

MESSENGER

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



Munsey is excited to introduce our new Director of Youth Ministries and her family: Amy Brown and her husband, Michael Tilson, and stepdaughter, Suzi Tilson.

I am so excited and honored to start this new journey with you at Munsey!
~Amy Brown

LADIES' LUNCH

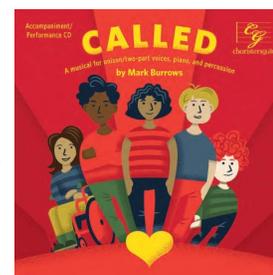
All ladies are welcome to join us **Monday, September 19 at noon** at Holy Taco North, and we look forward to lunch and fellowship. Please contact Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) to reserve a seat!

FALL FOR NORTH SIDE FESTIVAL

We're hosting the Fall for North Side Festival and celebrating the school's 100th year **Sunday, September 25, from 3:00-5:00pm!** We need volunteers on the day of the event and donations to provide shirts for all students and staff. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help!

YOU ARE CALLED!

We've had a great start to our children and youth music activities! We are preparing a musical entitled "Called." It's not too late to join our Munsey children and youth to take part in this exciting new musical about what it means to be a child of God. We are all called to worship, serve, and make a difference in the world. This musical affirms that God has placed something beautiful in everyone and is calling us to share it with the world! This musical has a role for everyone including speaking, singing, acting, prop making, and tech. Join us for rehearsals **Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm** (age three through 4th grade), and **Sunday evenings at 5:30pm** (HWY56-youth). Plan to join us for our presentation of "Called" **Sunday, October 2 at 4:00pm** in the Christian Life Center.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Would you like to honor a loved one or put flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one? There has been a price decrease; the altar flowers are now \$85, and there are still many Sundays available in 2022! Please call Cathy Szucs at (423)461-8070 ext. 203.

DISCOVER MUNSEY

If you're new to Munsey or want to learn more about being part of our church, please join us for Discover Munsey! The class will be offered for five Sundays in the Chapel during Sunday School at 10:00am, beginning **September 11**. Register online at (www.munsey.org/rsvp) and contact Amanda Onks if you have questions (amanda@munsey.org).

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Riders will arrive in time for Sunday School classes and worship and will return home after the 11:00am services. Reservations for bus riders must be received by *Thursday* each week. Please call Cathy Szucs at (423)461-8070 ext. 203.

NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

We are excited to introduce our new Director of Youth Ministries, Amy Brown, who joined us at the end of August. Amy has been United Methodist her entire life. She comes to us from State Street UMC in Bristol where she has been on staff for almost seven years. Amy has been married for seven years to her husband, Michael, and has a 12-year-old stepdaughter, Suzi. Please join us in welcoming Amy!

**STAFF CHANGES**

We would like to let the congregation know that John Patterson is no longer the Director of Facilities and Grounds or part of the staff at Munsey. We thank him for his work with us and wish him the best in his pursuits in the future.

MUNSEY SPOTLIGHT**ADULT SMALL GROUPS**

Gwen and Mike Sitsch began attending Munsey earlier this year, and Gwen shares their experiences with Munsey's small groups.

"Corporate worship is where I learn about God's love, and it sparks me to seek God more. Small group is where the more happens. Connecting with others who give equal respect to those who choose to be vulnerable and those who choose to listen without speaking creates a safe space. Small group helps me tend the gap between what I believe and what I experience, which is spiritually formative and transformative. One of the things unique to the groups at Munsey is that they are not static—you can join anytime. With the exception of Sunday School, that doesn't happen in most churches. When we visited Munsey for worship, I was happy to see the number of opportunities available for small group interaction. A new book study was just beginning, so I signed up. There I learned that the Wednesday night Women's Community Group was a 'join anytime' group, and I started attending it as well. I didn't just feel casually welcomed into the groups; I felt comfortable. My husband and I took part in the Discover Munsey class, which was another way to connect with not only newcomers but long-time members. We joined a Sunday School class that allows us an opportunity to study scripture in small pieces and really dive deep as well as continue to broaden and deepen connection with others."



Dr. Charles L. Allen, a well-known Methodist minister, author, and devotional writer tells about a woman who phoned him one evening. "Pastor Allen, what do I believe?" she asked.

"What do you mean?" Rev. Allen was not sure he had heard her correctly.

"I mean," she said, "what do I believe? You see, I've just come from a work party where several people got into a discussion about their various beliefs. One woman was Jewish, and she told us what she believes. Another was Roman Catholic, and she told us what Catholics believe. Somebody was a Christian Scientist, and he talked about what they believe. I was the only Methodist in the group, and frankly, I didn't know what to say. What do I believe?"

"That woman," said Rev. Allen, "must have come into the church on *confusion of faith*, instead of *confession of faith*."

