



FIRST NEWS

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A Word From Pastor John

James 4:8 (NLT) “Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.”

I love God’s system. It is easily understood by even me. It goes like this, “Seek Me and you will find Me” (When you seek me with your whole heart). Or as in the Scripture above states, “Draw near to God and God will draw near to you”. It is so simple. Broken down to everyday speech, God will be as much involved in your life as you want. It is a choice each of us gets to make. My friend, Amos, said once, “I don’t believe in God because I’ve never experienced God”. Well now that I’ve gone a little further on my Christian journey, I’m wondering if God ever gets to experience Amos.

Some folks say, “I don’t see any evidence of God anywhere”. Seriously? I would refer those folks to the old familiar Hymn, “In the rustling grass I hear Him pass He speaks to me *everywhere*” (italics added for emphasis). The truth is that God is in us and among us! All we have to do is make more of a commitment to the Lord to fully understand what kind of commitment Jesus first made to us.

Folks, the Season of Lent is upon us as we prepare for Easter. There is no better time to examine our hearts and see where we have been holding back from drawing nearer to God. Jesus said by his action, “I’ll take the first step”. That step took him up to a place called Golgotha where he gave his life for you and for me.

Here in Monroeville First, we have the “usual suspects” found in most churches. We have folks who long to grow in Christ and make the Lord a priority in their lives. We also have folks whose only involvement with the church is an occasional attendance for Sunday worship. And then we have a whole bunch of folks somewhere between those two groups. I encourage EVERYONE to be in the Word this season especially. Attend a Bible Study or a Sunday School class to get more exposure to Scripture. Do a daily devotional with one of the many resources out there. Become stronger in your discipleship to Jesus!

This Easter I’m going to do a serious search of my heart to see where else in my life I can draw nearer to my God. It may be a life-changing trip. Won’t you come with me?

In Memoriam
Mary Elise Jones Whetstone
January 31, 2024

In Memoriam
James William Kane
February 26, 2024

YTD Giving Received: 52,555.35
YTD Giving Needed: 119,064.00



Children & Youth

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

Sunday Evenings: (Children and Youth Discipleship and Snack Supper)

March 3 5:00-6:00 Children/5:00-6:30 Youth

March 10 5:00-6:00 Children/ 5:00-6:30 Youth

March 17 5:00-6:00 Children/ 5:00-6:30 Youth

Wednesday Prayer Breakfast:

for Youth is at 6:45 in
Norman Barnett Hall
March 6, 13 and 20



Easter Egg Hunt :

Preschoolers and Elementary aged children on Saturday March 30, please have children bring a basket as we hunt for eggs and learn of the story of Jesus. Preschoolers at 10:00. Kindergarten and Elementary at 11:00.

Mark Your Calendars!

VBS July 7th -10th, 2024

Easter Meal Bags



The Missions Committee is hosting an Easter Meal Drive to help others in need. The goal is to prepare 40 meal bags to share this Easter.

Meal bags and menus are available in Norman Barnett Hall. The church will provide the hams. If you are unable to shop, we will be happy to shop for you. A \$20 donation would be greatly appreciated. The deadline is March 15th for all bags to be filled and returned to Norman Barnett Hall.

Thank you so much for helping to make this Easter season "Eggstra" special for others.

Friday, March 22, FUMC will be providing a sack lunches for 45 volunteers for the Monroe County Extraordinary Olympics again this year. If you would like to bring any of the following items: please let me know the quantity you plan to donate: Hamburger buns, individual chips, home baked treats packed ziploc or if you prefer to donate to the cause, we can shop for you. Melvin and Gail have graciously agreed to provide the pulled pork for sandwiches. We can always use help packing the lunches and delivering the lunches to the school. Please mark donations for "Extraordinary Olympics" So Caroline will know where to credit your contribution.

Spring is coming and it's time to spruce up the church grounds!! We are fortunate that the Wednesday Men are willing to begin phase one of our church landscaping project in March. This will include replacement of dead or diseased shrubbery on the right side of the sanctuary down to the chapel. Please consider purchasing a shrub or more in honor or memory of a loved one. There will be forms located in the narthex to turn in with your check. The cost (including shrub, soil and mulch) will be 40.00 per each listing. We will post donors/honorees in the bulletin once we have ended our fundraising drive. If you would like a card to let your honoree know of your donation, please let us know. Our goal for phase one includes about 40 shrubs. We will also post donors/ honorees downstairs on a poster so everyone can keep up with our fundraising progress! If we exceed the goal, we will apply the funds towards phase two of the landscaping plans. Let's all pitch in to help make our church grounds fresh and welcoming!

Notes from Nancy

We continue our Journey in the Season of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday

The three remaining Sundays in Lent are on March 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Palm Sunday is on March 24th and children (of ALL ages) will be invited to come in during the Prelude waving Palm Branches

Maundy Thursday is March 28th. We will have our Worship Service at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Easter is on March 31st when we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus!

Worship Opportunities in March

March	3	Third Sunday in Lent Holy Communion	Chancel Choir
March	10	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Chancel Choir
March	17	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Chancel Choir
March	24	Palm/Pasion Sunday	Chancel Choir Chancel Bells
March	28	Maundy Thursday	Chancel Choir Chancel Bells
March	31	Easter Sunday	Chancel Choir

Lilies for Easter

We are taking orders Easter Lilies. They are \$15:00 each. Orders need to be in by March 20th. You will find forms in the Narthex and on the table by the Elevator.



March 10th Daylight
Savings Time Begins!

Please join us for a

Bridal Shower

honoring

Lauren Fuqua

Bride-elect of Griffin McKenzie

Sunday, March 10, 2024

1:30-3:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
324 Pineville Road | Monroeville

Given by the Ladies of the Church
Bridal Registry: Amazon, Cobbwebs and Lowe's

Thank You

Dear FUMC family,
Words cannot express the deep gratitude felt by our entire family during this time of loss. We are so very thankful for the many acts of kindness shown not only after our mother's death, but also during the last years of her life. What a blessing to be surrounded and loved by people who show the love of Christ through acts of kindness all the time. She cherished the many visits, calls and acts of love showered on her. She knew, without a doubt, she was loved by her church family. Thank you for loving us, for supporting us and for continuing to lift us in prayer as we adjust to life without our precious Mother. May God bless you all.

Much Love,
The Whetstone Family



6 Roy Adams, Brooks Wiggins
7 Caroline Rainey
9 Ricky Powell; Kathryn Wiggins Horton
12 Jerry Dyess
17 Jonathan Byrd
23 Rick Dorrance
24 Michael Wiggins, Mary Boyd Robinson;
 Sarah Baker Barnhardt
26 Christi Dunn
28 Bryan Rhea
31 Chip Hare

Thank You

We are grateful for your overwhelming generosity this Christmas season. Your selflessness brought joy and cheer to the hearts of Alabama children and families, lighting up hope in a challenging season. Thank you for being a beacon of light and supporting our mission to provide homes, healing and hope to vulnerable children and families in our communities. Let's stay connected in 2024!

Rebecca Morris
 Embrace Alabama Kids

FUMC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Woodrow
 Rev. Pam Barnhardt
 Nancy Carleton
 Caroline Hardin
 Christi Dunn

Senior Pastor
 Minister of Education
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist
 Church Business Manager
 Nurse Director

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

We appreciate all the ways our friends at Monroeville support Blue Lake. Thank you for helping ensure lives continue to change at this special place. God Bless You All!

Patric Newton, Executive Director

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