



**Myrtle Grove
United Methodist Church**

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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

Nursery:

Lyxy Long

Membership Secretary:

Vernon Ard

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

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March 2020

Senior Pastor's Note

Is March one of your favorite Months of the Year? March is one of my favorite months because of a few things, like Daylight Savings Time and the season of Lent! Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. The season begins on Ash Wednesday, when pastors mark the foreheads of Christians with ashes as a reminder that we are created from dust and to dust we shall return. Ashes are also a symbol of repentance an outward symbol for one's inner sorrow for having sinned. By putting ashes on our forehead, we are acknowledging that we have sinned, and feel remorse for those sins.

A Biblical example of ashes being used as a symbol of repentance can be found in Job 42:6, in which Job says, ***"Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes"*** (NIV). Ashes used as a symbol of mourning can be found in 2nd Samuel 13:19: ***"Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went"*** (NIV).

During the season of Lent, we follow Jesus from his adult ministry through his suffering during Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday, also called the Sunday of the Passion, and continues through Holy Thursday (when Holy Communion was instituted at the Last Supper) and Good Friday, when Jesus was tried, crucified, and buried. Because the Last Supper was celebrated during the Feast of the Passover, which is calculated on the phases of the moon, Easter is called a movable feast. Lent is scheduled backwards from Easter. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. The forty days of fasting and penitence during Lent do not include Sundays. Christians always celebrate Sunday as the day Jesus rose from the dead, so it is never a day of fasting.

Lent is a time of stripping down to essentials, as each Christian focuses on his or her individual relationship with God. It is a time when Christians remember our baptisms, when Jesus washed away our sins, giving us newness of life to celebrate in the triumph of Palm Sunday and the glory of Easter. I am convinced that the quality of your Easter celebration will be greater enhanced if you participated more fully in the Lent experience. What books are you going to read? What commitments will you make? What worship services will you attend? What action will you take? What are your plans for your Lenten journey? Have you made any? IF you have not, let me encourage you take the season of Lent more seriously! If you are not sure what to do, give me a call or visit. I have some wonderful ideas! I hope and pray your journey through Lent will be one that erupts in praise and thanksgiving on Easter Sunday!

Our Vision Statement:

"Every member a good neighbor."

Our Purpose Statement:

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

United Methodist Women

January has passed and we have installed new officers (although many of them look the same) and we have given over \$2200 away to various missions. What a great easy to begin the new year. We will start having various sales and earn money this year, so we can do it all over again next January. When you see us cooking for the UMM, selling soup, knives, crafts, coupon books, and various other items, remember that none of that money is spent on the UMW members. It is all given away to missions. Some of it comes back to the church when we give to Elijah's Pantry, or Angel Ministries but UMW is known for supporting missions for women, youth, and children all over the world. Some shows up in a form of a water buffalo in Thailand, or a Doctor with no border to confine her, maybe a water-well in an area that women carry water for miles to simply to do ordinary chores. In addition to the Unit money, all four of the circles give their money away also. Not sure what each circle gives but I can guess that we have gives over \$8000 to missions just this year. Giving is what we do—our time, our talents, and our money.

Mark your calendar - Frolic is April 25th. It is our 45th year! Vendors are signing up (see the office for a form or download it from our website: <https://www.atthegrove.church>). We will soon be asking for Sunday School classes, Circles, and other small groups in the church to help with food and games. A form will be distributed to classes with suggestions and information. The Frolic Committee has decided to request that if your group gets a free space at the Frolic (and your profits don't already go directly to the Youth) that you strongly consider making a donation of \$15-\$25 or a percentage of what you make from the event. Since all profits from the Frolic go to our youth, this is just one more step we can take to be sure they are well funded for summer events. Remember that we always have a bake sale - get ready to make your best goodies. The UMW will take an active role in the activity by doing breakfast, manning the bake sale, running the Silent Auction and various other jobs to help our youth to earn money for their church planned activities. T-shirts will be available to pre-order in Mid-April for approximately \$10 each. Come to "Frolic" in style with your own anniversary shirt.

Watch for the bulletin board in fellowship hall to have information details as we get closer to the end of April.

Upcoming Events:

March 3rd at 10:00am is the next UMW meeting. We will be in the chapel.

