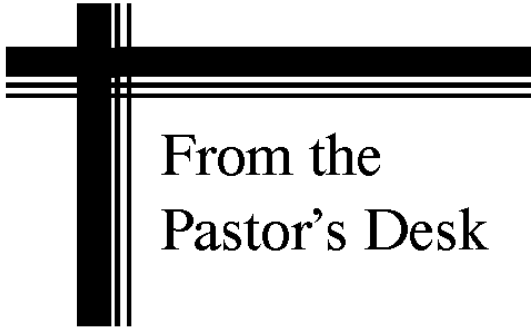


The MEMORIAL MESSENGER

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Lent is almost upon us and honestly, it's somewhat jarring after the joyful seasons of Christmas and Epiphany to suddenly slow down and reflect. During Lent, we stop and remember the last 40 days of Jesus' earthly ministry. We visit His teaching, entry into Jerusalem, and the cross.

Lent begins with a solemn service where we receive the mark of the cross as we begin a season of reflection and discipleship.

Ash Wednesday is like the yellow light of our traffic intersection. The message is, slow down and ponder what it means to follow Jesus. The road seems to end at a cross, although we know better. The ashes remind us of our own mortality as we hear those words, "you are dust, and to dust you must return." Early liturgies of the church used the words (in Latin) *memento mori*, "remember, we die."

But as Christians, we live in the promise and the hope that the grave is not the end. The season can be an opportunity to allow Jesus' teaching and work to mold us into new creatures. Self-denial is one means, but making real change through good works and giving accomplish more than sacrificing chocolate. While the abstinence can refocus us, if we aren't willing to do the flip side of the Lenten coin, we miss the real opportunity for change.

In the words of Methodism's founder, let us...

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

Scott,

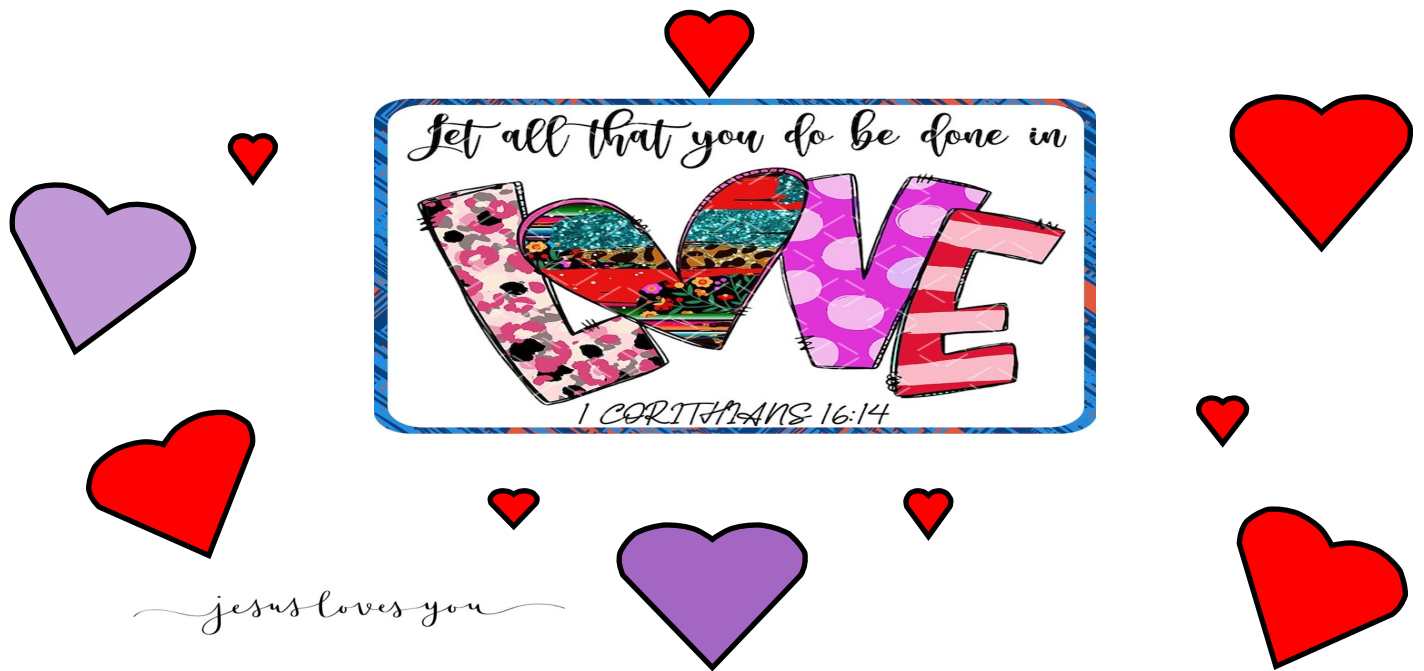
A fellow pilgrim on the journey



February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>There will Wednesday</i> | <i>an Ash Service on</i> | <i>the 14th. @</i> | | <i>1 Food Pantry 5:30-6:30</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>7 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study, Youth with Jenny, Children'sChoir7:00 Choir Practice</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>11 Chili/Soup Cook-off</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>13</i> | <i>14 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study, Youth with Jenny, Children'sChoir7:00 Choir Practice</i> | <i>15 Food Pantry 5:30-6:30</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i> |
| <i>18 Winter Jam (Youth)</i> | <i>19</i> | <i>20</i> | <i>21 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study, Youth with Jenny, Children'sChoir7:00 Choir Practice</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> |
| <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> | <i>27</i> | <i>28 5:30 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study, Youth with Jenny, Children'sChoir7:00 Choir Practice</i> | <i>29</i> | | |



WEDNESDAY NIGHT NEWS

A large crowd was on hand to hear our guest speaker for the January 31st Wednesday night meal and gathering.

