



**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

**Church Secy./Receptionist:**

Cheryl Johnson

**Finance Secretary:**

Connie Boyd

**Pianist:**

Patsy Dean

**Choir Director:**

Jamie Broxson

**Membership Secretary:**

Vernon Ard

**Nursery/Children's Director:**

Amy Lee

**Librarians:**

Lou Hulien Brown

Carol Laguens

**Youth Director:**

Isaac Richardson

# Notes from the Grove

**A monthly publication for  
Myrtle Grove United Methodist Church**

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

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## *Senior Pastor's Note*

Do you remember what it used to be like to drive a car before power steering? Before automatic transmission, air conditioning, or even seat belts? Before seat belts, parents could pack eight kids into a family car, ages one week to 18 years, with no restraining thoughts or devices. Automobile safety is much more regulated than it used to be.

Before all these mechanical safety devices, however, some of us no doubt grew up with a different kind of child-restraint system. Judith Viorst reminded me of this when she wrote: "Last year I received a Mother's Day card that pictured a mother driving a car, her son in the passenger seat and her outstretched arm protectively flung across his chest. I've heard a great deal from my sons about my overprotective tendencies, but I think that this card's message said it best. The message said, "To Mom, the original seat belt.' "

A mom's protective reach has always been the saving seat belt for her family. But this seat belt takes different forms in different families.

\* For some, mom offered the seat belt of continuous presence.

\* At the door when they trudged off to school.

\* Welcoming them back when they flew in the door.

\* Putting every meal on the table.

\* Shouting encouragement at every game.

\* Working hard at her job, church, and home.

For some, mom offered a seat belt of gentleness, tenderness, love, and forgiveness. Whether your mom was a "rock of Gibraltar"-type, or a "Balm in Gilead"-type, she helped create who you are and how you respond to the world. My wife Angie said, "growing up with my preacher-mom, I got "momilies" as well as homilies." But as author Hester Mundis noted, "There's no such thing as a non-working mother." As Michelangelo's Pieta illustrates with such heart-breaking poignancy, even Jesus ended where he began: in the arms of his mother.

Have you heard this story from Victor Hugo's novel, "Ninety-Three"? After the French Revolution, just living and finding food was difficult. Not a garden had been left growing. A French Captain and a private walked across the fields, noting the devastation. When they saw something move behind a bush, the private poked his bayonet into a bush and out scrambled a woman with two children. All three of them were starving for food. The captain took a loaf of bread from his knapsack and handed it to the mother. She grasped it, broke it into two pieces, and handed one piece to each child. The private watched and then said to his officer, "Sir, it must be that the woman is not hungry." The captain replied, "No, soldier, it is because she is a mother."

I hope you all have a wonderful Mother's Day this May 12<sup>th</sup>!

**Our Vision Statement:**

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

***Our Purpose Statement:***

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

## United Methodist Women

MGUMC-UMW continues to be active in the Pensacola District and the Alabama/West Florida Conference. We are all looking forward to the Mission u session at St. Luke's UMC on Nine Mile Road. It is so close and each session is a wonderful experience. Hope you will join all of us July 19 & 20. The registration form is on the UMW Conference website.

Frolic is the next big event at MGUMC. Guild Circle members along with Isaac need all the help you can give and items you can donate to make it a success. The committee is small but very active and although this event does not happen without all the members of the church (especially the UMW) pulling it together, we want our youth to have a great Christian summer and grow in our church.

May 11th is a busy day. First, the Pensacola District will hold a Mission Study at Gadsden Street UMC with registration beginning at 8:30a.m. Plan to attend. There will be a great bunch and our speaker is outstanding! Then after Mission Study is over, we head back to MGUMC for the Annual Ladies Tea. Miriam and her helpers have planned special entertainment for us and it should be a lovely affair. Please plan on attending. Ladies of all ages are welcome!

Each of the circles are doing their individual projects and working to gather money to give away to missions. Sisters in Service still have coupon books, Arbeiter had Rada knives and goodies, Joy/Nadine is cooking for the UMM, and Guild is crafting like crazy -lots of new items for Frolic.

Anytime you want to join one of the groups, let us know. We would love to have you join us.

For those of you that work or have daytime obligations, May is the perfect month for you to come visit us. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall Tuesday, May 7th, at 7:00p.m. Yes, a night meeting! Come join us and check us out!

