

The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2020



This morning I am working on Sunday's message about the parable of the tenants in Matthew 21. And as I meditate on the Scriptures, I am brought to the reality that this is a story for a time. A time where agriculture was the most important of work. A time when the wealthy owned properties that they didn't personally oversee. A time of servants and of people who didn't own the land but claimed ownership.

This parable is about greed and the lack of concern over human life. In this story, the greedy renters kill several servants and then the landowner's only son and they did so for their own gain. The story finally turns to the question of "what will the landowner's final solution be?". Retribution. It's a hard reality and one I would have turned the other way from rather than face the truth.

But as a parable, this is a story that tells truths to an audience in need of hearing them. In the audience that day were chief priests and pharisees who would very likely be the same ones who would bring Jesus to his destiny of the cross. The point being that although the SON would be killed, the FATHER will exact justice on those who did the wrong.

Stewardship is a hard thing to understand sometimes. It begins with the idea that what we have is not ours but has been entrusted to us. The Father is entitled by ownership to all that we have, but because of His covenant with us, only wants part returned.

We are entrusted with many things, the land where we live; the monies we possess; the church where we worship; and the very breath we breathe. What kind of stewards have we been? Are some just as guilty as the tenants of the parable? When we say, 'who cares about the environment' over financial gain and 'that will be a problem for the future generations to solve', are we not the bad tenants who one day will face eviction?

Let us covenant to be good stewards. Let us take steps to reverse our previous bad management and make things right today so that we are not remembered by our children's children for the wrongs that we have done, but we sought and found solutions before it was too late. Let us remember that: The earth is the Lord's, and **everything** in it, the world, and **all** who live in it (Psalm 24)

Food for thought.

✚Scott

Hard news: It's with a heavy heart that we announce that worship for this Sunday has been postponed. The re-opening committee met last night and decided that it is just too risky. It wasn't the decision of a committee. We received feedback from several of you and the majority expressed some angst at gathering.

These are hard to understand times. It's the first time in 100 years that we as a nation or world have faced such a problem. But in 1918 we dealt with influenza and lost 675,000 people. We are on-track to meet those numbers during the first quarter of 2021. During that outbreak, the United States was not the leader in deaths per capita. This time we could be.

I'm sharing this with you not to give you a spirit of fear, but because the threat is real and one of our own is struggling as I type this.

Please be patient with your leadership. Everyone in at any level of responsibility is carrying a very heavy load. We will make mistakes. But if at all possible, the mistakes I make will be for your safety and health. God forbid that I make the other kind because I value each and every one of you. Hang together (six feet or more apart). We can get through this.

We will have online worship this week and we will constantly reevaluate the situation. When the time is right, we will gather together.

Better news: This Sunday is World Communion Sunday. It celebrates our connection to one another and Christians around the world. I want to try something different. This Sunday, I wish to serve you communion by family groups. Contact me (Scott) via email for a time and I will meet with you in 30-minute intervals throughout Sunday. The first spot will be at 10 am and will go on till everyone who wants to be served is taken care of.

Blessings

Scott

REMEMBER TO PRAY

For our Extended at home family members. For our Pastor, Our Church and Church Families. Pray for our Nation as we struggle with fighting this pandemic. Pray for our first responders, our doctors & medical professional that are on the front lines trying to preserve life. Pray for our Service Men, Women, and their families at this un-nerving time both at home and abroad, Pray for your neighbors, Pray for our School teachers and all the staff required to keep schools and learning going.

JUST PRAY

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."

Philippians 4:6

SPECIAL PRAYERS NEEDED

As many of you already know, Pam Rainey has been battling Covid-19 for over 12 days. She is now at U.T. Medical Center, in the Covid ward, without the benefit of family or contact with anyone outside. God Bless those care-givers!

We've all heard of these cases in the news over the last 6 months and now it is home, in our own back yard so to speak.

Please take a moment now to ask God for his divine intervention and healing for our friend Pam Rainey.



