

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

Volume 19, Issue 9

September 2022

Senior Pastor's Note

Fellowship is an integral part of church life. We all need it, whether we like to admit it or not, especially as Christians!

Acts 2:42 – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

There is something powerful about having fellowship and camaraderie with one another that helps us get through the bumps and bruises of life.

One reason being with others is so helpful, especially as we go through difficult times, is that we begin to realize in the course of conversation that there are others who have been through many of the things we are going through, and have held on to Christ victoriously through it all! We gain strength when we realize we don't have to walk through things alone.

Some might argue that they have tried church, and found it to be failing, and even though they didn't expect "perfection", they at least were hoping for something close! If all we are doing as the body of Christ is looking to avoid conflict, then we're probably not really enjoying the Christian life.

Bill Hybels said this: "The mark of community—true biblical unity—is not the absence of conflict but the presence of a reconciling spirit."

I want to encourage you today to make regular Church attendance a goal, if health allows, and then work to achieve that goal! I believe that as you dedicate yourself to something that God clearly approves of, and yes, even commands, then you will begin to find greater joy and fulfillment in life.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We live in a challenging day, yet there is nothing quite as powerful as the strength we receive from the Lord as we gather together with His body in fellowship and worship.

Blessings in Christ!
Pastor Riley

September Birthdays

5 - Celeste Shubert
9 - Jim Byrd
9 - Isaac Richardson
10 - Anthony Bushey
12 - Chuck Boyd
13 - Jim Benton
16 - Beth Moulder
16 - Linda Martineau
26 - Amy Lee
28 - Nancy Norman
29 - Joyce Lewis
30 - Eirena Greeney

Our Vision Statement:

"Every member a good neighbor."

Our Purpose Statement:

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

Some Words from the Education Director

We need to say “thank you” to the many volunteers who made the summer so special. First, a thank you to Emy Bennett and her Silver Patrol volunteers who put together and delivered 35 Patriotic Baskets to our senior most members of our church. Thank you Judy Barbour for the beautiful Father’s Day cards that we were able to deliver to our seniors. A very special thank you to all of the VBS volunteers who worked so hard to insure that our first in person VBS in 4 years was a good experience for your children and grandchildren. Welcome our newest Silver Patrol volunteers: James & Suzanne Kornowski Ferguson and Joyce Childers.

In June, we honored our teachers with a year-end dinner party and honored our Acolytes with a dinner as well. Those Acolytes who have served faithfully for more than 2 years had their names monogrammed on their acolyte stolls. We also honored our fathers on Father’s Day. We also honored our many graduates with yard signs and a special luncheon the Sunday they were introduced in the sanctuary. We also had our first 24 hour prayer vigil in almost 10 years. We were able to pray as a church for all of the fall programs and volunteers. Thank you everyone who participated. We also had our first “Open House” in several years. We were able to showcase our many programs for everyone to see and learn about. In August, we celebrated Promotion Sunday and presented Bibles from the church to our students who entered the 3rd grade this year. We dedicated our many volunteers on Promotion Sunday as well. As is our tradition, we also had a Sunday to pray over our private and public teachers and workers and students before they started their new school year. We also distributed new/unused backpacks to all of our youth and children who needed one. As you can see, our summer was almost as busy as our regular school year!

We are so excited about the edition of our “Sonshine Class” for autistic and special needs children. Please see the article for the Children’s Department for more details. We also welcomed the addition of a “Babysitter’s Support Group” on Monday nights at 6:00 pm. This class is for ages 12 – 18. The transportation ministry welcomes Jonathan Abbott, our Youth Director, as the new Transportation Ministry Director. Thank you for working with Chuck Boyd on obtaining the new church van. It is great!

The next Ladies’ Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, September 17, at 9 am. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact me for more information. 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.

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.

(See next page to continue)

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

Deaths:

Flo Garrett
Rosemary Greene
Nell Potter
Betty Rice

Baptisms:

Adalyn Laynie Few
Breylin Michael Few
Brenden Lee Baggett
Aniya Maelyn L. Didley
Douglas L. Brown, Jr.

Transferred Memberships:

Sharon Andrews to Landmark Baptist
Frances Asbjornsen to St. Paul UMC,
Manchester, NH

Affiliate Membership:

Jonathan Abbott

Address Change:

Tom & Mary Buntin
6982 Pine Forest Rd., #127
Pensacola, FL 32526

Address Change:

Richard & Judy Cannon
428 Airport Blvd., #110
Pensacola, FL 32503

New Members:

David & Genevieve Bookman

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.