Paddi Cain,  
Communication Coordinator

### Sunday Activities

Traditional Worship 8:30 am  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Youth Encounter 9:45 am  
Contemporary Worship 11:00 am  
Prayer Team 4:30 pm

## Worship Service Opportunities

### Wednesday Activities

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

## Sisters in Service

It has certainly been a busy spring for the Sisters in Service Mission Circle. We want to thank our church family for all the ways they have supported our ministry events these past two months:

1. For all those who have purchased coupon books which allows us to keep 50% as profit from each book sold.
2. To those who did spring cleaning of their closets to provide us with clothing, towels, and toiletries to pass out to the homeless at the Washburn Center.
3. For some generous monetary contributions that were made so that we could shop for new underwear to pass out at the Washburn Center.
4. To everyone from MGUMC who attended the angler Night event at the Fairgrounds. You helped Mission Fishin' with their biggest fundraiser of the year. They will in turn use the money raise to support the Re-Imagine Events for the needy in our community and will seek a home/family in November who is in need of renovations or ramps to accommodate a child in a wheelchair.

So, you see that your generosity has helped us to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to those less fortunate than ourselves. Looking ahead, we have a Re-Imagine event in Beulah this month, another trip to the Washburn Center in June, and preparation of a meal for the residents at the Ronald McDonald House in July. We are delivering baby items to Safe Harbor for unwed mothers and birthday boxes to the Gulf Coast Kids House. We are thankful to our MGUMC family and our own unit of the United Methodist Women for all the ways they make our service to others possible.

Ladies, we welcome anyone interested in being part of our Circle to join us by contacting Wanda Rankin @ 501-4038 or Carol Laguens @ 456-5611 for meeting information. May God bless you and your families in the months to come!

Submitted by,  
Carol Laguens

## All Children's Ministry

I can't believe that the summer is almost here! Time for graduations, Memorial Day and fun! I pray that you have wonderful adventures and make happy memories this summer.

We are in critical need of Sunday volunteers for Children's classes/activities. I would love to speak with you about these wonderful service opportunities. Please be in prayer for our Children's Ministry. Our church and children need you!

Our Sunday school classes will celebrate Heritage Day on May 19th with a visit from the circuit rider and his horse during the Sunday school hour. The children love this annual event when they learn about our circuit rider heritage and take a ride on "Sunshine".

This month the Children's Sunday school classes will be discussing the theme of "Family Friends". The Bible verse is from Proverbs 17:17—"Friends love all the time, and kinsfolk are born for times of trouble." They will learn the stories of Best Friends, Courageous Friends, The Four Friends, and Prayerful Friends.

Our MMO (Mothers Morning Out) Program still has a few spots available for the 2019-2020 school year. Please contact Amy Lee, the church office, or our website for more information.

Thanks you and God Bless!  
Amy Lee a\_lee@mgumc.org

## Ladies Spring Tea

Saturday, May 11, 2019

2:00PM - 4:00PM

MGUMC Fellowship Hall

### Entertainment:

Danielle Sims

She sings, plays the keyboard and violin.

**Tickets:** \$5 each

Children under five are free.



May is here and school is almost over! As we reflect on April, I would like to thank everyone for their participation in Frolic at the Grove. Being our largest fundraiser for the youth, it is always amazing to see the outpouring of support for the youth ministry. With the money, we will move into an eventful summer.

This summer, the youth's large camp will be Revive. I will be taking the youth to Blue Lake for a week of fellowship and growth. As well, the youth will be able to enjoy many fun events!

Continue to pray for these youth as they end school and move into the summer.

God Bless,  
Isaac

## Church Library

Our church library is open on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. At least 100 titles have been added to our library shelves in the past six months. We have books on classic sermons, devotionals, Bible studies, great fiction authors, a Guidepost's mystery series, and selections on grief donated by those who have walked this path themselves. Just inside the library on the right side is a shelf of books that are free to a good home since they are duplicates of copies already in the library or ones that have not been checked out in many years. Come on in and find yourself something interesting to read. We hope you can expand your mind and draw closer to the Lord through various editions you will find here. Thank you to all who have donated appropriate books for others to enjoy!

