

# The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

JANUARY 2020



In June, I got new eyeglasses. This came after a visit to the optometrist and the news that my prescription needed updating. We've all been there at some point. Our hearing isn't what it once was, our blood pressure might need to come down, or the dentist finds a boat payment in our mouth.

How great it would be to have 20/20 vision again. Alas, it has been over 40 years since I experience clear eyesight without the aid of glasses. But for me, eyeglasses have become a part of my persona and I like the opportunity to switch things up, even if it is every other year.

Churches often need vision correction. We become far-sighted and unable to focus on the immediate needs around us, or near-sighted and oblivious to the future. Both are important. We must see the imminent, continuing work of Christ as our roles in the kingdom AND develop a prophetic vision for the future.

Soon, we will be inviting the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us to reawaken our vision of being the church. We will focus on what ministries are available or needed around us, and what we would like to be as a church heading into a new world of possibilities.

We will need prayer (first and foremost), leadership, and the desire to work as one. We will all have different roles to play but a common vision. Our focus must be not our own desires and wills, but the desire and will of God. Our focal points will be mission, outreach, nurture, and evangelism.

Mission is what we do for the community around us. Outreach is how we show the community they are not only welcome, but desired in our church. Nurture is about caring for those in our church family, and evangelism is showing people the foot of the cross where they can meet Jesus.

2020 is here. It is our choice as to whether we enter it myopically, or with a renewed vision for the future.

Blessings,

Scott

# Youth News

## Resurrection 2020

Theme: More Than Conquerors

Romans 8:37—"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (CSB)

Youth and counselors will meet at the church on Friday, January 24 at 5:30 p.m. to depart for Resurrection in Pigeon Forge. We will stop for supper along the way at individual expense.

Our group will be staying at Bear Creek Condos on Jake Thomas Road just across the bridge from the LeConte Center. We will be having our meals at the condo except for the meals on the way there and on the way home. Youth are welcome to bring snacks to share. We will be ordering pizza on Saturday after the late session.

The final session for our group is scheduled to end by 1:30 p.m. but promptness is not guaranteed so we will plan to call parents after lunch when we start our return to Clinton. We expect we will be back to the church between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m.

### Youth need to bring:

Funds for two fast food meals, Saturday free time activities and offering for Youth Service Fund.

A coat appropriate for the forecast, hat, scarf and gloves.

Clothing for Saturday and Sunday from the skin out.

Bible

Each youth will be required to carry their own luggage so pack what you need only!

Can't wait to see our traveling group all together!

Carol Long

## The Elephant

Everyone sees it, but few are talking about the elephant in the room. I wish this was the only time I had to broach the subject, but I know better. We're all nervous about the what ifs of General Conference in May. Trust me, none of you are more worried than I am!

I think you know by now that I am an out of the box thinker. When presented with two options, I usually question if there is a third. I can't help but think that we can overcome any decision of the General Church in order to preserve the unity and function of the local church. Here's why I think this way:

If we were to ask any given member why they attend Memorial UMC, the overwhelming response would be because of the love we share. "This is my church family", "it's my spiritual home". Let's face it. We love one another. Yet what is being proposed is a divorce. A permanent separation.

Why do couples divorce? They fall out of love or develop practices that one person can't cope with (squeezing the toothpaste or which way the toilet paper should face). May I ask where that is playing out at Memorial UMC? What purported actions have we done to separate us at the local level? Have we fallen out of love?

The author of Hebrews writes: "Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near." We are told to reject the idea of separation. And I believe it.

I also believe that if any church in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church has the ability to come through this intact, it is Memorial UMC – Clinton. I call upon the church to be in prayer and be prepared to stand on the platform of unity at [almost] all costs. God be with us. Scott

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**



Our Extended at home family members, Our Pastor, Our Church and Church Families; Our Nation and our Service Men, Women, and families at this un-nerving time.

**FLOWER DONORS FOR FEBRUARY 2020**

February 2 Joyce Wilson  
 February 9 Peggy Perry  
 February 16 Ken & Joyce Barnes  
 February 23 Need a Donor!

**GRACE CIRCLE**

Meetings are 1st Thursday of the month. (January 2nd excluded) The February 6th meeting, will be our usual 11:30. We would love to see some new faces. Come join us, all are welcome!  
 Questions? Call JudyFoster at 457-8088 or ask any Circle member.

**OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH:**

The family of Charles "Bones" Seivers on his passing December 8, 2019.

The family of Nell Charles on her passing December 19, 2019.

**JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR**

Wednesday Jan. 1	Happy New Years Day
Thursday Jan 2	5:30p-6:30p Food Pantry
Sunday Jan 5	9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Morning Worship Service
Monday Jan 6	6:00p-8:00p Boy & Cub Scout Meeting 6:30-7:30 Trustees Meeting, Parlor
Tuesday Jan 7	6:00p-8:00p Girl Scouts Meeting
Wednesday Jan. 8	5:30p-6:00p Fellowship Dinner 6:00p-7:15p Adult Bible Study 6:00p-7:15p Youth & Children 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
Sunday Jan. 12	9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Morning Worship Service
Monday Jan 13	6:30p-8:00p Boy & Cub Scouts Meeting
Wednesday Jan. 15	5:30p-6:00p Fellowship Dinner 6:00p-7:15p Adult Bible Study 6:00p-7:15p Youth & Children 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday Jan 16	5:30p-6:30p Food Pantry
Sunday Jan 19	9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Morning Worship Service
Monday Jan 20	6:30p-8:00p Boy & Cub Scouts Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Church Council Meeting
Tuesday Jan 21	6:00p-8:00p Girl Scouts Meeting
Wednesday Jan 22	5:30p-6:00p Fellowship Dinner 6:00p-7:15p Adult Bible Study 6:00p-7:15p Youth & Children 7:15p Chancel Choir Practice
Sunday Jan 26	9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Morning Worship Service

**COMING SOON !!**

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCH**  
 Returning on FEBRUARY 2nd.

