

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

Church Secy./Receptionist:

Cheryl Johnson

Finance Secretary:

Connie Boyd

Pianist:

Patsy Dean

Choir Director:

Jamie Broxson

Membership Secretary:

Vernon Ard

Mothers Morning Out:

Carrie Disouryavong

Nursery:

Lyxy Long

Librarians:

Lou Hulien Brown

Carol Laguens

Youth Director:

Isaac Richardson

Education Director:

Janet Boston

Notes from the Grove

A monthly publication for
Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church

Web:<http://www.mgumc.org>

Email: church.office@mgumc.org

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Senior Pastor's Note

The Meaning of Advent

The word "advent" descends from the Latin "adventus" and means coming or visiting. In the tradition's earliest days, Christians regarded Advent as a period of preparation for the baptism of new believers on the day of Epiphany (January 6). They did not associate it closely with Jesus' birth. However, by the 7th century, Roman Christians had tied Advent to Christ's appearing...but to his second coming, not his first. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that Advent evolved into a season of preparing to both celebrate his birth and anticipate his hoped-for return.

Today, Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year in the Western Christian Church and it's much more than just a countdown to Christmas. It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. It is a time of hopeful expectation, a time to reflect on our need for the one who came to "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21b NIV) and to watch for his coming again. Expectant waiting is the overarching theme of Advent and each week focuses on a different posture of anticipation.

Waiting in hope: Not the mere fervent wishing of the modern understanding of hope, but hope that is based in assured faith. "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:3).

Waiting in peace: Wholly surrendered and no longer at war with God; the peace the angels were referring to when they sang, "On earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14b).

Waiting in joy: In Jesus, God the Father fulfills his promise to reconcile his people to himself (Romans 5:6-11); as baby John leapt for joy in his mother's womb, so also do our spirits leap for a joy that transcends our circumstances (Luke 1).

Waiting in love: In the love of the Father, who "so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Advent is a time to draw near to God

Why was Jesus' birth so important? The reason is because slightly over 2,000 years ago, God stooped down from Heaven and became a human being: Jesus Christ. As the Bible says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

Think of it: God became a man! He did it because He loves us—and that's what we should celebrate as Christmas approaches. Take time between now and Christmas to reflect on this great truth.

Christmas is a great time to rejoice... and to reflect: what change of course does He want to make in you? What adjustments are needed so that you can be all He wants you to be in your family... in your career... in your priorities?

I hope you have a great Christmas. May the King of the universe truly be King in you as you do like those wise men and bow your life before Him!

December Birthdays

1 - Betty Jackson
4 - Tom Helton
6 - Michael Lee
6 - Maxine Lea
7 - Frank Benson
7 - Mary Carrick
10 - Lee Bateman
12 - Ardis Riddell
12 - Diane Darville
14 - Jean Kendall
15 - Beth Herndon
16 - Carol Laguens
17 - Teresa Worth
18 - Bubba Gordon
18 - Hope Brown
19 - Kimberly Sturm
20 - Rebecca Moulder
21 - Michael Prouty, Sr.
23 - Anna VanBuuren
25 - Tom Danks
27 - Kris Verwey
27 - Josh Toquothty
28 - Sarah Matthews
30 - Brenda McHatton
30 - Katie Hewett

Our Vision Statement:

"Every member a good neighbor."

Our Purpose Statement:

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

Sisters in Service

The Sisters in Service Circle has been busy already this fall by with the UMW fundraiser meal and feeding 50 workers from Mission Fishin' as they renovate a home for a family with a severely ill child. Our BBQ lunch with sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, and lots of homemade desserts was a real hit. Our trip to Reimagine that was cancelled due to bad weather has been rescheduled for February 2020. Our final event of the year is a trip to the Washburn Center for the homeless on December 14th. We have had several workdays to sort clothing and other supplies in preparation for this trip. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this organization. Many of you have also been donating nice professional clothing to the homeless lady veterans who will reside in the new HER foundation house on Fairfield Drive. They had their dedication and ribbon cutting in November and there was a nice article about them in Pensacola News Journal. The director has thanked us for providing the clothing but has asked that we DO NOT bring anymore since their storage is full. So, if you are cleaning out closets this month with SIS in mind, please only bring us items for men and women who are homeless and living on the streets in this cold winter weather. We really need MEN'S JEANS AND SWEATSHIRTS. If you are able to donate any items, please leave them at the church by the 12th so that we can finish packing to deliver with a hot meal and lots of toiletries on Saturday, December 14th. Thanks so much for helping us serve as the hand and feet of Jesus!

