



# FIRST NEWS

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

Volume 45 Issue 10

October 2023

## ***A Word From Pastor John***

### **“When Company Comes”**

It was easy to tell in our house when “company” was coming. Mom would go through a more rigorous cleaning of the house instead of the usual routine. The best part of the preparation, however, was that wonderful and rare food items would magically show up in the fridge or one of the cupboards. These were the type of foods we didn’t ordinarily have in the house like apple turnovers (from the “Day-Old” rack at the bakery) or hickory smoked cheese that would always have enough of the wrapper left on it to impress the guests. The main goal was to send the guests home with a feeling that they were very glad they came.

My favorite exotic food imported for the evening was the staple of deli-sliced cooked ham. What a delight it would be when we children were allowed a taste of this delicacy. We were never allowed to just eat a slice but were granted permission with the instruction, “Make a sandwich with that so it will last”. I decided in my teen years that when I was old enough to have a place of my own, I would buy a package of that deli-sliced ham and eat as many of the slices that I wanted right out of the package. And you know what, I did exactly that.

Well time has passed and I don’t look at deli-ham like I used to. One thing I have always held onto from those special “company is coming” events is that I feel a strong sense of wanting to be a good host. Most of you have noticed that we have a stronger attendance lately and also that our small groups are growing. This is a momentum that I believe will continue. We are going to have more members and guests for worship and some new folks checking out our small groups. All of this is very exciting! But let’s not just sit back and watch. Instead, let us be part of God’s hospitality! Here are some things we can do to facilitate the Spirit growing our church:

1. When you see someone you don’t know well (or at all), make the effort to welcome them to the service/group. Talk to them. Learn about them.
2. Ask folks to sit with you so that they have a friend. Welcome them the way you would like to be welcomed.
3. Spend 15 or 20 minutes after the worship service at “Church After Church.” This is a great place to chat up folks you don’t know well. Remember, you promised to serve God “with your presence” when you became a member.
4. Talk up your church in the community. People overhear your conversations and it plants seeds.
5. Get involved in a small group if you are not in one already. We have eleven small groups in the church at the moment including Music Groups, Sunday Schools, Bible Studies, Children’s ministries and even a sewing group!
6. Most of all, remember to pray for your church and its leadership. Those are righteous prayers that bear much fruit.

Sisters and Brothers, I feel an excitement that makes me want to prepare us for company coming. The Bible tells us: **Hebrews 13:1** “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” As Summer turns to Fall, the time is right for us to put on our best welcoming attitudes and be ready to love everyone God sends us. Apple turnovers are optional.

<b>YTD Giving Received:</b> \$276,401.50
<b>YTD Giving Needed:</b> \$396,880.00



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

# Children & Youth



*Youth meet on Sunday evenings at 5:00 and Wednesday afternoons at 4:15, and for Sunday School at 9:00.*

*(Youth will not meet October 15th)*

## *Prayer Breakfasts*

*will be each week at 6:45 in Norman Barnett.*

*CHILDREN CONTINUE TO MEET ON SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 5:00 AND FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL EACH WEEK AT 9:00, A NEW "BREAK OUT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS" FOR KINDERGARTEN, FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS STARTED IN SEPTEMBER.*

*WHAT A GREAT TIME TO COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!*

*(Children will not meet on October 15 or 29th)*



October 29th @12:30 children (k5-5th graders and preschoolers with a parent) are invited on a fall trip to Laurie Farms in Uriah, to experience a corn maze, hayride and activities. The cost is \$15.00 see Rev. Pam Barnhardt or Melody Bradley to sign up.



**We will have a Trick or Treat table on the Square October 31st. We will be collecting candy in Norman Barnett and volunteers are needed on the 31st!**

**We are planning to host a CPR training. More details to follow.**

## *Women's Studies*

*Women meet each Wednesday at 10:00 and 5:15, we 'Undistracted' capture your purpose-Rediscover Your Joy, will start our new studies October 4th by Bob Goff*

## *Sunday School*

*Sunday School for Adults is each Sunday at 9:00, currently there are 3 great classes meeting and a new class is being formed this month for young adults. It's a great time to check out Adult Sunday School!*

# Notes from Nancy

## CHANCEL CHOIR

has already begun working on music for Christmas . . .

but there is still time for you to join us  
and be a part of the music of FUMC.  
Chancel Choir meets on Mondays at  
5:30 pm in the Choir Room

## CHANCEL RINGERS

continue rehearsals on  
Wednesdays, at 4:30.

## FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar for 2024 will be  
posted soon. You will be able to find it on the  
bulletin board outside Norman Barnett Hall  
Kitchen. Please be thinking about when you  
might want to grace our Sanctuary with Altar  
Flowers during the coming year.



## October Worship Services

October	1	Chancel Choir
October	8	COMMUNION Chancel Choir
October	15	Chancel Choir
October	22	Chancel Choir
October	29	Chancel Choir

**HEADS UP FOR POINSETTIAS . . .** Like last year, we have an earlier deadline for  
ordering Poinsettias. We will need an order total by November 27th.





## Birthdays

- 1 Ann Farish
- 3 Libba-Jane Luker
- 4 Walter Crim
- 6 Mike Kennedy, Susie Harrigan
- 8 Brad Brown
- 9 Kaye Cobb
- 12 Joe Chambers
- 13 Dalton McKenzie; Griffin McKenzie
- 14 Nancy Carleton
- 17 Lynn Byrd
- 18 Jon Byrd
- 19 Brad Lipscomb
- 24 Jake McKenzie
- 25 Sharon Brewton
- 26 Clint Craig
- 28 John David Brewton
- 30 Grant Wiggins

## Thank You

Thank you all for supporting our Be the Spark campaign. We are celebrating with you that Blue Lake is debt free and beginning some updates across the site. God Bless You!  
Patric Newton, Executive Director

Dear Dr. Smith, I sincerely thank you, your church and all the volunteers who have so generously donated to Wise Buys, our thrift store. I don't know what we would do without you. The people of Vredenburgh appreciate all the bargains.  
God Bless, Sister Kathy Navarra

### 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	Nursey 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  
5:00 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  
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 10:05am Monroeville Fumc-Youth*



**First United Methodist Church**

324 Pineville Road  
Monroeville, AL 36460