

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

Return Service Requested



Myrtle Grove
United Methodist Church
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P.O. Box 3225
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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:

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

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 9

September 2023

Senior Pastor's Note

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

September Birthdays

9 - Isaac Richardson
10 - Anthony Bushey
12 - Chuck Boyd
13 - Jim Benton
16 - Beth Moulder
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

The Summer was crazy and fun! Now we need to look to the Fall and see what is in store for everyone!

Mark your Calendars:

September is Hispanic Heritage Month so we will be featuring prominent Methodist of Hispanic descent in the bulletin each week.

Wednesday, September 6 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm Community Classes start for Fall term

Sunday, September 10 Grandparents Sunday

Wednesday, September 13 11:00 am Young at Heart

Saturday, September 16 9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, September 17 "Back to Church" Sunday and cook-out
Open House

Monday, September 18 6:30 pm Scout Parent Orientation

Sunday, September 24 Youth Sunday

Wednesday, September 27 "See You at the Pole"

Friday, September 29 5:00 pm Men's Club Fish Fry

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.

Thank you to everyone who brought in **school supplies**, we were able to help 18 children in 8 different families and there are at least 2-3 more requests coming in asking for assistance. We even had one monetary donation that helped a family of 6 with socks and underwear!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **annual Fall Prayer Vigil**. Keep up the prayers and watch for great things from God!

We have had a few people show an interest in resurrecting the **Hand Bell Choir**. If you would like to participate (even if you have no experience), please let me know. Also, I would love to know what kind of musical instrument you play. We would love to hear them play at Christmas!

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

Death:

Deborah J. Cooper
Robert B. Burns, Sr.
Donella Sue Burr
Robert W. Fuller

New Members:

Chris Bates (PF)
Devon & Christy Few (PF)
Jesse & Phyllis Lough (PF)
Lori Mulcahy (PF)
Shirley Perkins (PF)
Joseph & Melissa Stevenson (PF)
Joelin Williams (PF)

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 1-2

Bud & Jean Rogers
Robert Rogers
Sheila Romaine
James Rueff, Jr.
Lavanda Russell
Kevin & Linda Saighman
Claudia Savage

September 3-9

William & Ellen Scott
Brandon Sims
Truett & Anne Sims
Clyde Smack
Ron & Cindy Small
Bonnie Smith
Karl & Kathy Snyder

September 10-16

Joseph & Melissa Stevenson,
Landon & Lida
Susie Stevenson
Harry & Linda Stump
John & Kimberly Sturm, Megan,
John, Aria
Lou Sturm
Ruth Sumpter

September 17-23

Bruce & Linda Swanson
Joyce Thiam, Zakariya
Nancy & Randy Thurston
Bull & Lisa Toquothty
Shirley Towne
Emma Tucker

September 24-30

Gerald Turman
Anna Van Buuren
Kris & JoAnn Verwey
Marian Wallace
Ray Ward
Doug Waters

Sunday Activities

Sunday School 8:30 am
Worship 10:00 am
Youth Meet 3:00 pm
Prayer Team 4:00 pm

**Worship
Service
Opportunities**

Wednesday Activities

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

Back to Church Sunday

September 17th is our Back to Church Picnic. We are asking everyone to bring a covered dish to share. Plan ahead to make your favorite covered dish you are known for.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the condiments, buns, tea and chips will be provided.

Our grill masters will be cooking the burgers and hot dogs.

To help with the cost, tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each for a head count. Tickets will go on sale September 3rd.

