



FIRST NEWS

324 Pineville Road ~ Monroeville, AL 36460
251-575-2790 fumc324@gmail.com www.firstumcmmonroeville.org

Volume 45 Issue 7

July 2023

A Word From Pastor John

Mark 1:35-37 “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

My wife, Melanie, has shared an expression with me she learned years ago that seems to be loaded with wisdom. It goes like this; “If you don’t come apart . . . you’ll come apart.” Essentially, the meaning of that saying is that one needs to step back from the daily routine of work from time to time or one will start self-destructing. Our culture seems to agree with this. That is why students and workers get vacations spaced regularly throughout the year.

I met a man many years ago who had been working as a bookkeeper for the city for forty-two years. Monday through Friday each week he drove the same route to work and the same route home. His wife told me that in all that time, he had only taken five vacations and each one was no more than a week long. Four of those were forced upon him by his employer. He had reached mandatory retirement for that city at age 64. When he retired, he didn’t know what to do with himself. At age 64, the only purpose in life he had been taken away from him. Shortly after that his health started to fail. He passed away within one year of his retirement date. He really believed that the city would be in trouble if he wasn’t there to take care of the finances. As an aside, after he retired, the city managed to carry on and is still doing well today.

We have just come back from a vacation where Melanie has told people, “I have never seen John so relaxed.” I didn’t realize that I wasn’t relaxed until I got reacquainted with rest and relaxation. In the Scripture above, Jesus gave us the example to step back from the crowd from time to time and yet so many of us (including myself) forget how important that is to take the occasional rest and just have fun! As we go into the July vacation period, let’s remember to take time out to relax and have fun. I humbly propose that we take a break from the “Blue Screens” for a while and nurture our relationships a little more. Let’s try something new. Let us explore an unfamiliar place with a happy countenance. God gave us smiles and laughter for a reason and we are supposed to have a little soul-building rest and relaxation on a regular basis. May God remind us to stop and enjoy the time and the creation provided for us, Amen.

YTD Giving Received:	\$ 195,002.50
YTD Giving Needed:	\$ 277,816.00



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

Sundays:

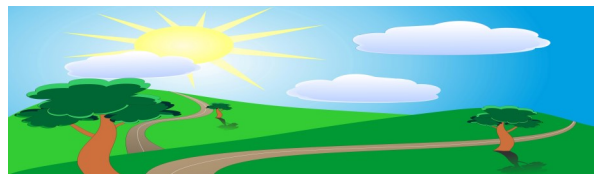
July 2 No Youth/Children Meeting
July 9 Children 5:00-6:00/ Youth 5:00-6:30
July 16 Children 5:00-6:00/ Youth 5:00-6:30
July 23 Children 5:00-6:00/ Youth 5:00-6:30

Wednesdays:

July 5 Youth 3:30-5:00
July 12 Youth 3:30-5:00
July 19 Youth 3:30-5:00
July 26 No Youth



July 24: Children, Youth and Chaperones are headed to camp at Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly, please be in prayer for a special and impactful week.



Thank You

A huge thank you to the youth and adult volunteers who helped make Vacation Bible School such a meaningful and fun week. The children had such a good time learning about how God's love transforms our lives and encourages us to be heroic disciples of Christ.

Thank You

Dear Pam and Members of Wednesday Women's Bible Study. Thank you so much for supplying lunch for the RSVP Volunteers during the Summer Reading Program. It was very much appreciated and was also delicious. Thank you again!
Sincerely,
Bridget and staff of Monroe County Library

Notes from Nancy

June Worship Services

July	2	Todd Allen Herendeen Service of Gospel and Patriotic Music
July	9	Chancel Choir
July	16	Chancel Choir
July	23	Chancel Choir
July	30	Chancel Choir



CHANCEL CHOIR . . .

After our rehearsal on July 3rd, we will be taking a break from rehearsals for the rest of July!!! The Chancel Choir (those of you who are in town) will be asked to lead hymns during Worship Service.





- 2 *Jana Jaye*
- 5 *Kenny Noah*
- 10 *Zac Chambers*
- 12 *Miles Barnhardt*
- 14 *Pam Barnhardt; Tristin Dunn; Kate Byrd*
- 15 *Marilyn Stacey*
- 16 *Amelia Ward; James Brown*
- 17 *Bonnie Chandler*
- 18 *Beth Barnes*
- 19 *Caleb Powell; Matthew Hilburn*
- 22 *Christi Wiggins*
- 23 *Ron Day*
- 24 *Will Coxwell; Miller Kilpatrick*
- 25 *Mary Kathryn Morgan; Samantha Morgan; William Rainey*
- 26 *Karen Robinson; Derrick Black*
- 27 *Conner Morgan*
- 28 *Norma James; Collins Brown; Taylor Barnes*
- 30 *Laura Grace King*
- 31 *Dent Stallworth*

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
 10:05 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
 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 10:05 am by WMFC-FM Monroeville 99.3 Livestream each Sunday at 10:05 am Monroeville Fumc-Youth



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