

MESSENGER

A monthly publication for family and friends of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church



I am so thrilled to be the new Parish Nurse at Munsey. My husband, Kevin, and I have lived in Johnson City for over 25 years and have a special place in our hearts for Munsey as it was the first church we attended as a married couple. We have two children: Everett, who is 18 and Lainey, who is 13. I have been a stay-at-home mom for several years, in addition to volunteering with hospice. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning more about how I can help support the members of Munsey and their families.

Emily Ham, RN

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIP



Leslie Weatherhead, the noted British Methodist clergyman and psychologist, told about a young, brilliant physician he met in London who was making a number of experiments in a laboratory attached to the university. He was doing cancer research supported by some of the most distinguished scientists in London. Weatherhead said he watched him work in a small, ill-ventilated room in the basement of the university. The doctor told Weatherhead that if these experiments turned out as successfully as he had every right to hope they would, then he would have a new way of treating this particular cancer with some hope of recovery. Weatherhead asked him, "What will you then do?" With a glow on his face, with enthusiasm in his voice, and a shining gleam in his eye he exclaimed, "I shall tell the world!"

This reminds me that we should come to worship each Sunday with great expectations, a glow on our faces, enthusiasm in our voices, and a shining gleam in our eyes, for we too have made a discovery! Jesus Christ is Lord and He is among His people. Christ has come to set the captive free! We really do have a story to tell the nations! We are compelled to tell the world, to share our discovery, and to pass it on.

It is to this end that we are continuing our current sermon series each month in May entitled "Hearts Strangely Warmed: What it means to be United Methodist in the Bible Belt!" We need to know what we believe and why we believe. Furthermore, we need a better grasp on the 7 distinguishing characteristics that define us as United Methodist people.

In each special message, I will share with you some pitfalls and challenges to be aware of in the hope that it will empower all of us to talk about the work of God's grace in our own lives with those we love and treasure more effectively. I have come to realize that there is a way we can all communicate the deep truths of our faith that represent Jesus as I think he would like to be represented. I continue to believe that the message of Methodism can change the world because it has changed you and me. And for that reason we must share it!

So, bring a friend to worship, and I will look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Kip

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

We have programs for all ages from **6:00-7:15pm each Wednesday through May 8!** If you would like to bring your dinner with you before programs begin, tables are available around the gym floor from **5:30-6:00pm**. We have these studies for adults:

- Women's Community Group led by Gwen Sitsch and Amanda Onks (Gathering Place)
- Men's Community Group led by John Redmond (Parlor)

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church's General Conference is taking place through **May 3, 2024** in Charlotte, NC, and we hope you'll visit www.munsey.org/generalconference for important information. We have Q&A videos with Pastor Kip and Amanda Onks, General Conference delegate, to answer common questions and share what you need to know about General Conference, along with links to connect with the schedule and the livestream. We also hope you'll mark your calendar for our Munsey Post-General Conference Briefing session on **Wednesday, May 22, at 6:00pm** in the Christian Life Center Gym. Childcare is provided, and please let Katie Jackson (katie@munsey.org) know if you need childcare.

MUNSEY MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Munsey Men's Prayer Group meets **Thursday mornings at 6:30am** in the Christian Life Center Meeting Room. We invite all men of the church to join us for study, prayer, and fellowship. For more information, please email Bill Darden (billdarden7@aol.com).

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Women's Study Group meets on **Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00am** in the Gathering Place, and all women are welcome. Please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you have questions or need childcare.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE CHAIR

As we embark on this journey through the new year, we are immensely grateful for the unwavering support and generosity exhibited by each member of our congregation. Your contributions, both in terms of time and financial resources, have been instrumental in steering Munsey towards a path of financial stability and vitality.

Thanks to your collective efforts, Munsey finds itself in a significantly improved financial position compared to previous years. Through heightened giving and prudent management of expenses, we have been able to rectify the challenges that burdened us financially. Reflecting on the past year, it is evident that our actions to fortify our financial foundations have borne fruit, instilling a renewed sense of confidence in our future goals.

