



# FIRST NEWS

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**Volume 45 Issue 11**

**November 2023**

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

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

Being a relative newcomer to these United States, I am trying to familiarize myself with the holidays like Thanksgiving Day. From what I have been overhearing, it all started in 1621 when there was some Pilgrim’s progress made over to America. They came planning to grow Mayflowers but the whole bunch of these religious folks were distracted reading their Bibles when they crashed their Plymouth into a big rock in New England. Since the car wouldn’t start and they had no place else to go, they settled in for the winter. Well, being new to the area, nobody new where the thermostats were so they had a difficult time staying warm until Spring rolled around. That’s when the local natives showed them where the Piggly-Wiggly was so they could get their own vegetables. This worked out so well that they decided to have a great feast to express their thanks. Well, the natives had never been invited over to the Parsonage before and they were not sure what to bring. They showed up to the party with the wild turkey (the eating kind) and they ate, drank and everyone blew their horns a’ plenty. This became the first Thanksgiving. OK, I might not have all the facts exactly right but the tradition of giving thanks has been a long-standing observance among Christians. So what have we got to be thankful for? I have seen many Novembers when I was facing obstacles and suffering. Indeed, many of our church folks are going through their own suffering this Thanksgiving season and it is hard to say “Thank You” to God when you barely have the strength to get through the day. Brothers and sisters, hear the Good News! The sufferings of the present time are NOTHING compared to the glory which is to come! (Rom 8:18). Indeed, the Apostle Paul tells us to be thankful in all things (see above) Notice he didn’t say “for all things”. Anyway, we are supposed to be grateful to God for the MANY blessings that have been poured out upon us, not the least of which is salvation offered to us through the Christ. Lastly, I would encourage all Christians to not just feel their gratitude but also be willing to express their gratitude. This is done in loving each other and sharing God’s abundance. If you really want to say a big “THANK YOU!” to the Lord, find a way to reach out to someone and love on them with some of your entrusted bounty. **Happy Thanksgiving everyone!**

**Lay Servant Training Event Announced:** The Marianna Panama City District Lay Servant Ministry will hold a one-day training event on December 9, 2023. The event will be held at Gulfview United Methodist Church, Panama City Beach, Florida from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM. A trained Lay Servant is qualified to preach from the pulpit in her/his own church or neighboring UMC churches.

Three courses will be offered:  
Basic Course In Lay Servant Ministry      United Methodist History      Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

The advance courses are two of the six that are required for becoming a Lay Servant Speaker.

Registration \$15 (includes snacks and lunch)  
Contact Juddy Stephenson at [juddystephenson@hotmail.com](mailto:juddystephenson@hotmail.com) or call (850) 209-1128.

If you would like to come in Friday night, Juddy can also assist you in locating a motel at reasonable winter rates. For those who do come in early, Gulfview UMC will sponsor a fellowship dinner Friday night at 6:00 PM. The cost of the meal will be \$8.00.

# Children & Youth



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

## Sunday Evening Schedule:

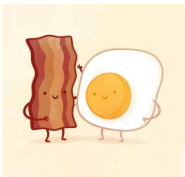
*November 5 – Children 5-6, Youth 5-6:30*

*November 12 - No Evening Activities*

*November 19 – No meeting*

*November 26 - Children 5-6, Youth 5-6:30*

*\* All children invited to craft time at 5:00 in Norman Barnett\**



### Youth Prayer Breakfasts

happen each week at 6:45 in Norman Barnett, it's a great way to connect with one another and God before school.

### **HONEYBAKED HAM.**

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*Youth Honey Baked Ham Sale will start the week after Thanksgiving with delivery the weekend before Christmas.*

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!



Preschool and elementary children have been invited to present the Live Nativity during the Tree Lighting on the Square, November 16th at 6:00. Please let Pam know if your child can participate.



**Angel Tree** helpers needed. Please let Pam Barnhardt know if you are available to help with sign-up, November 9th or sorting/gift give away starting December 13th.

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. It's a great time to check out Adult Sunday School.



Women will start new Advent Studies November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 and 5:15. It's a wonderful time to be a part of one as we learn that "God is on the way".

# Notes from Nancy

**CHANCEL RINGERS** continue to rehearse on Wednesdays, at 4:30 and are preparing for their annual program on Christmas Eve.



**CHANCEL CHOIR** and friends continue working on music for Christmas on Mondays at 5:30 pm in the Choir Room.



## November Worship Services

November	5	All Saints Day COMMUNION Chancel Choir
November	12	Chancel Choir
November	19	Chancel Choir
November	26	Chancel Choir



## HEADS UP FOR POINSETTIAS



We will begin taking orders for poinsettias this month. Order forms will be available in the Narthex and on the table by the elevator. Please remember to fill in ALL information and include payment with your orders. Plants will be \$15.00 each. The deadline for orders is November 27th .

### FLOWER CALENDAR

The Flower Calendar for 2024 is posted on the bulletin board outside of Norman Barnett Hall Kitchen. Please go ahead and sign up to grace our Sanctuary with Altar Flowers during the coming year.

**YTD Giving Received:**

\$301,079.50

**YTD Giving Needed:**

\$436,568.00



# November Birthdays

- 1 Theresa Crim
- 2 Ronnie Chastain
- 4 Alan Morgan; Jim Kane, Reid Hines
- 7 Drew Black
- 9 Gerald Melton
- 13 Frank Dobson
- 14 Kenny Croft; Sarah Watson James
- 18 Jack Lipscomb
- 20 Lib Rainey
- 21 Bennett Ryals
- 23 Ree Smith; Susannah Dorrance
- 25 Diane Simmons
- 26 Ann Scott Jones; Walker Jones
- 27 Katie Luker
- 28 Kaitlin Moncus
- 29 Suzanne Davis; Mark Powell

Dear Church Family,  
 We wanted to express our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming love, kindness, and prayers you showered upon us during Jack's recent surgical procedure. Your unwavering support and the warmth of your community have been a tremendous source of strength during this challenging time. We truly feel blessed to be a part of this family, and your prayers have brought us comfort and hope. The food that was brought nourished not only our bodies but lifted our spirits and those of our children and caregivers. Thank you for being such a wonderful and caring congregation and surrounding our family with your love. With heartfelt appreciation,  
 The Adams Family

First United Methodist Church  
 324 Pineville Road  
 Monroeville, AL 36460

## 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  
 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***