



FIRST NEWS



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Volume 44 Issue 12

December 2022

A Word From Pastor John

John 10:16 (NIV) "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

I have reached a point in my life when I don't need nor do I want any more "stuff". Based on the conversations I've had with my flock it turns out I am not alone in this. Apparently, we all have an abundance of stuff most of which we would not miss if it was gone. To complicate matters, our culture has evolved to the point where it is appropriate at this time of year to overspend on more stuff for us to give each other. The gift-giving at Christmas time derives from the tradition of Jesus receiving gifts. However, I think the material wealth we share with one another would not be pleasing to the Lord as we indulge on that latest kitchen gadget or toy that a child simply HAS to have! Well I have an idea. Instead of spending hundreds or thousands of dollars this Christmas on more stuff, why not make an intentional effort to reach out to our neighbors and friends and even strangers and offer them a church. I have first-hand experience of what it feels like to spend Christmas by myself (if you don't count the dog). There are MANY folks in our community who don't have family nearby and will be spending Christmas alone. We can help! We have a huge church family just waiting to love on them! We can call this, "**A Church For Christmas**"! What a beautiful gift to give someone. They get a wonderful loving family to love on who will, in turn, love on them and they also get a connection with God through His Son. What an amazing gift! God has given each of us this gift to give away to someone. Let's not keep it to ourselves. All we have to do is invite someone to a December service! Perhaps a good occasion would be the Children's Program on the 4th or the Christmas Cantata on the 11th when we have dinner afterward. Maybe Christmas Eve would be a great service where an invitation might be accepted. This is the REAL gift of Christmas; namely the Love of God and a personal relationship through Jesus. This is our gift to share. "And suddenly there was with the angel a Heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace and good will to all people."



Children & Youth



Keep up to date on upcoming events on our website, Instagram and Facebook pages!



Youth and Children:

Dec 4: 5-6 children, 5-6:30 youth

Dec 11: 5-6 children, 5-6:30 youth

Children and Youth will resume meeting on Sunday evenings
January 15th

Youth prayer Breakfast meets Dec 7 and 14.

YOUTH SKI RETREAT

Youth will travel to Mars Hill NC Feb 17-21 for our ski retreat, the cost is approximately 400.00 per youth and can be reduced by selling hams. Youth who want to attend need to submit a \$50.00 deposit by December 10.



merry mail

The youth will place the Merry Mail box in in Norman Barnett Hall in December so you can share cards with others who attend our church. Please place cards on or before December 18th along with a donation that will benefit our youth.

Alabama West Florida UMC Children's Winter Retreat at Blue Lake is February 4-6, 11 children and chaperones from our church will be in attendance, prayers please pray for our group as we look forward to our time there.

HONEYBAKED HAM.

Youth are taking orders for HoneyBaked Hams that will be delivered Friday December 16th. Please see a youth to order as this fundraiser helps youth with the cost of their ski retreat. The order deadline is December 10th. Prices are as follows and checks are to be made to COYM:

Ham prices 2022

Spiral Sliced:

8lb \$85

9lb \$95

10lb \$105

Boneless Sliced turkey breast (roasted or smoked) \$40

4-5lb Boneless sliced half ham \$60

8-9lb boneless sliced whole ham \$95.00

Thank you to our preschool and Kindergarten for presenting the live Nativity on the square during the Christmas Tree Lighting.



Monroeville Angel Tree is up and running for 2022, over 200 children are signed up to receive presents this year. If you would like to shop for a child, wish lists are available at the church. If you would like to volunteer to help with drop off and delivery please see Pam Barnhardt.