However, our journey towards financial security and the strengthening of our church is ongoing. It is imperative that we sustain the momentum of our progress by continuing to uphold the spirit of generosity that you have exhibited. Your steadfast commitment to giving has been the cornerstone of our success thus far, and we appeal to you to maintain this dedication in the months ahead.

Together, let us reaffirm our pledge to support Munsey wholeheartedly, ensuring that our church not only maintains its current stability but also thrives and expands to further the Kingdom of God.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Chris Rayment, Finance Chair

ORGAN CONCERT

Pentecost Sunday is **April 19** and will feature a special organ concert at 3:30 pm in the Munsey Sanctuary. Kyle Ritter, the guest organist, is the Canon for Music at The Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville, NC, where he oversees a comprehensive choral program involving children and adults.

Prior to his appointment at All Souls, Mr. Ritter served as Minister of Music at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA. He received both the bachelor's and master's degrees from the Indiana University School of Music, where he was a student of Robert Rayfield and Marilyn Keiser. Mr. Ritter has held various positions in the American Guild of Organists and is currently the President of the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM). He served for several years as adjunct faculty at Brevard College and is currently the Artistic Director of the Asheville Symphony Chorus.



The program for Pentecost Sunday will include music by Alec Wyton, Georg Böhm, Leo Sowerby, Maurice Duruflé, Charles-Marie Widor and Louis Vierne. The concert is open to the public without charge.

This concert is sponsored, in part, in loving memory of Carol Gardner Transou.

SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS

(Serving Breakfast 7:45am - 9:15am on Saturdays)

- May 4:** Combo Hiker & Watch Party
- May 11:** Redeemer Community Church
- May 18:** Virgil Anderson Class
- May 25:** Send Team

To serve or learn more about our Saturday morning ministry for our downtown neighbors, contact John Redmond at john.redmond@munsey.org or Sharon Pickering (423-491-4616) at sharonpickering520@gmail.com or go to www.munsey.org/meltingpot to sign up.



To sign up for Open Door worship or Shepherd's Breakfast, go to munsey.org/meltingpot or scan QR code.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES - Katie Jackson, Director of Children's Ministries, katie@munsey.org

I had the honor and privilege of speaking to the Virgil Anderson Sunday School class on Sunday, April 21. These faithful saints welcomed me with open arms and were thrilled to learn about all the Children's Ministry programs and events. I reminded the class that our children are not only the church of the future; they are the church today! Our children play a vital role within our congregation. They provide energy and joy. They remind us that it is ok to express all of our emotions. Children are naturally curious, and they ask amazing questions about God. They believe deeply. They are quick to make friends and are accepting of others. Most importantly, they are loved by God. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:3 that we are to have child-like faith. So, I encourage you, as I encouraged the Virgil Anderson Sunday School class members, to get to know our amazing children at Munsey. And please pray for them daily!

Katie Jackson

YOUTH MINISTRIES - Amy Brown, Director of Youth Ministries, amy.brown@munsey.org

Sandra Hayes gives us an insight into her experience as a Confirmation volunteer:

"This year I have had the honor and privilege to be a Confirmation volunteer. In this position I have explored and grown along my own faith journey. These students have been a joy to know and encourage as they learn more about who they are as God's children and members of the United Methodist Church. And that is very exciting!"

You can find more information about our KidMin and Youth Ministries in our Family Ministries Newsletter.

Save
the
Date!

**GENESIS ONE YOUTH CHOIR
REUNION!**

Celebrating 40+ years of song!

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2024

Join us in celebrating 40+ years of the Genesis One Youth Choir and its ministry!

Sat. 9/21: Reunion lunch and rehearsal

Sun. 9/22: Reunion concert in worship & afternoon retirement celebration for Doug Grove-Dejarnett

MUNSEY

A LOOK AT YOUR WEEKLY GIFTS AND ATTENDANCE

	04/07/24	04/14/24	04/21/24	04/28/24
Weekly Budget Offering	\$35,534	\$14,392	\$11,846	\$68,147
Weekly Budget Requirement:	\$29,970			
Missions Offering	\$3838	\$825	\$519	\$2633
Pastors Discretionary	-	-	-	\$10
Worship Attendance	378	365	335	302

**MESSENGER
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the **June Messenger submissions** is **May 23, 2024.**

12 MONTHS OF GIVING TO NORTH SIDE

At a recent Send Committee meeting, I was told that, "No one reads the Messenger." So, if you are reading this article, you are SOMEONE in my book! Please tell other members of Munsey to read the Messenger so that they will be up to date on the fantastic mission projects that are occurring on a regular basis.

