

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:

Isaac Richardson

Pianist: Volunteers

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

Office Manager:

Jim Reynolds

Notes from the Grove

A monthly publication for
Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church

Web:<https://www.atthegrove.church> **Email:**church.office@mgumc.org

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2024

Senior Pastor's Note

Christmas Greetings!

As the Christmas season approaches, it brings with it a time of reflection, joy, and profound gratitude. In this season of Advent, we are reminded of the greatest gift ever given – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy that comes from God.

I want to encourage you to remember those in other areas of the world, especially at this time as war continues. I'm reminded once again of the fact that the only time there will ever be peace fully and completely on this earth is when the Prince of Peace is ruling and reigning!

This past year has been one of both challenges and blessings. We have seen times of hardship, but also moments of great community spirit and togetherness. Your faith, resilience, and compassion have been a source of inspiration to me and to others in our church family.

As we gather with friends and family this Christmas, let us remember those who are less fortunate and those who are alone during this season. Let's extend our hands in love and service, embodying the spirit of Christ who came not to be served, but to serve.

This Christmas, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the blessings in your lives and the grace that God has bestowed upon us. Let us also look forward to the coming year with hope and faith, trusting that God will continue to guide and protect us.

May your Christmas be filled with the joy and peace that comes from knowing and loving God. And may the coming year bring you and your loved ones happiness, health, and abundant blessings.

Join us for Christmas Services this month!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Riley

December Birthdays

7 - Frank Benson
7 - Mary Carrick
10 - Lee Bateman
12 - Ardis Riddell
15 - Beth Herndon
16 - Carol Laguens
18 - Bubba Gordon
18 - Tom McLeod
22 - Shirley Towne
23 - Anna Van Buuren
24 - Karl Snyder
25 - Tom Danks
27 - Kris Verwey
28 - Sarah Matthews
29 - James Rueff
29 - Judy Barbour
30 - Brenda McHatton
30 - Katie Hewett

Our Vision Statement:

“Every member a good neighbor.”

Our Purpose Statement:

“Our Journey - Knowing, Loving, Serving, Sharing.”

Some Words from the Education Director

Mark your Calendars:

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday in Advent
 Communion Sunday
 Blood Mobile
 1:00 pm Handbell Choir
 4:00 pm Prayer Team

Monday, December 2 5:00 pm TOPS
 6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, December 4 12pm/ noon Fish Fry for Myrtle Grove Methodist Church Members

Thursday, December 5 9:00 am Breakfast Club TBA
 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/small group
 6:00 pm Child/Youth Depts. Sunday School planning

Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday in Advent
 Children/Youth/Handbell Christmas program
 4:00 pm Prayer team

Monday, December 9 5:00 pm TOPS
 6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, December 11 10:30 am Young at Heart

Thursday, December 12 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/Small Group

Friday, December 13 6:00 pm Education Department Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday in Advent
 Chancel Choir Christmas program
 1:00 pm Handbell Choir
 4:00 pm Prayer Team

Monday, December 16 5:00 pm TOPS
 6:00 pm Scout Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 17 Widow's Walk Bellingrath Gardens (details TBA)

Thursday, December 19 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/Small Group
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch TBA

Friday, December 20 School's Out (1/2 day)
 6:00 pm Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 21 9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

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

New Member:
Virginia Blackshear (Pf)
 17 Nottingham Way
 Pensacola, FL 32506

Death:
Patsy Dean
 Wyndolyn Janet Black

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.

December Prayer List

December 1-7

Kay Dickey
 Aniya Didley
 Nora DuBois
 Bill & Maureen Dunbar
 Shirley Dunn
 Marcus English
 Ola Farrington

December 8-14

Janet Faxon
 James & Suzanne Ferguson
 Chad Few
 Connie Few
 Devon & Chasity Few, Adalyn, Breylyn,
 Brenden
 Dee Flues
 Dorothy Ford

December 15-21

Bruce Fortner
 Marianne Fuller
 Kay Gamble
 Patricia Gamwell
 George & Sally Garner
 Larry & Theresa Gillespie, Lacey
 Thomas & Rachel Goodloe

