

 **MUNSEY**

SEPTEMBER 2025

MESSENGER

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



STAFF AND STUDENTS FROM NORTH SIDE SCHOOL ARE OUR FEATURED SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH. FIND OUT WHAT MUNSEY MEANS TO THESE FOLKS ON PAGE 6 INSIDE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Thank you for praying with us...

On August 22-23, several of our Munsey family members participated in a 24-hour Prayer Vigil in the Chapel and at home. This intentional time of prayer served as an opportunity for discernment of vision and mission and to listen to the Holy Spirit.

Here are some of the reflections shared during the experience...

- Reconcile with the Holy Spirit
- I thought it was a very moving experience. I felt God's presence.
- The Holy Spirit will pour out like never before in this church.
- During my time here, I sat and sifted through the scriptures. This led to many questions, such as, "the importance of fig trees and gardens" and "Mark 11" ...Questions asked to God were answered.
- I felt set free by some burdens I've been carrying.
- Hope and peace
- That we would trust God to make the future God wants, not what we want...for rejuvenation of Journey Worship to grow and bring new people to church...stop looking for texts to prove or disprove something and start looking for God...to be set free from believing there is only one perfect choice to a problem or decision...



As we continue to be a people of prayer in all aspects of our daily life, let us continue to listen for God's Spirit. In the words of C.S. Lewis, "I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

Thank you for praying with us. ~Pastor Chris

NEW MEMBER INTEREST

We're always glad to include more in our Munsey family! If you're interested in joining our congregation, please reach out to Rev. Chris Brown (chris.brown@munsey.org). He'll be happy to answer any questions you may have and to help you join Munsey Church.

WAYNE ANDERSON PRAYER GROUP

The Wayne Anderson Men's Prayer Group meets **Thursday mornings at 6:30am** in the Christian Life Center Meeting Room. We invite all men of all churches 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 Parlor. We're studying *The Narrow Path: How the Subversive Way of Jesus Satisfies Our Souls* by Rich Villodas. We won't meet on September 1 since the church office is closed for Labor Day. All women are welcome, and please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you have questions or would like to join us.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

We have age-level programs for children and youth and adult studies from 6:00-7:00pm 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 available for adults, and information on children and youth can be found in our Family Ministries Newsletter:

- Pastor's Bible Study led by Rev. Chris Brown: a discussion-based study of the lectionary text for the following Sunday (Christian Life Center Meeting Room)
- Women's Community Group led by Gwen Sitsch and Amanda Onks: a group of women in various stages of life who are looking deeply into the life of Jesus and encouraging one another to recognize the presence and movement of God in the day-to-dayness of life (Gathering Place)
- Men's Community Group: a group of like-minded Christian men from diverse backgrounds wanting to strengthen their faith through weekly discussions and fellowship (Parlor)

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Are you caring for someone with Dementia? If so, we would like to care for you! This group is a wonderful opportunity to hear from others who share the same struggles and have the same questions. Our next meeting is **September 8 at 2:30pm** in the Parlor. For more information, please contact Emily Ham at parishnurse@munsey.org.

MEAL MINISTRY

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have cooked casseroles for our meal ministry! We continue with this ministry to the church, and we now have a dedicated freezer for our ministry located in the kitchen, next to the ice machine.

Who can receive a casserole?

Anyone who needs some extra love or support. Is someone in your Sunday School class sick or having surgery? Did you just talk to a friend going through a hard time? If so, bring them a casserole!

How does it work?

First, call the person who would be receiving the casserole and make sure they don't have any allergies. Next, go to the freezer next to the ice machine. The casseroles are labeled, and there is a clipboard to sign out who is delivering, who is receiving, etc. This helps ensure that we do not deliver multiple meals, and it helps me know who I need to check on! Finally, deliver the meal and make someone's day a little easier!

When can I drop by to pick up a casserole for delivery?

The church has Connection Point volunteers Monday - Thursday mornings, but it is best to call the office at 423-461-8070 before coming. Of course, you can always grab one when you come for worship on Sunday mornings.

