

The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

MAY 2023



Having to Say Goodbye

While I served in the Army, I learned a life lesson that has stuck with me through all these years since. We came into our units at random times and our enlistment was for 3 - 4 years before we either moved or left active duty. We would leave in the same way, having built relationship and friendships. We can see this pattern in schools as families move over the Summer and friends go with them. We see this in churches for a variety of reasons. We too move, age, die, or get to a point where we can no longer commit as we once did.

On Saturday April 22nd a significant number of churches left the Holston Conference and The United Methodist Church. In spite of my life lesson, it was a very hard thing to see and do. Saying goodbye is already hard and this felt like a bad divorce. People were crying. People were in shock. No one was celebrating. Property was divided and a gavel signaled the finality.

Yet, all was done with grace and we left in peace.

I know the future is uncertain. It already comes with its own angst. Where do we go from here? At the end of the day, we could affirm 580 Holston Conference churches that were remaining with the UMC. Some might leave in the future. Many will stay. Just like in a divorce or move, the question remains, "What's next?"

It is my prayer that we will answer that with, "We will remain the church that loves God and worships Him by serving our neighbor." Until we cross that threshold let us remember Jesus who is with us, "even unto the end of the age. Be the Church! AMEN



May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Harper Maxwell Lay Speaker for May</i>	<i>1</i> High school testing –Fellowship Hall 7:30-12:30	<i>2</i> Delta Kappa Gamma Founders Day program –5:00	<i>3</i> High school testing –Fellowship Hall Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30	<i>4</i> High school testing –Fellowship Hall Food Pantry 5:30	<i>5</i> High school testing –Fellowship Hall	<i>6</i> Fellowship Hall Indoor Yard Sale 8-4:00 Questions? Call Jimmy Dorsey
<i>7 Graduate Sunday with lunch for all after Church Service. Taco Bar. Flowers– OPEN</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> High school testing –Fellowship Hall	<i>10</i> Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30, 6-7:00 Bible Study, 6:Childrens Choir, 7:00 Big	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> High school testing –Fellowship Hall	<i>13</i>
<i>14 Mothers Day</i> Flowers—Wesley Men's Class	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30, 6-7:00 Bible Study, 6:Childrens Choir, 7:00 Big	<i>18</i> Food Pantry 5:30	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Flowers-John & Wilma Lomax	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30, 6-7:00 Bible Study, 6:Childrens Choir, 7:00 Big	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Flowers– OPEN	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Fellowship Dinner @ 5:30, 6-7:00 Bible Study, 6:Childrens Choir, 7:00 Big			

MEMORIAL BAKES

Many thanks to our bakers in April; Judy Foster, Kim Prater, Gibby Seals, and Gail Gallaher.

Eighteen friends received baked goods: Joe Rainey, Phil Wenk, Juanita Smith, Barbara Fagen, Winkie Watkins, Clyde Horton, Becky Williams, Mary Kelley, Peggy Burton, Carol Luzader, Josh Allen, Jennie Nichols, Ron Schrader, Sylvia Amidon, Carol Long, Ken Barns, Scott Rhea, and Terry Moore.

The treats were delivered by Scott Wilks, Monica Carroll, Gwen and Jerry Ferguson and Joe and Nancy Harper.

The May bake will be on Wednesday, May 17th. Leave your baked goods in the office or bring to the Wednesday night supper.

Anyone who would like to deliver the bakes please call Nancy Harper. It is a joy and a blessing to bring a treat to those who need a short visit. This is an outreach to our members as well as to the community.

Spreading Christian Love through Baking.

***Joe Harper, driver.
Nancy Harper, the talker.***



Church Vote

The issue of human sexuality is complicated and has been a subject that has brought about change in our culture and in the church. While many United Methodist Churches remain with the denomination, other churches have left the United Methodist Church over this very issue.

During the week of May 15th, Memorial United Methodist Church members will have an opportunity to weigh in on this matter in the form of a vote. Specifically, we will ask whether you feel that Memorial United Methodist Church should

1. Remain United Methodist OR
2. Leave The United Methodist Church.

Voting will be limited to members of the church and ballots will be turned in to the church office. You will not be required to sign the ballot or identify yourself on it, but when you come to the church office, your name will be checked against the church membership roll.

This vote is for informational purposes only and may be used in future conversations by our church council.



Servant Leaders 2023

Chuck Parke*

Lay Leader
Lay Member to Annual Conference
Secretary/Treasurer
Finance Chair
Financial Secretary
Nominations
Pastor Parish Relations
Trustees
Ministries Coordinator
Pastor

Art Miller
Tom Thrasher
Carol Luzader
Bebe Combs
Pat Stonecipher
Pastor
Tom Thrasher
Nancy Thrasher
TBD
Scott Wilks

Stewardship

Bebe Combs *

Tom Thrasher
Pat Stonecipher
Carol Luzader
Nancy Thrasher
Bill Gallaher
VL Stonecipher – Administrator of the Ida Gamble Scholarship

Art Miller
Michael Freels
Pastor
Chuck Parke

Trustees

Nancy Thrasher *

Charles Price
Jim Freels
Betty Sellers

Bill Stone
Jimmy Dorsey

Staff Pastor Parish

Tom Thrasher *

Kathleen Jones
Scott Burton
Amy Graham
Harper Maxwell

Scott Rhea
Steve Combs
Art Miller

Nominations

Pastor *

Art Miller
Mark Medley

Ouida Steinkamp
Darcy Schrider

F.Y.I.