Notes from Nancy

Children's Christmas Program

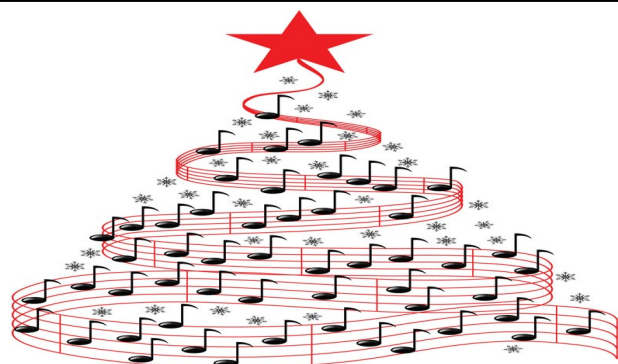
The Littlest Angel Choir

December 4th

Chancel Choir Cantata

Sing a Song of Christmas

December 11th



2023 FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board outside Norman Barnett Hall Kitchen next to the current Calendar. Please go ahead and sign up to grace our Sanctuary with Altar Flowers during the coming year.

The Littlest Angel Choir

You will want to be in Worship on December 4th when the ***Littlest Angel Choir*** saves the day!! You will not be able to leave without a **BIG** smile on your face.



Sing a Song of Christmas

Make plans to be in Worship on December 11th for the Chancel Choir Cantata! It will be a day for your ears to be filled with wonderful music and your eyes to behold the beautiful poinsettias that will adorn our Sanctuary. I can offer no better invitation than the words of Joseph M. Martin who, along with Michael Barrett, wrote the Cantata you will hear.

“The music of Christmas is a miracle of melody and message. On the wings of song, the good news of Christ’s birth animates our dreams and sets our spirit’s soaring. The sweet sounds of a mother’s lullaby, angels choirs bursting forth with jubilant shouts and clarion acclamations give us comfort and inspiration. The beloved familiar carols and new songs of the season reach out to encourage those who will follow with the assurance of hope and the spirit of promise. Truth and tune, when bonded together, can bring us closer to the peace, love and joy at the very heart of our spiritual quest. When adoration moves us towards authentic worship and we think upon all of the wonders that this season brings ... how can we keep from singing?

December Birthdays

- 1 Michelle Rainey
- 2 Penelope Hines
- 3 Molly Wiggins
- 4 John Farish Ard; Butch Moran
- 5 Stacey McKenzie; Cal Carter
- 7 Lauren Black
- 8 Milton Coxwell
- 9 James Boulter
- 10 Kay Dobson
- 12 Carole Dean; Kay English
- 14 Sammie Carter; Max Carter
- 17 Fielding Wiggins
- 20 Virginia McQueen
- 22 Charlie Martens
- 23 Sue Sellers
- 27 Sarah Dyess
- 31 Becky Barnett



Year End Contributions:

Please have all gifts to First United Methodist Church to the business office by 12:00 PM Thursday, December 29th.

Thank you for your generous contributions throughout the year.

We appreciate it so much that y'all allowed us to use your facility for our Induction Ceremony. Thanks so much, JAG /Monroe County Career Technical Center

Thank you for your support throughout the year!
HIPPIY OF MONROE COUNTY

FUMC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Woodrow	Senior Pastor
Rev. Pam Barnhardt	Minister of Education
Nancy Carleton	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Caroline Hardin	Church Business Manager
Christi Dunn	Nurse Director

Regular Church Service

Sunday:

9:00 am Sunday School
10:10 am Morning Worship
11:00 am Church After Church
5:00 pm Children/UMYF
6:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday:

6:45 am Youth Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am Wednesday Men
10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
4:15 pm Youth Bible Study
4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
5:15 pm Ladies Bible Study

Monday:

1:00 pm Ladies Sewing Group
5:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

*First United Methodist Church services are broadcast by radio every Sunday at 10:00 am by WMFC-FM Monroeville 99.3
Livestream each Sunday at 10:00 am Monroeville Fumc-Youth*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3 Fleming/Craig Wedding
Church offices will be closed December 22th -26th

 **FIRST**
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH of Monroeville
324 Pineville Road
Monroeville, AL 36460