December 22-28

Bubba & Susanna Gordon
 Elrena Greeney
 Chris Harris & Heather Johnson, John, Chris Jr.,
 Ashleigh, Haleigh, Aleigh, Chance
 Paul & Barbara Henderson
 Beth Herndon

December 29-31

Katie Hewett, James, Nathan
 Sharon Hogan
 Tracey Holliday
 Khloe Howard
 Ronnie Marie Ingram
 Cheryl Johnson

Sunday Activities

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

**Worship
 Service
 Opportunities**

Wednesday Activities

1:00pm Daytime Classes
 6:00pm Evening Classes
 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Sisters in Service

The Sisters in Service mission circle wishes to thank our church family for once again supporting our work with the homeless and needy in the Pensacola community. Because of your generosity in purchasing fundraiser coupon books and donating new underwear on Undy Sunday, we were able to take much needed supplies to the Washburn Center for the Homeless in November. Many of you cleaned out closets so that we had a great selection of gently used cold weather clothing to offer along with the new underwear which was much appreciated. We used the funds from selling coupon books to purchase toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, deodorant, rolls of toilet paper, etc.) as well as giving the Center batteries and laundry detergent to go along with the gently used towels and washcloths that many of you brought to us. Since most hotels have discontinued the individual shampoos, conditioners, and body washes that we used to pass out, the Center has upgraded their showers with those items available in dispensers on the wall of the showers as well. We are using our funds to donate to the refills needed and are helping with the food items offered in their snack bar on a daily basis.

Originally, our group also provided a hot meal of homemade chili along with 150 lunch bags containing snacks and drinks. It is sad to say that the number of homeless people visiting the Washburn Center has really increased to the point that we ran out of chili before feeding everyone last year even with our SIS Ladies making double batches. So this year, we have joined Holy Spirit Catholic Church when they are serving lunch on the 3rd Saturday of each month. In 2024, we distributed our summer clothing and other supplies once in the spring and then shared our cold weather options once in the fall. We plan to continue this arrangement in 2025. Having a spring and fall coupon book sale provides the funding for each of these visits. We also add bug spray and sunscreen to our spring visits, and try to have gloves, hats, and blankets if possible in the fall.

The SIS circle also supports other charities in the community. We make donations to Safe Harbor for unwed mothers, to the HER Foundation for homeless women veterans, and to Bright Bridge Ministries that house and feed homeless folks in Brownsville (at the former Richard's Memorial UMC). We provide meals to the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House a few times each year and donate to our own Lilibeth Zimmerman for her Jesus Christ Love and Care Ministry in the Philippines.

Sisters in Service is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary in January 2025. We are so grateful to all the ladies who have worked as part of our group. MGUMC is a mission minded church as evidenced by our Elijah's Pantry that offers groceries weekly, our United Methodist Men who serve others in the Pensacola community, and the other Ladies' Circles that are part of the Wesleyan Women at Myrtle Grove, each that have their own charities to help. But none of us could serve as the hands and feet of Jesus without the faithful support and encouragement from Pastor Riley and our generous church family. If any of you are looking for a way to follow Christ's command to "Love your neighbor", please look into joining one of these groups in the new year! We promise you will be blessed while blessing others! May you and your family have a safe and joyful Christmas season!

Church Library

We are fortunate to have a library available to offer a variety of selections for the enjoyment of our church family. The shelves around the windows contain a wonderful assortment of fiction books by some of the best Christian authors. They are in alphabetical order by the author's last name or are grouped as a series from publishers like Guideposts. If we have a lot of fiction titles by one author, they are on a shelf with a card labeling the author.

The back wall has many Bible studies plus Bibles, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and even a couple of atlases. On back shelves and those to the right as you enter the library, we have non-fiction books on many different subjects. These are shelved using the Dewey Decimal System. The card catalog drawers are on top of file cabinet immediately to the right as you enter the library and are organized by title and author. There are also specialty shelves on the right: one containing grief books; one with Christmas titles that you might enjoy this month; and a small selection of books in large print.

