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**Light on the Mountain 2020**

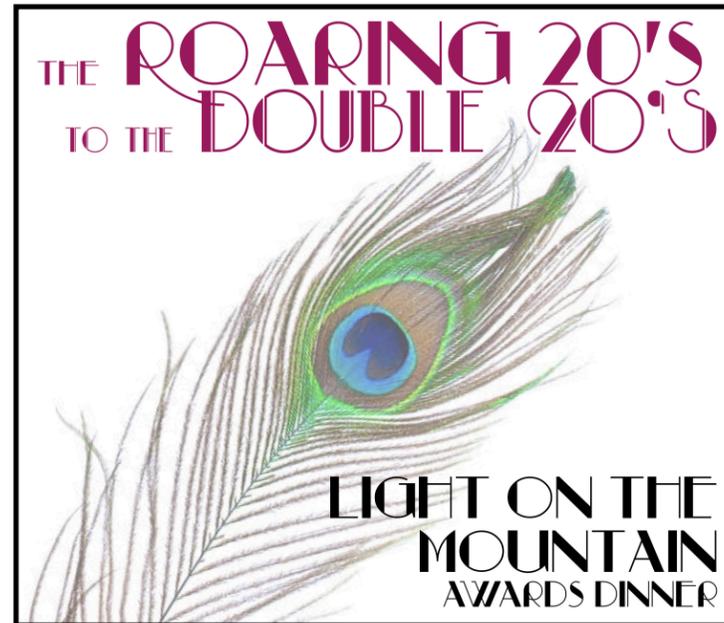
This year we will be celebrating our 8th annual Light on the Mountain Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 25. You are invited to join us for an evening featuring:

- Hors d'oeuvres
- A Silent Auction
- Live Entertainment
- Dinner
- Awarding of this year's Light on the Mountain Awards.

This year's theme will be "The Roaring 20's to the Double 20's!" The 1920's were transformative time for our country, and the evening will be filled with entertainment, decorations, and even food of from this time period.

The suggested donation for tickets is \$30 per person

Tickets will be available soon. Check the Narthex on Sunday mornings or Church Office for availability.



**Fellowship Opportunities**

**Wednesday Night Dinners in the Fellowship Hall**  
5:30pm-6:30pm

**Retired Mountaineers at Monte Sano Baptist Church**  
10:00am-1:00pm

The Retired Mountaineers meet every Wednesday for games and a meal in the Administration and Youth Building.

**Upcoming Meetings at Monte Sano United Methodist Church**

Kitchen Committee	February 6 at 10:00am in the Library
Pastor Parish Relations Committee	February 11 at 6:00pm in the Library
Finance Committee	February 11 at 7:00pm in the Library
Trustees Committee	February 19 at 6:30pm in the Library

*These are scheduled meeting times, but occasionally meetings must be rescheduled due to conflicts, weather, or holidays.*

*Please call the church office to confirm the time and date of the meeting.*



Monte Sano United Methodist Church  
welcomes ALL to grow in love and faith  
through Christ

601 Monte Sano Boulevard  
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www.msumc.net



**Welcome to our First Newsletter of 2020**

It is with thanksgiving and praise that we enter into a new year ministry together at Monte Sano United Methodist Church. As we begin this new year together, I wanted to take time to thank our entire church family for just a few of the many things we accomplished in 2019!

**New Mission Statement**

Church members helped craft a new mission statement for the church in the Spring of 2019: "Monte Sano United Methodist Church welcomes ALL to grow in love and faith through Christ."

**Worship Attendance Increases**

In 2019, Monte Sano United Methodist Church saw a 5.8% increase in worship attendance when compared to 2018.

**Pledged Giving**

- The church received 99.3% of the amount the congregation pledged for 2019. Thank you for keeping your commitments!
- For the 2020 budget, the church saw a \$15,824 INCREASE in pledged giving.
- This increase in pledged giving marks a reversal of several years of decline.

**Confirmation**

In the Spring of 2019, the church celebrated the confirmation of 11 students who professed their faith!

**The Sale of the Church Parsonage**

The Trustees Committee, after several months of research, presented a proposal to sell the church parsonage to the church. After a Church Conference meeting, the overwhelming majority of members present voted to sell the parsonage. The sale of the parsonage was finalized in January of 2020. The funds from this sale will be invested, with earnings being used to pay the pastor's housing allowance.

**Welcoming the Valley Leadership Academy to the Church**

In the Summer of 2019, the Trustees were approached by The Valley Leadership Academy about the usage of the church building during the week. After a whirlwind effort by school staff and the trustees, the school and our church came to a mutually beneficial arrangement that has been a wonderfully fruitful!

**BEYOND Worship Series**

In July of 2019, Monte Sano UMC welcomed a series of guest speakers as we joined in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing. The speakers included: Robert Lightfoot, Billy Hix, Margrit von Braun, and Jan Davis.

