



FIRST NEWS



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Volume 46 Issue 2

February 2024

A Word From Pastor John

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.”

I made what I thought was a funny joke recently during a meeting with some of the members of the church. I informed everyone that I would be meeting with the District Superintendent in February and if she saw her shadow, I would get another year of appointment at Monroeville First. It was a lot funnier in my head than when spoken out loud apparently. However, the whole topic we were discussing was whether or not there would be a good chance of the Bishop reappointing me to this church in June for another year. The bigger truth is that we don’t really know if God is going to grant us another day on this Earth, let alone another year serving anywhere.

More often than I would expect, I hear this comment from elderly people: “Pastor John, when I go, I would like you to do my funeral” and most of the time, I respond with, “I will agree to that if you agree to say something nice about me at my funeral if it comes first.” After mild surprise and a smile, they generally agree to those terms with both of us reminded that God can call us home at any time. A further illustration of that is a recent cartoon I saw on social media where two boys are talking: The first boy says, “You know, someday we are going to die.” The second boy replies, “Yeah, but on all the other days we’re going to live.” That response sums up my message for this month. We have a finite number of days to live and we can plan them all we want but we don’t really know what’s around the corner that could change everything. We can, however, hold onto this truth; God has a perfect plan for us that, if we should we choose to “Get on board with the Lord” we will be lifted up to heights we would not even have imagined for lives.

We need not fear anything in the days ahead because we are already more than conquerors through the One who died for us. Therefore, let’s be diligent in seeking God’s will for our lives every day and then, regardless of having six more weeks of winter or any other event, we can go forward guided by the One who will not let us fall.

YTD Giving Received: 22,159.35

YTD Giving Needed: 79,376.00

Mark the date!

Sunday, February 11th at 11:30am

(following Church-After-Church)

Jodi Williams from Evergreen will be giving us a 15-minute talk on volunteer opportunities in our community for visiting ministry.

Everyone is invited to stay for her presentation.



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

Youth and Children Meet on Sunday nights, Youth from 5:00 – 6:30 and Elementary aged children from 5:00-6:00 for dinner, recreation, and Discipleship. For February we will meet on the 4th, 11th, and 25th.

Youth Prayer Breakfast meets each Wednesday morning at 6:45am in Norman Barnett Hall.



A dozen children and chaperones will be experiencing worship, crafts, campfires, Blue Lake toast, and a Potato Drop with the Society of Saint Andrew, at Children's Retreat February 2nd-4th. Please be in prayer for our group.



Children's Ministries sponsored a T-shirt sale and provided Life-Vac anti choking devices for our church. They are in each kitchen, the Nursery, and in the closet (with the AED) behind the Sanctuary, with instructions for use. This is another important way to show love and concern for all of God's children.



Calling all preschoolers and any elementary kids-Melody Bradley is organizing a "Little Krewe" to march in the 2nd line parade on the square at 10:30am Saturday, February 3rd.

Wednesday ladies groups will begin Lenten studies on Wednesday February 21st at 10:00 and 5:15, it's a great time to join a study!



Our Youth are travelling to Winterplace West Virginia for skiing and retreat together February 16th -19th. We are excited to be joining Church Street UMC in this adventure.



The Youth are sponsoring a Bake Sale on Sunday February 11 after worship, all are welcome to support Youth Ministries in providing baked goods of any kind, and to shop for homemade treats.



Our Youth will be collecting change at the conclusion of worship on February 11th, change will be given to feed the hungry.

Notes from Nancy

We are moving very quickly into the Season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th . We will have our Ash Wednesday service at 6 pm in the Sanctuary.

The five Sundays in lent follow Ash Wednesday on February 17th and 24th with the other three on March 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Palm Sunday is on March 24th ,
Maundy Thursday is March 28th, and
Easter is on March 31st .



Worship Opportunities in February

| | | | |
|----------|----|-----------------------|---------------|
| February | 4 | Holy Communion | Chancel Choir |
| February | 11 | | Chancel Choir |
| February | 14 | Ash Wednesday | |
| February | 18 | First Sunday of Lent | Chancel Choir |
| February | 25 | Second Sunday of Lent | Chancel Choir |

CHANCEL CHOIR and **CHANCEL BELLS** have already begun working on music for Lent, with the Chancel Choir meeting on Mondays at 5:30 and the Chancel Bells on Wednesdays at 4:30.

Lilies for Easter

We do not have information for ordering Easter Lilies yet, but will give you information as soon as it is available.



Birthdays

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 |

2 Debra Morgan
4 Chase Luker
5 Betti Tate
8 Scott Daniels; Forester Long
9 Erin Rhea
11 Bryan Jones
15 Ron Wiggins
16 Elise Wiggins, Charlie Kate Black
21 Chris Ard; Carol Cobb; Jean Whatley
22 Judy O'Gwynn; Donna Craig
23 Randall James
26 Joy Whetstone
28 Dan Brewton; Pat Booker

Regular Church Service

Sunday:

9:00 am Sunday School
10:05am 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 10:05 am by WMFC-FM Monroeville 99.3
Livestream each Sunday at 10:05 am Monroeville Fumc-Youth*

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