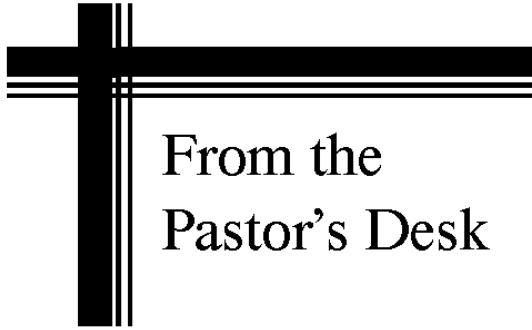


The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2023



From the
Pastor's Desk

Merry Christmas!

Every year we are faced with the holiday task of balancing between our understanding of the “holiday seasons” leading up to December 25th. On one hand we have the secular celebration with its lights and music, football and food, gift giving and shopping. On the other side, we as Christians have the very real remembrance and celebration that Jesus Christ came to earth to save human-kind.

One of the sillier debates that have risen is the fact that some choose to say things like “happy holidays”, or “season’s greetings.” They are taking Christ out of Christmas! I honestly don’t care for that argument. In fact, I find it petty and exclusionary.

Because I only have a little space to write, I want you to know that if someone says happy holidays, it’s okay to respond Merry Christmas. Smile. That other person is possibly that person who wants to genuinely acknowledge that the season is special. They may know that it is our Savior we celebrate. They may want to spread cheer without entering the debate of who or what the season celebrates. That’s okay! Don’t get your hackles ruffled.

A real celebration of the Christ in Christmas isn’t in the delivery of a greeting. It is in the reception of God’s love and the change of the human heart filled with His Spirit. So, happy holidays to you and your family, and a very merry Christmas!

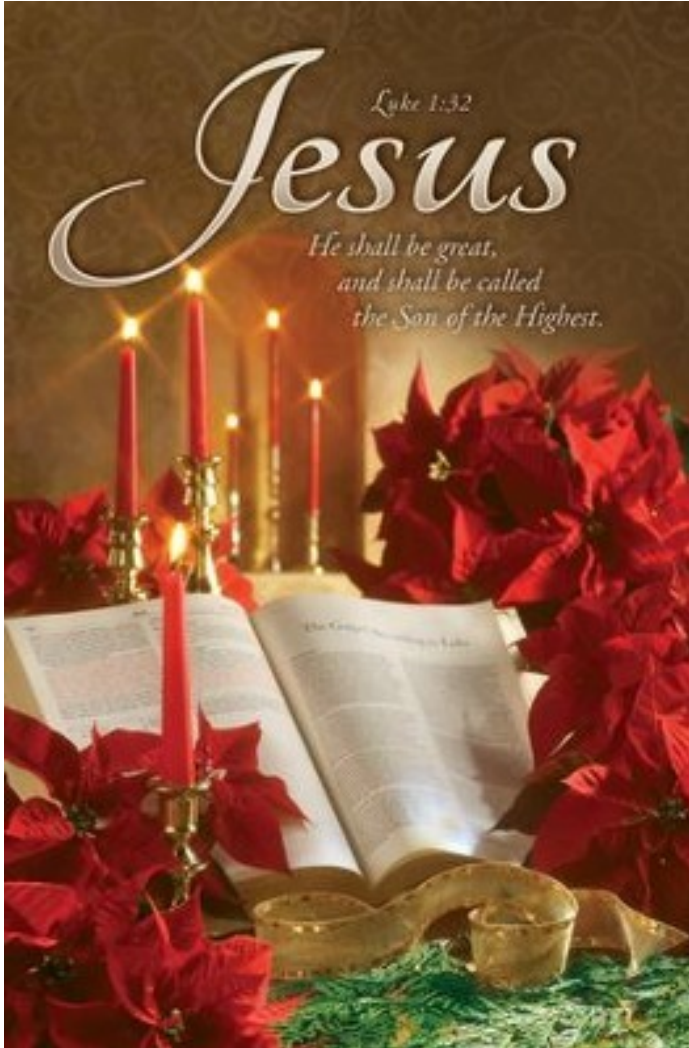
Scott



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 <i>Delta Kappa Gamma 5:30</i>	6 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study, Youth with Jenny, Children's Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	7 Food Pantry 5:30-6:30	8	9 <i>BSA Lockup Fellowship Hall 7PM-7AM</i>
10	11	12 <i>Church Council 6:30pm-Yak Class</i>	13 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study, Youth with Jenny, Children's Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	14	15	16 <i>BSA Eagle Ceremony 4-5pm Choir Rehearsal After.</i>
17 <i>LESSONS & CAROLS 7PM Reception follow- ing</i>	18	19	20 <i>No Wed. Nite Fellowship</i>	21 Food Pantry 5:30-6:30	22	23
24 <i>CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 5PM</i>	25 <i>Happy Birthday Jesus !</i>	26	27 <i>No Wed. Nite Fellowship</i>	28	29	30
31	HAPPY NEW YEAR !					

