

The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2020



I have a varied and complex background as a Christian. I was baptized Baptist, confirmed Episcopalian, and ordained Methodist. At one point, I served a Presbyterian church. This history has made me who I am. It gives me rich traditions to pull from and I am glad for the experiences.

When I found the United Methodist Church, I found a home. We have beautiful traditions with liturgies and rites, and yet we're focused (when we are at our best) on bringing the lost to Christ. Our identity is tied to a Church of England priest from the 18th century who felt the most important thing we should do is to offer the world Jesus Christ.

John Wesley had a bit of an identity crisis at times. He was banned from many of the churches in England including the one he grew up in. His response was to stand on his father's grave and preach outside the church. His services often included ecstatic expressions of falling out and wailing. Wesley himself would receive communion several times a day on Sunday. He knew the service times around London and would make a circuit of 6-7 churches to receive the Lord's Supper.

Wesley was able to reconcile his various understandings and although it was never his intention, formed a new expression of the Christian faith. He reformed himself. He is quoted to say, "Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn."

Karl Barth, the 19th century theologian (citing St. Augustine) wrote that the church must always be reformed. Into what? **That** is always the right question to ask and not, must we?

The church carries a lot of baggage with us from other times and other places. It carries the burdens of discrimination, self-focus, and lack of concern for the last, the lost, and the least. Our attention has been on preservation of tradition rather than the mission of the church which is making disciples of Jesus Christ.

If the Christian church is to survive, we must be the church that adapts to the times, reforming itself into a model which makes current generations want what we have. Change is always difficult. It was difficult in Wesley's day; it was difficult in Jesus' day and it will be difficult today. But following those difficult reformations, the church didn't just survive, it thrived.

Our focal point must be on growing the present kingdom by leading people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ with the hope that one day, Christ Himself will say, "Well done, my good and faithful servants." Keep safe and healthy.

Scott

Trustee News

-- The Trustees are still hoping to install the new carpet before Christmas, but due to closures for COVID-19, the price went up by \$686.00, to \$6750.00. As of Oct 1st, there was \$4200.00 in the **Sanctuary Remodeling fund**, so we are asking for help in raising the remaining \$2550.00. If every family could give an additional \$51.00, we could make this happen!

-- Several trees will be trimmed, and/or removed, over the next few months, at both the Church and Parsonage. The trees to be removed are being done because their roots are going beneath the building, or they are dying, or dead. Trimming others to get them away from the building, windows and gutters. If you wish to donate funds to the **Groundskeeping fund**, that would be appreciated.

-- In the near future, several buckets of mulch will be needed, and several folks, with wheel barrows and rakes, to help distribute the mulch around the 2 properties would be helpful, too. While you thin out your gardens in preparation for Spring, if you have bulbs, or rhizomes you would like to donate, (or you can purchase new for donation) late November, early December would be a "last chance" time to plant for Spring & Summer blossoms. A work day will be announced soon, but we're considering at Nov. 28th or December 5th. Contact Nancy Thrasher, before Nov. 22nd, if you would like to help.

-- A few construction projects have been named, and bids submitted. If you would like to make donations to our **Building Repair fund**, it will help to pay for some long neglected projects, and those projects that have appeared during our close down. When thinking of giving money as a memorial, or an honorarium, please consider giving to these 3 funds.

Thank you. Nancy Thrasher

WHERE'S THE OFFICE?

Since the middle of March, I (Carol-Church Secretary) have been working from home, with big boxes of files, forms, computer, checks, etc.

The phone to the church has been forwarded to my cell phone. When I answer the phone I'm not usually in the Church Office and have no idea who is there or not there. I answer the phone from 9:00-5:00, Monday-Friday.

I do come into the Office on MONDAY and THURSDAY every week, from 10:00 to 1:30-2:00. If you need to drop anything by the office you can always call to find out the hours or if I'm there.

If you need to reach Pastor Scott, his cell phone is the best way for now at **540-818-9155**

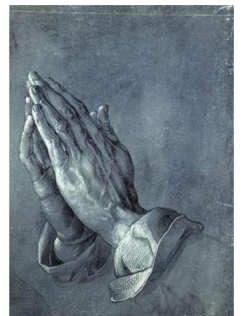
If there is anything you need, just call me! Thanks! Carol

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."



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 \$14,222.00 in September and had expenditures of \$17,468.47 for a \$3,246.47 shortfall. For the year through September 30, we have a shortfall of \$23,525.34. October figures are incomplete as of this date.

We are working 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.mumccclinton.org. You will find alternate giving methods under the **GIVE** option on the top right side of the website. **Questions?** Contact the church: 865-457-2287 or email: info@mumccclinton.org

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



Birthdays for NOVEMBER 2020

★ 11/02 Donna Wilks	★ 11/05 Joe Harper	★ 11/09 Brian Ford	★ 11/10 James Howard
★ 11/11 Richard Flanders	★ 11/11 Kay Price	★ 11/16 Glen Murrell	★ 11/17 Kim Prater
★ 11/17 Darcy Schrider	★ 11/18 Madison Kelly	★ 11/20 Ben Edwards	★ 11/21 Matt Kirkpatrick
★ 11/26 Steve Jennings	★ 11/29 Andrew Meier		

★ 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?

Since late July, Food City Gift Certificates have been distributed on the first and third Thursdays every month. The return of families needing food has been over whelming. The Food Pantry now serves 53 families! In order to give something special before Thanksgiving we need more help. Would you please consider an extra offering to help? No Church budget monies are used, it's only donation. 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 FOR OCT. 2020

In Memory /Honor of:

Frank Layton
Herb Knee
Honor of Josh Allen & Choir
Vivian Prince

Given by:

Otto Briscoe
Jim & Denise Davis
Bill & Ouida Steinkamp
Bill & Gail Gallagher

Requested Fund:

Ida Gamble Scholarship
Food Pantry
General Music Fund
Food Pantry

Memorial United Methodist Church

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Office Hours

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By appointment only until further notice

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Serving God's People

Rev. Scott Wilks
Joshua Allen
Carol Long
Carol Luzader
Beverly Johnson

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