Finance News

Thank you for your continued financial support to the church. Your support means we can pay our bills and salaries so that we can continue to function soundly during and after quarantine times. However, as you can see from the report below, we need your continued financial support.

We received \$16,029 in August and had expenditures of \$18,166.69 for a \$2,137.69 shortfall. For the year through August 31, we have a shortfall of \$20,221.43. September figures are incomplete.

I have begun work on the 2021 budget and hope to reduce the budget considering current COVID conditions and the effect it may have in the future.

There are several ways you can send in your contributions:

Mail: Memorial UMC , 323 North Main Street, Clinton, TN. 37716

On-line Check Pay: You can have your checks sent directly from your bank under the **bill pay option** offered at most banks.

On-line: Visit our website: www.mumclinton.org. You will find alternate giving methods under the **GIVE** option on the top right side of the website.

Questions? Contact the church:

Church Phone: 865-457-2287

Email: info@mumclinton.org

Thank you, members and supporters of Memorial, for your faithfulness,
Bebe Combs, Finance Chair

Birthdays for OCTOBER 2020

10/01 Melissa Hughes	10/01 William Connell	10/02 Audrey Van Pelt	10/02 Donn Parke
10/06 Christine Dorsey	10/08 Sutton Kay	10/09 Leslie Sellers	10/10 Cathy Brown
10/10 Susan Gamble	10/10 Ellie Green	10/10 Pattie Harmening	10/11 Clyde Horton
10/12 Art Miller	10/12 Mary Ann Conner	10/13 Patrick Thomas	10/14 Bill Van Pelt
10/14 Robbie Reed	10/15 Becky Williams	10/16 Aaron Simmons	10/18 Nancy Thrasher
10/20 Robt. Harmening	10/20 Matt Schrider	10/21 Alex Burton	10/22 Penny James
10/23 Bill Stone	10/23 Shane Miller	10/26 Patty Shoemaker	

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday Memorial Members, Happy Birthday to **you!**

Since we cannot Hug any of these Birthday people due to "you know what", let's continue our Birthday Card or call campaign, especially for those homebound or in assisted living facilities. All of the addresses are in the Church Directory or call the office if needed.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Food Pantry? What Food Pantry? Everyone knows it was closed in mid March like everything else. So, what is GOING ON?

Well, most everything in the Pantry was distributed to the Senior Center, Clinton Middle School, and finally to the Blessing Boxes based around the city.

Starting in late July, Food City Gift Certificates were distributed on a call in basis. In August and September food disbursement days were re-started to Tuesdays and Thursdays and fine tuned to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays like the old Food Pantry. The return of families needing food has been over whelming. The Food Pantry now serves 38 families!

The faithful giving by the Memorial UMC members allow us to help these families with the most basic needs; FOOD.

Thank you for your caring. If you know of anyone in need have them call the Church Office for information & signup.

MEMORIALS

<u>In Memory /Honor of:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Requested Fund:</u>
Ferris Wood	Peggy Perry, Austin TX	General Memorials
Frank Layton	Drs. Allen Edwards & Sue Bunny, SC	General Memorials
Honor of Joe/Nancy Harper	Bill & Ouida Steinkamp	Trustees Fund
Jim Moore	Bill & Ouida Steinkamp	Youth Ministries
Frank Layton	Johnanna Sprague, MI	General Memorials
Frank Layton	Steve & Bebe Combs	Sanctuary Remodel
Betty Gray	Steve & Bebe Combs	Sanctuary Remodel
Jim Moore	Steve & Bebe Combs	Sanctuary Remodel
Donna Irwin	Steve & Bebe Combs	General Memorials
Ferris Wood	Steve & Bebe Combs	General Memorials
Pat Wenk	Steve & Bebe Combs	Ida Gamble Scholarship
Jo Henegar	Steve & Bebe Combs	Ida Gamble Scholarship
Howard Henegar	Steve & Bebe Combs	Ida Gamble Scholarship

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Serving God's People

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Joshua Allen
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Carol LuZader
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