Wesleyan Women

The Wesleyan Women will be hosting a church-wide baby shower for Isaac & Lyxy Richardson on Sunday, October 8th, at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. We will have a cake, finger foods, and punch. They are having a baby boy due in mid-November. They are registered as listed below:

At Target

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/search-results?firstName=Lyxy&lastName=Richardson&event=BABY>

At Babylist.com. You can access their registry at <https://.babylist.com/list/baby-lyxy>

Children's Department (Continued from Page 4)

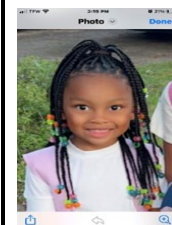
Promotion Sunday saw the following children and scouts of our church presented with their **Promotion Sunday** Bible. This is an annual tradition for our rising 3rd graders. Congratulations to the following rising 3rd graders who will be receiving their Bibles today: Abby Andrews, James Brown, Abbigail Barnhill Coon, Breylin Few, Lacey Gillespie, Bo Law, Mackenzie Levi, Logan Marlow, James Miller, Sawyer Price, MaKenzie Stacy, Becca Terry and Caleb Wiebold.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children's Department events!

Janet Boston,
(850) 456-7463 x5

jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY....



JaNiyah Turner

JaNiyah is 5 and has started her first year of school-Kindergarten. JaNiyah loves to dance and has started her first year of dance with her older sister. Her favorite style of dancing is Hip-Hop. She definitely has her mother's and sister's talent and love for dancing! She loves the color purple, unicorns and ANYTHING girly. Her favorite thing to do is play with her sister and cousins. She attends church here with her sister, cousins, Grandmother Angie Webb and Great Grandmother Linda Webb.

Way to go JaNiyah!

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

The next Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, September 16 at 9 am. This will be the first meeting after the Summer. Come out and join us! I just want to reinforce that you can feel free to invite your friends regardless of where they go to church. We will not pressure them to attend MGUMC. This program was designed to bring back corporate prayer into the body of Christ, not just MGUMC. Don't forget to bring a breakfast item to share.

The Silver Patrol will be bringing special Grandparent's Day gifts to the grandparents on our list during the month of September. Thank you to Emy Bennett and her many volunteers!

On Wednesday, September 13, at 11:00 am, we will be having our **quarterly Young at Heart** meeting. Again, bring your friends and food to share for a luncheon. This time it is all about fun-you will love our guests! We have never had anything like this at a YAH meeting!

On Sunday, September 17, we will celebrate our annual "**Back to Church**" **Sunday**. Start talking it up and recruiting your friends who have been absent for too long and your family members who wish to return to MGMC. We will be stoking up the grill for hamburgers and hot dogs. We will also have our **Open House** for all visitors to see what we do and how they can help. If your group wishes to educate the church on your mission/ministry/project or just recruit volunteers, please let me know and we will provide your space.

On, Sunday, September 24, we will be having **Youth Sunday**. If you are a youth and can play an instrument or sing, please let me know. If you would like a speaking part in the service, let me know that as well.

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

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Summer so fun for the children!

Mark your Calendars:

Wednesday, September 6 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm Community Classes start for Fall term

Sunday, September 10 Grandparents Sunday

Sunday, September 17 "Back to Church" Sunday and cook-out Open House

Monday, September 18 6:30 pm Scout Parent Orientation

Vacation Bible School was great this year - we had superheroes flying all over our church in July! Here is a list of people who need a special thank you! Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS such fun and a great learning time for our children! The Tour Guide teachers who made sure the children went safely from one center to the next: Amanda Glass, Suzanne Kornowski, Angie Webb, Suzie Leitman and James Hewett (who was also our Puppet Master). Thank you to the leaders of our centers such as Music, Crafts, Science, Bible Story and Bible Application: Jamie Broxson, Sharon Hogan, April McDaniel, Carol Laguens and Barbara Boston. Thank you to their helpers: Emy Bennett, Lynda Brunelle, Teresa Miller, Juliette Manary, Katie Hewett, Connie Few and Brianna Marlow. Thank you to the youth helpers who help make things go smoothly: Rowan Benson, Aniya Didley, Cameron Broxson and student leader Hayden Brown. Thank you to Nancy Thurston for picking up the lunches and helping out afterward. Thank you to Maureen Dunbar and Marcus English for filling in for teachers and helping out wherever you saw a need. Thank you to our AV guy Joelin Williams and also Chuck Boyd (he made the CD copies for you to take home). Thank you to our MC's Rev. Riley Richardson and Isaac Richardson. Thank you to the support staff here in the office that help make VBS possible: Cheryl Johnson, Rita Barton and Connie Boyd. Also, thank you to the sign guy who likes to remain anonymous. The beautiful t-shirts are courtesy of Sharon Hogan and Katie Hewett. Each of these shirts were hand tie died and Sharon was our photographer as well. Thank you to our superhero grandparents Paddi & Clark Cain and Judy and Jim Barbour. They made things so fun for the children! Thank you to the church members who supported VBS with prayers and finances. Finally, thank you to the parents and grandparents for sharing your children with us for VBS!

