



**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

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.mgumc.org>

Email: church.office@mgumc.org

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Senior Pastor's Note

Back To Church Sunday – September 22, 2019

Imagine with me for a moment – could this ever happen? It's your spouse or child's birthday and you want to plan a party for family, friends, and neighbors. This party is going to be a big event so you get extra tables and chairs from the church. You make sure the decorations, food, ice cream and cake is purchased. The big day has come! You start grilling early so the hamburgers and hot dogs will be ready when your guests arrive. Funny thing happens, no one shows up to your party! Well, the reason is really simple when you think about it. Nobody was invited! You did not send out invitations, announcements or make phone call invitations. Sounds crazy doesn't it? Could this ever happen? I don't think so.

Imagine with me again! It's Sunday morning. The church doors are open. Need I continue? I think you get the point! Did you know that 87% of the people who do not attend church stated that they would visit a church if someone would only ask? How often are you inviting people in your community to church? For those you do invite, do you follow up with them on a regular basis to continue to invite them back? I think that is what it means to be a "good neighbor." Don't you? The Bible tells us to "love our neighbor as ourselves."

You can express God's love to one of your unchurched friends by inviting him or her this September 22nd to our "Back to Church Sunday!" Hopefully, you already know who you will bring and you have already asked God to speak to their heart. The gift of love you give may make a lifetime of difference to your friend. Continue praying for our "Back to Church Sunday." Pray that God will speak to your friend's heart. You may help your friend make the most important decision of their life.

Back To Church Sunday – September 22.

Church picnic in fellowship hall following the worship service.

Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a dish that will go along with hotdogs and hamburgers. Also, see Kris Verwey when you are at church to purchase a \$1.00 ticket so we can get a head count of who will be attending the picnic. Kris will start to sell tickets on Sunday, September 8th. Make sure that you purchase extra tickets for the friends that you will invite!

"A friend loves at all times..." Proverbs 17:17

Our Vision Statement:

"Every member a good neighbor."

Our Purpose Statement:

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

United Methodist Women

MGUMC-UMW will be meeting for the first time since the summer break on Tuesday, September 3rd, at 10:00a.m. All Circles should have representatives in attendance. We would love to have guests; so if you are not in a Circle - Arbeiter, Joy/Nadine, Guild, or SIS, please come and visit. We will have a light lunch after the meeting.

The next big event for our Unit will be the UMW Flea Market/Bazaar along with the UMM Fish Fry on October 5th. All Circles will be working hard to earn money for missions that we will support in January 2020. We will be accepting yard sale items from September 26th through October 4th. If you would like to be a vendor, please check the website or church office for the form.

UMW Pensacola District recently attended a mission study at the Community Life UMC and although the attendance was surprisingly low, the brunch was excellent and the program - "Our Money, What About It?" was well received. The next Pensacola District event will be Spiritual Day Apart at Gulf Breeze UMC October 26th with registration beginning at 8:30am.

The next Alabama-West Florida UMW Conference event will be Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake October 11-13. You can find information and registration forms on the conference website.

Love to see you at the meeting and again at the Yard Sale/Fish Fry.

Paddi Cain,
Communication Coordinator

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Sisters in Service

This is a group of mission-minded ladies who help to provide for the needs in our community. We collect clothing, toiletries, ground tarps, bug spray, sunscreen, towels, and detergent for the homeless at the Washburn Center. We also prepare a hot meal and bring snacks and water for them to enjoy. We collect baby items for the mothers at Safe Harbor. We work with a group called Mission Fishin' at various community events called Reimagine Pensacola. We make birthday boxes for the Gulf Coast Kids House and assist at Ronald McDonald House. We collect clothing for the women veterans at the HER Foundation.

Our group meets in the church fellowship hall on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6p.m. The ladies take turns preparing a light meal for us to share after we have a devotion on a famous woman from the Bible, tell praises and prayer requests, and plan for our various activities. Our major events take place on Saturdays to accommodate those in our group who have full time jobs.

To support our mission work, we hold a fundraiser meal once a year, sell coupon books twice a year for various restaurant discounts (these go on sale very soon), and have a table at the Frolic and UMW Yard Sale. If you have any questions about becoming a SIS, come visit at one of our meetings or contact Wanda Rankin at 501-4038 or Carol Laguens at 456-5611. We would love to have you join us in being the hands and feet of Jesus to those less fortunate. God bless you!

