

FIRST NEWS

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A Word From Pastor John

MY PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR: God of the Holy Christmas Miracle, You are the God of all seasons and milestones. Lord, we have come through an unforgettable year with you and your blessings have been poured out upon us. For Melanie and I, we thank you for sending us to this amazing church. These faithful people are so much fun to be with and so loving of their God and each other. It makes serving them an honor and pleasure. For the past year and a half, their love has been poured out upon us repeatedly and we are feeling so blessed to be serving the Monroeville First UMC family. For 2023, Lord I ask for your strength and wisdom to guide this church in a Spirit-filled direction that your name may be glorified. Gracious God, we have lost many of the faithful this year as they have gone to be with you. Others have left the area to be closer to their families. For those of us who remain, I pray that we never lose our focus on doing your will in this community and beyond. Lord, help us to keep our eyes and ears open that we may never miss an opportunity to love as you first loved us. For all of us, God grant us the insight to see where we can grow closer to you and represent you properly in our lives. Most Holy God you have blessed our church tremendously and we have strived to be obedient. We thank you guiding us into worshipping together and the joy we share as we fellowship afterwards. Lord, continue to help us reach out to our neighbors that they may experience the joy we have found in serving you here at Monroeville First. Let us reach out in love to all who come to worship with us knowing that your Spirit has guided them to us. Creator, through the laughter and tears, through the highs and the lows, through the joy and the suffering you have been faithful to us this past year and we are grateful. For 2023, Our Shepherd, continue to guide us in proclaiming your name in this community and beyond through our obedience. Until that great day when we are embraced by you in the kingdom, help us grow closer to you and to each other according to your will. Above all, in the year ahead, remind us to “seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you” in the name of the one true Savior, even Jesus the ChristAmen.

The Windy Award:

Most of you have seen the “Windy” award presented to our church and displayed in our narthex. For those who haven’t heard, this award is presented to the church in our Conference that has given consistent and strong financial support to the Methodist Children’s Homes, now called “Embrace Alabama Kids”. It is a huge honor for this church to be recognized in this way and we would just like to recognize our leader in this ministry, Misty Powell. Misty is our Embrace Alabama Kids representative and she works throughout the year behind the scenes managing the funds and gifts that go from our church to this important ministry. Indeed, Misty monitors the needs that frequently come up from the children and meets those needs through the generous support from Monroeville First UMC. The total amount received this year from our White Christmas campaign for this ministry was \$6,721.00. A huge “Well Done!” goes out to Misty Powell and all the generous people whose combined efforts will make sure that God’s love is extended to these children. May God bless you all.

The Numbers Tell A Story:

So 2022 was been a great year of mission, ministry and discipleship. Let's take a look at it!

3 days: the duration of the fun and exciting Winter Children's Retreat at Blue Lake

4 days: the length of a chilly and memorable ski retreat for our youth

4 nights: the time our children spent together learning about how we are "On a roll with God" at VBS

4:15 each Wednesday: a time for our youth to gather for study and service

5 days: the amount of time several youth, children and adults spent learning, playing, worshipping and growing through the camping ministry at Blue Lake Camp

5: the number of Bibles presented to Third Graders during worship this fall

5:00 p.m. on Sunday: when our youth and children gather to learn about the love of Christ and grow together

5:00 p.m. on Sunday: a time of learning and growth through the Pastor's Bible Study

5 large boxes: the amount of household items you donated to Baldwin Family village to help at risk families

6 teenagers and 7 babies: the number of Embrace Alabama's Kids (formerly the United Methodist Children's home) residents we provided Christmas presents for

6:45 a.m. : the time a dozen or more youth gather each Wednesday morning for breakfast and devotion

7: the number of families certified for foster care placement during the training meetings held this fall at our church

9:00 a.m.: the time our dedicated Sunday School teachers offer inspiration and leadership to those in attendance each week

10: the number of boys who provided a warm and worshipful Christmas Choir Advent Program