Lessons & Carols December 17, 7pm



Join us at 7:00pm for an evening of
Scripture and Music.

With a mixture of new and old
Christmas carols,
congregational singing,
musicians and our Choir
performing at their best this will be a
night to remember.

Reception following the performance
in the Fellowship hall.*

* The congregation is asked to bring finger food style desserts
(cookies, brownies, etc.) Food & beverages will be provided.



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Come and be a part of a Candlelight Service on Dec. 24th at 5:00.

Spiritual, uplifting and what a Holy Night!

Come as you are.

All are Welcome on this special night.

MEMORIAL BAKES

All the bakers are called to service on December 13th !

Thank you for your time, your desire to bake, and your Christian Love!!

Finance News

November was a busy month. Holidays, out of town company, planning for December programs and pledge cards. The pledges are up for 2024 and we are so proud and grateful for all who give. We had good offerings in November but it was just not enough to meet the demands, the cost of heating the Church has hit us. We pray that December and the end of the year will be better.

November Budget Giving: \$23,057.00
November Expenses: \$25,223.00
November Balance: **-\$2,166.00**

Year to Date Giving: \$209,990.00
Year to Date Expenses: \$233,338.00
Balance Year to Date: **-\$23,438.00**

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 the people of Israel, Palestine and Ukraine.

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!!!**





Christmas Mission Project to Benefit the Residents of the Towers

“The King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:40

The collection for the Towers has been fantastic and it comes to an end on Sunday, December 10th.

December 10th: Nail care kits (these kits include clippers, tweezers, and nail files)

We could still use a little more coloring books & colored pens/pencils etc. if you can.

Items will be delivered on December 15th and the management of the towers plans on making their commons room into a shopping room so that residents can pick out what they want (one of each). What a fun shopping trip they will have because of Memorial's generosity and love for our fellow man.

Questions? Call Harper @ 865-384-6158 or the office.

NOTE: There are 153 apartments at the Towers. Most of the residents have no family nearby and very few have their own transportation. All are living on fixed incomes. The Food Pantry is already servicing 54 of the residents 2 times per month with pantry staples, cleaning items and some personal hygiene. This list has been populated from the residents themselves.

Birthdays for DECEMBER 2023

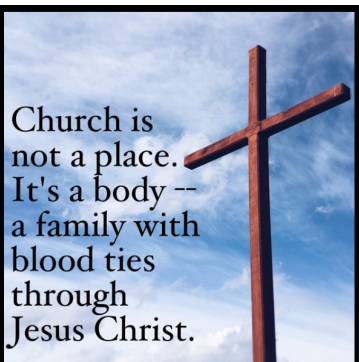
Happy Birthday Memorial Members, Happy Birthday to you!

**12/01 Jimmy Freels, 12/05 Luke Hatmaker, 12/8 Carol Luzader, 12/11 Josh Allen,
12/17 Ella and Shollie Thomas, Teresa Evans, 12/20 Tracy Burton, Pam Rainey,
12/22 Taylor Stone, 12/25 Scott Wilks, 12/27 Seth Carroll**

Let's continue our Birthday call campaign, especially for those homebound or in assisted living facilities. All of the addresses are in the Church Directory or check ChurchDirectory.com or call the Church Office (865-457-2287).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Christmas BABIES !!!



Church is
not a place.
It's a body --
a family with
blood ties
through
Jesus Christ.

DON'T FORGET OUR
EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS
As of 11/30/2023

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

Bill Van Pelt, Morning Pointe of Hardin Valley, 2449 Reagan Rd. Knoxville, TN. 37931

865-368-7409 (cell) Send mail to old home address.

Becky Williams, Canterfield Assisted Living, 200 Bus Terminal Road, Room 239,
Oak Ridge, TN. 37830. Her cell # is 865-591-5304.

At Home:

Juanita Smith, 301 Cross Street, Clinton, TN. 37716

865-463-8336

Phillip Wenk, 115 Dogwood Lane, Clinton 37716

865-457-9301

Joe Rainey, 328 Franklin Place, Clinton 37716

865-457-0396

MEMORIALS ~ NOVEMBER 2023

<u>In MEMORY of:</u>	<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Designated Fund</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Ruth & Frank Layton	Deborah & Allan Cummings	Food Pantry	
Mike Oakes	Deane & Sutton Kay	Ida Gamble Scholarship	The Medley's nephew
Bill Martin	Betty S. Martin	General Memorials	



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.

memorialumccclinton@gmail.com

www.mumccclinton.org

Serving God's People

Rev. Scott Wilks
Joshua Allen
Carol Luzader
Jenny Nichol

Pastor
Music Director/Organist
Secretary/Treasurer
Youth Ministries

parsonwilks@gmail.com
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memorialumccclinton@gmail.com
jennynichol.ummcc@gmail.com