What if I can't deliver it?

If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry, but you are not available to deliver, that is okay! Please contact me, and I will do my best to deliver it or find a volunteer.

What else do I need to know?

Make sure your casserole has been labeled with the cooking instructions. The labels sometimes come off due to the extreme cold. The date listed is the expiration date; frozen casseroles should last 3-6 months, but we are using 3 months as our expiration. If you would prefer to take the casserole home, cook it, and deliver it as a full meal with salad and bread, please do!

How can I help continue this ministry?

We cannot have too many volunteers! If you would like to be on the list of people we contact when the supply is running low, please let me know. We will be opening up this ministry very soon to include bread and desserts. If you would like to help with that or if you could deliver occasionally, please let me know. ~Emily Ham, RN parishnurse@munsey.org

CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

We are always willing and grateful to reach out in care to our congregation members. If you or one of your Munsey friends is in the hospital, having surgery, dealing with illness, or could use extra care, please let our Parish Nurse, Emily Ham, know by contacting her at (parishnurse@munsey.org or 423-282-8970). Thanks for helping us stay informed to care for each other!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

We have volunteers serving Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-1:00pm to answer phone calls and open the main entrance glass doors for visitors. Staff are available beyond these hours and can be reached by phone (423-461-8070) or email (contact info for each staff member found at www.munsey.org). If you need to drop by the church outside of our reception hours, please don't hesitate to contact a staff member so we can coordinate letting you inside. Thank you!

FALL FOR NORTH SIDE FESTIVAL

We're looking forward to hosting the Fall for North Side Festival again this year and hope you'll mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 28, from 3:00-5:00pm** to get to know North Side families and build community! We're ordering shirts to wear at the festival and to share our love for North Side. We'll take orders through September 14 with pickup on September 21, and order forms are available at the Connection Point and at www.munsey.org/festival. Shirts are \$10, and you can also donate to purchase one for someone else. We're also excited to add door prizes for North Side families at the festival this year and will be collecting gift cards to fast food restaurants, Walmart, and donations to purchase them. If you or your small group would like to donate, please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know. We have volunteer needs at festival stations the day of the event, and you can sign up at www.munsey.org/festival to help. Thank you in advance for making it such a wonderful day!

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: JC²

We're being faithful to the way of Jesus Christ in Johnson City (so JC-squared). This new class is designed for young adults: in college or out of college, early bird or night owl, beauty school dropout or aspiring entrepreneur, renting an apartment or living in your parents' basement, Republican, Democrat or none of the above, Buccaneers or Vols, herbivore or omnivore.... come and join us in the Gathering Place each Sunday at 10:00am beginning **September 7**. For questions or more info, please contact Jeff Moore (jpmcasein@yahoo.com).

LADIES' LUNCH

All ladies are welcome to join us on **Monday, September 15, at 12:00pm** at Ole's Guacamoles, 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.



MUNSEY GATHERING AT STICKLEY FARM

Save the date! Our Point of Grace Sunday School class invites all Munsey friends to an afternoon of fall fun at Stickley Farm on **Sunday, October 19, from 3:00-6:00pm**. Admission includes hayride, jump pillow, outdoor mini golf, tube slide, inflatables, corn mazes, petting zoo, play areas, and all are welcome. Admission is \$12 per person for ages 4 and older and free for kids 3 and younger. Please RSVP and submit payment to Haley Greenway by October 17 if you'd like to join the fun. You can email her at haley_greenway@yahoo.com or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/munseystickley>.