10 plus: the number of Women who meet at 10:00 a.m. each Wednesday morning to grow in grace through book study, prayer, and sharing

10:05: the time we gather each Sunday to worship our Lord

11:00 each Sunday: the time set aside for our fellowship of "church after church"

A Baker's Dozen: the number of men who get together each Wednesday morning to do church maintenance and repairs (and have coffee and snacks, of course)

12 plus: the number of Women who meet at 5:15 p.m. each Wednesday for book discussion, prayer concerns and service projects

18: the average age of the Coastal Alabama College Students we provided snacks, lunch and thanksgiving desserts for

25: the number of voices lifting praises for the Christ Child during our Cantata

32: the number of Christmas Village playhouses our children played in on our trip to Andalusia

35 degrees: the temperature on the square on the evening the children presented the live nativity

123: the number of hams and turkeys the youth sold (thanks for your purchases) to offset the cost of their February ski retreat to Wolf Ridge North Carolina

155: the number of families served in our May food bank give – away

201: the number of children who participated in the Angel Tree Program hosted by our church

300: the number of eggs our children hunted for during our Easter Egg Hunt

500 calories: the amount consumed (in desserts alone) by those who attended our Christmas Lunch

2000 plus: the number of children we gave candy to at trick-or-treat on the square

36460: the zip code served by the youth Merry Mail Christmas Card delivery program

Once per month: the number of times we are honored to open our doors to the HIPPY (a free quality educational training program for parents of preschoolers) parent and board meetings

Endless: the thanks offered to you for making all of these ministries possible

Youth and Children: Sundays January 15, 22, & 29
(youth 5-5:30, children 5-6)

Youth Prayer Breakfast Meets: January 11, 18 & 25

Children's Winter Retreat: February 3-5

Youth Ski retreat: February 17-21

Youth: Wednesday 4:15
January 11,18,& 25

Women: Wednesday
10:00/5:15
January 11,18, & 25

Notes from Nancy



The New Year brings an opportunity to begin new things or begin doing things that we have done in the past once again. Perhaps you have thought about singing in the Chancel Choir. Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Monday, January 9th at 5:30. There could not be a better time to begin singing again!!!

2023 FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board outside Norman Barnett Hall Kitchen. Check to see where there are available Sundays on the Calendar so that you can go ahead and sign up to grace our Sanctuary with Altar Flowers during the coming year.

CHANCEL CHOIR will resume rehearsals on Monday, January 9th .

CHANCEL BELLS will begin rehearsals again on Wednesday, January 11th .

January	1	NO Choir anthem. Those who are available please sit in Choir Loft to lead hymns.
January	8	Chancel Choir
January	15	Chancel Choir
January	22	Chancel Choir
January	29	Chancel Choir

MANY THANKS to everyone who made the Advent and Christmas Season so meaningful. . . .

To the singers and ringers I appreciate the sacrifice of your time, and your willingness to be a part of the Choirs in our church. Your dedication to the music of First United Methodist Church means so much to so many people both in our church and in our community. It was SO wonderful to have singers from the community join us for our Christmas Cantata!!

To the Worship Committee, the Altar Guild and the Communion Coordinator for their help in making the Sanctuary ready for Advent...from the Sanctuary decorations, decorating the Christmas, placing the Pointsettias and setting the Communion Table!

To all who have helped to share the love of Christ and the joy of Christmas let us remember our work is not done. Now we must continue to share the music of God's Grace while making our lives a song to God!!

We are completing our end of the year report and have been working to ensure that our church roll is up to date. We are planning to complete the process of removing people who are inactive by doing the following: Removing all non-Monroe County residents age 30 and above, and all locally residing inactive persons. The list of names to be removed is on the bulletin board beside the Norman Barnett Kitchen. Please contact the office if you have questions.

There's a new opportunity for our preschoolers to grow in faith; 3,4 and 5 year olds will be invited to leave after the Children's Sermon each Sunday for a special worship time. We will need volunteers each week, starting this month! Please let Melody Bradley or Pam Barnhardt know if you want to be a part of this great new Ministry .



