

MESSENGER

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



“All in means imperfect people just showing up and doing the thing Jesus asked us to do - love God and love others.”

Read the Whitmore & Klaasen family’s Munsey story & see what being “All In” means to them on page 6.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS - EASTER PEOPLE RAISE YOUR VOICES



Spring is here. Easter is coming! I cannot wait to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Sunday, April 5, and I hope you will join us. There is a story about Rev. William Sangster, a deeply spiritual British Methodist pastor who just before his death in 1960 penned a note to his daughter. In his final years, Sangster had been struck by a disease that progressively paralyzed his body and his vocal cords. On his final Easter Sunday, still able to move his fingers, he wrote, "How terrible to wake up on Easter and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!' Far worse, to have a voice and not want to shout."

In our United Methodist Hymnal, #304, the hymn *Easter People Raise Your Voices* was written by William James, a pastor who served in Harlem, New York around the same time of Sangster's death. He wrote over fifty hymns. The hymn, *Easter People Raise Your Voices* begins...

*Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
Heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people, let us sing.*

Rev. Sangster and Rev. James remind us of the power of Christ's victory over death and the calling that we have as Christians to use our voice to proclaim "Alleluia" and "Christ is Risen". We should do so with loud voices and loud actions. How terrible it is if we do not use our voices to proclaim this good news of hope for the world. Once again, I hope you will join us on Easter Sunday!

On a personal note, Dave & Edie Culberson and I enjoyed traveling with members of the Holston and West Virginia Conference to Greece and Turkey on a *Journeys of Paul* pilgrimage.



*Left: Dave and Edie Culberson at the Areopagus in Athens where Paul preached (Acts 17)
Right: Chris, Dave, and Edie in front of the library at Ephesus in Turkey*

CAROL G. TRANSOU CHORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM & CONCERT SERIES

The Music Ministry of Munsey Memorial offers opportunities to support music in worship and community through the Carol G. Transou Choral Scholars Program and Concert Series. Each year, we have a limited number of spots for college students to participate in ministry through song, and it is the goal of the Choral Scholars program to afford college students a place to worship while they hone their musical gifts.

Each season, we host musicians from all around – local and beyond our city's border. From choirs to vocal soloists to instrumentalists, the Carol G. Transou Concert Series is a way to decorate our beautiful Sanctuary with glorious sound. Join us as we continue Carol's community-minded outreach by building community through the Arts. If you would like more information or to support this ministry, contact Justin Boazman (justin.boazman@munsey.org) or Madeline Becker (madeline@munsey.org).

LADIES' LUNCH

All ladies are welcome to join us on **Monday, April 13, 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.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Women's Study Group meets on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00am (except for April 6 this month) in the Parlor, and all women are welcome. Please let Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) know if you have questions or would like to join us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

We have programs for all ages 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 won't have regular programs on April 1 during Holy Week. 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); a daytime option is available at 1:00pm in the Conference 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)
- Yoga led by certified yoga instructors, Melissa Curran and Krista Wright: a rejuvenating class that combines deep breathing with flow and yin yoga practices, offering a peaceful and restorative experience for all skill levels; on a pay-as-you-can basis (LL16)

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).

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Our men's prayer group meets each **Wednesday morning at 8:00am** in the Conference Room. They take turns leading a devotion with the group and share life and prayer request together. For more information, please contact Boyce Berry at boyceberry40@gmail.com.

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 this year: April 16, July 16, September 17, and November 19. To learn more about our teams and committees, you can find a list of them at munsey.org.

MUNSEY NEXT

If you're new to Munsey or want to learn more about being part of our church, we would love to have you join us for *Munsey Next*! The course is a five-week sampler to learn about the history, polity, theology, and serving opportunities at Munsey. *Munsey Next* starts **April 12** and will be offered for five Sundays in the Chapel from 10:00-10:45am. Please reach out to Pastor Chris (chris.brown@munsey.org) if you have any questions.

MUNSEY WEEK AT CAMP BAYS MOUNTAIN

Munsey Week at Camp Bays Mountain is **June 14-19**, and Chris Brown will be the Minister in Residence that week! We're giving out Munsey camper scholarships, and we hope to have lots of our children and youth attend camp together. Registration is open at cambaysmountain.com, and reach out to Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) to register with a Munsey scholarship code!

MAHJONG AT MUNSEY

All are welcome! Join us for a relaxed time of Mahjong in the Gathering Place, now on alternating Wednesdays (2:30-4:30pm) and Fridays (10:00am-12:00pm). Dates this month are **April 3, 8, 17, & 22**. All skill levels are welcome, including beginners who would like to learn. Email tricia.nguyen@yahoo.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

We have a wonderful ministry that provides transportation for a couple of our members to church each week for Sunday School and 11:00 worship. We need more volunteers, who their personal vehicles and typically drive once a month or less. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org). Thank you!

