



# FIRST NEWS

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## A Word from the Pastor

**Hebrews 13:2 (NLT) 2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!**

I can remember the only time we had sliced cooked deli ham in our fridge growing up was when guests were coming over. We called them "company". No matter what we kids would find on those rare occasions, whether it was deli ham, potato chips, or a lemon meringue pie, Mom would say, "Don't touch that, it's for company!" It wasn't until I grew up that I realized that guests were treated extra special because good hospitality is a Godly act and a sign of obedience to our Lord.

In the 19th chapter of Genesis, Lot invites two strangers to stay with him and when the local men wanted to assault them, Lot was willing to give up his family in exchange for their safety. Lot pleaded with the townsmen, "Please do not do anything to these men because I am responsible for them." Lot knew that being a good host carries responsibility with it. In Leviticus 19:34a we are told, "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as a native among you, and you shall love him as yourself." Because there is so much Scripture directing us to treat guests with love and honor, we are only obedient when we "roll out the red carpet", as it were, for those who visit the us or, more specifically, our church.

We have a core group of church members who attend Monroeville First faithfully year-round but our church is also starting to attract folks who are "checking us out." Sometimes those worshippers are only here for the week to visit our town or relatives. Others may stay for a while as they may be "Church shopping." Regardless, God calls us to make them feel like everything we do is based on loving them which is consistent with 1John 4:20a. "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar." Obviously, our task is clear. We are to "go all out" in treating our guests with as much love as we can possibly muster.

With the summer months approaching, let us make every effort to make our guests comfortable at Monroeville First by: talking with our guests before the service, offering a seat near you, smiling, talking with them after the service, inviting them to "Church After Church" or even inviting them to lunch somewhere! This is not only really good for our church, but who knows, like we're told in Hebrews 13:2, we might just be entertaining angels without knowing it!

<b>YTD Giving Received:</b> \$123,322.00
<b>YTD Giving Needed:</b> \$198,440.00



# CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

**Congratulations** to the newest members of our church, our Confirmation Class, who joined on Easter Sunday. **Welcome to:** **Charlotte Chambers, Rex Chambers, Harrison Martens, Asher Sims, Fielding Wiggins.**



On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate with our graduates! Our high school graduates will be recognized and the Lazenby Scholarship (s) will be presented. High School Seniors include:

**John David Brewton**

**Ann Elizabeth King**

**Drew Sims**

We also wish to list those graduating from college or other institutions, please let the church office know if you have graduates for us to include in our listing.

Youth and Children: Meet on Sunday evenings May 7 and 21, children from 5-6/youth from 5-6:30.

## Children's Ministries :

Will sponsor

**"Muffins with Moms"**  
at 9:15 on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>  
in Norman Barnett Hall.

## Youth Prayer Breakfast :

Meets on Wednesdays May 3, 10 and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 in Norman Barnett Hall. We will take the summer off and resume meeting in August!

## *Coming up...*

Let's all get excited about Vacation Bible School 2023 "Hero Hotline, Called Together to Serve God" June 25-28 from 5-7. We will gather each evening to sing, worship, learn, play, create and dine together. Children preschool through fifth grade are invited to attend, and can be signed up on the website with the following linc. Helpers are needed and can sign up on the web site as well. Nursery is available. Here is the linc to sign up child attendees, and youth and adult volunteers.

[firstumcmonroeville.mycokesburyvbs.com](http://firstumcmonroeville.mycokesburyvbs.com)



## Children and Youth Blue Lake Camp

Dates are July 24-28:

This is a wonderful time for campers to grow in God's grace and experience God's creation. Please see Pam Barnhardt to sign up.

# Notes from Nancy

## A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- \* The Chancel Choir
- \* Micheal Ard, Laura King, Ann Farish, Emily Williams, and Michelle Rainey
- \* Palm Waving children
- \* Melody Bradley

for their leadership in Worship services during Holy Week on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter!!

- \* The Worship Committee for their help in preparing the Sanctuary for Worship.



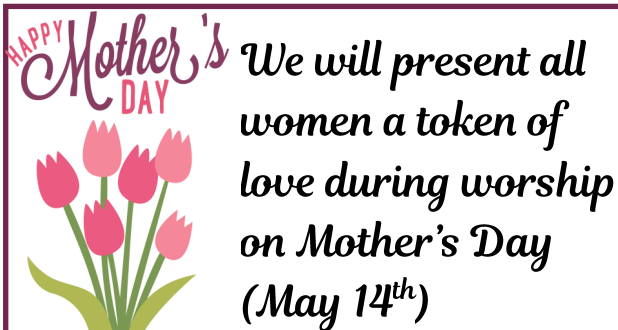
## Acolytes and Crucifers

The Worship Committee is planning to have a training session for Acolytes and Crucifers. If your child, grades 3-5, or those in Youth are interested in being a part of this important service for our Church or if you would like further information please be in touch with Nancy.

Email: [fastnotes2nancy@yahoo.com](mailto:fastnotes2nancy@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (251) 564-4512

## April Worship Services

May	7	Holy Communion Chancel Choir
May	14	Mother's Day Chancel Choir
May	21	HS Senior Recognition Chancel Choir
May	28	Day of Pentecost Chancel Choir



CHANCEL BELLS have enjoyed a "season" of ringing fellowship. After leading in Worship for April 23rd, we are taking a break for the summer. Many thanks to Suzanne Davis, Carole Dean, Fredia Tatum, Micheal Ard, Barb Heinzen Laura King and Melanie Woodrow for their commitment to Chancel Bells!!!



**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**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Wednesday:</b>
9:00 am Sunday School	6:45 am Youth Prayer Breakfast
10:05 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	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*

- 1 Emily Williams; Emory Dunn
- 2 Carter English
- 4 Corey Barnes
- 6 Jim Hines
- 9 Sharon Brooks; Marie Klepac; Ben Smith
- 11 Shannon McKenzie; Isaac Brewton
- 13 Hunter Lindblom, Anna Claire Bradley
- 14 Faye Estes
- 17 Mary Carter English
- 19 Julia Brown, Joe Nicholas
- 20 Misty Powell
- 21 Chase Bradley
- 22 Melody Anne Bradley
- 24 Bryce Black
- 28 Sarah Countryman; Maddy Ard
- 29 Robert English
- 31 Harrison Martens

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 13 Wiggins/Horton Wedding
- 14 Mother's Day
- 21 Senior Sunday
- 29 Memorial Day ( Office Closed)

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