VBS raised \$491 for Heifer International. We had an opportunity to get "package deals" and that allowed us to get: 2 sheep, 2 heifers, 2 goats, 3 fluffles of rabbits (gotta love that name), 3 flocks of chicks, 2 hives of honeybees, a flock of ducks, a pig and some farmer training for one family. Way to go kids!!

Classes on **Wednesday Nights will begin on Wednesday, September 6, at 6:00 pm.** We will have a nursery available and classes for all ages. The Children will be participating in the "God & Country" Bible study series. They will be earning medals and certificates that will be presented in church after the Fall term is over.

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.

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With so much uncertainty in our world, it is more important now than ever before to cover our family in prayer. While yes there is sickness, evil, violence, and bullying out there, we serve a BIG God, who spoke the universe into existence with a word. Let's not forget that truth!

Here is another truth, parents can't control everything about their children's lives, but one thing I know to be true is prayer changes things.

We can't control the world right now, but we can pray. And we can go to God's throne of grace and intercede for our youth and children. Please find some time each day and pray for our youth and children in our church family. I leave you with this prayer for our parents.

"O Lord, you who promise to guide us through the wilderness and to protect us through the storm, we ask that you would make us wise when we cannot clearly see the way forward, make us brave when we feel afraid, make us strong in the face of our weakness, and make possible what to us seems impossible, so that we might joyfully entrust ourselves and our children into your tender care in these trying and troubling times. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Scout Department

Fall 2023 will have our scouts hopping! First, we will have the "God & Country" Bible Study classes up and running on Wednesday Nights starting Wednesday, September 6, at 6:00 pm. Those scouts who complete the program will be awarded their medals on Scout Sunday in the Spring of 2024.

Sunday, September 17, we will be having a cook-out after the 10:00 am service to celebrate "Back to Church" Sunday. There will also be an **Open House** on that Sunday. Each scout group needs to set up a display with pictures of the Troop, Pack or Girls of Grace. It will be an opportunity to show donors where their money goes to recruit scouts and to ask for volunteers.

Monday, September 18, at 6:30 pm, we will have a **Scout Parent Orientation**. We will be going over guidelines of the church and scout programs and Safe Sanctuary policies.

If there are any scouts who are in Middle or High School and would like to participate in the annual **Youth Sunday** on Sunday, September 24 during the 10:00 am service, please let me know. If you can play an instrument or sing or would like to do have a speaking part, let me know.

Wednesday, September 27, the schools will be having the annual "See You at the Pole" day. This is a day when Christians can gather around the flag pole at their school at an appointed time for corporate prayer. Usually it is in the morning before school starts.

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. We presently have a large group of children from our church participating in the Cub Scout Pack 2 program. **We would love to have your child/grandchild participate as well. We meet on Monday nights at 6:30 pm.**

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT OUR FALL TERM FOR 2023! CLASSES START ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6!

We will continue to have the 1:00 pm daytime program for seniors or others who cannot get out at night. We will be having an Art Class, A Crocheting Class, some gardening classes and the Pastor's Bible Study. **He will not be doing a night time Bible Study this year**, so if you wish to participate in his class, you will have to come to the day class.

The night classes (6:00 pm) will feature a Bible Study, an Adult Art class, an American Sign Language class, an opportunity to participate in the Choir, some gardening classes and classes for the children and youth.

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!

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

United Methodist Men's Fish Fry
Friday, September 29, 2023
5:00PM

