

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

Return Service Requested



Myrtle Grove
United Methodist Church
Mailing Address:
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Pensacola, FL 32516
Phone: 850-456-7463/7464
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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

Notes from the Grove

A monthly publication for
Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church

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

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May 2021

Senior Pastor's Note

Greetings in Christ!

One of the most discouraging aspects of sharing the Gospel is knowing that so many people will reject the message, and yes, even at times reject the messenger...you.

At times, we might think that if we could just be a bit more like Jesus then everyone would accept this message because we would minister the way He wants us to minister. We would share the exact words they need to hear to make the decision for Christ.

Yet, let me remind you that even Jesus Himself was often "despised and rejected", and in fact was rejected so much that He was crucified on a Cross! We know that ultimately it was the plan of God to provide a sinless sacrifice for sin, but still, the Bible tells us that Jesus came into the world to "seek and to save the lost". His love extended to each and every person He came into contact with, including the two thieves who hung on crosses beside Him.

In other words, it's up to us to share the Gospel and leave it in the hands of the Lord, plus we must remember each person has their own free will.

An unbeliever once ridiculed the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ by saying, "If Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost, why is it that there are so many unbelievers?" The Christian to whom he was speaking stopped a very dirty little boy who was passing by and turning to the unbeliever said, "Can you blame soap and water for the filth of this boy?" It was available to all, but only those who accept it experience its regenerating power.

The Gospel is still available to all, so therefore, it must be shared with all.

Probably the most quoted scripture in the Bible tells us this in John 3:16: ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."***

Friends, let's do our part here on earth in sharing the Gospel so that eternity will be the home of those we minister to.

Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Riley

May Birthdays

- 1 - Don Birtsch
- 2 - Vince Leger'
- 5 - Bob Irvin
- 7 - Ron Small
- 7 - Megan Worth
- 10 - Kevin Saighman
- 14 - Judy Cannon
- 16 - Amy Bushey
- 22 - Beverly Cranston
- 22 - Renee Hedden
- 24 - Miriam Storey
- 26 - Teresa Lee
- 31 - Lou Irvin

Our Vision Statement:

"Every member a good neighbor."

Our Purpose Statement:

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

SOME WORDS FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

A special thank you to those that helped out so much during April. Thank you to everyone who made the Easter Season so special. Thank you to the volunteers who delivered Easter bags to our shut-ins. Thank you to the actors on Easter morning: Judy Cannon, April McDaniel and Sharon Cacciatore. You guys were awesome! Thank you to Sharon Hogan and Brianna Marlow for the bunny pics. Congratulations to Beth Herndon and her family on having the fastest time and the most fun on the Scavenger Hunt! Thank you for a great breakfast Easter morning to the Men's Club and Rita Barton and her volunteers! Yum!

Mother's Day is around the corner on Sunday, May 9th, and there will be special gifts for all the moms out there! Sunday, May 23rd, will be Pentecost Sunday (a little drama from our great actors!) and Heritage Sunday. This year, everyone will be invited to come and see the circuit rider and his horse.

Wednesday Night classes will end on Wednesday, May 19th. We will have a party for the youth and children. Watch for details concerning graduation for all ages. We will be moving the 5th graders up at the end of the school year and everyone else on Promotion Sunday in August.

The Silver Patrol will be delivering something special to the shut-ins during the month of May. If you are a new Silver Patrol Volunteer, watch the bulletin for upcoming details on a meeting. We will start back with visitation in May! Thank you to all of the shut-ins who have sent such sweet thank you cards and phone calls. I think you will enjoy this month's choices!

The Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, May 15th, at 9:00 am. At least for now, we will continue with the COVID correct breakfast and then prayer for our families, church, community and country! I hope to see you there!

Although Memorial Day is at the end of the month, we will be celebrating our service members who have joined Jesus on the website all month. On Memorial Sunday, May 30th, we will also enjoy a slide show of them. So, I need your photos and details of your deceased loved ones and past church members who served in any branch of the military. You can drop it by the office, email it to me or Facebook message it to me. I don't want anyone to be left off this year. We will be doing present service members on the website all month as well. We will run their pictures on a slide show on Sunday, May 16th. We will also be sending them a small gift this month as well. Veterans, who are still with us, will be honored on Veteran's Sunday in November. I look forward to the pics and bios!