March 7th - District Annual Day - Join us in our fellowship hall at 8:30am to get registered and we will give you breakfast foods and prayers before the event starts at 9:00am. The speaker is Betty Fain and she will give her testimony "From Dumas Westley and Beyond". We will be hosting ladies from all the churches in the Pensacola District. Pi(e) Day - Sunday 3-15-20. Pi is a mathematical term meaning the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter and it is also one of the revered mathematical constants in the known world. Pi Day was first officially celebrated on a large scale in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. Since then, Pi Day has been celebrated by millions of students and math lovers each year. The holiday is celebrated on March 14th, since 3 (the month of March) 1 and 4 (the 14th day) are the first three and most well-known digits in the decimal form of Pi. We are going to celebrate Pi(e) Day (1 day late on March 15) by having lots of PIES for sale. This should be a fun fundraiser for everyone. Members of the UMW will bake a pie (or pies) for Sunday, March 15th. All sweet pies (desserts) will be \$8. All savory pies will be sold for \$10. This will be a great way for you to take home dessert and help your UMW raise money for missions.

April 17-19th - South Eastern Jurisdiction Conference - Mobile, Alabama. This is one that you may not want to miss. This is an opportunity to get an insight into UMW International. You can register by going on-line to the UMW conference site.

Submitted by,
Paddi Cain and Beth Herndon

Sunday Activities

Sunday School 8:30 am

Worship 10:00 am

Prayer Team 4:00 pm

Worship Service Opportunities

Wednesday Activities

Youth Elevate - 5:00pm

Small Groups - 6:00pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:15pm

Sisters in Service

We have a few dates on our calendar for the new year including working with Reimagine Pensacola on Feb. 29th, helping with the District UMW event at MGUMC on Mar. 7th, and then making our first trip to the Washburn Center for the homeless on April 4th. We are collecting supplies of spring clothing for Washburn along with toiletry items to distribute that day. We are always looking for good sales to help the children at Safe Harbor, Ronald McDonald House, and Gulf Coast Kids House, and will be providing monetary support to the HER Foundation's Faith House for homeless women veterans (HER stands for Honor, Empower, Rebuild) that is now open on Fairfield Drive. THE H.E.R. FOUNDATION HAS REQUESTED THAT WE NO LONGER BRING WOMEN'S CLOTHING AS THEY HAVE RUN OUT OF STORAGE SPACE. Thank you to everyone who has been so generous with their donations to our ministry here in the past.

If any ladies at MGUMC are looking to join a mission circle that helps in our own Pensacola Community, please come visit one of our meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month in the church Fellowship Hall at 6pm. If you have any questions about our group, feel free to contact Wanda Rankin at 501-4038 or Carol Laguens at 456-5611. We are so grateful to our church family for helping us to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

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Prayer Ministry

We are thankful to all the MGUMC members who have used the Prayer Ministry table to post requests, have filled out a prayer letter to be sent to those in need, and to those who stopped by the letter table to sign best wishes on any of the letters laid out there. If you choose to fill in a prayer letter, please remember to put the recipient's mailing address on the back if you know this individual is not listed in the newest MGUMC directory. Letters are collected on Sunday evening, are prayed over by the church Prayer Team, and are mailed on Monday morning.

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MGUMC Library

As we continue with goals of drawing closer to the Lord, please come by and visit the church library across from the kitchen. We have received some new books already including two Christian fiction books by Karen Kingsbury and several by Jan Karon (author of the Mitford Series). You can find these books on the left bookshelf between the two windows. Our March focus will be the Bible studies written by Charles Swindoll and those are in the 2nd bookshelf on the right side of the library. Directions for checking out books are listed on a poster in the middle of the library table. Remember to sign and remove the cards found in the back of each book as we use the old Dewey Decimal system and have a card catalog for you to locate a particular title, author, or subject. These boxes are on top of the file cabinet. Expand your mind in the coming months with a good book! Thank you for all the recent donations of new books that we have received! We have two shelves of "Free to a Good Home" books on the right side of the Library including a whole shelf of daily devotionals for you to enjoy this year. Also, retired Pastor Ron Lentine's new book about the westside churches has been donated and is being displayed as well. Please fill out the card in the back and return it as soon as you have finished so many members can enjoy it. Our Pastor Riley has added comments in the book as well.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

What a great time we had in February 2020! We had a visit from the disciples who taught the children about Transfiguration Sunday. Peter was so excited that I thought he was going to pass out! On Wednesday Nights, the children signed Valentine cards for the Silver Patrol to deliver to the shut-ins and nursing home residents from our church. Many of our children and youth come to church by way of the church van. The children and youth from the Transportation Ministry and their families enjoyed a lunch where we presented a program that would encourage them to learn more about expectations during church and reward improvements.

We look forward to the following things during the Month of March:

Sunday, March 1 we will be discussing prayer in Sunday School. They will take home materials on prayer that they can share with their families. Devotional guides designed specifically for children during the Season of Lent will be distributed today.

