

**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

# Notes from the Grove

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

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

*Volume 18, Issue 10*

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## *Senior Pastor's Note*

### **Seasons Change**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that, ***“There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season.”***

Many of us would be much more comfortable if everything always stayed the same; yet it doesn't. Scriptures remind us of this reality, everything has its seasons.

Angie and I have been faced with that in a dramatic way this year as I have performed the marriage ceremony for our son Isaac and his new bride Lyxy. A season in the life of our family has changed and now a new season for new families has begun.

Though many like the changing of seasons in nature, they are frightened with the changing of seasons in life. They grip so tightly to the present that it becomes traumatic when things change.

Ok, I will admit, change can be difficult, and I'm not always happy about it. But here is what I'm learning through it. Change is not so difficult if we learn to go through these seasons with God. ***“There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season.”***

As I have shared from the pulpit lately, I have done a lot of reflective thinking this past year. I have thought about the time when Angie and I were married and started out as a young couple. I have thought about our children growing up and moving out.

I have thought about my dad's death and how someday the same will happen to me. ***“There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season.”*** – This is true and that's OK. God has a purpose and a season for everything under heaven and right now each of us are in one of His perfect seasons.

The tragedy is not that seasons change, but that many of us fail to see God's will in each season. There is a time to be born and a time to die, and a time to do a whole lot of living in between.

Seasons will come and go, but God will always remain constant. He will remain constant in trials and suffering as well as in your joy and happiness. God has your best interest at heart. He is our rock on which we can stand, who strengthens us and steadies us as we look to Him (1 Peter 5:10).

Blessings,  
Pastor Riley

## *October Birthdays*

1 - Joyce Dean  
4 - Marjorie Byrd  
5 - Nancy Jones  
5 - Clark Cain  
6 - Ken Jones  
11 - Joan Carter  
13 - Shirley Melvin  
13 - Kathy Ralli  
13 - Teresa Miller  
14 - JoAnne Verwey  
15 - Jim Potter  
18 - Patty Northup  
19 - Devon Few  
19 - Rita Barton  
22 - Paul Henderson  
24 - Ken Lewis  
25 - Bart Hulien  
26 - Sharon Cottner  
26 - Heather Jones  
26 - Christa Murphy  
27 - Max Norman  
29 - Maureen Dunbar  
31 - Bill Dunbar

**Our Vision Statement:**

***“Every member a good neighbor.”***

***Our Purpose Statement:***

***“Our Journey - Knowing, Loving, Serving, Sharing.”***

**SOME WORDS FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

I would like to thank all of the generous members of our church family who have donated so many items such as furniture, baby items, etc. We try hard to find homes for everything. Sometime that doesn't happen and I always appreciate your patience. Thanks for responding to our requests for specific items. You are a generous and loving church!

Thanks to Emy Bennett and her incredible volunteers. The Silver Patrol delivered 30 fruit baskets to our seniors this month! This is always our most popular thing and we do it several times a year. We will be delivering a "trick or treat bag" this month! If you have a loved one that needs to be on the list for visitations, please let us know. If you would like to participate in the program as a visitor, we welcome that as well.

Also, a special thanks to the Men's Club for cooking such a great lunch for "Back to Church" Sunday in September! It was so nice to see such a crowd!

The next Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, October 16th, at 9 am. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact me for more information. Usually the date is on the third Saturday of each month (during the school year) at 9:00 am. Nursery is available. 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.

The annual Children's Sabbath will be Sunday, October 17. If your child or grandchild would like to participate with a speaking part or a talent, please let me know. October 17 will also be Laity Sunday. Pastor Appreciation will be Sunday, October 24.

We will have our second annual "First Responder's Sunday" on October 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be inviting them to attend our service and we will present them with tokens of our appreciation. If you have any members of your family that are first responders, please let me know.

Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 31st, at 5:00pm. We will be asking for volunteers to open up their trunks and pass out treats. Watch the bulletin for more details. Jonathan and the youth are going to do a great job!

Wednesday Night Community classes have begun. Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm, we will have classes for all ages. The classes presently scheduled are listed in the Wednesday Night column in this Newsletter. You can come at any time and participate. You do not have to be a member of this church and we do not pressure anyone to join our church. The nursery is also available to anyone who attends.

The Nursery and Children's Department has expanded this fall. We now have 4 classes in Sunday School for ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade. There are even brief lessons for the little ones in the nursery. For more details, take a look at the Nursery and Children's Department articles in this newsletter. That would be two separate articles.

Keep in mind that we have two things around the bend in November that require pre-planning on everyone's part. These events are All Saint's Day and Veteran's Day. Get your pictures together now!

Please keep an eye on the bulletin for other events and any calendar changes. Thank you for your volunteer spirit and prayers for our church programs!

Janet Boston,  
Education Director  
(850) 456-7463, X5

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

**Address Change:**

Paul & Becky Mickelson  
5753 Hwy 85 N - Box 7997  
Crestview FL 32536

**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.**

**October Prayer List**

Oct. 1-2

Charles & Patricia Thompson  
Bull & Lisa Toquohty, Josh  
Thomas & Rachel Toquohty  
Shirley Towne  
Emma Tucker  
Thomas & Anita Tucker  
Byron Tucker, Jr.