You may say, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty." Now what? After all, if what we believe determines how we behave, such a statement will have an impact. What difference should a belief in a personal God who just happens to be the creator of the whole universe make in our lives?

On September 11th, I will introduce my next sermon series entitled, **The Apostles' Creed: What it Means and Why it Matters**. This series will be vital in helping us grapple with the central tenants of the historic Christian Faith, and more fully grasp what we really believe. I am convinced that when we have a *why* to live for, we can endure any *how*.

I hope you will mark your calendar and join Pastor Beth and me for this exciting series! Also, don't forget to register for my Sunday evening class that also begins at 5:30pm on September 11th - **Methodist History & Heritage**. You can register at Munsey.org/rsvp so that I may have a study packet prepared just for you, and you may also indicate whatever childcare needs you may have as well.

I am brimming with anticipation for all that God has in store for us in the days ahead! See you soon!

Pastor Kip
Senior Pastor

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

METHODIST HISTORY & HERITAGE

Don't forget to sign up by **September 7** for Rev. Dr. Kip Laxson's five-week study entitled Methodist History & Heritage. It begins September 11 at 5:30pm and is great for new and current Methodists who want to understand our history and heritage in a deeper way. It will focus on where we come from and who we are today as Methodists. Sign up at www.munsey.org/rsvp. Please note 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. As we begin our 14th year of Bible study and prayer, we invite all men of the church to join us for study, prayer, and fellowship. For more information, please email Bill Darden at billdarden7@aol.com.

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 will be available around the Christian Life Center Gym from 5:30-6:00pm. More information on groups and locations is available on our church website.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

A new women's study group, led by Amanda Onks and Heather Lunsford, meets Monday mornings from **9:30-11:00am** in the Gathering Place. We are currently studying *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows* by James Bryan Smith. Please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you need childcare or have any questions.



Steve Wheeler (steve@munsey.org), (423-461-8070 ext. 209), Director of Missions and Open Door Worship

FREEDOM GLOBAL: A GLANCE AT ONE OF MUNSEY'S FREEDOM GLOBAL STUDENTS

Magdalene Mora Ogaro is one of the two students at Freedom Global Academy in Limura, Kenya who receives a scholarship from Munsey. She is a Form 3 this year, which is equivalent to being a junior in high school. Some of the students refer to their scholarship sponsors as prayer partners. The staff at Freedom Global Academy refer to all as prayer partners, that way the students don't know who are scholarship sponsored and who is not. But we all can partner with these young women in prayer.

When Magdalene started at Freedom Global she was asked, "Why is education so important to you?" She replied, "I will become independent." In her most recent letter she wrote, "My objectives for this new academic year are: To be really close to God and build a very strong relationship with Him. And also show love and concern to other people who really need it. And finally, focus on my studies knowing I am in form 3. Philippians 4:6-7."

Please think and pray about being a sponsor or just a prayer partner to one of these young ladies. They need all the care and prayers they can get. For more information about mission trips and sponsorships, please contact me at 423-534-6793.



Blessings,
Lindy Kinser

RISE AGAINST HUNGER RETURNS!

Last November we hosted a Rise Against Hunger event and packed 20,000 meals in one hour. Because we did such a great job and had some great fun along the way, we are going to host another event on **Wednesday, October 19 at 6:00pm** in the Christian Life Center Gym. Our goal this time will be to pack 25,000 meals. Watch for more details in the weekly Update as we get closer to the date.

Together we



SEPTEMBER is the month of:

MONETARY DONATIONS for the NORTH SIDE FALL FESTIVAL & BOTTLED WATER (regular & small size)

Please bring donations to the bin around the corner from the CONNECTION POINT.

NORTH SIDE ELEMENTARY — A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

Dr. Seuss wrote, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Those of you who bought school supplies realize how hard it has to be for parents to buy what their children need for school and how expensive it is. Plus, if the students do not have the means to buy their supplies, the caring teachers have to purchase them with their own money.

Due to your generosity, we were able to supply 125 complete bags of supplies for six grades of students. This amounted to 19 to 23 bags for each grade level. As for the clothes closet, there was a need for boys' and girls' shorts for the smaller students. Again, with your designated funds, we were able to stock the closet with supplies. As of this writing, we have delivered 49 boxes of Kleenex, 54 containers of disinfecting wipes, and four disinfecting spray cans. There is always a need for these hygiene items.

In September, we will be collecting monetary donations and regular or small bottles of water for the Fall Festival that we are sponsoring on September 25. We plan to provide a t-shirt for each child to help build school pride as well as a day of fun-filled activities. Thank you, Munsey, for caring a whole awful lot and for helping make North Side a great place to be!