We are constantly receiving donations of additional books from church members who are cleaning out their shelves at home. If we do not have room for all these donations, they are titles not compatible with a church library, or they are duplicates of books already on the shelf, we take them to the Teen Challenge thrift store or place them on the "free to a good home" table outside the church kitchen. At the moment, our librarian is quite far behind in sorting and shelving recent donations to the library, but she hopes to do better by catching up in the new year. Thank you for your patience. HAPPY READING!!

Some Words from the Education Director - Continued from Page 2

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

1:00 pm Handbell Choir

4:00 pm Prayer Team

Monday, December 23-January 7 Christmas Break

No School and no Scouts

Tuesday, December 24 10:00 am Christmas Eve Service & Brunch

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day!

Sunday, December 29 1:00 pm Handbell Choir

4:00 pm Prayer Team

If a child or youth in your family needs assistance with Christmas, please contact me and I will place them on the **Angel Tree**. I will need sizes and toy/gift suggestions.

Please check out the Advent Table to get a **devotional guide for this Advent Season**. There is a guide for every family member and even guides for the family together.

The next Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, December 21 at 9 am. Bring breakfast food to share. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact me for more information. 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.

We are still building a group of volunteers in our church who are willing to help **clean Sunday School rooms** once a week and help **wipe down tables in the Fellowship Hall**. I would like to know who would like to participate in a **phone ministry**? We would like to call our Silver Patrol list at least once a month and perhaps others who may need a loving touch from their church family. Also, if anyone would like to be a part of a **hospital visitation team**. We have a few volunteers already-is God asking you to help? Let me know.

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 interests 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

[Facebook Messenger as well](#)

Children's Department

Mark your Calendars:

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday

Monday, December 2 6:30 pm Troop 2 &
Pack 2 meet

Thursday, December 5 6:00 pm Child/Youth
Depts. Sunday School planning

Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday in
Advent

Children/Youth/Handbell Christmas program

Monday, December 9 6:30 pm Scouts Troop
2 & Pack 2 meet

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday in
Advent

Chancel Choir Christmas program

Monday, December 16 6:00 pm Scout
Christmas Party

Friday, December 20 School's Out (1/2 day)
6:00 pm Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of
Advent

Monday, December 23-January 7 Christmas
Break - No School and no Scouts

Tuesday, December 24 5:00 pm Christmas
Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day!

If your child or grandchild needs to be placed on the **Angel Tree** this year, please let me know. It will include a toy and an outfit. Please check out the Advent Table to get a **devotional guide for this Advent Season**. There is a guide for every family member and even guides for the family together.

If you are at least a third grader this year, we can place you on a waiting list to be an **acolyte**. When anyone retires off the list, then you will fill that spot. Let Miss Janet know if you wish to be on the waiting list. You have to have your parent's permission to participate. You have to be patient!

If you are a **Grandparent** raising (in full or part time status) your **grandchildren**, let Janet know. We have been asked to start a support group for those of us in this situation. Don't know what that may look like, but I do need to know who is interested in participating.

Please watch the weekly bulletins for any other upcoming dates and events.

Janet Boston (850) 456-7463 x5

jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

[Facebook Messenger Janet](#)

Church Forms

The church office has the following forms that **must be completed/submitted** for various requests. This will be the official request and placed on the church calendar. Please **do not request** these items **verbally** to staff members.

These forms are available from the church office in 2 formats: PDF (computer fillable) and printed. The printed version may be available outside of the church office. If you are unable to locate a form please contact the church.

Activity / Events – to reserve church spaces for an activity/event. Submit to Cheryl Johnson/Church Secretary

Equipment Checkout – for borrowing equipment/tables/chairs from the church. Submit to Cheryl Johnson/Church Secretary.

Budget/Check Requests - for reimbursement for pre-approved purchases. Submit to Jim Reynolds/Office Manager

From Elijah's Pantry

A huge thank you goes out to our church family! Elijah's Pantry was able to give 86 families Thanksgiving extras. That is a total of 301 people who benefited by your generosity on Harvest Sunday. We even have a few things left to add to December bags! Again, we thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Blessings to you all!

Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve: Office Closed

10:00a.m. Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service

5:00p.m. Christmas Eve Evening Worship

Christmas Day: Office Closed

New Year's Eve: Office Closed

New Year's Day: Office Closed

The staff of Myrtle Grove Methodist wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season!