P.S. If anyone in our church family plans to do some fall cleaning of their closets, we would gratefully accept the clothing items you would like to give away for our next visit to the Washburn Center coming up soon. We have a basket next to the piano in the fellowship hall. Thanks so much!

Submitted by,
Carol Laguens

Sunday Activities

Sunday School 8:30 am

Worship 10:00 am

Prayer Team 4:30 pm

Wednesday Activities

Youth Elevate - 5:00pm

Small Groups - 6:00pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 7:15pm

Worship
Service
Opportunities

Guild Circle News

Guild Circle has been active all summer. We had a pool party with a very special cook and everyone but the hostess was there! We continued to give items to the Milton Methodist Girls home and visited with the staff and girls. We continue to craft and to sell items at craft fairs. We attended several District and Conference events and learned many new things.

One of the things we learned: Many of us stray some of the time but we do our best to keep the Ten Commandments or do we? In Methodism, an important aspect of the pursuit of sanctification is the careful following of the Ten Commandments. So eight out of ten not bad; however, you would think we could manage just 10 without a problem. Can you honestly say you keep the Sabbath holy or have no other gods before God? Do you spend your Sundays in worship or just resting or do you head off shopping and doing weekly chores? Do you tithe? What a can of worms that can open. So many of us are caught in the "work-more-spend-more" trap; working hard, being tired, spending more on meals out or conveniences to save us time, spending more on entertainment because we need to distract ourselves from how stressed we are and then having to work more to pay for that life, being tired, spending more-chasing the money idol. We aren't valued by how much we earn and do; we aren't even valued by how good we are. Everything is a gift, given in grace, and both the gift and grace are utterly sufficient to meet everyone's needs. A lesson learned this summer.

Guild will be selling our famous Pot Roast Dinner on September 8th immediately after Sunday School and after the worship service. We are asking donations and hope that you will consider starting your donations at \$8.00 per dinner. We will be serving pot roast with carrots, potatoes, and gravy along with a salad, roll, and dessert. You may eat in or carry out. If you choose to eat in, water and a limited amount of tea will be available.

God has a way of giving by the cartloads to those who give away by shovelfuls!

Submitted by,
Paddi Cain,
President of Guild Circle

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Fall Flea Market & Craft Fair

United Methodist Women will be having a Fall Flea Market and Craft Fair on Saturday, October 5th from 8:00am - 1:00pm. We will begin collecting items at church for the flea market September 26th through October 4th. Should you wish to have a space to sell your own items (flea market or crafts), please fill out the form (on the website, or you may get it from the office) and once you have paid your \$25, you will be included in the event. You must provide your own tables and chairs.

The United Methodist Men will be having their fish fry that day as well, so please plan to eat with us. UMW will have a baked goods table and will be requesting items for that from you soon. Girls of Grace plan to sell drinks and chips.

Please pray for good weather for us so we can hold this event outdoors as planned.

Submitted by,
Beth Herndon,
UMW President

Back to Church & Bring a Friend Sunday

Mark your calendar for September 22nd for our Back to Church picnic. This will be after our 10:00a.m. worship service. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. The main course is char grilled hamburgers and hot dogs by the grill master.

To be able to get a head count, tickets can be purchased for a dollar donation. Starting September 8th, you may purchase your tickets after Sunday school and church in fellowship hall.

Remember to bring a friend to help our church grow!

Trunk 'N' Treat

Mark the date on your calendar - Thursday, October 31st. Myrtle Grove is planning to do Trunk 'N' Treat again this year. More information will be put out as we get closer to the date. Start planning on decorating your trunk!

Church Library News

In September, the Library will be featuring books by Max Lucado. His books are Christian non-fiction and are truly inspiring! They will be located on a shelf next to the file cabinet. We would like to review the steps in checking out a book from the MGUMC Library:

1. Select a book you want to read.
2. Remove the card from the back of the book.
3. Print your name and today's date on the card.
4. Place the card in the card file on top of the cabinet. It is marked "Library Card File Box".
5. Take the book home and read for pleasure or wisdom.
6. Note: Please return the book promptly in 30 days or update the card in the file box with a new date and your name to renew it for another 30 days.