---Susanna Chinouth



Katie Jackson (katie@munsey.org) & Kristi Bowman (kristi@munsey.org), Directors of Children's Ministries

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

We are so excited to kick off a new school year with our favorite children! The new year began with the incredible Back-to-School kickoff and church-wide picnic. The rain didn't stop the fun, as the CLC gym was packed with kids both young and old enjoying dinner, fellowship, a giant inflatable slide, Bingo, and other games. HWY56 (our 5th and 6th graders) enjoyed a splashin' fun afternoon to begin the new school year. We enjoyed a lot of swimming, a lot of splashing, a lot of pizza, and a lot of laughter as this tween group began having fun and getting to know one another better. Back-to-School Sunday found the preschool and children's floors absolutely full of energy, smiles, and happy chaos, and backpacks were blessed and school years prayed for in each of our worship services. Our Wednesday Night Kids programming for our babies through 6th graders launched with an incredible start as our classrooms were busting at the seams with excited children. We are so grateful for so many families entrusting their precious children to our care and so grateful for a church that loves and supports children in amazing ways. We can't wait to see all the wonderful things this year holds for Munsey Kidmin!

---Katie and Kristi

BIBLE STORY BOOKS AND BIBLES

On August 21, Munsey gave Bibles to the Confirmands and 3rd graders. Kindergarteners received special storybook Bibles written in a kindergarten/1st-grade reading level. The children were so excited to receive their new Bibles. Katie Jackson interviewed Honora, aged 8, and Ana and Loch, aged 5, about their Bibles.

How did you feel about receiving a new Bible from Munsey?

H: Awesome, because my old storybook Bible only tells me the summary, and it skips so many stories. But this one has more details and the whole stories. The pictures are brilliant! I give these Bibles five stars! I kept hugging it and hugging it and hugging it! I wanted to read it as soon as I could!

A: Happy and surprised! I love my Bible!

L: Happy!!! I love my Bible, too!

What is your favorite Bible story?

H: Moses or the Tower of Babel

A: I love when Jesus is born!

L: Yeah! When Jesus is born!

Who is your favorite Bible character?

H: Josiah, the 8-year-old king.

A & L: JESUS! (Then Ana chimed in, "and God!" and Loch later added he likes Noah's Ark.)

What do you want to learn by reading your Bible?

H: More details of the stories. Like the children's names. What exactly happened to them? Where did they go?

Why is it important to read your Bible?

H: If you don't read it, you don't know the stories. And if you go to church, you wouldn't know what they are talking about. You would not know about God!

A: So we can learn about God!

Thank you, Munsey, for your financial generosity which allows us to purchase items such as Bibles for the faith formation of our kids! Please keep all of our kids, especially our Kindergarteners and 3rd graders, in your prayers.

Kindergarteners: Ana, Cameron, Cora, Kyrie, Loch, Olive, Penny, Silas, Skyler, Tag, and Thomas

3rd graders: Ace, Amorie, Brianna, Charlotte, Honora, Juliette, Laney, Margery, Peter, Sophia, Sutton, and Zion



Pastor Kip giving Bibles to Laney, Honora, Ace, and Tag



Loch and Ana

MUNSEY YOUTH MINISTRIES

Amy Brown (amy.brown@munsey.org), Director of Youth Ministries

YOUTH INFORMATION

We have many great activities for 7th-12th graders! Youth Sunday School and Life Groups meet each week for all students, and Prayer Breakfast each Thursday for high schoolers. Once a month, we have Jr. High Pick-Up for middle schoolers. Please see our September Family Ministries Newsletter for information about all our activities!

MUNSEY YOUTH MINISTRY MOMENT

Cooper Onks joined Munsey Youth as a new 7th grader in August, and he shares about his experience: "I think that a way that I have felt welcomed into youth is how supporting all of the leaders are. It also helped that I knew people in the group already. The welcome sign in my yard, Munsey Youth t-shirt, and pool party were really cool. I was really looking forward to ping pong and Life Groups, which have exceeded my expectations!"

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

John Redmond (john.redmond@munsey.org), Director of Outreach and Young Adult Ministries

ADOPT-A-BUC

Adopt-a-Buc is an opportunity for our church community to be paired with college students during the upcoming school year. This one-year commitment is a way for us to provide support, encouragement, and guidance for students who attend our church. Matches will be notified by phone or email throughout the year. You may sign up on our website at munsey.org/college, or scan the QR code below. If you have questions, please contact John Redmond at John.Redmond@munsey.org. Thanks and go Bucs!



To Adopt-A-Buc, You may scan this QR code to register your information and get started!

PHOTO GALLERY



A large crowd attended the Church Picnic on August 10.



Cooper Reeves led a lively game of Bingo at the Church Picnic.

ETSU Move-In Day—August 17 (Amanda Onks, Katie Jackson, Associate Pastor Beth Sullivan, and Cooper Reeves in the foreground)



There was a huge slide for the children at the Church Picnic.