Oct. 3-9

Gerald Turman  
Anna Van Buuren  
Kris & JoAnn Verwey  
Kayla Walker, Maddie Carriles  
Marian Wallace  
Richard & Debra Wallace  
Raymond Ward

Oct. 10-16

Doug Waters  
Jeffrey Waugh  
Norman & Courtney Weathers,  
Raeden  
Linda Webb  
Van & Carol Weeks  
Robert & Christine Weyand, Jr.  
Robert Weyand, Sr.

Oct. 17-23

Larry White  
Richard & Eleanor Wickers  
Megan Worth, Easton  
Teresa Worth, Nathan  
Gertrude Wright  
James Yeager

Oct. 24-31

Cyle York  
Robert & Lillibeth Zimmerman, Bella  
Sherry Andrews  
Vernon Ard  
Frances Asbjornsen  
Tina Ayers

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  
Choir Rehearsal - 7:15pm

### Scouts

Recruitment time is now and we are looking forward to new scout families with both boys and girls! We have a few new leaders and look forward to all of the adventures that this school year will bring. We encourage you to bring your child(ren) up to scouts on Monday nights at 6:30 pm (except for school holidays).

Troop 2 would like to thank everyone who purchased Cinnabons during their fundraiser.

If your scout needs to complete the God & Country Award for their rank, please feel free to bring them up on Wednesday Nights at 6:00 pm. The classes are free and the materials are provided. We will present awards on Scout Sunday in March of 2022. A scout does not have to participate in our programs to be a part of these classes.

We are also very happy that we have scout families attending our church: the Sears family, the Coon family, the Price family, the Glass/Brown family, the Hogan/Marlow family, the Audorff family and the Few family. I hope I didn't miss anyone. This is the first time in many years that so many of our church family joined the scouting program.

If you would like information on a scouting program for your son or daughter (grandson/granddaughter) in grades K-12, please contact Janet at [jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com](mailto:jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com) or (850) 456-7463 x5 or on Facebook.

Thank you for supporting our scouts!

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

### Nursery Department

We are growing! We have enough children now that we will be dividing up the nursery into two rooms. Each room will have 2 workers. We will place the 2 & under in one room and the toddlers in another room. As per our standards, all workers have been background checked and trained.

All of the nursery children are having Sunday School lessons. We are also signing the nursery children in at the doors of the nursery rooms assigned to them. There will be signs to let you know where to take your child. There will be hand sanitizer, tissues and wipes available at the sign-in tables as well. All new nursery families will be welcomed with a special gift. We also have special gifts for all new babies born in our church!

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. We will be changing our COVID rules about diapers and will now be changing them every hour as needed. If you do not want this for your child, please let Janet know and we will make alterations for your needs.

Snacks will be provided for your child. If they cannot eat Cheez Its, Cheerios or pretzels, please let the nursery attendant know. If you want your child to have snacks specific to them, please include them in your diaper bag.

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

### Wednesday Night Community Programs

I just wanted everyone to know that you can come up to our classes on Wednesday Night and start any week that you wish. We also invite anyone from the community or any of your family and friends who do not normally come to our church. We do not pressure anyone to join our church and everyone is welcome! Classes are always at 6:00 pm on Wednesday Nights.

The adults will have the following options available to them: A Bible study on the Jesus of the New Testament led by Pastor Riley, a watch group for the television show based on the disciples called "The Chosen", a computer class led by Jim Reynolds and an Adult Art class. (The Gardening class will be back in the Winter Term.) There are also classes for the children and youth. The nursery is available as well.

If you have any other classes that you may have an interest in participating in or leading, please let me know. I would love to see book clubs, sign language classes, etc. If you know someone that would be a good teacher in any of these areas, let me know.

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

### United Methodist Women

Tuesday, September 7th, the UMW met in the chapel. Carrie Disouryavong, Director of the Mothers Morning Out program was our speaker. It is easy to see her passion for this program and her commitment to the children. She told us how these children brought the awareness of Christ again to their homes and families simply by doing what they learned at school such as praying.

We discussed our fall events and next month after the circle leaders talk with their members, we will decide which events are the best for us. We received a Silver Award Certificate from the UMW District for Mission Today and a certificate for the Reading Program. There will be three upcoming events planned through October:

1. The District meeting on September 25th, at 9:00am at Community Life UMC. We are car pooling from the church parking lot.
2. The Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be held at Blue Lake on October 8th-9th.
3. The District Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be held at Gulf Breeze UMC on October 23rd.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please call Beth Herndon (850) 324-5224.

Our next UMW General meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5th, at 10:00am. Please come and help us decide on our fall events!

Submitted by,  
Maureen Dunbar

### Trunk or Treat October 31st, at MGUMC 5:00 PM

Volunteers are needed for vehicle trunks and pass out the treats to the kids in our community. Contact Janet Boston for details. The Youth will be involved in the activity.



## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

We honored our 4 acolytes who worked hard during the summer. We are very pleased to say that we have added an additional 4 acolytes to the program. Now, we will (unless there is an illness) have 2 acolytes each Sunday!

We are excited to welcome the following teachers to the Children's Sunday school department: Susan Leitman (Kindergarten & First Grade) and Amanda Glass and Tiona Fountain (3 & 4 year olds). We welcome back Dannie Law (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and Lillibeth Zimmerman (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade). If your counting, that means 4 classes instead of 2. We are growing!!

The Children's Sabbath will be Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. I am looking for children who are willing to do speaking parts. I am also looking for any child who can play an instrument or would like to sing. We are going to try to film a choir beforehand to play on screen. I will contact you to let you know when we will be doing this. (Watch the bulletin for potential details.)

Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00pm. We will be asking for volunteers to open up their trunks and pass out treats. There will also be some outdoor games for the children and families to participate in. We will continue the tradition of awarding the most original trunks! Watch the bulletin for more details including what the prizes will be for the best trunks! Jonathan and the youth are going to do a great job!

The children will also be doing something special for Pastor Appreciation Sunday and for First Responder's Sunday on the 24th. This will happen during the Sunday School hour. So if you want your child to be a part of this, then they need to be in Sunday School that Sunday and the week prior on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to the following children: Cameron Broxson for landing a starring role in his school play. Ask him about it! Also, we are proud of our soccer stars who are playing soccer this fall: Lacey Gillespie, Abbigail Coon and Genesis and Zion Barnhill. James Brown, Logan Marlow, Sawyer Price, Breylin Few and Abbigail Coon completed and earned their Lion Badge in Cub Scouts and have moved up to become Tigers. Claudia Coon completed her Wolf Badge and has moved up to become a Bear. Hayden Brown and Tucker Price are continuing the work of Webelos and earning their Arrows of Light. These children are not just Cub Scouts, they attend and participate in our church. We are so proud of them!

If your child or grandchild has anything that they have accomplished, let me know and we will put their name and accomplishment in the newsletter and bulletin. This can certainly include school, scout, athletic projects, etc.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children's Department events!

Janet Boston,  
Education Director



October is here! The Youth have gotten settled into the swing of the school year and we have had some time to have some fun on Wednesday Night Elevate and Sunday afternoon Hangouts. Starting this month, I will be starting to teach the Youth on the Church. Back to the Church Study is a play on Back to the Future where I use the Past and Present Church to teach the kids on the why's of the church from how the current church does certain things and how it compares to the early church. Besides the lessons, we have some fun activities planned for October. We will have 3 Hangouts this month on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>. We will also have our Halloween Party Lock In after the Festival on the 29<sup>th</sup> which will include games, costume contest and of course food. With all the fun and exciting things ahead of us, I do ask one big favor of everyone who reads this. Please pray for these kids they have so many different challenges in their lives they must deal with and give thanks they have chosen our Youth Ministry and Church to feel safe coming to and being a part of.

G.O.E. – Jonathan

## Sisters in Service

It has been a difficult year for mission work since so many of the charities that the SIS Circle supports have not allowed face-to-face experiences. But the ladies in SIS have continued to collect new underwear, gently used clothing, and personal sized toiletries for the homeless. We expect to be able to deliver these items this month to the Washburn Center and have dropped off individually wrapped new items to the Ronald McDonald House and Gulf Coast Kids House. Because of the generosity of others, we financially supported the H.E.R. Foundation, Safe Harbor, and Loaves and Fishes during this difficult time.

Despite the pandemic, we were able to offer the Fund Rays coupon books for sale last fall and spring. It is time again for the newest coupon books to be available beginning October 1st. Each of the SIS ladies will have books to sell and we'll set up our usual station in the Fellowship Hall between Sunday School and Worship. Unfortunately, the price of each book has gone up to \$20, but please remember that we get to keep \$10 of each one sold to use for our mission work and using only 2 coupons at local restaurants helps to pay you back for the book itself.

We plan to start back with our meetings regularly and if you ladies have any questions about joining our group, please contact Wanda Rankin @ 850-501-4038 or Carol Laguens @ 850-456-5611. Thank you to our MGUMC family for assisting us with serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in the Pensacola community.

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### MGUMC Church Library

Our library is located across from the church kitchen and is open during office hours, M-TH from 9am to 3pm (closed 12pm-1pm for lunch). If you are interested in getting into the Library to check out a book, come see the Secretary so she can open the door for you. The Library is also open on Sunday morning.

We have received many donations of books to add to the shelves and there are selections to meet everyone's favorite Christian topics. Some examples include: Joyce Meyer ("How to Hear from God", "Help Me I'm Worried"); Rick Warren ("Better Together"); Stan Toler ("The Buzzards Are Circling, But God's Not Finished with Me Yet"); and several books in Karen Kingsbury's series, Jan Karon's Mitford series, and "The Left Behind" series.

Later this month, we will add additional books to the "Free to a Good Home" cart outside the kitchen door including a variety of yearly devotionals to lead you into 2022. Thank you for supporting our Library by making good use of the resources available to you all!

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### Thought for the Month

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)