Thank you from your librarians: Lou Hulien Brown and Carol Laguens



Dear MGUMC,

School is back in session and so is our youth group! With the summer coming to a close, fall is on the horizon! As students go back to school, please pray for their safety and success. Many youth are in sports, band, and other extra curricular activities, so please do not hesitate to ask them what they are up to! I want to thank the Myrtle Grove congregation for the continued support of the youth group. From your support, we had a successful summer camp at Blue Lake with Revive Events. Revive 2019 was an amazing spiritual experience! Although summer fun is over, the fall brings many more experiences for our youth group. Elevate starts back in accordance to our Wednesday night program schedule and will run from 5pm to 7pm. Elevate is a time for students to hang out and grow spiritually. If you would like a youth that you know to attend, you may contact me any time you like. We are always looking to grow our ministry!

Isaac

Cemetery Committee News

The Cemetery Committee is selling burial plots for \$500 each. Beginning in 2020, the price per plot will have to be raised to cover the cost of maintenance on the fence and monthly mowing. If you already have a plot, please consider making a donation to help with expenses. Please mark your check "Cemetery Fund".

Thank you!
The Cemetery Committee of MGUMC

Education Director News

My name is Janet Boston and I have been hired to be the new Education Director at Myrtle Grove UMC. I would like to invite you take a look at our new "Welcome and Information" table in the rear of the fellowship hall. You will find large maps that identify where all classes are located and many brochures from the various programs within our church and even those programs from the community that we host as a church. For instance, did you know that we host a "TOPS" (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) support group on Monday nights at 5:00pm in the chapel? Were you aware of the Mom's Club support group that meets every fourth Wednesday at 10:00am in the fellowship hall? Visit the booth and see the upcoming events calendar and look over the items that we have at the visitation center. If you would like to volunteer to occasionally man the booth to answer questions and greet visitors, let me know. I promise you will be proud for your family members or friends to come and visit MGUMC.

We are starting a new Sunday School class for young adults who have aged out of the Youth program. The class will be for participants aged 18-25ish. 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. Contact me for more information.

We are looking forward to the "Back to Church" cook-out on September 22nd and will be providing a bounce house, water slide, and obstacle course for the young or young at heart to enjoy. On October 20th, we will be having the Children's Sabbath that will feature performers by the new Westside Children's Choirs. There is so much to look forward to and we are all very excited about the changes here at MGUMC Sunday Service that will allow us to get to know each other as a family.

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

Janet Boston, Education Director
(850) 791-8223 / jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com

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Children's Programs

The Children's Department is expanding to include more Sunday School classes and teachers this fall. We welcome back the veteran teachers like April McDaniel, Joan Carter, Dannie Law, and Steve Northup. We also welcome the new teachers, Heather Johnson, Lillibeth Zimmerman, and Barbara Boston. Please come down to the Children's Church on a Sunday morning and meet the teachers.

Another change that we will see this fall is that we will be having Children's Church every week. On the first a week of every month, the children will be learning about and partaking in Holy Communion. However, if you wish for your child to participate in communion at the end of the service with your family, feel free to go and pick them up early from Children's Church. There will be two leaders in the room during Children's Church in case of any unexpected emergencies.

The newest and most exciting program for the children of the church and community will be the addition of the "Westside Children's Choirs" on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. There will be two choirs: Early Elementary Kindergarten—2nd Grade and Older Elementary 3rd-5th Grades. They will be singing a combination of current praise music, Sunday school songs, and even hymns. Watch for performance and concert dates!

There are many opportunities for your child to participate in at Myrtle Grove UMC. Any students in grades 3-7 who would like to be Acolytes that light the candles at the beginning of the service can contact Sharon Hogan at 457-1500.

Submitted by,
Janet Boston

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Welcome to the Fall 2019 term for the Community Program classes. We are presently registering people for the classes. You may register for the class of your choice by calling the office or emailing Janet at jlbpensmgumc@gmail.com. If you want to just come up on Wednesday night and look around before you decide, we are good with that! The following adult classes are starting on Wednesday, September 4th, at 6:00pm.

Making Disciples for God Bible Study by Pastor Riley Richardson; Renew Crew Bible Study for women by Angie Richardson; Origami, Scrapbooking, Acrylic Pour and Other Arts & Crafts by Sharon Hogan; First Aid & CPR by Emar Hargraves. You have three options: Free if you are taking the course and do not need a book or certification, \$7.50 if you want to take the class and have a book but no certification and \$10.50 if you want certification. Also, Introduction to Computers: a look at such items as Social Media and how to use email, etc. by Jim Reynolds; and Bible Study with Bill Ralli (meets at 5:00pm).

