



FIRST NEWS

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Volume 46 Issue 5

May 2024

A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

It is around this time in Nova Scotia, when I was growing up, I loved to go for walks in the woods. In early May, it was the time for flowers to start to blooming, and the smell of foliage coming to life was everywhere. The decay of a winter of dormancy was giving way to new life and the hope of luscious, green growth was the theme around me. I was surrounded by the smells, the sights and the sounds of newness and promise. It was absolutely my favorite time of year. It still is.

The announcement has been made that I will be leaving for a new appointment the end of June and my last preaching day at Monroeville First will be June 16th . It will be here in the blink of an eye. Your new pastor, Rev. Mark Lilly, will take over July 1st and his first preaching day will be July 7th . He is a gifted pastor and Monroeville FUMC is blessed to have him. I pray he will be welcomed with the same warmth and love I have been shown in this church.

There is always some anxiety in churches that goes with change, and this is especially true when that change involves clergy. This is normal and common for folks to feel this way. For Melanie and I, we believe in our hearts that this is a Spirit-led direction. I urge those who are anxious or upset about this change to trust in the Spirit and keep focused on the teachings of Jesus rather than the change itself. It is part of being a Methodist that pastors are appointed every year. Often, it's to the same church but sometimes it's not.

There was tremendous anxiety after the death of Jesus when the Disciples were wondering about their future and what would become of the teachings Jesus gave them. They were concerned about what would lie ahead for them and they were experiencing grief because they loved their teacher! A few years later, when Paul wrote to the Philippians using the words written above, there was anxiety in the church as Christians were being persecuted and there were internal issues in the church as well. Nobody foresaw that the future was secure in the Holy Spirit and that the teachings of Jesus would be eventually taught around the world! The Easter miracle gave us hope so that anxiety and concern for the future are no longer burdens Christians need to carry.

My precious friends, there will be plenty of time for good-byes next month. For now, do not let your focus be taken away from the direction of the Spirit. Jesus has given us a path to follow and we still have lots of work to do together. The harvest is ripe! Let's continue to love and serve in a manner that would please the Lord! And to God be the glory, Amen.

Children & Youth



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



We will honor our high school graduates during worship service Sunday May 5th. Following worship service we will have lunch in Wesley Hall! The church will provide main course and dessert, please bring sides and salads to share. We will also recognize college graduates and others.

Please let us know of any one who needs to be listed.

Congratulations to our 2024 High School Graduates!
Evelyn Craig, Layla Daniels, Grant Wiggins

Sunday Evenings:

May 5th	Youth 5:00-6:30 / Children 5:00-6:00
May 12th	No evening programs, Happy Mother's Day
May 19th	Youth 5:00-6:30 / Children 5:00-6:00
May 26th	No evening programs, Happy Memorial Day



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.

Youth Prayer Breakfast Schedule:

Youth will meet Wednesday, May 8th for the last prayer breakfast of the school year at 6:45 in Norman Barnett Hall.

Wednesday Women's Groups:

will meet each Wednesday in May!

(May 1st the 10:00am group will not meet)

Diaper Drive! May 12-26

Benefiting Babies First Home in Mobile, Al. Deliver diapers to the church or contact Misty Powell at 251-714-4478. Items needed are diapers and/or wipes. You may also donate money that can be used to purchase these items. Make the check out to FUMC and notate Diapers in the memo. If you have any questions, please contact Pam or Misty.

Notes from Nancy

Pentecost Sunday is May 19th

On this Sunday we are asking everyone to Wear RED clothing in celebration of this day.

CHANCEL BELLS have enjoyed a "season" of ringing fellowship. They will be taking a break for the summer. Many thanks to Suzanne Davis, Carole Dean, Fredia Tatum, Micheal Ard, Barb Heinzen and Laura King for their commitment to Chancel Bells!!!

CHANCEL CHOIR
continues to rehearse on
Mondays at 5:30

YTD Giving Received: \$109,759.36

YTD Giving Needed: \$198,440.00



We will honor all women with a gift during worship on Mother's Day!

(May 12th)



MAY Worship Services

May	5	Holy Communion HS Senior Recognition Chancel Choir
May	12	Mother's Day Chancel Choir
May	19	Day of Pentecost Chancel Choir
Note: Plan to wear red		
May	26	Chancel Choir

Thank You

*Dear First United Methodist Church,
Thank you so much for showering us with so much love! We are feeling so thankful for everyone's love and support, and we cannot wait to be married in your beautiful church! Love, Lauren and Griffin*

*We extend our deepest thanks to all of you for your kindness during our greatest sadness. We appreciate it more than words can express and it will always be remembered.
The Family of John B. Barnett III*

FUMC,

Thanks you so much for your continued support of our Extraordinary Olympics. You have no idea how much it helps knowing I never have to worry about the volunteer lunches. You all always provide the BEST lunches for us. We are truly blessed with your love and support. Terri Norris



- 1 Emily Williams; Emory Dunn
- 2 Carter English
- 4 Corey Barnes
- 6 Jim Hines
- 9 Sharon Brooks; Marie Klepac;
Ben Smith
- 11 Shannon McKenzie; Isaac Brewton
- 13 Hunter Lindblom, Anna Claire Bradley
- 14 Faye Estes, Lee Bailey
- 17 Mary Carter English Gilbert
- 19 Julia Brown, Joe Nicholas
- 20 Misty Powell
- 21 Chase Bradley
- 22 Melody Anne Bradley
- 24 Bryce Black
- 28 Sarah Countryman; Maddy Ard
- 31 Harrison Martens

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

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