Submitted by,  
Louise Brown, Librarian

## Annual Conference for Myrtle Grove UMC

Church Family,

Our UMC Annual Conference in June will again be accepting donations of items for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). For the last several years, we have asked you to pack school kits for us to carry to the conference. Here are the items needed:

### UMCOR SCHOOL KITS – FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In some countries, children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources.

#### School Kit Materials

- One pair blunt scissors    \*Round tip only    \* No plastic scissors
- One box of 24 crayons    \*Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- Three one-subject notebooks    \*No marble composition books    \*No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- One pack of loose-leaf paper    \*100-200 page packets are acceptable    \*Wide or college rule accepted
- One hand-held pencil sharpener    \*1-inch or longer    \*Remove from packaging
- One ruler    \*12 inches or 30 centimeters long    \*Sturdy or flexible material accepted
- Six unsharpened pencils
- One eraser    \*Two inches or larger
- One two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag

Assembly Directions:    \*Stack all paper items on top of each other    \*Place all loose items on top of paper. (Small loose items may be placed in a smaller re-sealable bag.)    \*Place kit inside of re-sealable bag and seal.

Important Notes    \*Homemade or purchased cloth tote bags are no longer being accepted.    \*All items must be new.    \*Please do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.    \**Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.*

Should you desire to help without completing a full school kit, our Pensacola District is being asked to send just the Erasers (2" or larger) and/or you may donate combs for the Hygiene Kits (sturdy comb with at least 6" of teeth, no pocket combs or picks; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable).

All items should be turned in at church no later than May 29 for us to carry to Annual Conference on June 2-5, 2019.

Thanks for your help.

Submitted by,

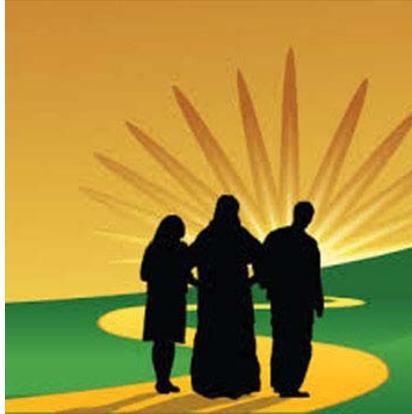
Beth Herndon

Note: Zip lock bags will be supplied and can be picked up at church in early May to be filled and returned.

## Emmaus Cluster

Emmaus Cluster is on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Bellview UMC at 6:30p.m. Bring a dish to share! The next meeting will be May 14th. Facebook page is Myrtle Grove Emmaus.

Submitted by,  
Debbie Casalina



## Thought for the Month

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” - which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:1-3 NIV



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

### Deaths:

Bud Roblyer  
Mary Wellborn  
Jennie Presley  
Lee Drake



### Reminder from Hospitality

**All May birthdays will be celebrated in fellowship hall on May 5th after the 8:30 service.**



### May Prayer List

#### May 1-4

Bill & Dora McDurmont  
Brian & Dawn McElroy  
Glen McHatton  
Mike & Brenda McHatton  
Cory Melvin  
Shirley Melvin  
Enid Merritt

#### May 19-25

Steve & Patty Northup  
Brandon Nowling  
Harold & Erika Nowling, Justin  
Pat Orr  
Norma Owen  
Darlene Palmer

#### May 5-11

Paul Mickelson  
Dale Miller  
David & Tina Miller  
Mike & Megan Miller, Sadie  
RC & Teresa Miller, Reggie, Rusty,  
Tabatha  
Charles Mills  
Helen Mims

#### May 12-18

Karin Morrow  
Aaron & Beth Moulder, Natalie  
Christa Murphy  
Donald & Jennifer Nesmith  
Kyle Nicholson  
Linda Nielsen  
Max & Nancy Norman

#### May 26-31

Bill & Liz Parker  
Ron & Connie Parks  
Yvonne Parsons  
John & Susan Payne  
Louise Perkins  
Lorelei Peterson

## *May Birthdays*

- 1 - Don Birtsch
- 2 - Vince Leger'
- 5 - Bob Irvin
- 7 - Ron Small
- 7 - Megan Worth
- 10 - Kevin Saighman
- 14 - Judy Cannon
- 15 - Yvonne Parsons
- 16 - Amy Bushey
- 22 - Beverly Cranston
- 22 - Julie Bender
- 22 - Renee Hedden
- 24 - Miriam Storey
- 26 - Teresa Lee
- 31 - Lou Irvin