Fun and games at the Church Picnic!



Ladies' Lunch at Holy Taco—food and fellowship.



Women's Community Group

CONGRATULATIONS:

- to Leslie and Rob Nelson on the birth of a son, Elijah Lee, born on May 9. Proud grandparents are Robert and Carol Cagle.
- to Shuler and Sara Sitsch on the birth of a daughter, Nora Kay, born on August 3. Proud grandparents are Mike and Gwen Sitsch.



SYMPATHY:

- to Tracy and Curt Dieterich and family upon the death of her father, Harwada Gardner, on August 1.
- to Rob and Cindy Campbell, Rebecca, and Emily, upon the death of their mother and grandmother, Rebecca Edwards, on August 6.
- to Daniel and Elaine Nieto upon the death of his brother, Jose Nieto, on August 9, in Texas.
- to Annette Morrison upon the death of her husband, John, on August 12.
- to Rob and Beth Thomas, and Gerald and Sandy Thomas upon the death of son & grandson David Thomas on August 18.
- to Hugh and Linda Blanton and family upon the death of his stepmother, Patricia Blanton, on August 23 in Amarillo, TX.
- to Steve Barrett upon the death of his wife June on August 29.
- to Mike Christian upon the death of his wife Nancy on August 30.



GIVING IS EASY!
 *OFFERING PLATE (cash or check)
 *ONLINE - MUNSEY.ORG/GIVE
 *BY MAIL - PO Box 1336, Johnson City, TN 37605
 *for more info., contact Madeline Becker,
madeline@munsey.org, (423)461-8070 ext. 229

The Church Office
 will be closed
 Monday, Sept. 5 in
 observance of
 Labor Day.

A LOOK AT YOUR GIFTS

	7/31/22	8/7/22	8/14/22	8/21/22
Budget Offering	\$26,278	\$47,560	\$12,665	\$10,655
Weekly Budget Requirement: \$32,432				
Capital Campaign	\$227	\$550	\$85	\$185
Missions Offering	\$1,069	\$2,414	\$297	\$1,525
Pastor's Discretionary	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55
Online Viewership	273	399	281	297
In-Person Worship	313	394	390	391

SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS
Sept. 3: Context Class
Sept. 10: Redeemer Church
Sept. 17: Brown Fellowship Class
Sept. 24: East Unaka Christian Church

We continue to practice safe guidelines.

To serve or to learn more about our Saturday morning ministry for our downtown neighbors, contact steve@munsey.org.

**October Messenger Deadline:
 September 23**



Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church
 PO Box 1336
 Johnson City, TN 37605-1336

Return Service Requested

201 South Roan Street, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

Web: www.munsey.org | Email: info@munsey.org | Phone: 423-461-8070 | Fax: 423-975-7800

WORSHIP AT MUNSEY— SEPTEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 18	SEPTEMBER 25
9:00am & 11:00am Sanctuary Hearing and Doing <i>James 1:19-27</i> Douglas Grove-DeJarnett preaching	9:00am & 11:00am Sanctuary The Need for a Creed <i>Isaiah 45:18-25</i> Kip Laxson preaching	9:00am & 11:00am Sanctuary <i>Philippians 2:1-11</i> Beth Sullivan preaching	9:00am & 11:00am Sanctuary Born to Die <i>Mark 8:27-36</i> Kip Laxson preaching
11:00am Journey <i>Luke 14:25-33</i> Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00am Journey <i>Isaiah 45:18-25</i> Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00am Journey The Lord of Life <i>Philippians 2:1-11</i> Kip Laxson preaching	11:00am Journey <i>Mark 8:27-36</i> Beth Sullivan preaching
11:00am Open Door The Gospel According to Rock "Help! I Need Somebody" <i>Luke 16:19-21</i> Steve Wheeler preaching	11:00am Open Door The Gospel According to Rock "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For?" <i>John 1:35-42</i> Steve Wheeler Preaching	11:00am Open Door The Gospel According to Rock "Gimme Shelter" <i>Isaiah 4:5-6</i> Steve Wheeler preaching	11:00am Open Door The Gospel According to Rock "To Everything There is a Season-Turn, Turn, Turn." <i>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</i> Steve Wheeler preaching

WORSHIP SERVICES AT MUNSEY

- **The 9:00am Blended Worship in the Sanctuary** includes both contemporary and traditional music.
- **The 11:00am Festive Worship in the Sanctuary** features traditional music with the Chancel Choir.
- **The 11:00am Journey service in the Christian Life Center Gym** features contemporary music with the Praise Band.
- **The 11:00am Open Door service is held in the Melting Pot** and is our most informal service. Brunch is served at 10:30am before worship.

There is Holy Communion at the 9:00am Blended Worship every week. All other services offer Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.