

**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
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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: 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 22 Issue 2

February 2025

Senior Pastor's Note

Greetings in Christ!

Isn't God good? While we live in challenging times, we must also remember that God is not bound by times or seasons and He is STILL a good God!

Praise is something that we ALL can do and shouldn't be held back just because we aren't on the "victory side" of things yet.

Often our problem as human beings is that we ONLY praise when we see the answer, but quite often in the Bible, we see how Praise should go first!

2 Chronicles 20:21-23 (NKJV) 21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." 22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

Clearly in this portion of scripture, the army was poised and ready, but Jehoshaphat said, "hold on" because there's something far more critical than swords and spears, horses and chariots, and it's called Praise!

I would encourage you to stop waiting until every prayer is answered the way you feel it should be and begin to walk and praise God in ADVANCE of the answer! Pray and Praise in Faith!

The Bible lets us know that without Faith it is impossible to please God!

When I hear of Faith, it is not something that follows an answer to a battle; it's something that precedes an answer to a battle or crisis!

I believe there is power in saying, "God, I may not understand it all, but we know you're going to move in America one more time!" You're going to move in the church one more time! You're going to move in my family one more time!

The God who did it before can do it again! We praise you in advance in Faith and not just after because comfort has been restored to our lives.

I pray you will be encouraged today and you will also be an encouragement to others around you!

Blessings in Christ!
Pastor Riley

February Birthdays

2 - Sue Booth
5 - Barbara Henderson
12 - Mike McHatton
14 - Thomas Cacciatore

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, February 2 Communion Sunday
 11:30 am Handbell Choir
 4:00 pm Prayer Team

Monday, February 3 5:00 pm TOPS
 6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, February 5 1:00 pm Wednesday Daytime Classes
 5:00 pm Dinner
 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Classes

Thursday, February 6 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/Small Group

Sunday, February 9 11:30 am Handbell Choir
 4:00 pm Prayer Team

Monday, February 10 10:00 am Prayer Shawl ministry
 5:00 pm TOPS
 6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, February 12 1:00 pm Wednesday Daytime Classes
 5:00 pm Dinner
 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Classes

Thursday, February 13 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/Small Group
 6:00 pm Men's Club (location TBA)
 Newsletter due

Saturday, February 15 9:00 am Ladies' Prayer Breakfast
 5:00 pm Dinner
 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Classes
 6:30 pm Scouts

Sunday, February 16 Valentine's Sunday
 President's Sunday
 11:30 am Handbell Choir
 4:00 pm Prayer Team

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

Deaths:
 Bill McDurmont
 Shirley Towne
 Shirley Dunn

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.

February Prayer List

February 1

Shirley Perkins
 Bill & Kathy Ralli
 Jim & Machelie Reynolds
 Emma Richardson
 Isaac & Lyxy Richardson, Cohen
 Riley & Angie Richardson
 Ardis Riddell

February 2-8

Joseph & Kimberly Robinson
 Brenda Rogers
 Bud & Jean Rogers
 Robert Rogers
 Sheila Romaine
 Chip Rosenblatt
 Jeffery & Tiffanie Rowell

February 9-15

James Rueff, Jr.
 Lavanda Russell
 Kevin & Linda Saighman
 Claudia Savage
 William & Ellen Scott
 Mark & Sherry Silva
 Clyde Smack

February 16-22

Ron & Cindy Small
 Bonnie Smith
 Karl & Kathy Snyder
 Joe & Melissa Stevenson, Landon, Lida
 Susie Stevenson
 Harry & Linda Stump

February 23-28

Lou Sturm
 Ruth Sumpter
 Bruce & Linda Swanson
 Alisa Templeman
 Joyce Thiam
 Nancy & Randy Thurston

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

Mothers Morning Out

We are thrilled to announce that our Mother's Morning Out program is flourishing with 23 wonderful students currently enrolled! This program has been a huge blessing to many families throughout the years, providing fantastic opportunities for both children and parents.

We are also pleased to share that we recently had our yearly inspection by our accreditation agency, and did exceptionally well!

We are eagerly looking forward to expanding our preschool family and welcoming new faces in the fall. Registration for the upcoming fall session will commence in March, so be sure to mark your calendars. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our program.



