

# FIRST NEWS

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**Volume 48 Issue 1**

**January 2026**

As we move into our new year we are thankful for so many things. I am thankful for the kind expressions of love shown to me on Pastors Appreciation Day and during Advent. I am thankful for the unending dedication of our Trustees, Finance, Fellowship, Bereavement, Worship, Program, Staff Parish and Mission / Outreach folks who have delivered treats, visited in homes, provided meals, planned and chaperoned events, adorned our sanctuary, monitored our budget and fixed things that were broken. I am thankful especially during the aftermath of a fire and elevator repair that our gifted and patient laity stepped into all of the gaps, and down into literal elevator shafts, doing whatever is necessary to lovingly care for our facility, and lovingly care for our church family as well. I am thankful for those who lead, those who follow and those who encourage, give and pray. I am excited about what 2026 holds for us as the First UMC Monroeville Family of Faith.

A few numbers for us to celebrate, in 2025:

Number of Food bags given away- 100 plus

Number of Angel tree children served – over 220

Number of Embrace Alabama's Babies First residents who were provided with Christmas gifts - 17

Belinda Dorrance was certified a Lay Servant by our church and district, we are so excited for this amazing accomplishment and celebrate how her being equipped to lead in church ministries will enhance our church.

The youth raised over 1000.00 during our Ham sale- thanks for supporting this fundraiser that benefit our youth winter retreat.

The Embrace Alabama White Christmas offering total was \$2,158.00 thank you for supporting this ministry that impacts the lives of children across our state, and thank you to Misty Powell and Charlotte Chambers for serving as liaisons and informing us about the program.

# Opportunities



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



Children's Retreat at Blue Lake is January 30th – February 1st and is for children aged 3rd -6th grades, the cost is 100.00 and will be a time of worship, fellowship, crafts, singing, and games- parents should see Pam Barnhardt to register children by January 10th. #S'MORES



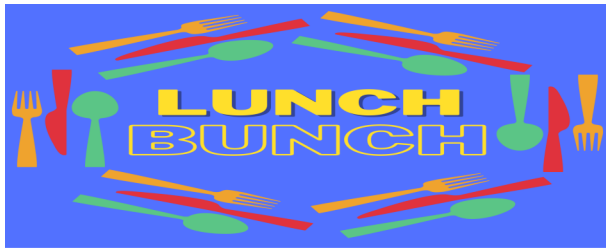
Our Youth Ski Retreat will be February 13th – 16th. We will travel to Beech Mountain North Carolina on Friday, and return on Monday. The cost is 300.00 and includes accommodation, lift tickets and rentals, meals and transportation. If your youth is interested contact Pam Barnhardt. #THINK SNOW



Berkley Chambers, daughter of Jodi and Zac Chambers, was selected as Monroe County's Distinguished Young Woman and will represent our county in the state program in January. The Belles Lettres of Monroe County are hosting a tea that will be in Wesley Hall on Sunday January 11th at 3:00 Plan to attend this send off celebration to wish Berkley well!



- 3 Billy Rainey
- 5 Rex Chambers; Cindy Kennedy
- 7 Dawn Hare
- 9 Ray Owens
- 14 Corey Barnes
- 16 Victoria Powell Gibson
- 17 Ann Elizabeth King
- 18 Shelby Rainey; Tommy Tate
- 23 Trey Carter
- 30 Matt Farish



Lunch Bunch meets January 8th at Noon at Vanity Fair Golf and Tennis Club!



Women's Bible Study resumes on January 7th at 5:15 in Wesley Hall.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1 New Years Day-Office Closed**
- 8 Lunch Bunch at Noon ( Vanity Fair Golf Club)
- 11 Belle's Service Club Tea 3:00 ( Wesley Hall)
- 13 Delta Kappa Gamma 3:30-5:30(Wesley Hall)
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- Office Closed**
- 20 HIPPY 10:00-12:00 (Wesley Hall)

YTD Giving Received: \$267,559.06 (2025)  
 YTD Giving Needed: \$279,216.00(2025)  
 \*As of print date!

### FUMC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Pam Barnhardt  
Carole Dean  
Caroline Hardin

Minister of Education  
Interim Musician  
Church Business Manager

### 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

**Wednesday:**

6:45 am Youth Prayer Breakfast  
9:00 am Wednesday Men  
4:15 pm Youth Bible Study  
5:15 pm Ladies Bible Study

***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 FUMCMonroeville***



## 2026 Administrative Council & Committees

Church Council Chairperson:	Beth Barnes	<b>Finance</b>	Chair: Lindsey Coxwell
Church Council Vice Chair:	Bill Rainey	Treasurer:	Laura King
Lay Leader:	Suzanne Davis	Asst. Treasurer:	Sebrena Moncus
Lay Delegate:	Micheal Ard	Lay Leader:	Suzanne Davis
Lay Delegate:	Collins Brown	Lay Delegate:	Collins Brown
Trustee Chair:	Jim Davis	Lay Delegate:	Micheal Ard
Finance Chair:	Lindsey Coxwell	Church Council Chair:	Beth Barnes
Treasurer:	Laura King	Staff/Parrish Chair:	Ricky Powell
SPRC Chair:	Ricky Powell	Trustee Chair:	Jim Davis
Missions:	Misty Powell	Business manager:	Caroline Hardin
Worship:	Michelle Rainey	At Large:	Tripp Stallworth
Kitchen:	Beth Barnes	At Large:	Frank Dobson
Care Ministries:	Laura King		
Disaster response:	Corey Barnes		
Children:	Collins Brown/Allison Montgomery		
Youth:	Jodi Chambers		
Out Reach Activities:	Belinda Dorrance/Ann Farish		
At Large :	Bonnie Chandler		
At Large :	Mary Kreshak		
At Large:	Cayden Powell		
At Large::	Berkley Chambers		

### Board of Trustees: Chair: Jim Davis

Class of 2026	Chris King, Chris Ard, Billy Rainey
Class of 2027:	Zac Chambers, Sebrena Moncus, Corey Barnes
Class of 2028:	Jim Davis, Tripp Stallworth, Preston Barnett
Ex-Officio:	Wednesday Man: Hunter Lindblom, Will Coxwell

### Staff- Parish Relations: Chair: Ricky Powell

Class of 2026:	Corey Barnes, Hunter Lindblom, Ricky Powell
Class of 2027:	Milton Coxwell, Laura King, Kermit Brown
Class of 2028:	Dawn Hare, Bonnie Chandler, Ron Day
Lay Delegates X2:	Micheal Ard, Collins Brown      Lay Leader: Suzanne Davis

### Nominations: Chair: Pastor

Class of 2026:	Dawn Brewton, Emily Williams, Bill Rainey
Class of 2027:	Ann Farish, Peggy Flowers, Will Coxwell
Class of 2028:	Sherry Chastain, Belinda Dorrance, Zac Chambers
Lay Leader:	Suzanne Davis

### Scholarship:

Belinda Dorrance, Kay Dobson, Marcus Montgomery  
Peggy Flowers, Melissa Lipscomb, Theresa Crim, Ron Day