will have a beginning ASL class, a study on the Life of Christ, a coloring social group and Art for Adults. In addition, there will be gardening classes.

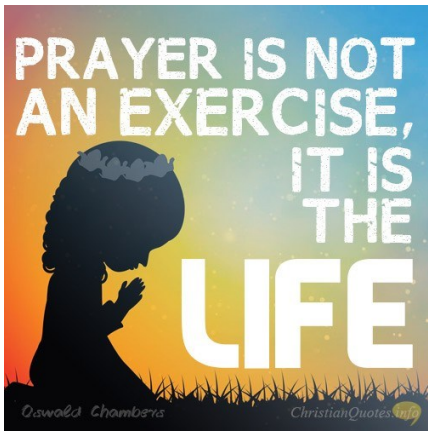
You can certainly participate in both sessions if you want. The day time session was established for seniors and others who do not like to drive or get out at night. Invite your friends and family!

We are presently working on our Winter Term line up of classes. We have had several suggestions and requests for specific classes. If you have a suggestion for a class or would like to share your hobby or passion with others, please let Janet know. The nursery will continue to be available during classes.

Janet Boston
Education Director
(850) 456-7463 X 5
jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

Ladies Prayer Breakfast

The Ladies Prayer Breakfast for the new year is on Saturday, January 21st, at 9:00am. Invite your praying friends to participate. They do not have to belong to our church. Unity of prayer is vital to our community.



Some Words from the Education Director (Continued)

Finally, MEET YOUR FAMILY...



Lilibeth Zimmerman is a longtime volunteer in the Children’s Department. Presently, she teaches the 4th & 5th Grade Sunday School class. She is also an active member of the Sisters in Service. She attends our church with her husband Bob and her daughter, Bella. In addition, she has an online ministry called “Jesus Christ, Love and Care Ministry” that has over 20,000 followers. This past Advent Season, she and her family lit one of the Advent Wreath candles. Good job Lilibeth!

Wesleyan Women

Wesleyan Women sponsor the collection of Christian Bibles, reference materials, books, magazines, daily devotionals, Sunday School materials, tracts, CDs, DVDs, BlueRay, Bible games, Biblical puzzles, children’s nativity sets, puppets, etc. For “Love Packages” which distributes these items overseas (mostly to Africa) for those who cannot afford their own materials. The collection boxes were formerly in the Chapel on top of the file cabinet. However, they are now located in the Lifestyle classroom (last hallway off fellowship hall). Please bring your items to this location so we can keep them all together.



CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT

Thank you so much to the children who performed in the Christmas Pageant this year. There were 21 who performed. There were so many volunteers who took care of costumes, AV needs, props and steering the kids in the right direction. Thank you especially to our narrator, Richard Cannon. I would also like to thank the children and their families who participated in the annual “Dinner with Santa”. We enjoyed pizza, goodies and pictures with Santa. He took all the letters in the mailbox with him back to the North Pole! A special thanks to the clean-up crew and the craft volunteers (Sharon, Teresa and Rose). It was a true joy to see how many of the children (17) and their families who came out Christmas day to celebrate our Savior’s birth!

Mark your calendars:

Sunday, January 1 New Year’s Day
Epiphany Sunday

Wednesday, January 4 School starts back

Wednesday, January 11 Wednesday evening classes start again

Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed & no school))

If your 3rd – 5th grader would like to participate in the annual Children’s Winter Camp at Blue Lake in February, please let me know. We will make every effort to raise funds to cover the costs of camp. We will also need adult volunteers to participate as well.

On Epiphany Sunday, we will have a visit from the Wise Men in Sunday School!

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children’s Department events!

Janet Boston

(850) 456-7463 x5

jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY....



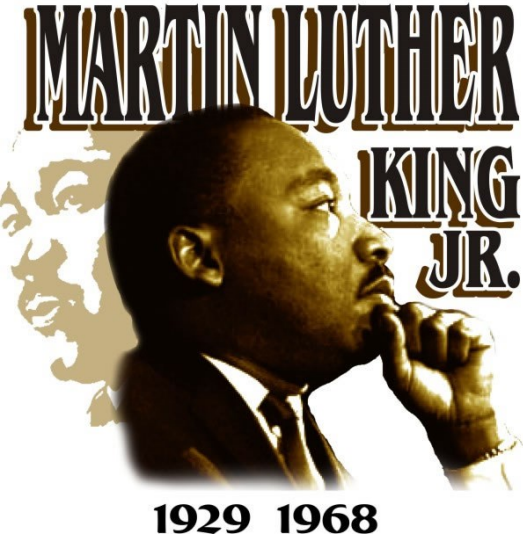
Chloe Leitman is a 3rd grader who attends our church with her grandmother, Suzie Leitman. Chloe is also a member of our Cubscout Pack 2 in the Bear Den. She attends Sunday school with her teacher, Lilibeth Zimmerman. She also participates in Children’s Church and Girls of Grace. Did you see her singing in the Cherub Choir as an angel during the Children’s Christmas Pageant? She lost her father this year and is in need of the emotional and prayer support of her church family. We love you Chloe.



I hope everyone had an amazing Christmas and New Year’s Celebrations that were full of love and time with those we cherish most. The Youth spent December finishing up school semester and got to enjoy a Christmas party that included caroling and cookies for some wonderful people. We also rang in the New Year with a lock-in that was a total blast! Pun intended, ha. As we start a new year, I’m challenging the kids to challenge what they know and what the Bible has to tell them. We will be headed to Blue Lake the second weekend of January for Revive and I know that will be an amazing experience and time in God’s presence I know they will be looking forward to. We also will be preparing for our next 30 Hour Famine, so be on the lookout for my details on that as the year gets rolling. Blessing to all this new year and I pray God uses all your resolutions to lead you to a happier you!

G.O.E. -Jonathan

**Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s
Birthday Observance
January 16, 2023**



The church office will be closed.