



FIRST NEWS

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April 2023

A word from Pastor John

Matthew 28:1-3 (NNLT) “Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow.”

I don't remember the exact date, but it was in the Spring of 1993 that I was overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit one Sunday in a little Pentecostal church in British Columbia, Canada. That afternoon I rededicated my life to Jesus and decided from that moment on I would live the rest of my days on this Earth serving the Lord. For me, that was the day the “stone was rolled away,” and my reason for living was realized. I am convinced that each of us has to discover for ourselves the only thing that will fill that void in our lives, namely, a relationship with Jesus. The moment that happens is what I call the “stone rolled away” moment. Oh yes, we can try all kinds of pursuits trying to find peace and joy, hoping each new pursuit is the answer, only to find out it, too, is temporary. Indeed, when those of us on the faith journey see non-believers filled with happiness, we wonder why our road is so difficult. We don't remember that we are catching them in one of the temporary highs that come with worldly journeys. In the end, everyone realizes that there is NOTHING that can fill that void in their lives like a relationship with Jesus. This Easter, I challenge each of you to consider your faith journey. Do you really believe the resurrection story to the point where you are ready to live the rest of your life for the Lord? Can you remember your “stone rolled away” moment when you made that decision? If it is even a little foggy, I encourage you to come to kneel at the altar on Sunday (any Sunday) and rededicate your remaining days to serving the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Life is too short to carry that emptiness around for even one more day. It is obvious the Lord is returning soon. Let us rejoice in our Easter faith. Amen, and amen.

YTD Giving Received:

\$ 84,479.09

YTD Giving Needed:

\$158,752.00

GEMM -Giving Every Member A Ministry- brochures were mailed last month to allow you a way to share how you'd like to contribute time and talent - if you need a brochure please contact the church office.



CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

Youth/Children Schedule for April:

April 1 Youth 5:00-6:30, Children 5:00-6:00

April 9 No evening meetings, Happy Easter

April 16 Youth sponsored City Clean-Up,
4:00-6:00 (children don't meet at 5:00)

April 23 Youth 5:00-6:30, Children 5:00-6:00

April 30 Youth 5:00-6:30, Children 5:00-6:00

Children will be invited to process with Palms at the beginning of worship on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Children will gather in Norman Barnett Hall at 9:50 to line up for processional.

We are excited to announce that our service of **Confirmation** for our Confirmation class will be on Easter Sunday during worship, and look forward to welcoming 5 students as full members of our church.

Summer camps are a wonderful way to grow in faith through experiencing God's creation. Camps for youth and children are July 24-28 at Blue Lake, they fill up quickly so see Rev. Pam Barnhardt for sign up information.

Candy is needed for Easter Egg Hunt, please bring individually wrapped candy to Norman Barnett hall by April 4th!

Youth Prayer Breakfasts

April 5, 12, 19 and 26

At 6:45 am in Norman Barnett Hall

The youth will host a City Clean up on Sunday April 16th from 4-6 with dinner to follow, we will gather at the church to be assigned an area, all are welcome!

We will be recognizing college and graduate school graduates in **May**, please submit names of any students who have graduated since last May!

Mark your calendars : Vacation Bible School for preschool through 5th graders will be June 25-28 from 5:00-7:00 P.M. the theme is "Hero Hotline, Called Together to Serve God" If you can volunteer please contact Rev. Barnhardt or Melody Bradley.

Calling all Egg – Hunters!

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday April 8th. Children will gather in Norman Barnett for activities, story time and an egg hunt. The times are 10:00-11:00 for preschoolers, 11:00-12:00 for k-5 and elementary aged children.

Notes from Nancy

Looking ahead:

Palm Sunday is on April 2nd
Children will Process with palms
during the first hymn

Maundy Thursday is on April 6th
Maundy Thursday Worship will be
at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday is on April 9th

Children's Easter Program is on April
16 during the Worship Service

March Worship Services

April	2	Palm Sunday Chancel Choir
April	6	Maundy Thursday Chancel Choir
April	9	Easter Sunday Chancel Choir
April	16	Children's Easter Program
April	23	Chancel Choir
April	30	Chancel Choir

**Practices for the Children's
music program will be Sunday,
April 2 at 4:00 and Saturday,
April 15 at 9:00**

*Dear FUMC Church family,
I would like to thank you all for hosting my lovely
bridal shower! It has been a blessing to grow up in
such a loving and generous church. Cullen and I are
so appreciative of all the many gifts we received!
We are excited to begin our lives together and are
equally thrilled to begin our lives together right here
at home. We both look forward to many wonderful
days ahead and thank you all for celebrating this
journey! Much Love, Kathryn Wiggins*



Bridal Shower

HONORING

Sarah Baker Barnhardt

BRIDE-ELECT OF DANE LUNSFORD

APRIL 30, 2023
1:30-3:00 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
324 PINEVILLE ROAD
WESLEY HALL
MONROEVILLE, AL

GIVEN BY THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH

WEDDING REGISTRY: AMAZON, TARGET, COBBWEBS,
EMMETT'S HOUSE, BIRD'S NEST



JOIN US FOR A

bridal shower

HONORING

AVIE ETHERIDGE

Bride -elect of Isaac Brewton

FIRST UMC
324 PINEVILLE ROAD
MONROEVILLE, AL

APRIL
16
1:30-3:00pm

REGISTERED AT:
COBBWEBS, TARGET,
WALMART, BED, BATH AND
BEYOND AND AMAZON

GIVEN BY THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH



- 1 **Eli Fleming**
- 2 **Jim Davis**
- 4 **Chris Hines; Dawn Brewton**
- 5 **Robbie Kennedy**
- 6 **Melanie Woodrow**
- 9 **Rosemary Johnston**
- 11 **Avery Barnes**
- 12 **John Barnett**
- 13 **Bill Moncus**
- 14 **Kermit Brown; Ethan James; Fielding Montgomery**
- 18 **Willie Ed Farish; Jodi Chambers**
- 20 **Jack Chambers**
- 22 **Judy Croft**
- 25 **Cile Coaker**
- 26 **Jeanette Adams; Mary Ann Brown**
- 28 **Mary Moran**

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	Nursery Director

Regular Church Service

Sunday:	Wednesday:
9:00 am Sunday School	6:45 am Youth Prayer Breakfast
10:10 am Morning Worship	9:00 am Wednesday Men
11:00 am Church After Church	10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
5:00 pm Children/UMYF	4:15 pm Youth Bible Study
6:00 pm 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

Christ UMC, Mobile, will Host Emergency Response Training April 15th from 8:30-3:20 in Room CCAA . This is a required training for certification as an ERT member, it prepares individuals to be the presence of Christ in the early days of disaster relief following a storm, flood, or other catastrophic event. Cost: \$20 – includes training, lunch, and the ERT Manual. For certification, individuals must be 18 or older, bring their driver's license (or I.D.) with them, and submit to an online background check (done at the training). For more information, please contact Rev. [Mike Gaby](#), or 251.342.0462, ext. 231

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