ACOLYTE TRAINING

We're excited to let you know that Acolyte Training is happening on **September 14** right after 11:00am worship. We'll gather in the Gathering Place, and lunch will be on us! Whether you're already an Acolyte or interested in becoming one, we'd love for you to join. If you know someone who's interested, please ask them to RSVP by September 12 to Justin at justin.boazman@munsey.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



MISSIONS UPDATES

GOOD NEIGHBOR BAGS

Good Neighbor bags are a simple way to help people you may encounter who might need a healthy snack or an act of kindness to brighten their day. The bags are available in the narthex and the Christian Life Center lobby – grab one to keep in your car. Sunday School classes and other small groups are encouraged to create Good Neighbor bags: take a gallon-zip top bag and pack it with a bottle of water, a squeeze pouch of applesauce, a Slim Jim, a pack of peanut butter crackers, a granola bar, a multigrain bar, and a note with encouraging words from scripture. Completed bags can be drop off at the Missions Center near the Connection Point.

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Food Recovery Task Force is pleased to share that financial support (donated or purchased at production costs) has been secured for new mattresses for our six Embreeville families in *Rebuild Embreeville Next Phase*, our youth are scheduled to help seed and hay lawns in early fall, and plans are underway for a Munsey-hosted linens (bed, bath, and kitchen) shower in October (date to be announced later). If you have an interest in helping with either event in October, please sign up at www.munsey.org/flood-relief.



HOLSTON HOME FOR CHILDREN

Holston Home for Children (Greeneville, TN) provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life's challenges. Munsey has long supported Holston Home, and now you have a chance to help individually as well. A "Friends of Holston Home Children" benefit luncheon is planned for **September 30** at First Broad Street UMC in Kingsport, TN. Lunch will be at 11:30am, preceded by a social hour at 11:00am. The program is at 12:00pm with

SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS

(serving breakfast from 7:45am - 9:15am on Saturdays)

SEPTEMBER 6 Women's Hiker Group, **sign-up slots still available**
SEPTEMBER 13 East Unaka Christian Church, **sign-up slots still available**
SEPTEMBER 20 Bianca Liberti & Sierra Dickson, **helpers still needed**
SEPTEMBER 27 **Helpers still needed**

To serve or learn more about our Saturday morning ministry for our downtown neighbors, contact Anthony Jackson at anthony.jackson@munsey.org or Sharon Pickering (423-491-4616 at sharonpickering520@gmail.com) or scan the QR code or visit www.munsey.org/meltingpot to sign up.



Scan here to sign up for
Open Door worship or
Shepherd's Breakfast!



The saying, "Cleanliness is next to godliness" highlights the moral and health implications of hygiene. Hygiene in schools is crucial for promoting health and preventing communicable diseases. A clean school promotes better focus and academic performance. Plus, according to the CDC, studies show that schools with effective hygiene plans see lower absenteeism due to illness.

Munsey's August collection was Clorox wipes and Kleenex. As of this writing, we have collected 24 boxes of Kleenex and 8 containers of disinfecting wipes. When we collected 144 school supply bags last month, only three grades required these items. So, these tissues and wipes were immediately issued to the other teachers, and they are always in demand and are greatly appreciated.

In addition, the Brown Fellowship class supplied 170 packages of crackers and 72 bags of Goldfish for the Special Education class in August. The Open Door class donated \$125 to the September 28 Fall Festival at North Side. The collection for next month is hand sanitizer and special event snacks such as water bottles, small bags of chips, and candy bars.

Thank you, Munsey, for supporting this vital partnership and making North Side a great place to be! ~Susanna Chinouth

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO: INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER

The spring Medical Mission Trip to Mexico was a blessing to all! Due to very nice weather (when the people are more willing to walk miles to see a doctor), we saw more patients than ever before. We saw 681 adults and 224 children, for a total of 905 patients! We most commonly treat aches and pains but quite often we see patients with serious medical concerns. Diabetes and high blood pressure are very common. The most common ailment we see is intestinal parasites due to poor drinking water. Of the 905 patients we saw, 746 received medication for parasites.

Sometimes we see patients for whom we are not prepared to treat. Because we have doctors from Mexico with our team, they can refer them to doctors in Puebla where they can get the treatment they need. Of course, most people in the little village of Ixtepec cannot afford to travel to Puebla, so our team always gives beyond the cost of the trip.