Sunday, March 8 we will be inviting our scouts to join us in Sunday School and that is also the day that Day Light Savings time starts. During the 10:00 am service, the scouts will be celebrating Community Scout Sunday.

Sunday, March 15 they will learn a little history about the origins of St. Patrick's Day. They are always a little surprised to know that there are roots of Christianity in a lot of special calendar days.

Saturday, March 14-Sunday, March 22 will be Spring Break in the public school system.

Wednesday, March 25th the Spring Term of the Wednesday Night Community Classes will begin. In addition to the Art, Baking, Choir and Dance classes, we will be offering another set of "God & Country" classes for the children and scouts.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Children's Department Events!

Mothers Morning Out

Our Mothers Morning Out registration for the upcoming fall school year will open to our church families and our current students on March 3, 2020. Registration be open to the community on March 11, 2020. If you are interested in our program or know someone that may be interested, please pass this information onto them. Openings fill up fast and are on a first come, first serve basis. We offer families 2 or 3 days a week classes. We are excited to announce that we will be starting school in August this year instead of September. Please check out our church website to find additional information about our wonderful program.

Thank you and God Bless,

Carrie Disouryavong

(850) 456-7463/c_disouryavong@mgumc.org



I want to thank everyone who came to the Valentine Banquet. It was a wonderful evening. Thank you for all your donations! Please continue to support our youth. Your donations will help us go to summer camps! The donations received at the banquet will pay for our entire summer trip! This is absolutely amazing!

This summer we are going to Revive at Blue Lake Camp. This is always an amazing experience for the youth group. I hope that you will continue to pray for us throughout this month. We are hoping for an exciting spring break!

Also, do not miss out on Frolic at the end of April. Frolic will be on April 25. This fundraiser is always a wonderful example of the care this church shows for the youth.

Isaac

Elijah's Pantry Statistics for January 2020

In January, the Pantry served 821 people in 277 families, 247 were children and 235 were seniors. Thank you for your support!

Elijah's Pantry Volunteers



Some Words from The Education Director

I am looking forward to Spring! We are around the corner from the most important Season on the Christian calendar-Easter! A special thank you to those that helped out so much during the month of February. The volunteers who set up, served and clean-up for the Transportation Luncheon. That was a delicious lunch and a good time to go over a few things with the families who use the van to get to church. We enjoyed the information that was provided for Black History month and President's Day. I hope everyone learned at least one new thing. Thank you to the actors who portrayed the disciples who were so excited about the Transfiguration! Thank you to all the new volunteers in the Silver Patrol for starting the monthly visitations for our shut-ins and nursing home residents. Thank you also to everyone who made cookies and the children and scouts who signed the cards. Thank you to the new volunteers who just started this term with our Wednesday Night Community Classes: Claudia Savage, Leah Blackmon and Holly Sheriff. Finally, thank you to everyone who helped the staff get the Ash Wednesday service and Lenten Season started this year. The Lent display in the Fellowship Hall will remain up until Easter.

Things to look forward to in the month of March:

Sunday, March 1st is the Sunday leading up to the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6. We will have a display and some materials on prayer available for you and your family.

Sunday, March 8th is Community Scout Sunday and we will be hosting Troop 2, Pack 2 and the Girls of Grace during our service. They will be taking a very active part in the service and you will not want to miss it. We will be presenting some awards this week as well from the United Methodist Church to our scout leaders and a church member.

You will also have to remember to change those clocks this week since Daylight Savings Time begins on the 8th!

Sunday, March 22 is UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday.

Wednesday, March 25th starts the Spring Term of the Wednesday Night Community classes. We will be adding another Adult Art class in addition to the Bible studies, CPR, Quilting, Gardening and Computer classes. Not sure if the Jewelry making lady is going to be back to using her hand yet or not. I will keep you posted on that news. If anyone else would like to teach a class, let me know. If you enjoy a particular hobby - I guarantee someone else will too! We have been asked about book clubs, scrapbooking, ASL, etc.

In addition, we would remind you that the entire month of March is a part of the Season of Lent. We have devotional books for Adults, Youth and Children to use during Lent. We also have offering boxes that you can use to collect an offering that will support our Outreach Ministries. The offering will be collected on Easter Sunday.

This month, the Silver Patrol will be visiting our shut-ins and nursing home residents and offering them communion. In conjunction with the World Day of Prayer, we will be bringing them prayer resources and insuring they all have prayer shawls and Bibles. If you have anyone who needs to be added to this list, please let me know.

Our new Sunday School class for young adults went together to the Toby Mac concert. They had such a great time! Thank you to Travis McDaniel who made that happen for them. The group is bonding and we would love to see their ranks grow. If you have a young adult in your family that has aged out of the Youth program, bring them up on Sunday morning and introduce them to Travis McDaniel the leader of the group.

