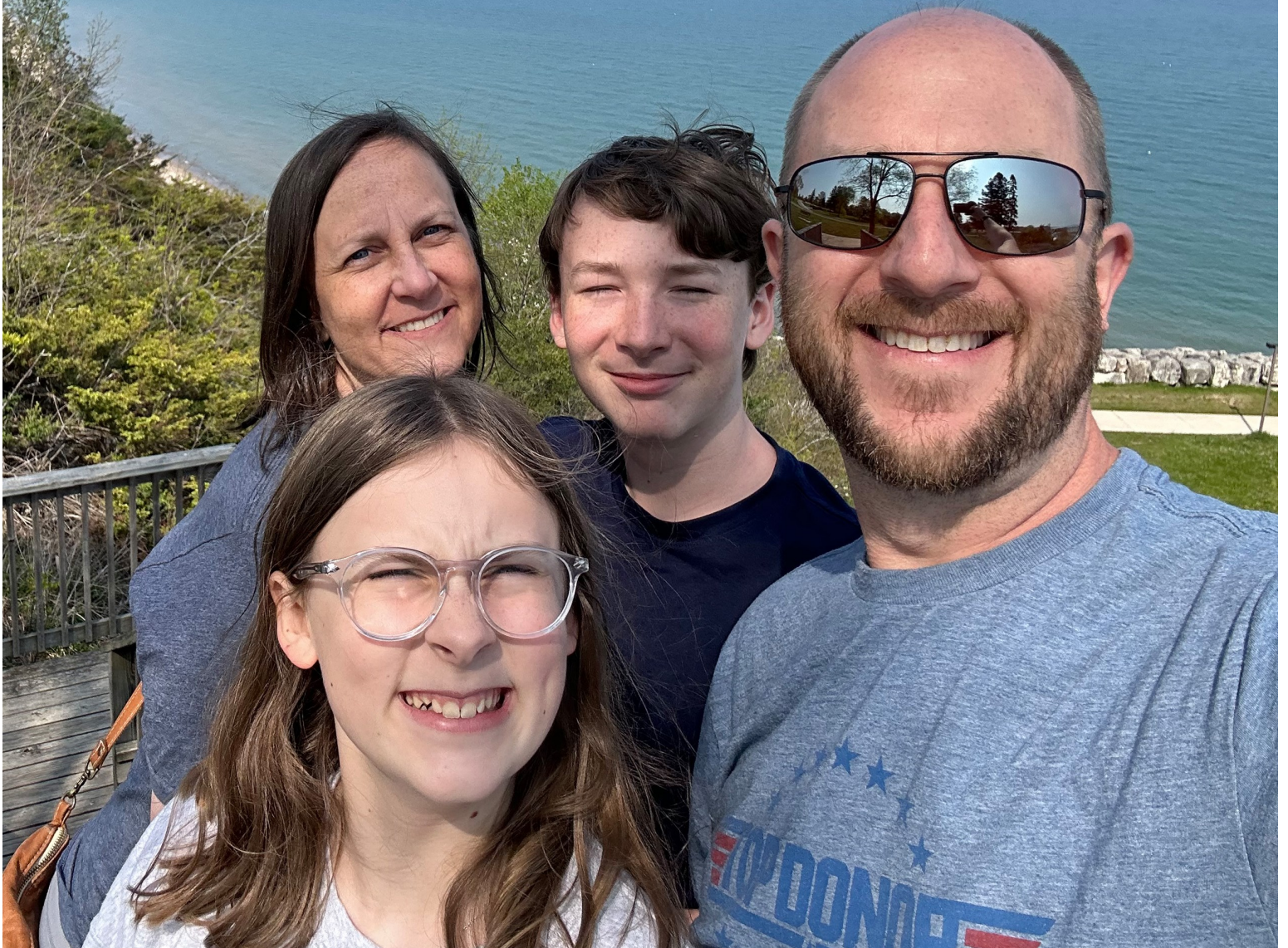


MESSENGER

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



I have such deep gratitude for all Munsey has done for my family and me. The church's unwavering support and kindness while we transitioned back from the Czech Republic meant the world to us. The generosity shown in allowing me to pursue my calling while working has been a true blessing. I cannot thank Munsey enough, and the kindness, love, and support will be forever remembered. I am so grateful for the role that Munsey has played in our journey, and I look forward to continuing to work together in the future.