During our stay in Ixtepec a mother, Josefina, came to see us to help her baby boy who has a cleft palate. Working with the doctors from Mexico, we were able to direct her to the care her son needed. When we returned to Tennessee, Josefina contacted me and thanked me. However, there were complications with the surgery and while the surgery was covered by the government, she and her daughter were sleeping on the floor in the hospital with nothing to eat. Our team once again dug deep, and we were able to wire her sufficient funds for Josefina and her daughter to stay at a hotel and get some food.

The Health Department in Mexico requires us to purchase our medications in Mexico, so we have several team members travel a few days early to secure the required pharmaceuticals. As one can imagine, the cost to treat 900 patients is high. Our cost this past trip was close to \$4,000 for medications. Donations are always appreciated!

Thank you for your interest and for your prayers! Our next trip to Ixtepec will be October 4-12.

FROM THE COVER - A MESSAGE FROM NORTH SIDE SCHOOL

On behalf of North Side Elementary, I want to thank the body at Munsey for your ongoing partnership and generosity toward our school. Your monthly give directly supports student needs, and your care has made an impact on the lives of our students and families. From providing teacher appreciation meals for our faculty and staff to making sure all of our students have what they need to thrive, you consistently go above and beyond.

We are especially grateful for the way you support our community through events like the Fall Festival, which brings families together and strengthens the bonds that make North Side such a special place. Your continued support allows us to pursue excellence in all that we do, and we are truly blessed to count you as partners in this important work.

One Body, Many Parts, ~Chad Moore, Principal

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES - Charity Damrau, Director of Children's Ministries (charity.damrau@munsey.org)



MUNSEY SPARK IS READY TO IGNITE

Big changes are coming to Munsey Kids beginning **Sunday, September 7**, as we launch Munsey *Spark*, our new worship hour kids programming! Participants kindergarten through 5th grade will start out the 11:00am hour sitting with parents for worship, coming to the front for the children's message, and then dismissing with a small group leader to the second floor for games, crafts, prayer, and more that build on that day's Sunday School lesson. *(Please note: this is a change from the previously posted schedule that will still allow families time to worship together.)*

Many thanks to the generous volunteer small group leaders who are willing to make *Spark* a reality! If you have a heart for the future of the church, contact Charity at (423) 863-6915 for opportunities to plug in!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MUNSEY SPARK IS ALREADY LIT!

Our Wednesday night kids programming is diving in headfirst to a busy fall! Preschoolers ages 3-5 begin the night at 6:00pm in room 206 for worship with Mr. Matt while K-5th graders start in room 209 with Mrs. Charity and Mrs. Jeana for Bible study. At 6:30, the two groups switch, so you can

pick up your preschoolers in room 209 and elementary kids in 206. So that you can be on time to your adult class, drop-off begins at 5:50pm in both rooms. Littles younger than age 3 have childcare in the green room.

We've started this fall exploring the fruit of the Spirit – one each week – so be sure to ask your kids on the way home which fruit we studied.

YOUTH MINISTRIES - Mindy Moore, Director of Youth Ministries (mindy.moore@munsey.org)



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Our Youth Fellowship this month is a movie night on **September 21 from 2:00-4:00pm**. We will meet on the Youth Floor for this cinematic event, with movie choice TBD. Friends are always welcome!

MIDDLE SCHOOL PICK-UP

Middle School Pick-Up for 6th-8th graders is on Wednesday, **September 17**. We'll pick up from Liberty Bell and Indian Trail, and students from other schools are welcome to join us at the snack or activity stop. We will stop at Taco Bell for a snack and head over to Just Jump for some fun. Students need money for a snack and \$10 to jump. Let Mindy Moore (mindy.moore@munsey.org) know by September 15 if your youth plans to join in on the fun, and please be sure they have a waiver filled out online for Just Jump. Friends are always welcome!