Some Words from the Education Director - Continued from Page 2

Monday, February 17 5:00 pm TOPS

No Scouts

Wednesday, February 19 1:00 pm Wednesday Daytime Classes

5:00 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Night Classes/Choir/Youth

Thursday, February 20 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/Small Group

10:00 am Arbeiter/Joy Circle Meet

Sunday, February 23 11:30 am Handbell Choir

4:00 pm Prayer Team

Monday, February 24 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

5:00 pm TOPS

6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, February 26 1:00 pm Wednesday Daytime Classes

5:00 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Night Classes/Choir/Youth

Thursday, February 27 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study/Small Group

11:00 am Senior Activity TBA

6:00 pm Sisters in Service

We will have one designated day of the month for a **"Senior's Activity"**, the fourth Thursday at 11:00 am, every month. What we do on that day will change each month in a cyclical fashion. Once a quarter will have "Lunch Bunch", once a quarter we will have "Young at Heart" and once a quarter we will have "Games & Puzzles". I will send out reminders and you only have to remember one day and time: fourth Thursday at 11:00 am! **February will be Lunch Bunch!** Watch the upcoming bulletins for location!

The next Ladies' Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, February 15 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.

My new cell number is: (850) 384-6963

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](#)

Dear Church Family,

Over the past months, Pastor Riley has requested each of us to give our best offering. Like any household, our church faces the same issues as yours but on a larger scale. There's a continuous need for funds for repair, replacement, and updating. However, our first priority is to gather and worship God in the manner we have chosen, help our community, and spread the Gospel as Jesus has taught us. We must balance these priorities with keeping the doors of the church open.

The following information is last year's operating revenues, income/expense results for 2024:

Income	\$412,440
Expenses	<u>\$436,669</u>
Total	-\$24,229

As money is received, it is divided into two accounts. One is the general or operational account (think bills, staff salaries, loan payments), and the other is the designated account, which members have requested their tithes to support. Expenditures from the **designated** account can only go toward the specific item as requested by the giver. The **operation** account funds are limited to contributions that are not specified. We are financially healthy with designated giving; however, as you can see, the operation account is needy. There are numerous reasons for this, but the deficit is mainly a result of decreased tithes.

The Financial Committee has taken steps to improve the situation in 2025. The Committee reconstructed the budget to better align with projected income, coordinated with all church departments to improve expenditures, supported an office manager position, established an emergency fund to help meet unexpected expenses and set new policies to ensure incomes are aligned with costs.

If you have any questions, text me a message and your phone number to 850-449-2322 and I'll call you. Thanks.

Kevin Saighman
Financial Committee Chairman

A Season of Renewal and Community

Welcome to a New Year at Myrtle Grove Methodist Church.

As we step into this fresh season, we are excited to reflect on the blessings of the past year and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. This month, we are focusing on themes of renewal, community, and deepening our faith together.

This year before I made any judgments about 2024, I took my own advice to heart and renewed a practice I began at the beginning of the year of looking back over journal entries and Facebook posts and photos taken. As of this writing, I've only gotten to June, but I suspect I have warmer feelings about 2024 than a lot of folks who are glad to see it end because they only remember the bad of it. I grew just a little bit, and Kristen and I celebrated our ten-year wedding anniversary. I found a new preacher whose sermons I liked hearing.

And I suspect you had some growth too. I hope some of it was inspired by one or another of Pastor Riley's sermons, but I know God is responsible for the growth in our hearts, so I'll be glad to hear about growth, however God did it in you. You learned things, and hopefully found ways to be kinder to yourself and others, too.

At the same time, last year was a very difficult year filled with hardship and challenge and loss that we never want to experience again, and I don't want to discount that. We lost beloved church members and friends we cared about. And alongside that hurt, there was also the good and beauty I talked about earlier.

I hope you can look back on your life in the year that was not only with a sense of "good riddance," but also with kindness and gratitude for all the good God has given you, and with gratitude for God bringing you through all its challenges.

With blessings on your memory of the year that was and on your living of this new one.

Pastor Lee

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Wesleyan Women

The Wesleyan Women are meeting in the chapel on February 4th, at 10:00a.m. Come join us as we allocate our funds for missions for the year! Lunch will be provided by the Sisters in Service Circle. All ladies are welcome.