Maha Ayesh spoke to us about the plight of the Palestinian people during this time of war and before. Maha is the daughter of Palestinian immigrants and was born in Knoxville. She graduated from UT Knoxville and from the UT School of Law. She is a Fulbright Scholar and teaches law at Lincoln Memorial University. She is married to Sean Blevins, a former member of Memorial UMC, and is the mother of three daughters.

Maha spoke to our group about the hardships of life in the West Bank and Gaza strip, both during the current war and for many years previous.

A delicious meal was served by the YAK class, and the fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Reported by Nancy Harper



Finance News

December was a busy month, the Holidays, out of town company, 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 December and it was enough to meet the demands, the cost of heating the Church has hit us. January (and SNOW) made us loose a whole week of giving even though the bills kept coming. We pray that each month will be better.

December Budget Giving: \$25,689.00
December Expenses: \$23,414.00
December Balance: +2,275.00

January Budget Giving: \$13,108.00
January Expenses: \$18,719.00
January Balance: -\$ 5,071.00

Year to Date Giving: \$235,679.00
Year to Date Expenses: \$257,361.00
Balance Year to Date: -\$21,682.00

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.
Carol Luzader, Secretary/Treasurer

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.

"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 You!!**

Birthdays for Jan. & Feb. 2024

Happy Birthday Memorial Members, Happy Birthday to you!

January 2024 (Belated)

01/02 Phil Wenk, 01/05 Vicki Underwood, 01/08 Scott Burton, 01/12 Don Conner, 01/17 Ken Overstreet, 01/23 Kathleen Jones, 01/30 Kaye Johnson & Chrystal Reed, 01/31 Olivia Kelly

February 2024

02/09 Maggie Kirkpatrick, 02/10 Emma Schrider, 02/12 Charles Price, 02/13 Monica Austin Carroll & Ellie Murrell, 02/16 Ouida Steinkamp, 02/17 Dewayne Hickson, 02/20 Ken Barns & Jimmy Dorsey & Gail Gallaher, 02/22 Jan Kirkpatrick, 02/23 Susan Overstreet, 02/24 Bebe Combs & Wilma Lomax, 02/25 Bobbie Sellers, 02/26 Alice Connell

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).



DON'T FORGET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS

As of 12/31/2023

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

MEMORIALS ~ DEC. 2023 & JAN. 2024

| <u>In MEMORY of:</u> | <u>Donor Name</u> | <u>Designated Fund</u> | <u>NOTES</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Jim & Denise Davis | Food Pantry | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Deane & Sutton Kay | Wesley Men's Class | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr./Mrs William D. Powell | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Charles F. & Betty Lyons | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Beverly Disney | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Becky & Stanley Grubb | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Don Hedden | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | John & Kathleen Jones | Children's Music | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr. & Mrs. James P. Ruyl | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Peggy Patterson | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr./Mrs. Jack E. Gotcher | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Leslie P. & Betty Sellers | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr. James & Margaret Patterson | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Gibby Seals | Food Pantry | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Vanessa & David Seivers | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Onah & Fred Fox | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | M. Lee & Ray C. Price | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr. Phil J. Wenk | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Marcia L. Dickert | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Nancy Furian Stiefel | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr. Robert E. & Nancy Elder | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Gregory T. & Esther Wilkinson | Sound System Update | |
| | | | |

MEMORIALS ~ DEC. 2023 & JAN. 2024

| <u>In MEMORY of:</u> | <u>Donor Name</u> | <u>Designated Fund</u> | <u>NOTES</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Gregory A. & Ann Lyles | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Kay Shanlever | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Joel & Loretta Kilpatrick | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Bobbie B. Sellers | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Angela K. Burns, DDS | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Wed. Club of Clinton | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | John C. & Merle Pryse | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Bryan A. Jackson, CPA | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Mrs. Nancy F. Stiefel | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Frankie and Lana Seivers | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr. Robert Elder | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Donna Wilson | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Sherry Arnold | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Vicki Underwood | Food Pantry | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Art Miller | Food Pantry | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Wesley Men's Class | General Budget | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Dr. Glenn & Betty Greer | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Anderson County Dental Staff | Sound System Update | With Art Miller |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | V.L. and Pat Stonecipher | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Sharon McCarty | Food Pantry | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Roger and Lyndall Ridenour | Food Pantry | |
| 7 | | | |
| | | | |

MEMORIALS ~ DEC. 2023 & JAN. 2024

| <u>In MEMORY of:</u> | <u>Donor Name</u> | <u>Designated Fund</u> | <u>NOTES</u> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Bill & Ouida Steinkamp | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Marilyn Murphy | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Phil & Brenda Wenk | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Bill & Gail Gallaher | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Jim Ern & Sarah Medley | Sound System Update | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Tom & Nancy Thrasher | Trustees Fund | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Mark Medley | Ida Gamble Scholarship | |
| Dr. Joe Rainey | Cissy Patterson Wilkins | Sound System Update | |
| <u>In Honor of:</u> | <u>Donor Name</u> | <u>Designated Fund</u> | <u>NOTES</u> |
| Deane & Sutton Kay, Jim Ern & Sarah Medley Mark & Donna Medley | Ms. Candy Fox | Food Pantry | |
| Honor of Dr .P.J. Wenk and Memory of Patricia Wenk | Phil & Brenda Wenk | General Memorials | |
| Honor of Staff & Congregation | Ouida & Bill Steinkamp | General Budget | |
| Bill Martin | Sue Martin | General Memorials | |
| UMW | Johnanna Sprague | General Memorials | |
| Honor of Peggy Burton and In Memory of Dow Burton | John D. & Laura Kramer | General Budget | |



Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

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

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