For more information about our Children's and Youth Ministries, please see our Family Ministries Newsletter.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Church Council meetings are open to any Munsey member, and each is at 6:00pm in the Christian Life Center Meeting Room on the following dates the rest of this year: **September 18 and December 4**. To learn more about our teams and committees, you can find a list of them in the brochure racks and at www.munsey.org under resources.

PAUL'S JOURNEY CRUISE

Join Rev. Chris Brown with Bishop Wallace-Padgett and the Holston Annual Conference for Paul's Journey Cruise for 11 Nights on Celebrity Infinity with Guest Speaker Dr. Craig Hill, starting at \$4,646* from Bristol/Kingport/Johnson City, TN, or \$4,696* from Asheville, NC, on **March 8, 2026**. You will see Nafplion, Olympia, Heraklion, Rhodes, Limassol, Antalya, Kusadasi, Athens, and much more! You can find out more about this exciting opportunity, including a brochure, itinerary and registration information by visiting [here](#).



POCKET CROSSES

Good morning Chris! I wanted to share with you what Joe did to help out the Helene Long Term Recovery Team.

About a week ago Bruce Treadway called Joe to see if he could make crosses for a future commemorative service on September 27 for the Helene disaster. Using wood from the debris that washed up on the Nolichucky River bank that was brought to him, he made 300 pocket crosses. We have a neighbor who made a template and marked the pattern on the wood. Joe cut all of them with his scroll saw. Another neighbor and I sanded them and did a quality check. Joe soaked them in lemon oil to preserve the wood. We were able to complete the project in 4 days!

Bob Gibson just came and took them to keep for the service. I am happy that we took a symbol of something bad to make something good.

We saved one cross for you to take with you on your trip to Liberia! Munsey will be with you in your pocket!! ~Mary Wolfe



PREVIOUS NORTH SIDE FESTIVAL FUN



A LOOK AT YOUR WEEKLY GIFTS AND ATTENDANCE

	8/3/25	8/10/25	8/17/26	8/24/25
Weekly Budget Offering	\$22,322	\$24,553	\$10,202	\$10,492
Weekly Budget Requirement:				\$30,577
Missions Offering	\$1,983	\$4,477	\$1,202	\$3,530
Worship Attendance	237	310	276	308

MESSENGER DEADLINE: The deadline for October Messenger submissions is **SEPTEMBER 22, 2025.**

WORSHIP AT MUNSEY– SEPTEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 7
9:00am Sanctuary
Rev. Beth Sullivan
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary
Philemon 1-21
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

11:00am Journey
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Rev. Beth Sullivan
preaching

9:00am Open Door
Anthony Jackson
preaching

SEPTEMBER 14
9:00am Sanctuary
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary
Luke 15:1-10
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

11:00am Journey
Psalm 51:1-10/Luke 15:1-10
Rev. Beth Sullivan
preaching

9:00am Open Door
Anthony Jackson
preaching

SEPTEMBER 21
9:00am Sanctuary
Rev. Beth Sullivan
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary
Luke 16:1-13
Rev. Beth Sullivan
preaching

11:00am Journey
Jeremiah 8:18-9-1
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

9:00am Open Door
Jeremiah 8:18-9-1
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

SEPTEMBER 28
9:00am Sanctuary
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary
Luke 16:19-31
Rev. Chris Brown
preaching

11:00am Journey
Amos 6:1a, 4-7/
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Rev. Beth Sullivan
preaching

9:00am Open Door
Anthony Jackson
preaching

WORSHIP SERVICES AT MUNSEY

- **9:00am Worship in the Sanctuary** features communion served weekly.
- **11:00am Worship in the Sanctuary** features traditional music with the Chancel Choir.
- **11:00am Journey Worship in the Christian Life Center Gym** features contemporary music with the Praise Band.
- **9:00am Open Door Worship in the Melting Pot** is our most informal service. Coffee and pastries will be available from 8:30-9:00am.

Holy Communion is traditionally offered the first Sunday of the month in all worship services.

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Parish Nurse: parishnurse@munsey.org