



# FIRST NEWS

324 Pineville Road ~ Monroeville, AL 36460  
251-575-2790 [fumc324@gmail.com](mailto:fumc324@gmail.com) [www.firstumcmonroeville.org](http://www.firstumcmonroeville.org)

**Volume 45 Issue 9**

**September 2023**

## *A Word From Pastor John*

**Ephesians 4:2-3 (NCV)**

**Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way.**

There are many churches in Monroeville from which to choose. Why do people choose our church? Some folks drive past several good churches on Sunday morning just to come to our church service. People are feeling the Spirit in our worship and in our church gatherings. While it is true that the Holy Spirit is very strong in our church, it is also true what the "Cheers" TV show used to proclaim; "You want to go where everybody knows your name!" Well, if this is our strength, namely to provide an intimate family of worship where we genuinely love each other, then let's keep going in that direction! FULL SPEED AHEAD!

To facilitate our togetherness, we have a new Church Directory being assembled so we can recognize each other as we are growing. Please remember to sign up for a photo appointment by calling Rev. Pam or drop in in our Church-After-Church sessions. Walk-ins are encouraged.

Other things you can do to help grow the church: Folks, we have PLENTY of ministry opportunities where you can be involved. We have openings for ushers, greeters, Church-After-Church snack providers, Mission helpers or you can serve one of the several committees that help our church grow (just to name a few). Please contact anyone on the Church Council or call the Pastor if you would like to be more involved.

And finally, there seems to be a great spirit in the church when we get together. PLEASE, look around when we gather and identify people you don't know very well. Approach guests or infrequent attenders and make them feel at home. Don't use phrases like, "It's about time you came back" but rather say something like, "I'm really glad to see you" and offer a warm smile. It is REALLY tempting to spend time with people you know well but consider getting to know someone else better. These kinds of things grow a church.

The saying is true, "A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats!" As our church seems to be experiencing a revival, let us each ask God what we can do to facilitate the Spirit in that direction. And, to God be the Glory . . . Amen

**YTD Giving Received: \$254,163.50**  
**YTD Giving Needed: \$357,192.00**



# CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

## YOUTH/CHILDREN

*9/3 NO MEETING*

*9/10 YOUTH 5-6:30, CHILDREN 5- 6:00*

*9/17 YOUTH 5-6:30, CHILDREN 5- 6:00*

*9/24 YOUTH 5-6:30, CHILDREN 5- 6:00*

**Wednesday Youth** prayer breakfast meets at Norman Barnett Hall each Wednesday in September at 6:45 am.

**Youth** meet each Wednesday in September from 4:15-5:15 for study and service opportunities.

**Special thanks** to Karen Robinson (Missions) and Melody Bradley (Children's Ministries) for a great Back to School Bash, over \$900.00 was raised for Blue Lake Camp and good food and fun were had by all.

## Women's Bible Studies

meet each Wednesday in September at 10 and 5:15. Wednesday Sept 6 the 5:15 group doesn't meet.

# Notes from Nancy

**CHANCEL CHOIR  
CHRISTMAS CANTATA**  
Scheduled for December 10th !!

It is time to think about Christmas and with that in mind, the Choir will begin working on music for the season in the next few weeks. We would love to have you be a part of this celebration and invite you to attend a preview of this year's Cantata on September 18th at 5:30 in the Choir Room.

## Calling ALL Ringers!!

CHANCEL BELLS will begin Rehearsals On Wednesday September 13th at 4:30. We will be welcoming some returning ringers, as well as some new ones. There are enough bells or chimes for any number of ringers who would like to ring, so get in touch with Nancy so that we can have a place ready for YOU!!



## September Worship Services

September 3	Chancel Choir
September 10	Chancel Choir
September 17	Chancel Choir
September 24	Chancel Choir

## CHANCEL CHOIR . . .

Rehearsals will continue on Mondays at 5:30 pm. We will NOT meet on September 4th due to the Labor Day Holiday. As we head into the Fall, we hope that some of you who have thought about joining the Choir will put that "thought" into action!! We would love to have you join us as we lead in worship.



## Thank You

Dear Church Family:  
The bridal shower that you hosted was wonderful!! Billy and I really appreciate all of the gifts that we received. We look forward to October and thank you so much for your thoughtfulness during this exciting time!  
Sincerely, Ashley Harris

## Thank You

*Dear Church Family, There are times when words are so inadequate to express emotions. I have loved my church Family for over 50 years. With my illness and Ben's health issues my depth of gratefulness defies words. Thank you for your prayers, acts of kindness, Wednesday Men and food. Ben's funeral lunch was awesome. I love my FUMC brothers and sisters in Christ. I am richly blessed to have you in my life. Fondly, Rosemary Johnston.*

THIS MONTH'S  
**birthdays**

- 1 Peyton Powell
- 2 Charlie Martens
- 4 Sebrena Moncus
- 5 Haniel Croft
- 6 R J Robertson, William Bennett
- 7 Berkley Chambers
- 8 Watson Kennedy
- 9 Sage Smith
- 10 Mimi Jones
- 11 Carole Parker
- 12 Mike Stoops
- 13 Sherry Chastain
- 19 Wally Dunn
- 22 David Brown
- 24 Marsha Lindblom
- 25 Ruth Owens
- 26 Kathy Marshall, Eddie James
- 27 Alan Barnhardt, Ed Lee
- 28 Berkley Chambers

**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
10:05am 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
5:00 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 10:05am by WMFC-FM Monroeville 99.3 Livestream each Sunday at 10:05 am Monroeville Fumc-Youth*

*In Memoriam*

*Elsalene H. Sirmon  
August 13, 2023*

*In Memoriam*

*Glenn Haskew Bayles Jr.  
August 22, 2023*