September Prayer List

September 1-3

Ruth Sumpter
Joyce Thiam, Zakariya
Bull & Lisa Toquohty
Shirley Towne
Emma Tucker
Gerald Turman
Anna Van Buuren

September 4-10

Kris & JoAnne Verwey
Marian Wallace
Ray Ward
Doug Waters
Larry White
Sue Wing
Gertrude Wright

September 11-17

Bob & Lilibeth Zimmerman, Bella
Jonathan Abbott
Vernon Ard
Tina Ayers
James & Judy Barbour
Rita Barton
Jackie Bashaw

September 18-24

Lee & Lucinda Bateman
Emy Bennett
Chad Benson
Frank & Elise Benson
Jim Benton
Don & Trisha Birtsch

September 25-30

Rebecca Black
Virginia Blackshear
Rose Blank
Patrick & Corisa Bonafay, Patrick & Alex
David & Genevieve Bookman
Ray & Sue Booth

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

Sisters in Service

The SIS mission circle serves as the hands and feet of Jesus in the Pensacola community. We support the Washburn Center for the homeless, the gulf Coast Kids House, the Ronald McDonald House, Mission Fishin', the H.E.R. Foundation for homeless women veterans, Safe Harbor, and Loaves and Fishes.

Through the generosity of our church family, we recently made our quarterly trip to the Washburn Center last month taking a hot chili lunch, delivering laundry detergent and bath towels to their shower/laundry area, and offering an assortment of gentle used clothing, toiletries, bug spray, and sunscreen to the homeless. If you are cleaning out your closets this fall, we would welcome any clothing items that are appropriate for individuals who are living in the woods or on the street. We are always in need of new men's and women's underwear to pass along on our visits.

We are supported through financial donations and when people purchase the fundraiser coupon books from us in the spring and fall. If you are seeking a place to serve others less fortunate than yourselves, please join us at our monthly meeting the 4th Thursday in the fellowship hall at 6:00pm. We share a light meal, a devotional time, and prayer requests at each gathering. Contact Wanda Rankin or Carol Laguens if you have any questions!

Submitted by,
Carol Laguens

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MGUMC Church Library

The library is located across from the church kitchen. The small bookcase to the left when you enter has selections appropriate for young readers. All the shelves on either side of the windows have adult fiction books. The back wall and the right side shelves have non-fiction, Bible studies, devotionals, and books about grieving. There are card catalogs on top of the filing cabinet to the right if you are looking for a particular topic or author. Simply fill out the card in the back of the book and leave it in the file box on the library table. The small table by the kitchen has books that are free to anyone who is interested.

We hope you will receive a blessing by choosing a good read from our library!

Submitted by,
Carol Laguens

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Back to Church Sunday

Save the date, September 18, 2022 for National Back to Church Sunday, the third Sunday of September.

On this day we extend the invitation of hope and peace to our friends and neighbors. Invite your friends and neighbors to church and we will have a celebration social picnic after the church service.

Everyone is being asked to make your famous potato salad, shrimp salad, macaroni & cheese, beans, fiixings for the hamburgers and hot dogs, and deserts to share. Bring what you can. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be furnished and the Men's Club will be cooking them.

See Kris Verwey for tickets to give him a head count. Prizes will be drawn from the tickets turned in.

Submitted by, Kris Verwey

Some Words from the Education Director (Continued)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Saturday, September 3 Youth Yard Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, September 4 Blood Mobile

Sunday, September 11 Grandparent's Sunday

Saturday, September 17 9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, September 18 "Back to Church" Sunday (regular schedule with a lunch to follow)

Sunday, September 25 Youth Sunday

Sunday, October 2 World Communion Sunday

KEEP IN MIND THAT WE ARE ENTERING THE "BER" MONTHS AND THAT MEANS ONE OF OUR BUSIEST SEASONS! 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! I also post things regularly on our website: atthegrove.church and [Myrtle Grove Neighborhood Scoop on Facebook](#). Check it out!

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

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Scripture Thought for This Month
Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

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.



CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Welcome to fall and the "slightly" cooler weather that it brings!

Thank you to all the teachers, parents and grandparents and other volunteers who worked with the children over the summer. We had our first in-person VBS in four years. We were pleasantly surprised when we had about 39 children participate in VBS! Everyone had fun and the children learned a great deal about Holy Week. My 3 year old grandson ran to the nursery the first day to very excitedly share with his mother that Jesus loved him! Now that is what I am talking about! We had enthusiastic teachers who worked with the children to reinforce the theme for the week: Jerusalem Marketplace. There were guests who taught the children about skills from the Bible days. They included a leather artist (Daniel Ralli) who made them each a leather pouch containing their daily Bible verse! Way to go Daniel! Also, the children enjoyed a wood carving group. Thank you to the teachers, exhibitors, crafting ladies, the Temple volunteers, the story volunteers, the clean-up crews, the decorators (under the supervision of Paddi and Clark and Sharon) and especially our AV man, Joelin Williams. Thank you to the lunch ladies that allowed us to distribute almost 100 lunches a day to the children and their families and volunteers! That means a thank you to Bellview Assembly of God and Rita Barton for donating items for the lunches each day. A lot of preparations go into the VBS experience, thank you to Chuck for making DVDs and recruiting for the AV needs. Thank you to Kris and the Building & Grounds group for assisting with set up. Finally, thank you to Jonathan and the youth volunteers. They made it all possible and clean-up after the last day! We have a great group of youth!