The SIS ladies meet on the 4th Thursday of each month in the MGUMC Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm. (This month's meeting will be on the second Thursday since our homeless event is on the 14th.) They have a light meal, share prayers and praises, hear a short devotional, and work on plans for upcoming activities for those less fortunate in Pensacola. Any ladies interested in mission work are invited to join us. Our community events are mostly on Saturdays to accommodate those with full time jobs. If you have any questions, contact Wanda Rankin at 501-4038 or Carol Laguens at 456-5611. We are so blessed to serve the "least of these" as Pastor Rile taught us in a recent sermon!

Submitted by,
Carol Laguens

Myrtle Grove UMC Prayer Ministry

MGUMC takes pride in being called a House of Prayer. You can find prayer opportunities with the men's group on Friday mornings and the ladies Renew Crew on Wednesday evenings. We also have a church Prayer Team that gathers to lift the needs of the church each Sunday at 4:30pm in the Chapel. We are trying to get at least one representative from each Sunday School class to attend the Prayer Team and to share the requests from that group. Contact Beth Herndon if you have questions about joining in!

We have some prayer materials available in the Fellowship Hall. Two lovely ladies from Renew Crew set up a prayer station with a bulletin board and a table of materials for you to read prayer requests and turn in slips of your own. A new addition is the table to the right of the Prayer Station which has letters to be sent to those who are needing to be remembered in prayer. People who are struggling at home with difficulties and needs would be so blessed to receive a letter from our church family, telling them that they are being prayed for. Each Sunday morning these letters will be available for someone to request prayer. Simply fill in the person's name at the top of the letter and provide the recipient's address on the back (unless they are in our MGUMC Directory already). Then we ask members of our church family to stop by this table, see what letters are available, note the name of the person you can be lifting to the Lord during your personal prayer time, and then sign the letter yourself. We have a person who will collect the letters with all the wonderful signatures and words of encouragement and get them mailed out at the beginning of the next week. We hope you will support this new prayer ministry to remind us that, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray...I will hear from Heaven." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Church Library

We now have some cooler weather that will encourage curling up with a good book and a cup of something hot! On the right hand shelf in our library you will see a collection of holiday books for Thanksgiving and Christmas that are being featured during the months of November and December. Thank you to those of you who have donated books to the library recently. Our librarians are sorting, recording, and shelving new books every week. Any that are not containing religious subject matter are on the "Free to a Good Home" shelf. Come visit soon and expand your mind with a good book!

Submitted by,
Carol Laguens

Sunday Activities

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

Worship Service Opportunities

Wednesday Activities

Youth Elevate - 5:00pm
Small Groups - 6:00pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:15pm

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

Transfer Memberships:

Jerrimy & Ruby Knauer
Transferred to St. Luke UMC, Pensacola, FL

Transfer Membership

Carl Carlin
Transferred to Lillian UMC, Lillian AL

Baptism:

Jaxson Michael Piechowiak
5655 Goinswood Ct.
Pensacola, FL 32526
Baptized November 24, 2019
Son of Cayla Ebbert
Great Grandson of Tom Helton

Reminder from Hospitality

All December birthdays will be celebrated in fellowship hall on December 1st during the fellowship time at 9:30a.m.

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.

December Prayer List

December 1-7

Thomas & Anita Tucker
Byron Tucker, Jr.
Anna VanBuuren
Pieter & Ranae Vandenberg,
Shannon & Candice
Kori Vertz
Ty Vertz
Kris & JoAnn Verwey

December 8-14

Joan Walker
Kayla Walker
Marian Wallace
Richard & Debra Wallace
Ray & Sylvia Ward
Doug Waters
Jeffrey Waugh

December 15-21

Norman & Courtney Weathers,
Raeden
Linda Webb
Van & Carol Weeks
Robert & Christine Weyand
Robert Weyand, Sr.
Joshua & Chelsea White
Larry White

December 22-28

Chad & Anna Willhite, Megan, Austin, Colton
Leslie Williams
Clay & Kimberlee Williamson
Audra Wilson
Odessa Wilson
Sue Wing

December 29-31

Randolph & Angeliqeka Winge
Julia Worrell
Megan Worth, Easton
Teresa Worth, Nathan
Brennen Wright
Gertrude Wright

Christmas Holiday Schedule of Events

Season of Advent:

1st Sunday of Advent - December 1st

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 8th

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 15th

4th Sunday of Advent - December 22nd

Young at Heart Communion Service and Dinner - Wednesday, December 4th, 10:30am

Praise & Worship Service - December 8th, 6:00pm

United Methodist Men's Church-Wide Christmas Party - Saturday, December 14th, 6:00pm

Christmas Cantata by the Chancel Choir - Sunday, December 15th, 10:00am

Children's Dinner with Santa - Wednesday, December 18th, 6:00pm

Staff Christmas Brunch - Monday, December 23rd, 10:00am

Youth Christmas Cookies & Caroling - Monday, December 23rd, 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Tuesday, December 24th, 5:00pm