Youth and children classes that will meet at 6:00pm. Youth praise and worship, Bible study and games by Isaac Richardson; Westside Children's Choirs; Younger Elementary (Kindergarten through 2nd grade) led by Mary Carrick and Teresa Gillespie, and Older Elementary (3rd through 5th grade) led by Debbie Casalina and Lilibeth Zimmerman. Also, "God and Country" Bible study opportunities for scouts and other children: three separate classes covering kindergarten through 5th grade. (Students will earn and receive their medals and patches for their uniforms if they complete the course. We award these in our church on Scout Sunday in March. Their books are also provided to them for the course.)

I look forward to everyone coming out and enjoying the fellowship and fun!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston

Transportation Ministry

The Transportation Ministry has been picking up children, youth, families, and adults on Sunday morning, Wednesday night and Monday nights for many years now. If you or your child/youth needs a ride to Wednesday night classes, Monday night Scouts or church on Sunday morning, please contact Barbara Boston (Transportation Ministry Coordinator) at 791-8223.

We are currently in need of volunteers who would like to occasionally drive the van. You must be at least 24 but not older than 70 for the insurance company to approve your status as a driver. You need to see the church secretary to get started in the process. Barbara will be having knee replacement surgery in the near future and the recovery period is extensive. We do not want the program to falter and will need volunteers to step up even if it is only temporary.

Community Scout Program

The Fall 2019 school year is here and the Community Scout Program is preparing for fall recruitment drives for scouts and leaders. We are very proud to say that we host the oldest established Pack and Troop in the regional area. If your family has a boy or girl, grades kindergarten through fifth grade, they can come and join the Cub Scout Pack 2. If you have boys or girls in middle school or high school, they can come and join Troop 2.

If you have a daughter in kindergarten through middle school and would like to participate in service projects and do many art projects, then the Christian based Girls of Grace may be just the troop they would love! Sharon Hogan (457-1500) is the contact person for this group.

All of our scout groups meet on Monday nights at the following times:

Troop 2 & Girls of Grace - 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Pack 2 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm

If you work and would like to talk to the Transportation Ministry Coordinator about your child riding in the van, contact Barbara Boston at 791-8223.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by,
Janet Boston, Scouting Coordinator

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

Deaths:

Claire Helton
Lewis Barber

Baptism:

Parker Edward Romanchak

New Members:

Steven & Kalie Romanchak

Address Change:

Bud & Cristina Bateman

Address Change:

Tom Helton

Transfer Membership

Joyce & Peter Dean
To St. Luke UMC
Pensacola, FL

Address Change:

Kelly Schlicht

[For Privacy addresses and phone numbers have been removed from this portion of the online version of the newsletter](#)

Reminder from Hospitality

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

September Prayer List

September 1-7

Richard Peterson
Max & Judy Pinkston
William & Helen Plag
Vicie Pope
Xavier Pope
Benjamin & Laura Porter
Ian & Sarah Porter, Gracie & Maximus

September 8-14

Jim & Nell Potter
Patricia Prendergast
Fred Price
Lonnie Price
Amanda Prouty
Michael & Cathy Prouty
David & Kelly Pugh

September 15-21

Jennifer Ralli
Bill & Kathy Ralli
Daniel Ralli
Wanda Rankin
William Rayburn, III
Keith & Mildred Reaves, Travis
Tanya Renton

September 22-28

Jim & Machelie Reynolds
John & Connie Reynolds
Dennis & Kim Rhoda, Jason
Faith Ayers Rhodes
Betty Rice
Antonio Richardson

September 23-30

Braden Richardson
Emma Richardson
Ethan Richardson
Isaac Richardson
Pastor Riley & Angie Richardson
James & Ardis Riddell

September Birthdays

- 5 - Celeste Schubert
- 8 - Audra Wilson
- 9 - Jim Byrd
- 9 - Isaac Richardson
- 10 - Anthony Bushey
- 12 - Chuck Boyd
- 12 - Duane Savage
- 13 - Jim Benton
- 16 - Beth Moulder
- 16 - Linda Martineau
- 19 - Lisa Clopton
- 26 - Amy Lee
- 28 - Nancy Norman
- 29 - Joyce Lewis
- 30 - Elrena Greeney
- 30 - Odessa Wilson