

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.atthegrove.church> Email:[church.office@mgumc.org](mailto:church.office@mgumc.org)

Volume 17, Issue 1

January 2020

## Senior Pastor's Note

### Making New Year Commitments

***And he said to them all, If any person will come after me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23***

When missionary Dr. David Livingstone was working in Africa, a group of friends wrote him: "We would like to send other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?" Dr. Livingstone sent this message in reply: "If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

There's a big difference between just being interested in doing something and actually making a commitment to doing it! Just being interested allows us the freedom to do a thing only when our circumstances permit. But making a commitment to do that thing means accepting no excuses and no reservations -- it means putting aside our fears and reservations, moving forward till we see the end result! Dr. Livingstone was looking for results, and this required men of commitment!

It's the start of a New Year so we all begin thinking towards those resolutions. Actually, I am not a big fan of them. I think that we generally don't follow them anyway. Instead of making New Year Resolutions, why not make New Year Commitments? What commitments could we make to our Lord, our families, our jobs and our congregation?

Hopefully, the New Year will hold peace and happiness for you. But beyond that, I hope that 2020 is a year of spiritual growth for you. If you make the right commitments, 2020 can be a year in which you grow closer to God, spend more time reading His Word, and make prayer and reflection a part of your everyday routine. Those are lofty-sounding goals, but they're not out of reach with the right attitude, the right tools, and a bit of personal discipline. A good example to follow would be that of the church in the book of Acts: "***They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.***" (Acts 2:42)

In Closing: I do want to thank all of you for the commitments you accomplished in 2019! I thank my God for your commitment to the Mission and Ministry of MGUMC. Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness!

## January Birthdays

3 - Ronnie Marie Ingram  
5 - Machelle Reynolds  
8 - Jennifer Ralli  
12 - Linda Stump  
12 - Diane Darville  
16 - Marianne Fuller  
18 - Rebecca Black  
20 - Patricia Cain  
24 - Nancy Leonard

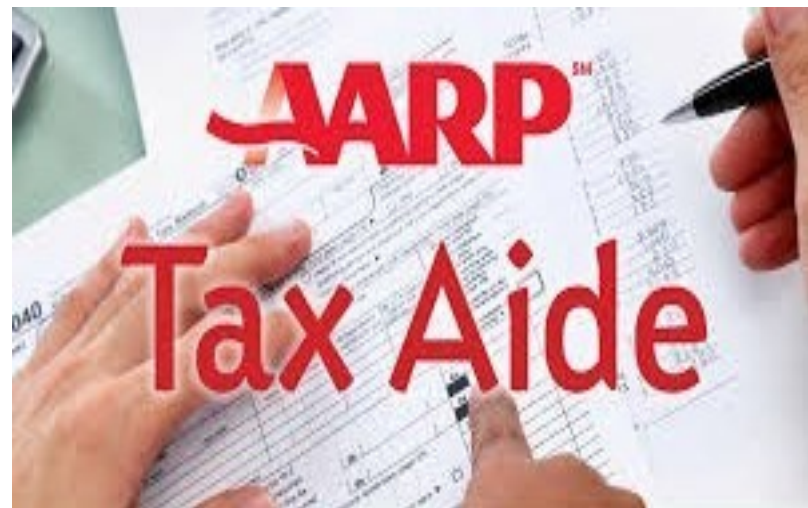
### Our Vision Statement:

***"Every member a good neighbor."***

### Our Purpose Statement:

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

**AARP VOLUNTEER TAX AIDE  
 BEGINS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020,  
 FROM 11:00A.M. TO 3:00P.M.  
 DAYS OF SERVICE: MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
 AND THURSDAY  
 FROM: 11:00A.M. TO 3:00P.M.**



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

**New Address:**

Lynda Brunelle  
 18 Verde Ct  
 Pensacola, FL 32506

**New Address:**

RC & Teresa Miller  
 21 Gamwell Rd  
 Pensacola, FL 32506

**Death:**

Evelyn Fannin  
 Elsie Rhodes  
 Max Harris

If you move, please let the church office know your new address.