Children's Choir News



We have continued working with their voices. A focus has been learning through music what the imagery and text means, why it is appropriate for worship, and how the music can communicate in a meaningful way with the congregation.

We have also introduced new wind instruments which are challenging their use of breath and embouchure, which draw parallels to singing, combined with finger coordination. They are a JOY!

Josh Allen & Kim Eby, Assistant

Finance News

The first four months of 2023 have been good for Memorial. Thanks to your continued faithful giving we are doing well. Let's keep up the good giving and keep our church going in a positive way.

April Budget Giving: \$ 24,886.00

April Expenses: \$ 17,921.00

April Balance: \$6,965.00

Year to Date Giving: \$ 92,378.00

Year to Date Expenses: \$78,136.00

Balance Year to Date: \$ 14,242.00

Please continue to support your church with your financial gifts. We are making a difference in people's lives in the church and in the community.

There are several ways you can send in your contributions/tithes: Mail: Memorial UMC 323 N. Main Street Clinton, TN 37716. On-line Check Pay: You can have your checks sent directly from your bank - 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: Church Phone: 865-457-2287 Email: info@mumccclinton.org.

Thank you for your faithfulness.
Bebe Combs, Finance Chair



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 to recover from the pandemic. Pray for our Service Men, Women, and their families at both home and abroad. Pray for your neighbors, Pray for our School teachers and all the staff required to keep schools open and learning going, and for our First Responders and our Police Officers who keep us protected every day. And lastly, pray for Ukraine, and for the storm damaged areas of our country, more than ever!

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

To the dedicated members serving our prayer chain. They are fearless, love and care for everyone and show this in their devotion to be truly "Prayer Warriors". No crisis too big for them because God answers prayers. **Thank all of You!!!**



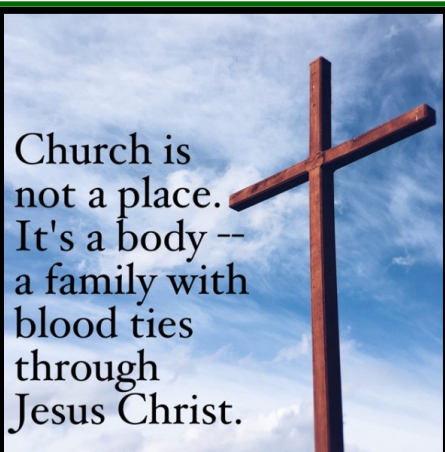
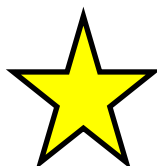
Birthdays for MAY 2023

05/01 Juanita Smith, 05/04 Cheryl Conner, 05/05 Zander Ford,
05/06 Jerry Ferguson, Ingrid Freels, 05/07 Joe Walker, 05/10 Gabriella Rhea,
05/15 Zayden Ford, 05/18 Sarah Freels, Martin Hennessee
05/21 Chuck Parke 0529 Amy Graham

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday Memorial Members, Happy Birthday to you!

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 check InstantChurchDirectory.com or call the Church Office (865-457-2287).



DON'T FORGET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS
As of 04/30/2023

Away from Home:

Winki Watkins, The Grove, Apt. #149, 734 Emory Valley Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Phone: 865-248-9976

Bill Connell, NHC of Oak Ridge, 300 Laboratory Rd., Oak Ridge, TN. 37830

At Home:

Juanita Smith, 301 Cross Street, Clinton, TN. 37716 865-463-8336

Bill Van Pelt, 12330 Whitetail Lane, Knoxville 37932 (at son's home) 865-368-7409

Phillip Wenk, 115 Dogwood Lane, Clinton 37716, 865-457-9301

Temporary Care:

Becky Williams is recuperating at Meadow View Senior Living, 111 Acuff Lane, Room 304.

Call her at 865-591-5304

Joe Rainey, NHC Farragut, Room 404, 120 Cavette Hill Lane, Knoxville, TN. 37934

Graduate Sunday ~ May 7, 2023

We will be honoring 4 college graduates this coming Sunday with a special segment in the Church Service.

Following church there will be a luncheon for graduates, their families and the whole congregation.

Join everyone in the Fellowship hall to wish these graduates well and congratulate their accomplishments.

Lauren Burton

Georgia Pietrzak



Logan Prater

Abbey Wilks



Memorial United Methodist Church

323 North Main Street

Clinton, TN. 37716

(865) 457-2287

Office Hours

Email:

Website:

Monday-Thursday 9:00-3:00. Closed Friday.

memorialumcclinton@gmail.com

www.mumccinton.org