~John Redmond

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIP



Do you know what you believe and why you believe it? Picture this. You are having lunch with some of your coworkers. The talk around the table is going a bit everywhere, and then somewhere in the conversation you casually mention something that happened at church this past Sunday. Someone looks at you and asks, "You go to church?" Another asks bluntly, "You believe in God, Jesus, and all of that? How can anyone even know if there is a God with all that is going on in the world?"

You listen uncomfortably as everyone begins to share their thoughts about religion, and you quietly slink back in your chair, quietly finishing your lunch. You leave the restaurant feeling defeated, and maybe even wondering if your friends could be right. I imagine all of us at one time or another has experienced a time and place when we just didn't know what to say when it comes to faith, or how to intelligently articulate the beliefs that we hold dear.

One of the great challenges in our day is knowing what Christian faith is really all about and how to talk about it with honesty, clarity and integrity. But it is not easy sometimes.

A great example of faith was found on the wall of a concentration camp. On that wall, a prisoner had written these words:

I believe in the sun, even though it doesn't shine.

I believe in love, even when it isn't shown.

I believe in God, even when He doesn't speak.

Confident faith knows that there is more to life than meets the eye. This is why during the months of April and May, I will present a new seven-part sermon series titled: "**Hearts Strangely Warmed: What it Means to be United Methodist in the Bible Belt!**" My goal is to equip you to confidently respond to common objections to your faith, and to also help seekers and skeptics consider the claims of Christianity in a more personal way. This series might be helpful to your friends and family members who have asked you questions that you cannot answer, or who struggle with theological issues in particular and religion in general. So I hope you will extend them an invitation to join you for worship at Munsey. Why not make it this Sunday? I hope to see you then!

Blessed Eastertide,
Pastor Kip

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

We have programs for all ages from 6:00-7:15pm each Wednesday! 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:

- *Acts: Catching up with the Spirit* led by Rev. Beth Sullivan (Christian Life Center Meeting Room)
- 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 will take place **April 23-May 3, 2024** in Charlotte, NC, and we will soon release 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. With General Conference being hosted just a few hours away from where we live, it provides a great opportunity for anyone to visit, and there is guest seating available in sessions. The plenary sessions will be livestreamed. We will host our Munsey General Conference Briefing session on **Wednesday, May 22, at 6:00pm** in the Christian Life Center Gym.

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).

AMY'S HOUSE: JOHNSON CITY FAITH BUILD 2024

The walls are up, and Munsey and four other Johnson City churches are partnering with Holston Habitat for Humanity to build a home for Amy and her son. Munsey's week to volunteer on the build site is **April 3-6**. If you would like to work on the build site one or more days, go to [Holstonhabitat.org/amysbuild](https://holstonhabitat.org/amysbuild). The password is Munsey. If you have difficulty registering or have questions, please contact Sara Hayman at 423-741-9222 or davishayman@yahoo.com. If you would like to support this mission project in other ways, there are several possibilities;

- Provide lunch for the workers one day during the build. Contact Sara Hayman.
- Spring cleaning: Holston Habitat ReStores accept donations, and pick-up is available for large items (holstonhabitat.org/restores).
- Make a monetary donation to Amy's build to help cover the cost of building supplies (holstonhabitat.org/amysbuild).
- Volunteer at the Johnson City ReStore. Slots are available in 2-3 hour shifts (holstonhabitat.org/restores).
- Shop at the Kingsport and Johnson City ReStores or the ebay site (www.ebay.com/str/holstonhabitatrestore).