**Mission Trips: Haiti & The Gulf Coast.**

Monte Sano, in conjunction with Anniston FUMC, sent a team to Haiti in January of 2019. Monte Sano UMC's Youth group partnered with ARM (Alabama Rural Missions) for their annual Mission Trip in the Summer. This year, we sent youth and adults to the Gulf Coast to participate in hurricane relief projects.

**Fundraisers: Light on the Mountain, Youth Apple Bread Sales & Simply Christmas**

Our annual fundraisers helped raise over \$8000 for debt reduction, youth ministry, and missions.

## **Youth Ministry:**

### **Valentines Dinner**

Monte Sano UMC's Youth hosted a Valentine Dinner on February 9. All proceeds of the dinner went to help offset the cost of their upcoming Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast. Thank you to all who helped plan, organize, and pull off this wonderful night!

### **Parents Night Out**

On Friday, March 6, our youth will offer a Parent's Night Out fundraiser. On this evening, parents are invited to drop off their kids and enjoy a night out while our youth and adult volunteers babysit! Drop off is at 6:00m and children must be picked up by 9:00pm. Dinner for children will be included. Suggested donations is \$20 per child with a \$30 max cost per family.

### **ARM Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast**

MSUMC's Youth will be going too Panama City Beach, Florida for the annual mission trip. They will partner with ARM (Alabama Rural Ministry providing hurricane disaster relief. The total cost of the trip will be \$300 with a \$50 non-refundable deposit due on February 23.

## **Adult Education & Fellowship**

### **Small Group Babies & Toddlers**

A new group has formed to create a safe space for new parents to problem solve, grow in marriage, discuss topics relevant to this challenging season of life, and become more intentional with faith-centered parenting.

Meeting Days: Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Where: In the Fellowship Hall

When: After our children are settled (10:15ish)

### **Agape Class**

The Agape Class would like to invite you to join their new study of the book of Romans. Questions? Contact Cathie Jones at cathielou21@gmail.com.

### **Studying Psalms (Wednesdays)**

During this Lenten season, instead of giving up something, take something on. Join Rev. Stephen Benefield on Wednesday nights for a six week study on the Psalms. The Psalms are meant to speak to our intellect, emotions, and sense of wonder. They also offer prophetic moments that point to what God would accomplish through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Called the "summary of both Testaments," by John Wesley and representing "beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible," by Martin Luther, the Psalms were the prayer book of Jesus and his followers. As we prepare for the cross and the empty tomb, come we explore the opportunity the Psalms offer us to connect with God, one another, and ourselves.

## **Service Opportunities**

### **Souper-Bowl Soup Collection**

It's our annual "SOUPER" Bowl Collection of canned soups for Super Bowl Sunday! The mission committee will collect cans of soup for First Stop and 305 8<sup>th</sup> Street on February 2, 9, and 16. A collection bin will be located in Narthex.

### **Adopt-A-Mile**

Our Sign-Up Sheet is in the Narthex, or on the bulletin board in the Youth building. If you can't commit to a whole month, you can designate a time you can!

## **Outreach**

### **Stickers & Magnets**

Help get the word out about Monte Sano UMC to friends and neighbors with our new magnets and stickers. Put on your car, your water bottle, or anywhere else!

## **Worship**

### **February Sermon Series: FEAR**

*We live in a world filled with things to be afraid of! In this series, we will look at where fear comes from, how to manage it, and what true courage and bravery look like.*

February 2: The Origin of Fear

February 9: Culture of Fear

February 16: Rational & Irrational Fear

February 23: Courage

### **Ash Wednesday Service: February 26 at 6:30pm**

### **Lenten Sermon Series: Untamed**

*Jesus wasn't always meek and mild...sometimes he was mean and wild! In this series, we will be looking at some of the things we wish Jesus had never said.*

March 1: The Love/Hate Relationship

March 8: Ministry by Amputation

March 15: Who Are You?

March 22: Camel Riders

March 29: Marriage & Divorce

### **Holy Week**

April 5: Palm Sunday

April 9: Maundy Thursday

April 10: Good Friday

April 12: Easter Sunday



## **Financial Update**

### **MONTHLY**

January 2020

Income	Expenditures
\$33,302	\$28,859

### **YEAR TO DATE**

Income	Expenditures
\$33,302	\$28,859

### **INDEBTEDNESS**

Original Debt Incurred for the New Building:  
\$2.8 Million

Current Indebtedness:  
\$853,836

Additional Debt Reduction Paid Toward Principal  
Above Monthly Payment: \$ 1640 (YTD)

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	9:00am Service	11:00am Service	Total
January 5	82	78	160
January 12	72	95	167
January 19	98	85	183
January 26	76	92	168
February 2	107	84	191

### **Becoming a Member of Monte Sano UMC**

It is our sincere hope that every person finds a community of faith to be a part of. If you have found that community at MSUMC, we hope you might consider formally joining the church as a member. A church member vows to uphold the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Please prayerfully consider this commitment, and, when you are ready, contact Pastor John Mullaney at 256-533-6083 or [john.mullaney@umcna.org](mailto:john.mullaney@umcna.org).