



# FIRST NEWS

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**Volume 46 Issue 4**

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## *A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 7b “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be silent and a time to speak.”**

Recently I was outside with my dogs late at night and there was no sound except for the distant sound of a vehicle perhaps heading home at that late hour. It was a most peaceful night. The stars were bright and beautiful. I was so overcome with a sense of calm that I whispered a prayer of thanks to God for the quiet moment. In this busy world, there doesn't seem to be a lot of time for quiet. The old adage, “Silence is Golden” doesn't just apply when your parents are saying it to you but is also an invaluable gift to oneself when a quiet moment is stolen from the din of the chaotic world.

As I watched my dogs, I realized that they communicated just fine without saying a word to each other. Couples that have been together for a long time learn this invaluable mode of interaction where a simple glance speaks volumes. We as a culture don't like silence in our interactions. Whether we are on a date or sitting with a few friends, silence is so feared that we often will invent something to say; anything rather than suffering the void of the “uncomfortable silence.” Conversely, many other cultures like the Japanese have learned to appreciate silence and I have marveled as I observed older couples sitting together in a park where they had no need for words to be spoken. They're just enjoying being. In Psalm 46:10, we are instructed to “Be still and know that I am God.” Remember that some of the best times you will ever spend with the Lord is when you are quiet, together, as friends neither having to weigh thoughts nor measure words.

Easter is an especially important time to be still and feel the presence of the Lord. It is a time to reflect on the importance of what it meant for Lord to give up the Life of Jesus in order to save all of us. Especially in this time of year, if we spend a little time in quiet seclusion with prayers on our hearts, we can feel the closeness of God in those moments.

As I ushered my dogs toward the door, I said from my heart, “Thank you, Lord, for Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for the quiet. I feel VERY close to you in the silence of this evening and I thank you also for making dogs that don't talk because they surely would have ruined the moment, AMEN.”

YTD Giving Received: \$78,368.35

YTD Giving Needed: \$158,752.00

# Children & Youth



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

## Sundays In April:

April 7th Youth 5:00-6:30/ Children 5:00-6:00  
April 14th Youth 5:00-6:30/ Children 5:00-6:00  
April 21st Youth 5:00-6:30/ Children 5:00-6:00  
April 28th Youth 5:00-6:30/ Children 5:00-6:00

***Youth Prayer Breakfast:** meets in Norman Barnett Hall each Wednesday at 6:45 April 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th .*

## *Coming up..*

Looking ahead to Vacation Bible School July 7th -10th from 5:00-7:00, if you can volunteer, please see Melody Bradley or Pam Barnhardt.

We will also be taking VBS to the YMCA Day Camp on July 8th -11th (10:30-12:00) this is a great opportunity for outreach and fun. Please see Melody Bradley or Pam Barnhardt if you can help.



We look forward to honoring our High School graduates during worship, followed by a meal of celebration on

**Sunday May 5th !**

We will also recognize college graduates and others. Please let us know of any who need to be listed.

*Women will begin new studies in April, Wednesdays at 10:00 and 5:15, we will focus on Eastertide, ( the days after Easter).*

## *Thank You*

Thanks to all who helped provide Easter meals as a part of our mission and outreach program. You filled 40 bags for local families and residents of Vredenburgh.

## *Thank You*

The Wednesday men have been hard at work replacing shrubbery, thanks to each of them for helping to make our yard more lovely.

# Notes from Nancy

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- \*The Chancel Choir
  - \*The Chancel Bells
  - \*Ann Farish, Marlee Kate Farish,  
Micheal Ard, Laura King,
  - \*Palm Waving children
- for their leadership in Worship services  
during Holy Week on **Palm Sunday,**  
**Maundy Thursday** and **Easter!!**



## April Worship Services

April	7	Children's Easter Program
April	14	Chancel Choir
April	21	Chancel Choir
April	28	Chancel Choir

### CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM

will be on April 7th during  
Morning Worship.  
Make sure to not to miss it!

## Thank You

Dearest FUMC Family,  
Words cannot express how much the Dunns appreciate the outpouring of love and support that our church family poured over our family throughout Tristin and Emily's engagement and now wedding. What an awesome foundation on which to start a marriage! Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for loving our family like you do.

Wally and Christi Dunn



### 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	Nursery Director

- 1 *Eli Fleming*
- 2 *Jim Davis*
- 4 *Chris Hines; Dawn Brewton*
- 5 *Robbie Kennedy*
- 6 *Melanie Woodrow*
- 9 *Rosemary Johnston*
- 11 *Avery Barnes*
- 13 *Bill Moncus*
- 14 *Kermit Brown; Ethan James;*  
*Fielding Montgomery*
- 18 *Willie Ed Farish; Jodi Chambers*
- 20 *Jack Chambers*
- 22 *Judy Croft*
- 25 *Cile Coaker*
- 26 *Jeanette Adams; Mary Ann Brown*
- 28 *Mary Moran*

### Regular Church Service

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Wednesday:</b>
9:00 am Sunday School	6:45 am Youth Prayer Breakfast
10:05 am Morning Worship	9:00 am Wednesday Men
11:00 am Church After Church	10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
5:00 pm Children/UMYF	4:15 pm Youth Bible Study
5:00 pm 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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