Please keep an eye on the bulletin for other events and any calendar changes. We will be releasing information on VBS soon!

Thank you for your volunteer spirit and prayers for our church programs!

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

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

Address Change:

Isaac & Lyxy Richardson
229 Shaker Lane
Midland City, AL 36350

Address Change:

Donna Greene
1133 E Hawkins Pkwy, Apt 225
Longview TX 75605

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.

May Prayer List

May 1

John & Connie Reynolds
Dennis & Kim Rhoda, John & Jason
Faith Rhodes
Betty Rice
Antonio Richardson
Braeden Richardson
Emma Richardson

May 2-8

Ethan Richardson
Isaac & Lyxy Richardson
Riley & Angie Richardson
James & Ardis Riddell
Russell & Suzanne Riley
Mary Rivenbark
Frank & Stephanie Rivera, Micah & Jace

May 9-15

Mark & Angela Robbins
John-Annie Roberts
Deanna Robertson
Joseph & Kimberly Robinson
Brenda Rogers
Buddy & Jean Rogers
Robert Rogers

May 16-22

Sheila Romaine
James & Barbara Roth
Annette Rothe
James Rueff, Jr.
Tierra Ruffin
Sean & Dawn Rupert

May 23-31

Lavanda Russell
Maclyn Russell, II
Richard Russell, Jr.
Kevin & Linda Saighman
CJ Sasser
Duane & Claudia Savage

Sunday Activities

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

Worship Service Opportunities

Wednesday Activities

Youth Elevate - 6:00pm
Small Groups - 6:00pm

Scout Department

Congratulations to all of the Cub Scouts that made it to the District Pinewood Derby. The Webelos were Tucker Price, Hayden Brown, and Donovan Casper. The Arrow of Lights were Cloe Casper and Pamela Sample. The Bears were Paul O'Brien, Kristopher Ratcliff, and Alina Conway. The Wolves were Claudia Coon and Violet Macho. The Lions were Abigail Barnhill Coon, Mackayla O'Brien, and Maxwell Norris. A special congratulations to those who made it to the finals in their division: Donovan Casper, Abigail Coon, and Tucker Price. Tucker and Abbi won first place in their divisions for the district! Both children attend our church. This is the first time that Pack 2 has had a district winner in over a decade.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Troop with their Cinnabon fundraiser. They were able to raise funds for camp and for the outreach programs for our church. Thank you Troop 2!

I have had so many people ask me about the "Camp Cards" fundraiser that the scouts usually provide to the public. I am pleased to say that we finally have some cards to sell. If you are interested, let me know and I will get one for you. Cards will be available on a first come, first serve basis until they are gone.

The Troop plans on doing another Flag Burning Ceremony on Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with the local VFW post. Save your old flags that need to be retired.

Thank you for supporting our scouts!

So proud to be the home to the oldest scout groups in the regional area!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston

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Wednesday Night Community Programs

We will end our Wednesday Night programs on May 12th. The Children and Youth will have something special on Wednesday, May 19th for their end of the school year celebration. Watch the bulletin for details for upcoming events.

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

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Nursery Department

Since we have several toddlers and just a few babies and new walkers, we will be separating the nursery into two rooms, twos and threes in one room and infants and ones in another. We are also planning several new programs for families with new babies. I am open to ideas—call me!

Please be assured that we disinfect the nursery furniture and toys between every use and watch the children closely so that they do not share toys with each other. All children and workers take their temperature before checking any child into the nursery and even wipe the sign in pen down after each use. Changing diapers is limited to as needed only to limit each child's exposure to germs and all adults wear surgical gloves. For the time being, we are limiting snacks to what parents provide and placing them at the tables where they are restricted and cannot share their food. This has allowed our nursery to be as safe as possible during these challenging times. We are proud to say that we are prepared for growth with all of our nursery workers having background checks and being CPR trained.