**Reminder from Hospitality**

**All January birthdays will be celebrated in fellowship hall on January 5th 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.**

**January Prayer List**

**January 1-4**

Hugh Wright, Emma  
 Laurie Wright  
 Stephen Yates  
 James Yeager  
 Cyle York  
 Robert & Lillibeth Zimmermann, Bella  
 Britany Aiken, Zariah

**January 5-11**

Ralph & Janice Anderson  
 Sherry Andrews  
 Vernon Ard  
 Colin & Kristen Armstrong  
 Beverly Austin Harris  
 Tina Ayers  
 Madison Backovsky

**January 12-18**

Linda Barbee  
 Allison Barbour  
 Jim & Judy Barbour  
 Robert & Sarah Barnhart  
 William Barnhill, Genesis & Zion  
 Rita Barton  
 Jackie Bashaw

**January 19-25**

Lee & Lucinda Bateman  
 Bud & Cristina Bateman, Bradley & Faith  
 Marty & Julie Bender  
 Emy Bennett  
 Chad Benson  
 Frank & Elise Benson

**January 26-31**

Jim Benton  
 Ryan Berthiaume  
 Don & Tricia Birtsch  
 Keith & Janet Black  
 Nuke Black  
 Quentin & Rebecca Black

**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

### A FEW THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, [Georgia](#), the second child of Martin Luther King Sr., a pastor, and Alberta Williams King, a former schoolteacher. His birth name was actually Michael, but his father was inspired by the legacy of Martin Luther when he traveled to Germany and decided to change not only his 5 year old son's name, but his own name as well. He grew up in the city's Sweet Auburn neighborhood, then home to some of the most prominent and prosperous African Americans in the country.

A gifted student, King attended segregated public schools and at the age of 15 was admitted to [Morehouse College](#), the alma mater of both his father and maternal grandfather, where he studied medicine and law. Although he had not intended to follow in his father's footsteps by joining the ministry, he changed his mind under the mentorship of Morehouse's president, Dr. Benjamin Mays, an influential theologian and outspoken advocate for racial equality. After graduating in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary in [Pennsylvania](#), where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree, won a prestigious fellowship and was elected president of his predominantly white senior class.

During the tumultuous civil rights era, Martin Luther King, Jr. was incarcerated 29 times. Charges were mostly for his demonstrations and labeled Civil Disobedience. There were charges, however, for things such as going 5 miles an hour over the speed limit. There was another assassination attempt on his life when a woman stabbed him in his chest with a letter opener at one of his book signings. He had to undergo very delicate surgery to repair the damage.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a Federal holiday. He is the only American except Presidents Washington and Lincoln to have a Federal holiday named for him.

***"Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are."***

*(From speech before a group of students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia, October 26, 1967)*



### Wednesday Night Community Programs

It is time for the Winter Term 2020 for the Community program on Wednesday nights. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 8, at 6:00 pm.

We have a Quilting group, a Jewelry/bead making class, a CPR class, an Introduction to Computers for Seniors class, the Gardening class will be back in February. We will have our 3 Bible Study/prayer groups: Making Disciples for God with the Pastor, Women's Renew Crew with Angie Richardson and Bible study with Bill Ralli. I am still talking with Learn to Read to start a literacy program and an English as a Second Language program.

We have an artist coming in to teach an Art class for children. There will be a cooking/baking class as well. There will also be the regular "God & Country" classes for scouts and of course we will continue with the Westside Children's Choruses and dance group.

We will have the classes posted on the website soon!

Submitted by,

Janet Boston

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### Scout Department

We welcomed Santa with a covered dish dinner before school let out for the holidays. The scouts and their siblings were able to take pictures with Santa! They also helped make homemade Christmas Cards for the military personnel stationed at NAS Pensacola that were not able to be with their families this past Christmas. In addition, 6 scouts will be awarded their "God & Country" awards for taking their classes this fall. We hope to add to that number with scouts taking classes this Winter.

We are presently registering girls for our first all-female Troop at MGUMC. They will start meeting in February. Right now we have 2 scouts who will be receiving their Eagles this year. There are 4 new scouts that have started the process and are committed to becoming Eagles! So proud to be the home to the oldest scout groups in the regional area!

Submitted by,

Janet Boston

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### Mothers Morning Out

Happy New Year from Mothers Morning Out! It has been a great first half of the school year for our program. In October, we collected snacks for our local Fire Department. They came out to give the children a tour of the fire truck and talk about fire safety. Our MMO families collected food for Elijah's Pantry in November. For our December service project, we collected snacks and personal hygiene items to send to our deployed military members. I love that we can teach the younger children about giving to others through these service projects.