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th



Wednesday Night Community Programs

After the holidays, it will be time for the Winter Term 2020 for the Community Program on Wednesday nights. I am presently compiling a list of classes for winter. If there is a specific type of class you would enjoy or a class you want to teach, please let the Education Director know at jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com. We have presently signed up a quilting leader, a bead making art class, and a "Get Out of Poverty" class. Hopefully, we will have the introduction to Computers for seniors and the CPR certification classes again. We are still trying to get an English as a second language class, a literacy class, and another Sign Language class. If you can do any of these classes or know of someone who might be able to teach them, please let Janet know.

We have an artist coming in to teach an art class for children. There will also be the regular "God & Country" classes for scouts and of course, we will continue with the Westside Children's Choruses. We are waiting to hear back from a local chef to teach a cooking class for the children as well.

We will be having a Gardening Class again after the first of the year, probably closer to spring. I know everyone loves that class and we are excited to have them back. I am excited to say that even without the gardening class, we have had attendance as high as 100 people this fall! You are awesome!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston

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Scout Department

Thank you Troop 2 for the Color Guard and meaningful Flag Retirement Ceremony on Veterans Sunday. I received many kudos for your part of the service. You made Janet very proud!

We will be welcoming Santa on Monday, December 18th, at 6:00pm. We will have a covered dish dinner and a chance to sit on Santa's lap to discuss your Christmas wishes! The dinner is for all of our scout groups and Girls of Grace that meet on Monday nights.

We are presently registering girls for our first all-female Troop at MGUMC. If you have a daughter or granddaughter in middle school or high school and they want to join the scouts and work toward an Eagle Scout, see Janet for a registration form. As soon as we have 5 girls (we are at 4 forms now), we will start meeting.

Right now we have another scout that is on the brink of receiving his Eagle and there are four new scouts that have started the process and committed to becoming Eagles! So proud to be the home to the oldest scout groups in the regional area!

We presently have eight scouts participating in the God & Country Awards on Wednesday nights this fall. You can congratulate them on Scout Sunday in March 2020 when they receive their awards.

Submitted by,
Janet Boston

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The following events are coming up in December:

Sunday, December 1st is the first Sunday in Advent. We will be passing out Advent Calendars and devotional books to all of the Children and Youth in the church. We will also be learning about Advent each week in Sunday School and Children's Church with Advent wreaths and interactive Nativity scenes.

Sunday, December 15th, we will be presenting the Children's Christmas Program before the Chancel Choir presents their Christmas music. The children will be presenting music, dance and a traditional Christmas pageant.

Wednesday Night, December 18th, at 6:00 pm, we will be hosting a "Dinner with Santa" for all of the families of the church. After enjoying dinner with Santa, the children will have the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and discuss their Christmas wishes while you take pictures!

Sunday, January 5th on Epiphany Sunday, the Christmas season will be topped off by a visit from the Wise Men. The Children's Department is expanding to include another Sunday School class. The 2nd & 3rd grade class has gotten so large that we have to break into two groups. Now, there will be a 3rd grade class and it will need a teacher. This is a great problem to have!!

There are many opportunities for your child to participate in at MGUMC. If you want to know more about Scouts, please come up on a Monday night and meet the leaders and ask any questions you may have about the programs. There are 3 scout groups that cover girls and boys Kindergarten through High School.

We are looking forward to the **Winter classes for the children on Wednesday Nights**. We will still have the "Westside Children Choirs" and the "God & Country" series for scouts. The new classes will include an art class for children and a cooking class for children. All of these classes will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday Nights starting on January 8th.

Watch the bulletin and newsletters for upcoming Children's Department events!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston



We just enjoyed Thanksgiving, and Christmas is just around the corner! This winter will be an exciting time for our youth group. The following events will be taking place:

Christmas Banquet - We are helping serve at the Christmas Banquet again! This is always one of our favorite things to do each year.

Cookies and a Carol - The youth group's tradition will extend to this holiday season. We will be singing and handing out cookies to anyone who wants to sign up! Please see me in this fellowship hall following the first week of advent to sign up.

Planet Gymnastics Lock-in - This joint effort with a fellow youth pastor, Ryan Etheredge, will see us take the youth to Mobile, Alabama, for a fun night at Planet Gymnastics.

Revive - Our winter retreat is going to be extraordinary when we take our youth to Blue Lake for Revive Winter 2020.

As you can see our winter is jam-packed, and I am excited for all that lies ahead! Keep us in your prayers.

Thank you,
Isaac

Thought for the Month

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1-2 NIV

