Announcements

***Church after Church:*** Please join us for *Church After* *Church* in Norman Barnett Hall.

***Children’s Worship:*** 3, 4, & 5 year olds are invited to leave after the Children’s Sermon for a special Worship time.

***Prayer Request Cards*** are located in the Narthex and on the table by the Elevator

***Pastor John’s Bible Study*** resumes on January 7th.

***UMYF Monroeville Merri Mail Christmas Card drop-off and pick up*** is ready to go for folks we see at First UMC. Donations to this project support Youth Ministries.

***December 28th*** is the last day for deposits to post to 2023. Please be sure to get end of year giving in no later than Noon on the 28th.

***Honey Baked Hams:*** Youth are still taking orders. Delivery date is December 20th.

***Grant Received:*** We have received a grant from the Conference to continue our mission work. Special thanks to Karen Robinson for her timely and persistent grant writing.

***Office Christmas Hours:***  Closed on December 25th and January 1st Abbreviated Hours 9 – 12 on December 21 and 26 – 28

***Special Thanks to . . .***

**Everyone who participated in the Missions Bake Sale:** We truly appreciate the bakers and shoppers! We are pleased to announce we raised over &800 for the Children’s Home. Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

**All who helped to make the Vredenburg Christmas party a great success:** Twenty children and twelve volunteers gathered at the Vredenburg Community Center for a special Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 9th. The children enjoyed games, lunch. and Christmas arts and crafts. Special thanks to Bob and Kathy Marshall for the festive decorations, party favors, and special treats. It was a wonderful event filled with Christian love and Christmas Cheer Thanks you so much!!! Karen

**December Giving**

**Received:** $ 31,776.00

**Needed:** $ 39,688.00

**YTD Giving**

**Received:** $ 369,115.50

**Received:** $ 476,256.00

December 24 **Fourth** Sunday of Advent **Christmas Eve**

**Morning Worship at 10:05**

**4:30**pm **Chancel Bells Christmas Program**

**5:00**pm **Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Services**

**7:00**pm **Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Services**

December 31 **First Sunday After Christmas**

First United Methodist Church

324 Pineville Road

Monroeville, Alabama 36460

251-575-2790

December 17, 2023

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**Church Staff**

Senior Pastor: Rev. John Woodrow

Minister of Education: Rev. Pam Barnhardt

Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Nancy Carleton

Church Business Administrator: Caroline Hardin

Nursery Director: Christi Dunn

Nursery Attendants: Letitia Gibbs & Rosie Parker

**Morning Worship**

December 17, 2023 ‡ 10:05

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**ENTRANCE**

Gathering Prelude Nancy Carleton  *Welcome and Opportunities* Rev. Pam Barnhardt

Invocation Rev. Barnhardt

† Hymn 204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*  Congregation

Lighting the Advent Wreath *Candle of Joy* Chase Bradley Family

Congregation† Hymn 211 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

† A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada Congregation

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God’s presence,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen

† The Gloria Patri Congregation

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

**PROCLAMATION and RESPONSE**

Celebrations and Concerns Rev. John Woodrow

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer Hymnal, 895

Offering Nancy Carleton

† Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* Hymnal, 95

† Hymn 217 *Away in a Manger* Congregation

Children’s Sermon Rev. Barnhardt

*(After Children’s Moment 3-5 year olds are invited to go to Children’s Worship)*

Scripture  *Psalm 126* Rev. Woodrow

Sermon *“Harvesting the Joy”* Rev. Woodrow

**SENDING FORTH**

† Hymn 196 *Come, Thou Long Expected-Jesus* Congregation

† Benediction Rev. Woodrow

† Three-fold Amen Congregation

Going Forth Postlude Nancy Carleton

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† *Standing as able Please silence or turn off your cell phones.*

**Attendance registration August 13, 2017**

Check one: 9:00\_\_\_\_\_11:00\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Member(s)
* First time visitor
* Visitor
* Wish to join church
* Desire pastoral visit

Will you share your birthday below for our newsletter birthday list?

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*A* ***special thanks*** *to the Altar Guild for their help in arranging the Poinsettias which will be in the Sanctuary through Christmas Eve* ***. . .*** *and to* ***all*** *who helped in making the Sanctuary ready for Advent.*

*The Altar Flowers today are given to the greater glory of God*

*and*

*by Cecelia Ingram/Pam Barnhardt.*