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 1 Al Brewton
- 2 Phillip Ward
- 3 Billy Rainey
- 5 Cindy Kennedy ; Rex Chambers
- 7 Dawn Hare
- 9 Ray Owens
- 14 Corey Barnes
- 15 Diane Watson; Sammie Long
- 16 Victoria Powell
- 17 Don Moore; Ann Elizabeth King
- 18 Tommy Tate; Gail Foukal; Shelby Rainey
- 19 Ali Daniels
- 23 Rosemary Robertson; Trey Carter
- 26 Stacey Countryman

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

<p>Sunday:</p> <p>9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:10 am Morning Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Church After Church</p> <p>5:00 pm Children/UMYF</p> <p>6:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>Wednesday:</p> <p>6:45 am Youth Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 am Wednesday Men</p> <p>10:00 am Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>4:15 pm Youth Bible Study</p> <p>4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p>5:15 pm Ladies Bible Study</p>
<p>Monday:</p> <p>1:00 pm Ladies Sewing Group</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	

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

We would love to have you join our **REMIND** to stay connected. Please contact the office if you would like to be added.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 Office Closed

16 Martin Luther King, Jr . Day—Office Closed



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Monroeville

324 Pineville Road
Monroeville, AL 36460

2023 Administrative Council & Committees

Church Council Chairperson: Jodi Chambers
 Church Council Vice Chair: Bill Rainey
 Lay Leader: Collins Brown
 Lay Delegate: Micheal Ard
 Lay Delegate: Laura King
 Trustee Chair: Jim Davis
 Finance Chair: Al Brewton
 Treasurer: Laura King
 SPRC Chair: Lindsey Coxwell
 Missions: Karen Robinson
 Worship: Nancy Carleton
 Kitchen: Beth Barnes
 Care Ministries: Christi Dunn
 Disaster response: Corey Barnes
 At Large : Charlie Martens
 At Large : Penelope Hines
 At Large: Cayden Powell

Finance

Treasurer: Laura King
 Asst. Treasurer: Kermit Brown
 Lay Leader: Collins Brown
 Lay Delegate: Laura King
 Lay Delegate: Micheal Ard
 Church Council Chair: Jodi Chambers
 Staff/Parrish Chair: Jim Lipscomb
 Trustee Chair: Jim Davis
 Business manager: Caroline Hardin
 At Large: 2023 Bradley Martens
 2024 Lindsey Coxwell

Chair: Al Brewton

Board of Trustees: Chair: Jim Davis

Class of 2023: Darrell Sparks, Billy Rainey, Sage Smith
 Class of 2024: Jim Davis, Chris Ard, Chase Bradley
 Class of 2025: Donna Craig, Wally Dunn, Chase Luker
 Ex-Officio: Wednesday Man: Hunter Lindblom

Staff- Parish Relations: Chair: Lindsey Coxwell

Class of 2023: Suzanne Davis, Emily Williams, Charlie Martens
 Class of 2024: Lindsey Coxwell, Ricky Powell, Scott Daniels
 Class of 2025: Sarah Dyess, Sammie Long, Sammy Carter
 Lay delegates x 2: Micheal Ard, Laura King
 Lay Leader: Collins Brown

Nominations: Chair: Pastor

Class of 2023: Sammie Long, Will Coxwell, Scott Daniels
 Class of 2024: Ann Farish, Boyd Robinson, Peggy Flowers
 Class of 2025: Ree Smith, Sebrena Moncus, Chrisiti Dunn
 Lay Delegates: Micheal Ard, Laura King
 Lay Leader: Collins Brown

Programming: Chair: Rev. Pam Barnhardt

Children: Melody Bradley
 Youth: Scott Daniels
 Adult: Penelope Hines
 Fellowship: Christi Dunn
 Older Adults: Mary Ann Brown
 Children's Home: Misty Powell

Scholarship:

Melissa Lipscomb
 Belinda Dorrance
 Kay Dobson
 Kay English