Our partnership with North Side Elementary is one example of generosity shown monthly by our congregation. Since March, we have donated the following:

- 1397 TCAP snacks and 310 drinks for 140 students
- 142 briefs
- 59 pairs of socks
- 27 shorts or leggings
- 11 pairs of shoes
- 30 bralettes
- 15 boxes of Kleenex
- 14 cans of disinfecting wipes



If that's not worth reading about, I don't know what is! Thank you, Munsey, for supporting this worthwhile mission project. You have helped make North Side a great place to be!

Susanna Chinouth

LADIES' LUNCH

All ladies are welcome to join us on **Monday, May 20, at 12:00pm** at Holy Taco North, and we look forward to lunch and fellowship together. Please let Amanda Onks know (amanda@munsey.org) if you plan to be there so we can save you a seat.



CAMP BAYS MOUNTAIN



Camp Bays Mountain summer camp registration is open! We hope to have several campers from Munsey attend again this summer and are offering partial scholarships to Munsey children or youth who register for summer camp at Bays Mountain. If you're interested in registering for camp with a Munsey scholarship, please contact Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org).

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 5, is Confirmation Sunday, and we'll join together in worship to affirm this holy day in the life of our church and confirmands. We won't have **8:45am** worship that morning and will have one combined service at **11:00am** in the Sanctuary. Open Door worship and Sunday School will meet as usual. We hope you'll plan to join us for this special day.

BACKPACKS FOR LIBERIA

This year's Hands-On Mission project for the Three Rivers District is Backpacks for Liberia. The school kits will equip some of the 16,000 students who attend United Methodist Schools in Liberia and Guinea. To help, please come by the Connection Point for a list of supplies or visit <https://munsey.org/backpacks>. The cost is between \$30-\$40, depending on where you purchase the items. If you don't have time to shop and would rather make a donation, we will gladly accept those too, and you can note "backpacks" in the memo if giving online or by check. Backpacks and donations are needed by **Sunday, May 26**.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

One of my main priorities is being available to our members that are going through difficult times. Please reach out to me and let me know if you hear of hospitalizations, illnesses or other concerns. I also want to encourage everyone to make sure your information in ShelbyNext is up to date. This information is vital for our visitations, card ministry and phone calls when someone needs encouragement. Reach out if you need help updating this information. My email is parishnurse@munsey.org and my extension is 202. Thanks for your help!



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 Emergency Pastor-on-Call 423-262-9888

WORSHIP AT MUNSEY– APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE

MAY 5	MAY 12	MAY 19	MAY 26
<i>“Salt & Light”</i>	<i>“The Mystery of Holy Communion”</i>	<i>“Giving Church Another Chance”</i>	<i>“Clearing Up the Muddy Waters”</i>
Combined 11:00am Sanctuary Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching	8:45am & 11:00am Sanctuary Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching	8:45am & 11:00am Sanctuary Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching	8:45am & 11:00am Sanctuary Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching
9:00am Open Door Jesse Fritz preaching	11:00am Journey Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00am Journey Rev. Beth Sullivan Preaching	11:00am Journey Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching
	9:00am Open Door Jane Cheema preaching	9:00am Open Door Anthony Jackson preaching	9:00am Open Door John Wakefield preaching

WORSHIP SERVICES AT MUNSEY

- ◆ **The 8:45am Blended Worship in the Sanctuary** includes both contemporary and traditional music.
- ◆ **The 11:00am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary** features traditional music with the Chancel Choir.
- ◆ **The 11:00am Journey Worship in the Christian Life Center Gym** features contemporary music with the Praise Band.
- ◆ **The 9:00am Open Door Worship is held in the Melting Pot** and is our most informal service. Breakfast is served at **8:30am** and worship begins at **9:00am**.

Holy Communion is offered at the **8:45am Blended Worship** every week. All other services offer Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month.