

# The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2020

## *From the Pastor's Pen*



Hope, joy, peace, love These are the themes of the four Sundays of Advent. But why do we reflect on them when what we really want is Christmas? I'm glad you asked.

Our culture today values consumerism, crowds, parades, and gaudiness. The bigger the light display in one's yard, the better. The best deal is always the lowest price. The finest tree is one covered until you no longer see the boughs, but the glitter and sheen. And the best meal is the one where we gather and stuff ourselves into a comatose state of sleepiness.

We need Advent. A time of quiet in the hustle and bustle. A season of focus and expectation. A remembrance of what is and what will become. A reminder of the real reason for the season. We need a sense of the moment we're in rather than the multi-media spectacles with guitar amps turned up to 11, and yards lit to the point where you can't see the stars.

Where is Christ, if not in the season of Advent? Where do we find the child in the crowded mall? What about the solitude enjoyed by shepherds and wise ones crossing the wilderness? Or a message from God alone in the dark?

Christmas is coming. I promise. But so will debt, and an extra 10 pounds from feasting on holiday sweets. This is not what Christmas is about. It's about watching and waiting, free of distractions and focused on Christ. It's about a quiet message shared through prophets and a family expecting a child under duress.

May this holy season be one where you find hope. Where joy abounds. May it be a season of peace, outside of the chaos of shopping centers. May you experience the true love of God not found in a colorful package with a ribbon, but in the stories in Scripture. May this season warm your hearts and souls and remind you of God's great sacrifice of love. Amen.



# 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 \$12,89200 in October and had expenditures of \$19,813.34 for a \$6,921.34 shortfall. For the year through October 30, we have a shortfall of \$30,446.58. November figures are incomplete as of this date but deposits are much better.

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](http://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](mailto:info@mumccClinton.org)

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

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Since late July, Food City Gift Certificates have been distributed on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month.

The return of families needing food has been over whelming.

The Food Pantry now serves 74 families total.

On November 19th we were able to give an extra \$25.00 Thanksgiving certificate to 48 families. Praise the Lord!

Your extra giving for Thanksgiving and the faithful donations by Memorial UMC members allowed us to give extra help to these families for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

If you know of anyone in need have them call the Church Office for information & signup. God Bless everyone of you for caring so much.

Denise Davis, Pat Stonecipher & Gibby Seals

## Birthdays for DECEMBER 2020

12/01 Jimmy Freels

12/05 Luke Hatmaker

12/06 Nancy Large

12/08 Carol Luzader

12/11 Josh Allen

12/14 Nadine Underwood

12/17 Ella Thomas

12/17 Shollie Thomas

12/17 Teresa Evans

12/19 Frankie Hughes

12/20 Tracy Burton

12/20 Pam Rainey

12/22 Taylor Stone

12/23 Elenora Edwards

12/25 Scott Wilks

12/27 Seth Carroll

12/31 Maude Riggs

12/31 Todd Miller

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.



# Trustee News

List of things to do at the Church and Parsonage has been put together and some of the items can be done by volunteers in the membership, while many need a professional's touch. The Trustees decided that painting the railings around the building black, painting the hallway, landscape work were things that could be done by volunteers. Although the hallway should wait until after we get the leaking downspout taken care of, as it is causing the newly repaired plaster to bubble, again. Another thing would be to begin the process of replacing the blinds, first in the nursery, with cordless, 2-inch wide white wood-looking blinds.

The Parsonage had a section of the eave in front of the building repaired, by J.R. Weldon. He has also been hired to fix the doorway on the brickwork housing the massive HVAC unit, and to repair the termite damage to the shed. He is also looking at repairing/replacing the section of copper downspout that is leaking onto the brick wall in the courtyard.

New dishwasher was installed at the Parsonage. I fully expect that the stove will be replaced in 2021.

Springs on the main garage door opener were purchased and then replaced by Tom Thrasher.

An arborist has been hired to take down trees, and trim trees, at both properties. The holly on Hicks Street, and the hollies at Lamar and Main Street will be taken down. This is due to the roots growing under the building and pushing outward on the wall. The hollies in the courtyard will be trimmed down about 5 feet, and away from the building. The magnolias will be trimmed away from the building, and the holly in the center of the courtyard will be removed. The crepe myrtles will be cut back. At the Parsonage, in the front yard there are at least 4 trees that will be taken out. In the back, the gardens will be cleaned out of plants that weren't meant to be there.

The Trustees sent in a budget request, reminding the Finance Committee of how much we should have asked for, if we were following the "1% rule for maintenance".

Thank you.