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. Also if you are interested in brainstorming for ministry ideas to serve our military, first responders and college students, let me know. By the way, I found this on the internet. If you want to pay it forward and buy a cup of coffee for a military member who is deployed, then you can go to this site: cupofjoeforajoe.com. Let me know if it works!

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

Janet Boston

Education Director

(850)791-8223

jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Spring Term 2020 for the Community programs on Wednesday nights will begin on Wednesday Night, March 25th at 6:00 pm. In addition to the classes already on our roster, we will have another Adult Art class and possibly the Jewelry Making class (depending on the condition of her injured hand). We still haven't heard back from Learn-to-Read, so I will contact them again and see if they are still eager to participate in our programs.

I am always getting calls about ideas for classes such as book clubs, scrapbooking, Sign Language, exercise classes, etc. If you can lead a class or know someone who can lead a class, let me know. If you enjoy a hobby, chances are that someone else will too. The more the merrier! Our attendance grows steadily each year and that means we are reaching people in this community. Wednesday, February 12th, we reached an all-time high in our attendance since we started in 2016-120 people participated! In fact, even without the gardening class, we still had an all-time high in attendance for the Winter Term (80)! You guys are awesome!

If you can play an instrument such as the guitar, violin, piano, drums, etc., give me a call.

Janet Boston

Education Director

(850) 456-7463 X 5

jlbpensmgumc@gmail.co

Scout Department

We are proud to welcome our first female scouts to Troop 2. There are 6 girls now, with 2 more entering in this summer. It will be exciting to see some new Eagle Scouts come from this group.

As the Scout Coordinator, I was invited to speak to the Men's Club in February. I brought the Cub Master with me and we answered questions about scouting in general and our programs specifically. I spoke of the importance of a scouting program and surprised everyone with a list of famous scouts and Eagle scouts. The food was good and the company even better! Also in February, the Girls of Grace made homemade Valentine Day cards that we mailed to a 104 year old WWII vet that asked for Valentine Day cards to celebrate his birthday!

Sunday, March 8 is Community Scout Sunday and the scouts will play an important role in almost every aspect of the 10:00 am service. They will present a Flag ceremony, collect the offering, do the prayers and scripture readings and there may even be a song involved! We hope you will come and enjoy watching them at this service.

Starting on March 25th, the Spring Term of the Wednesday Night Community classes will start and we will be offering new classes in the "God & Country" series of Bible Studies for scouts.

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

Submitted by,

Janet Boston, Scout Coordinator



Be sure to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night, March 7th, before bed.

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

Death:

William Plag
Audra Wilson

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

Reminder from Hospitality

All March birthdays will be celebrated in fellowship hall on March 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.

March Prayer List

March 1-7

Anthony Bushey
Charles & Amy Bushey
James & Tina Bushey
Jim & Marge Byrd
Clark & Paddi Cain
Mary Callaway
Richard & Judy Cannon

March 8-14

Travis Carey
Connie Carreker
Mary Carrick
Jason Carson
William & Joan Carter
Debra Casalina
Benny Casalina, Jr.

March 15-21

Bob Chapman
Joyce Childers
Elaine Clark
John & Connie Clark
Sheldon & Christine Clary, Elie & Amelia
Steve & Lisa Clopton
Breanne Cockrell

March 22-28

Dustin Cockrell
Melody Colyer, Hannah & Gracelyn
Marjorie Conner
Deborah Cooper
Lavern Cooper
Marlene Cooper

March 29-31

Colin Cornell
Michael & Sarah Corsair
Richard & Heather Cotita
Thomas & Sharon Cotner
Eugene Coy
Beverly Cranston

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

Return Service Requested

March Birthdays

3 - Rose Blank	28 - Penny Walker
3 - Shep Jones	29 - Bill Ralli
4 - Kay Dickey	30 - Jim Reynolds
4 - Shelly Leger	30 - Tina Ayers
4 - Tabatha Miller	30 - Natalie Moulder
7 - Janie Brown	
9 - Grady Lea	
12 - Donna Greene	
13 - Steve Northup	
14 - Barbara Boyden	
15 - Patsy Dean	
18 - Sarah Prouty	
18 - Janet Black	
18 - Jimmie Macon	
21 - Michael Prouty, Jr.	
22 - Janet Boston	
23 - Russell Hubbard	
23 - Lynn Lanneau	
23 - Richard Wallace	
24 - Jean Rogers	
26 - Richard Cannon	
27 - Reggie & Rusty Miller	
28 - Nancy Bowman	