A Day with Bishop Looney



Sunday, April 7
11:00 combined worship
Sanctuary

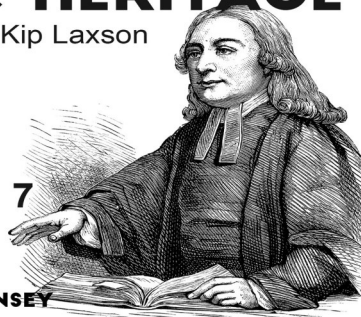
We are honored to have Bishop Richard Looney preaching at Munsey & look forward to all being together for worship that morning. We hope you'll plan to join us!

METHODIST HISTORY & HERITAGE

By Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson

5 Sessions
Sunday Evenings

Classes begin April 7
at 6:00 PM



← MUNSEY

MELTING POT VOLUNTEERS

SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS
 (Serving Breakfast 7:45am - 9:15am on Saturdays)

April 6: **Brown Fellowship Class**

April 13: **Redeemer Community Church**

April 20: **Combo Hiker & Watch Party**

April 27: **ETSU: Student Work Association**

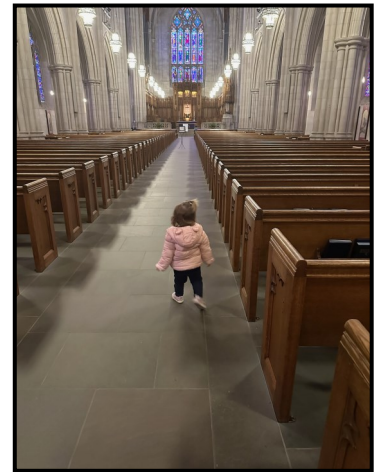
To serve or learn more about our Saturday morning ministry for our downtown neighbors, contact John Redmond at john.redmond@munsey.org or Sharon Pickering (423-491-4616) at sharonpickering520@gmail.com or go to www.munsey.org/meltingpot to sign up.



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

"A little girl walks into a massive worship space.
 Confident. Without shame. Without fear.
 Not worrying if she will be accepted.
 Not wondering if her words or noise will result in her being asked to leave.
 Unphased by the bigness of the space in comparison to her 34-inch self.
 Not holding onto someone's hand nor even desiring to do so.
 Ignoring the sign posted at the door that requests that those who enter be quiet.
 She loves how the physical space seems to invite noise. Her sounds echo and come back to her ears, and she finds joy in that.
 The long walk to the chancel is not intimidating. She keeps putting one foot in front of the other, enjoying the path.
 This space, though so much bigger than she, feels safe to her. A place to explore with curiosity, wonder, and imagination.
 She is eager and happy here.
 Oh, that this would be true in all worship spaces." ~Gwen Sitsch



"Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." - Mark 10:15

Gwen Sitsch beautifully penned these words after receiving a picture of her toddler granddaughter walking down the aisles of Duke's Chapel, which spoke deeply to my soul. Children are a blessing to the Church! They teach us by their actions about God's Kingdom. Munsey is incredibly blessed to have 115 children involved in its ministries. May we all see these children for what they are: gifts from God. May we encourage them to worship freely, ask questions about God, and guide them in learning about His truth and love!