We currently have 18 students enrolled in our program. I hear from our MMO families often how much they love our program and that it is a huge blessing to them. Thank you for supporting the Mothers Morning Out program.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Carrie Disouryavong  
C\_disouryavong@mgumc.org

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### Elijah's Pantry

The number of people the pantry serves each month is increasing. In October, the pantry served 1098 people/ We thank you, the congregation for your support.



## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

We had a great time during this Christmas Season! We passed out Advent devotionals and Calendars to all of the children and their families. We learned about Advent in Sunday School and Children's Church. The Children's portion of the Christmas program was full of singing, dancing and a live nativity. We had pizza with Santa and also had pictures with him. During Dinner with Santa, the children and their families had an opportunity to make home-made Christmas cards for the military personnel that will be on the base away from home for the holidays. It is really important that they feel support from the community during this difficult time. The children also had the opportunity to send a letter to Santa to let him know what they wanted for Christmas. Finally, we were able to help 34 children from our church family with Christmas through the Angel Tree.

### **Coming up in January:**

**Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> on Epiphany Sunday** the Christmas season will be topped off by a visit from the Wise Men who will explain the importance of their role in the Christmas Season and give the children a little reminder of the event.

**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will start our classes back on Wednesday night at 6:00 pm. The kids can look forward to cooking, art lessons, Choir and Dance opportunities and more "God & Country" classes.

**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>:** In Sunday School and Children's Church we will be learning about the Baptism of Jesus and the role baptism plays in our Christian experience.

**The Winter Retreat in Blue Lake** for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will be Friday, January 31 - Sunday, February 2. The cost is \$130 per child and \$75 per adult. There will be scholarships available if needed. The problem is that we have to have 1 adult for every 6 students. If there are any adults out there who would like to accompany their child(ren) to camp, please let me know. You must be willing to pass a background check.

The Children's Department is expanding to include another Sunday School class. The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class has gotten so large that we have to break into two groups. Now there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

Submitted by,  
Janet Boston



Happy New Year! As we move into the new year, I am excited about what is in store for Myrtle Grove. With another year of ministry under our belts, we are still a shining light in this community - even though someone tried to knock it out!

The students happily served the Christmas Banquet this year, and I am thankful for all the kind things you have said about those who were there. It means a lot to those students when you let them know you appreciate their service. Cookies and a Carol was a success, and our Planet Gymnastics lock-in was extremely fun.

This month, pray for our group as we travel to Revive at Blue Lake Camp. I'm excited for what this all has in store for us. Thank you again for all your support, and God Bless you as you start the new year.

Isaac

### **Thought for the Month**

**Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

**Psalm 96:1-3 NIV**

## **Some Words from The Education Director**

What a great Christmas Season we had in 2019. We managed to assist 51 individuals (shut-ins, nursing home members and children from our church) with Christmas gifts. We also sent over 150 Christmas cards to NAS Pensacola from our church (Children's Department, Scouts and Education Volunteers!) to all of the personnel who were unable to be home for this past holiday season. We had a Christmas party for our Education Department volunteers and enjoyed dinner and made Christmas cards. We are having to expand our Children's Sunday School classes again. We only had a few 3<sup>rd</sup> graders when we started this fall and now the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is bursting at the seams. We need to open a new class just for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. If you want to join the team and teach 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, please let me know at [jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com](mailto:jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com).

We have started a new Sunday School class for young adults who have aged out of the Youth Program. The class will be for participants starting at age 18. Please come up and join us on a Sunday morning. This is an important addition to our Sunday School family since most young people leave the church after they graduate from high school. We are also hoping to start a new class for young couples ages 18-30ish. I will keep you posted with details as I have them.

### **We look forward to the upcoming January dates:**

- **Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> the Magi or Wise Men will be visiting the Children in Sunday School and may make an appearance in the Sanctuary as well.**
- **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm we will start the Winter Term of our Community Classes. There are 10 classes for adults and 5-7 classes for the children. Please see the Children's Department & Wednesday Night newsletter entries for more details.**
- **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School and Children's Church, the children will be learning about the baptism of Jesus and the importance of baptism as a sacrament of the church.**
- **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, February 2 the children will be going to the Winter Retreat in Blue Lake (if we get enough adult volunteers).**

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

Janet Boston  
Education Director  
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[jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com](mailto:jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com)