



FIRST NEWS

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A Word From Pastor John

Acts 20:36-38 (NLT) “When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.

Many years ago, I knelt before the Bishop and recited my vows in the Service of Ordination. The Bishop placed the yoke of servitude around my neck (the stole), placed hands upon me, and prayed that God would always guide me and be with me in my itinerancy. “Itinerancy” is an unusual word. It means to go willingly and faithfully to where one is sent. This is part of what I have vowed to do as part of my ordained service to the Lord. Since then, a lot of time has passed and I have served to the best of my ability.

In the Spring of 2021, I received word that I was being sent to Monroeville First UMC. A few weeks later we arrived at our new Monroe County home to begin my new appointment. When a pastor starts out in a new appointment, he/she doesn’t think about the day of leaving in the future but only about the service of the present. But that day of leaving eventually comes.

As most of you know, our denomination appoints the pastor every year. Sometimes it is in the same church and sometimes it is not. Earlier this Spring, I received a call to go to another church and I immediately felt the Spirit in that call. Monroeville FUMC has grown during my tenure because of the faith and dedicated service of the laity. I feel like this church has more room to grow to the glory of God but it is time for another pastor to take this church “across” the Jordan, as it were. I have peace in my heart about this move. Melanie expressed to me that she also has felt a Spiritual peace after praying about our new appointment.

There are no booklets or pamphlets available on how a pastoral family is supposed to cope with the heartbreak in a move like this. After investing our hearts and souls into the people of this church and this community, Melanie and I have to let go and move on. Several people have asked me what they can do to help us in our move. Here is my answer. Love and support your church and its clergy as much as humanly possible, Reverend Pam Barnhardt will be in this role until an ordained elder is appointed here. Whoever is sent should be welcomed as a gift from God as they arrive and try to get adjusted to their new home. They are going to need you because they, too, are grieving as they are following obediently to where the Lord has sent them. This will give my heart peace knowing that they are being loved.

In the above Scripture, Paul had to leave Ephesus and it was heartbreaking for many but then “they escorted him down to the ship.” Please know this; You will all be in our hearts forever. Just because we are out of your sight, it doesn’t mean we are not connected in the Body of Christ and I am confident we will meet again, if not in this realm, then in Glory.

On Tuesday, June 25th, like Paul, we will “head down to the ship and sail off” to our next appointment. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve God with you. I will always love you and count our time together as precious. Melanie and I will hold you all in our hearts forever. And, as always, to God, be all the honor, glory and praise . . . Amen

Children & Youth



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

Youth / Children

<i>June</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Children 5:00-6:00 / Youth 5:00-6:30</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Children 5:00-6:00 / Youth 5:00-6:30</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>No Sunday Night Meetings</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Children 5:00-6:00 / Youth 5:00-6:30</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Children 5:00-6:00 / Youth 5:00-6:30</i>



Vacation Bible School "Camp Firelight, A Summer Camp Adventure with God" Will be July 7-10 from 5:00-7:00 each evening. Preschoolers through 5th graders are invited to experience a week of Bible stories, music, activities and crafts together. Volunteers and participants may sign up using the following link.

[first umc monroeville al · My Cokesbury VBS](#)

Preschoolers through 5th graders are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School July 7-10 from 5-7, where we will learn what "When I am afraid, I put my trust in God" means to us as we worship, eat, sing, create and play together.

[first umc monroeville al · My Cokesbury VBS](#)

We will also be "taking VBS" to the YMCA day campers on July 8-11 from 10:30 - 12:00. Youth and adults are invited to volunteer for this fun opportunity, see Pam Barnhardt or Melody Bradley if you can help on any or all days.

Notes from Nancy

CHANCEL CHOIR . . .

We will continue rehearsing in June on Mondays at 5:30. Dates are as follows:

June 3
June 10 NO REHEARSAL
June 17
June 24



June Worship Services

June	2	Holy Communion Chancel Choir
June	9	Chancel Choir
June	16	Chancel Choir
June	23	Chancel Choir
June	30	Chancel Choir



Thank You

We thank everyone who donated to the Diaper Drive, \$835.00 in monetary donations. And also diapers and wipes.

YTD Giving Received: \$130,674.28

YTD Giving Needed: \$238,128.00



- 3 Margaret Groves
- 6 Adam Nicholas
- 8 Evey Craig
- 9 Marlee Kate Farish; Rev. John Woodrow
Fletcher Bradley
- 10 Angela Powell
- 13 Chaney Jones; Kolby McKenzie Sturdivant
- 15 James Boulter
- 16 Cayden Powell
- 17 Steve Kennedy; Mary Kreshak
- 18 Peter Brewton
- 19 Tripp Stallworth
- 21 Kathy Coxwell
- 24 Angela Carter
- 26 Jim Lipscomb; Erma Renae Moncus
- 29 Bradley Martens

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

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:

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