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



"It's been such a blessing getting to work with the teen girls in their Life Groups over the past 10 years. I have absolutely loved getting to know the girls, experiencing their youthful enthusiasm about life, watching them grow and mature in their faith, and giving advice as they get ready to spring forth as independent adults. It's an especially happy day when one of my past Life Group girls reaches out with little life updates in the years after graduation." ~Hayden Parr, Life Group leader

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

A LOOK AT YOUR WEEKLY GIFTS AND ATTENDANCE

	3/03/24	3/10/24	3/17/24	3/24/24
Weekly Budget Offering	\$38,205	\$30,179	\$15,010	\$39,398
Weekly Budget Requirement:	\$29,970			
Missions Offering	\$1110	\$1766	\$2155	\$2738
Pastors Discretionary	-	-	-	-
Worship Attendance	317	289	334	400

MESSENGER DEADLINE

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

12 MONTHS OF GIVING TO NORTH SIDE

Since public schools can lose federal funding as a result of poor student performance on standardized tests, researchers in Virginia studied the influence of food (specifically glucose) on test scores. They found that with increased calories, there was a significant increase in 5th grade pass rates in the tested subjects. In April, 140 students at North Side will be taking TCAPs, and Munsey has traditionally helped supply snacks and drinks for them. As of the third Sunday, we have collected 189 snacks and 28 drinks. Thanks to the Context and the Open Door Sunday school classes, we will be able to supply enough food to help these students achieve their goals on these tests.

In March, at the request of the school nurse, we also supplied 11 pairs of shoes, 27 pairs of shorts/leggings, 30 bralettes, 90 briefs, lice kits, toothpaste and deodorants. In addition, Principal Chad Moore expressed the need of two metal picnic tables for the center courtyard. His hope is to reward students by letting them eat outside in good weather. Thanks to your generous contributions, Munsey bought these tables and they are in the courtyard ready to be used.

With your help, we will continue to make North Side a great place to be!
Susanna Chinouth



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Women's Study Group, led by Amanda Onks, meets on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00am in the Gathering Place, and all women are welcome. We won't meet on April 1 since the church is closed for a holiday. Please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you have questions or need childcare.

LADIES' LUNCH

All ladies are welcome to join us on **Monday, April 22, 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 is excited to host camp this summer, and registration is now open! They're also accepting staff applications, and more information can be found at www.CampBaysMountain.com. 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).



COMBINED WORSHIP

We have some special upcoming Sundays when we'll join together in worship this spring. **On April 7**, we look forward to having Bishop Looney preaching, and **May 5** will be Confirmation Sunday. On both of these dates, we won't have 8:45 worship and will have one combined service in the Sanctuary at 11:00am. We look forward to worshipping together on these dates and hope we'll see you there!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH NURSE

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Emily Ham as our Parish Nurse here at Munsey. Emily has years of experience as a registered nurse and will bring a wealth of knowledge to support our congregation. We will be introducing Emily to the congregation in the next couple of weeks and know that you will join us in supporting and welcoming her in this new role. We are very fortunate that Ballard coordinates and supports this program with the Tri-Cities churches and funds a large portion of the salary. What associated salary Ballard does not cover is paid for by an endowment that was established several years ago to support this position at Munsey. Again, please join us in welcoming Emily to her new role! ~Mark Kinser



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 Emergency Pastor-on-Call 423-262-9888

WORSHIP AT MUNSEY– APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE

APRIL 7
*A Day with
 Bishop Richard
 Looney*

**Combined 11:00am
 Sanctuary**
 Bishop Richard Looney
 preaching

**9:00am
 Open Door**
 Service of Healing
 and Communion

APRIL 14
*Keeping it
 Simple*

**8:45am & 11:00am
 Sanctuary**
 Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching

11:00am Journey
 Rev. Beth Sullivan
 preaching

**9:00am
 Open Door**
 John Redmond
 preaching

APRIL 21
*God is Not Finished with Us
 Yet!*

**8:45am & 11:00am
 Sanctuary**
 Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching

11:00am Journey
 Rev. Beth Sullivan
 Preaching

**9:00am
 Open Door**
 Katie Jackson
 preaching

APRIL 28
*Clearing Up the
 Muddy Waters*

**8:45am & 11:00am
 Sanctuary**
 Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson preaching

11:00am Journey
 Rev. Beth Sullivan
 preaching

**9:00am
 Open Door**
 Beth Sullivan
 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 will be 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.