Nancy Thrasher



## Christmas Gift Outreach 2020

*The Christmas gift Outreach at Clinton Middle School was an overwhelming success.*

*Due to the generous offering of \$2,650.00 we are able to provide Christmas presents to a family that has 8 children with a mixture of Birth, adopted and foster children. Thanks to Mary Hatmaker and Harper Maxwell for doing the shopping, the 8 people who wrapped the gifts, and all who gave so generously to make this happen.*

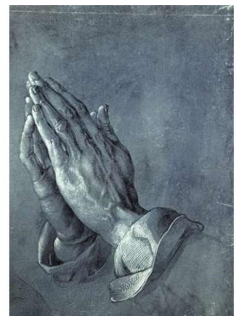
*Nancy Large*

## \*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**

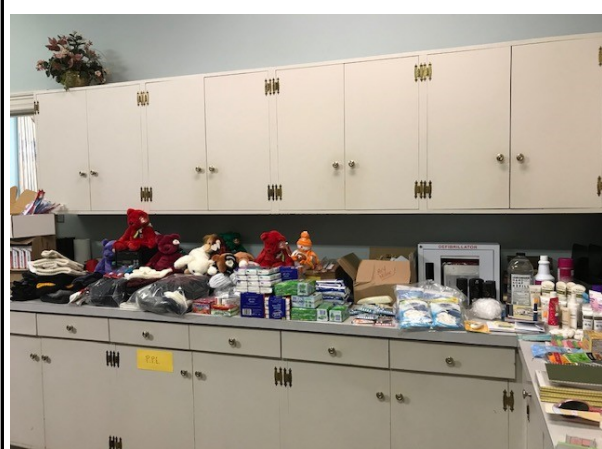
*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."*



# MEMORIALS FOR Nov. 2020

In Memory of:	Given By:	Fund:	In Memory of:	Given By:	Fund:
Otto Briscoe	Deane/Sutton Kay	Wesley Men's Class	Herb Knee	Gibby Seals	Food Pantry
Otto Briscoe	Jim/Denise Davis	Food Pantry	Otto Briscoe	Diana Thomason	Gen.Memorials
Otto Briscoe	The Steinkamp's	Gen. Memorials	Otto Briscoe	Sarah/Jim Ern Medley	Food Pantry
Otto Briscoe	The Stonecipher's	Sanctuary Remodel	Herb Knee	The Stonecipher's	Food Pantry
Otto Briscoe	Andrea Fritts	Food Pantry	Otto Briscoe	Wm./Leslie Stone	Gen.Memorials
Otto Briscoe	Seth Wheatley	Gen.Memorials	Otto Briscoe	Steve & Bebe Combs	Music Fund
Otto Briscoe	Mark Medley	Ida Gamble Scholar.	Otto Briscoe	Ellie Green	Sanct.Remodel
Otto Briscoe	Peggy,Scott Burton	Ida Gamble Scholar.	Otto Briscoe	Nancy Caldwell	Ida Gamble
Otto Briscoe	Dr.PJ/Patricia Wenk	Food Pantry	Otto Briscoe	Betty Smith	Gen.Memorials
Otto Briscoe	Mike/Lynne Hueglin	Gen.Memorials	Otto Briscoe	The Ridenours	Gen. Budget
Otto Briscoe	Rebecca Williams	Altar Guild	Otto Briscoe	James W. Charles	Gen.Memorials
Otto Briscoe	Frank H. White III	Gen. Memorials	Ferris Wood	Julie Wood	Food Pantry
Ferris Wood	Julie Wood	Fam. Ministries	Otto Briscoe	Sharon McCarty	Food Pantry
Otto Briscoe	Betty Hitchcock	Gen. Memorials	Otto Briscoe	The Sneads	Holston Homes
Otto Briscoe	Jerry W. Williams	Gen. Memorials	Otto Briscoe	Michael/Gail Willard	Gen.Memorials
Otto Briscoe	Terry/Susan Moore	Food Pantry	Otto Briscoe	C.Gibon Families	Gen.Memorials
Otto Briscoe	Johnanna Sprague	Gen.Memorials	In Honor of our Veterans	Deane/Sutton Kay	Food Pantry

## OFFICE HOURS FOR DEC: MONDAY AND THURSDAY 10:00-2:00



### Senior Center Christmas Baskets

*As of December 1st the Senior Center will be receiving all of the items pictured plus some! A total of 755+ items have been donated including hats, gloves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, stuffed animals, alcohol wipes, masks, deodorant, hand lotions, chap sticks, pens, pencils, note pads, candy and cough drops. Through your generosity there will be some happy seniors when their gift basket is delivered or picked up. Thank you, thank you and thank you. Couldn't have done it without all of you!!!*



**Memorial United Methodist Church**  
**323 North Main Street**  
**Clinton, TN. 37716**  
**(865) 457-2287**

Office Hours  
 Email:  
 Website:

By appointment only until further notice  
[memorialumccclinton@gmail.com](mailto:memorialumccclinton@gmail.com)  
[www.mumccclinton.org](http://www.mumccclinton.org)

### Serving God's People

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

Pastor  
 Music Director/Organist  
 Youth Director  
 Secretary/Treasurer  
 Housekeeping/Custodian

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