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Please make sure your child is aware of their new teachers since we have already had promotion Sunday. The 3 and 4 year olds are still on the other side of the nursery with Ms. Amanda. The Kindergarten-first grade are in the Children's Church room with Ms. Suzie. The second graders are in the Education Building across from the nursery with Ms. Dannie. The third-fifth graders are across from the Children's Church room with Ms. Lilibeth. The "Sonshine Room" for special needs children will still be in the Education Building with Ms. Christina.

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

The annual Children's Sabbath is coming up on Sunday, October 16. If you would like for your child to share their skills in music or singing or doing a speaking part, please let me know.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children's Department events!

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



What an incredible summer the youth had this year! So many memories and lives changed that I'm so thankful for! We took a couple trips to Vortex. We hit the beach and even the Dank's pool for an afternoon. We saw some of the biggest movies of the summer and even made time to hit Waterville for the day. But with all the fun, the best part of the summer was getting closer to our group and our trip to Summer Revive where several of our kids met God in a deeper and more personal manner. I'll be the first to tell you it was beautiful to witness. Praise God! From that trip, we had three of our Youth make the decision to be baptized. As I look back on this summer, I can't help but have my heart swell up with not only pride but also in great thanks for being at such a special church who cares for these kids enough to provide resources to be able to give these kids such a wonderful experience and feel God's love through His people. I also want to thank a few people in particular for going beyond to support this Ministry and that starts of course with the whole Richardson Family, Tom Danks, Sharon Hogan, Rain Fitchett, and Alexis Bernard. Without these great people, this ministry wouldn't be where it is now. As we get into September and the kids have settled back into school, I pray that we can take the energy of this summer to build on the day to day lives of these Youth and that our little Youth Wing is seen by them as a safe haven to find God's comfort and grace.

G.O.E.-Jonathan

Wednesday Night Community Programs

I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT OUR FALL TERM FOR 2022!

The County Extension office will be back for two classes this fall and more classes in the spring. The classes for the fall are all about pollinators and the dates are as follows: September 21 will be Pollinator Plants and Monarchs and September 28 will be about Pollinator Houses. The Pastor will continue to have a class on Israel. We are in talks to host an "Adulting 101" class usually offered at the public library. It will be centered on teaching young adults survival skills on every level including paying taxes, education choices, etc. We will have a youth fellowship group and "God & Country" classes for the children and scouts. We will also have the Girls of Grace and the God's Little Explorer's Science class for children. In addition, there will be tutors for 4 of our children and a nursery available.

Anyone else who would like to share a hobby or skill with others is welcome to call me and arrange a group. In the past, we have had book clubs, adult coloring classes, Art classes, CPR classes, Sign Language classes, quilting groups, etc. These classes allow people from the community to experience our church in a non-threatening way and perceive Christians a little differently. The more classes the better!

I will be putting out a brochure soon with all of the classes listed. Watch for it!

The first day of the Fall Session will be Wednesday, September 7, at 6:00 pm.

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

SCOUT DEPARTMENT

Thank you to all of the scouts and their families and volunteers who worked hard to make this past summer such a great experience for our Scouts! They continued to meet over the summer and as a result the Cub Scouts earned their "Summertime Pack Award". They held beach days, a day at the Planetarium, hikes, camp outs, Day Camp, Field Days, leadership Lock-ins and their Annual recycled Rain Gutter Regatta!

They worked hard to raise funds with Cinnabon Sales and a Car Wash! You guys really came through and it was a big help.

This fall, the scouts will be participating in earning their "God & Country" awards through our Wednesday Night classes. I am proud to say that almost all of our Cub Scouts have earned their age level "God & Country" awards and many of them have earned multiple religious awards. Often, our scout leaders are the volunteers who teach these classes on Wednesday nights.

If your scout has anything they accomplished in scouts, school, sports, church, etc., please contact me and I will put them in the monthly newsletter.

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 or (850) 456-7463 x5 or on Facebook.

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

Submitted by,
Janet Boston, Scout Co-ordinator