**FUND OUR MISSIONS AND FILL UP ON A VARIETY OF SOUPS AND FIXINS ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2ND. 11:00-12:00.**

**MEMORIALS**

In Honor/Memory of:

Lee Wysor  
 Carol Long  
 Lee Wysor  
 Pat Wenk  
 Michael Jennings  
 Ron Glass  
 Dow Burton  
 Lee Wysor  
 Pat Wenk  
 Pat Wenk  
 Pat Wenk  
 Bill Martin  
 All Offering Counters  
 Dow Burton, Peggy Burton

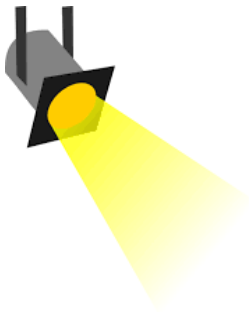
Given by:

Eleanor Green  
 Rebecca Williams  
 Tom & Nancy Thrasher  
 Tom & Nancy Thrasher  
 Jim Ern & Sarah Medley  
 Jim Ern & Sarah Medley  
 Karen & Buford Bray  
 Karen & Buford Bray  
 Karen & Buford Bray  
 David, Vicky & Windy Smith  
 John & Susan Gamble  
 Betty S. Martin, Jill M. Berry  
 V.L. & Pat Stonecipher  
 John & Laura Kramer

Requested Fund:

Altar Guild  
 Holston Home for Children  
 General Memorials  
 Trustees Fund  
 Ida Gamble Scholarship Fund  
 Ida Gamble Scholarship Fund  
 Ida Gamble Scholarship Fund  
 General Memorials  
 General Memorials  
 General Memorials  
 General Memorials  
 Special Music  
 General Memorials  
 Property—Trustees  
 Ida Gamble Scholarship Fund

CONT'D FEB. 20



# FOOD PANTRY

## The 2019 Race Against Hunger

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III  
chambers@mycouriernews.com

Clinton's Food City supermarket handed out about \$10,000 worth of food gift cards last week to various food charities in the area in the culmination of this year's Race

Against Hunger campaign.

The annual campaign involves Food City cashiers asking customers to make donations in the Race Against Hunger for as little as \$1 each as the customers check out at the registers.

"We've been doing this as long as I've been at this store," Clinton Food City Manager Sam Turner said. "That's been at least 20 years. But it was going on even before I came here."

Turner said the cam-

paign raised \$9,000 last year.

The proceeds are divided equally and handed out to the participating food charities through Food City gift cards, which the various food pantries and other organizations can use to purchase food for their programs designed to feed the needy.

Organizations that were presented gift cards from this year's donations are: Memorial United Methodist Church, First Baptist

Church, South Clinton Baptist Church, Community Action of Anderson County, the Child Advocacy Center of Clinton, and the Anderson County Office on Aging and Senior Center.

Representatives of the churches and other organizations that were selected to receive the donations were on hand Monday afternoon for the gift card presentations. The three churches and Community Action operate food pantries, their representatives said.



G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III PHOTOS/ COURIER NEWS

Representatives of area food pantries join Clinton Food City Manager Sam Turner to receive gift cards from the store's annual Race Against Hunger campaign, in which customers are asked during checkout if they would donate to the cause. From left are Jack Jones of First Baptist Church, Turner, Cherie Phillips of the Office on Aging and Senior Center, Jimmy Jones of South Clinton Baptist Church, Connie Klinkhammer of Community Action, and Gibbie Seals of Memorial United Methodist Church.

The Food Pantry serves about 40-50 families per month. Manned by all Volunteers of MUMC, everything from can vegetables to laundry soap are provided to any/all who come. No questions, no screening, no guilt—just sharing with those in need.

The Food Pantry is totally supported by Church member & congregation donations and Food City's annual fund raiser. What a blessing to be able to help our local families. Special donations can be made anytime by marking your envelope or check to the "Food Pantry".

And a big "THANK YOU" to all those who go buy the food, stock the shelves, keep up with the accounting, bag it and offer a strong back in moving and setting up. Your hard work and dedication is a blessing to all of us.



### Memorial United Methodist Church

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Email: [memorialumccanton@gmail.com](mailto:memorialumccanton@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.memorialumc-clinton.com](http://www.memorialumc-clinton.com)

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### Serving God's People

Scott Wilks  
Joshua Allen  
Carol Long  
Carol LuZader  
Beverly Johnson

Pastor  
Music Director/Organist  
Youth Director  
Secretary  
Housekeeping/Custodian

[parsonwilks@gmail.com](mailto:parsonwilks@gmail.com)  
[churchemail87@gmail.com](mailto:churchemail87@gmail.com)  
[carollong586@gmail.com](mailto:carollong586@gmail.com)  
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