If you or your group is in need of a nursery for your special event, please let Janet know! We are ready for you!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston

United Methodist Women

Tuesday, April 6th, at 10:00a.m., the United Methodist Women met in the sanctuary. This month, two important meetings for UMW were held. The 48th Alabama – West Florida United Methodist Women Virtual Annual Day for 2021 convened. In this meeting, activities and accomplishments of all the UMW units of the Conference are lifted up. We learn what is going on and are encouraged to continue in our mission work. The report from the Conference was good. The Pensacola District was almost 20% over our pledge giving. Pensacola did the best in the District. It won the Special Mission recognition award from the Conference and had the most ladies on Zoom for the Conference Annual Day. We had 34 participating. The next closest was Mobile with 24. Trinity UMW won the Nell Chance Award and Priddy Pall Award. Myrtle Grove made silver in our overall participation. The second meeting was the Pensacola District Virtual Annual Day. We had some live participants. We enjoyed seeing old friends. Debbi Bell gave an inspiring talk on hope, joy, peace, trust, and power found throughout the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. We held a celebration of life for our members who have passed on.

Our next meeting will be held on May 4th, at 10:00a.m. in the chapel. It is going to be a lite luncheon, so bring a salad to share. This will be our last meeting until September 7, 2021, at 10:00a.m.

Submitted by,
Maureen Dunbar

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Sisters in Service

Sisters in Service has continued to do distance ministry since most of the charities they support have not allowed face to face meetings with those they serve. Supplies have been delivered to Ronald McDonald House, Gulf Coast Kids House, and the Washburn Center. Financial support has gone out to other groups in the Pensacola community. We wish to thank our church family for helping us to provide for those in need through individual donations and especially through our recent coupon book sale.

As our area continues to re-open, we hope to assist our charities with additional supplies and financial support. If any of you decide to do some spring cleaning of your closets and cupboards, we would gladly take any spring/summer clothing items to pass on to the homeless along with individual toiletries that you might have collected at hotels. Please remember that we can only accept NEW men's and women's underwear. We have a green basket in the Fellowship Hall where you can place any items you would like us to share with those less fortunate than ourselves.

SIS is so grateful to our MGUMC family for assisting us in serving as the hands and feet of Jesus during this challenging time. God bless you all!

In His Service -- Wanda Rankin and Carol Laguens

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Thank you to everyone who made the Easter Season so fun and to all of the families who participated in the Easter Escape Room, the Easter Scavenger Hunt and Easter Egg Hunt. Congratulations to Beth Herndon and her family for winning the fastest time on the Easter Scavenger Hunt. Thank you to Brianna Marlow and Sharon Hogan for Bunny pics! I look forward to next year when we will be back to hunting eggs in a field!

Congratulations to Abigail Coon, Tucker Price, Hayden Brown, and Claudia Coon for going to district with the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. Abigail and Tucker won first place in their divisions: Webelo and Lion! First time in over a decade that we have had first place winners in any category at the district. All three attend our church. Keep me posted on what your children and grandchildren are doing and I will include them in the monthly newsletter as well.

The month of May brings us to the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. The Wednesday Night programs for the children and youth will end with a party on the 19th starting at 6 pm. We will have a cook-out and some real fun!

On May 23rd, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday and Heritage Sunday. I can't wait to see the circuit rider and his horse!

Watch for upcoming details on VBS!

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children's Department events!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston



Greetings Myrtle Grove Family!

I wanted to take this moment to introduce myself again. I'm Jonathan Abbott and I recently took over the Youth Ministry here at Myrtle Grove UMC. I would like to thank everyone for this wonderful opportunity and excited for what God has in store for this ministry. I would like to take a moment to thank Isaac for all his hard work and dedication to this ministry and I'm humbled to be stepping in following his leadership. Also, I'd like to thank Pastor Riley and Mrs. Angie for their care and support. I know Myrtle Grove is a special place that cares deeply about its Children and Youth Ministries and it is a blessing to be here. My first Sunday I shared how through commitment to ministries, when Patrick McBride was here, I felt that blessing too. As a new Youth Pastor, I met Patrick and he invited me to bring my kids at a previous church to Ignite. Even though I had a small program at the time, I was able to give a wonderful camp experience thanks to Patrick and this church. I share this as a chance to show how awesome God is and the full circle that his blessings in my ministry has led me to being here now. I'm looking forward to launching a full summer of events for the Youth from day outings to a trip or two. It's going to be a wonderful summer, so if you know any 6th-12th graders, please have them come join us. This month, we are starting Sunday hangouts after church to go along with the remaining Wednesday nights of the school year. I look forward to getting to know everyone at Myrtle Grove UMC. So, if you see me around, please stop me and say hi!

Jonathan

A Thought for the Month

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31, 2021

This is a day of remembrance of all of our military men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedom. Thank you.