EASTER OFFERING

This year, our Easter offering will go toward scholarships for Munsey children and youth to attend summer camp at Camp Bays Mountain. We hope you will give generously this Easter. You can use a special Easter offering envelope, write a check and put "Easter offering" in the memo line, or give online at munsey.org/give. Thank you!

FROM THE CARE TEAM - CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are so excited for a long-overdue update to our church directory! Main photography is **April 15-18**, and registration for photography is **open NOW!** Our response has been so great that we can announce the availability of an **extra, extended day of photography - Monday, May 4!** This should really help many of our families who are traveling in April. If you're traveling during photography or homebound, do not fear - we will offer a solution for you to separately submit your picture for inclusion! See the Connection Point, munsey.org, or James Culp (james.culp@gmail.com) for more details!

We also need **helpers** on the days of photography to assist with **greeting, directions, and logistics!** This is an easy gig but an important one. We want all of our friends and family to feel greeted and seen as they come on site to participate in the directory. Our Invite Team Chair, Haley Greenway, has offered to coordinate this effort! Please consider signing up here: tinyurl.com/munseydirectoryvolunteers.



Young Pastor Chris on Directory Picture Day

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY ~ Emily Ham, RN (parishnurse@munsey.org or 423-282-8970)

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. Thanks for helping us stay informed to care for each other!

DEMENTIA CARE & SUPPORT

Join Tracey Wilson, Regional Director of Alzheimer's Tennessee, for a practical program designed specifically for dementia caregivers. This engaging session offers disease information, real-world strategies, emotional support, and guidance to help you navigate the challenges of caregiving with confidence and care. Whether you're just beginning the journey or seeking new tools, you'll leave feeling empowered, informed, and connected because caring for your loved one starts with caring for yourself. Join us on **April 13 at 2:30pm** in the Christian Life Center Meeting Room for this informative program. For additional info or to register, please contact Emily Ham.

MEAL MINISTRY UPDATE

We have delivered well over 100 meals! Thank you so much to all the volunteers who have helped make this possible! It is now time to restock, so please contact Emily Ham for directions and recipes. We are asking all volunteer cooks to utilize the recipes given as they are known to freeze well. Thank you!

CALCIUM CARDIAC SCORE

A cardiac calcium screening is a quick, non-invasive test that checks for calcium buildup in the arteries of the heart. This is very helpful when determining your risk of a heart attack. Ballard is offering this test for \$49, and you can schedule it by calling 423-431-1709. Contact Emily Ham for additional information.

MISSIONS

FEBRUARY MELTING POT STATISTICS

In February, we served 334 people breakfast on Saturday morning, plus 4 to-go bags for latecomers and 11 food boxes for hungry families with resources from the small Melting Pot food pantry. On the second Saturday in February, we served lunch to 30 people as the Melting Pot remained open as a warming center. On the last Sunday in February, we held a combined Melting Pot and 9:00am Sanctuary worship service. There were 99 people who joined us for a light meal and Sunday worship. For more information on how to help with the Melting Pot Ministry, please contact Anthony Jackson at anthony.jackson@munsey.org.

SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS

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

APRIL 4	David Crockett High School Key Club
APRIL 11	Sign-up slots still available
APRIL 18	Virgil Anderson Sunday School Class
APRIL 25	ETSU Wesley Foundation

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). **We have LOTS of open spots to help serve on Sunday mornings too, & you can 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!

NORTH SIDE ELEMENTARY—A GREAT PLACE TO BE!

According to the website eduresearch.com, research shows that students experiencing food insecurity score lower on standardized tests and have diminished cognitive capabilities. Hunger impairs memory, attention span and information retention. Providing meals at lunch is essential, but the school day extends far longer. Snack programs paired with community partnerships fill nutritional gaps between meals and can ensure that students sustain their energy and focus throughout the day.

This year TCAPs will be administered for five days between April 20 and April 28. At North Side, 154 students in grades 3 through 5 will be taking these standardized tests. Since 2018, Munsey has been supplying TCAP snacks to help ensure the students do their best on the Language Arts, Math and Science tests. As of this writing, we have collected 220 fruit snacks, 132 Rice Krispie snacks, 120 Ritz cracker packs, 52 Nutrigrain bars, 60 Goldfish bags, 20 Cheez-it bags, 60 small water bottles and 80 Hugs drink barrels. With your donations, we will reach our goal of 770 snacks plus drinks.



Next month, we will be hosting a Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon on April 9, plus we will be collecting water bottles for Field Day and Kleenex. Thank you, Munsey, for helping make North Side a great place to be! ~ *Susanna Chinouth*

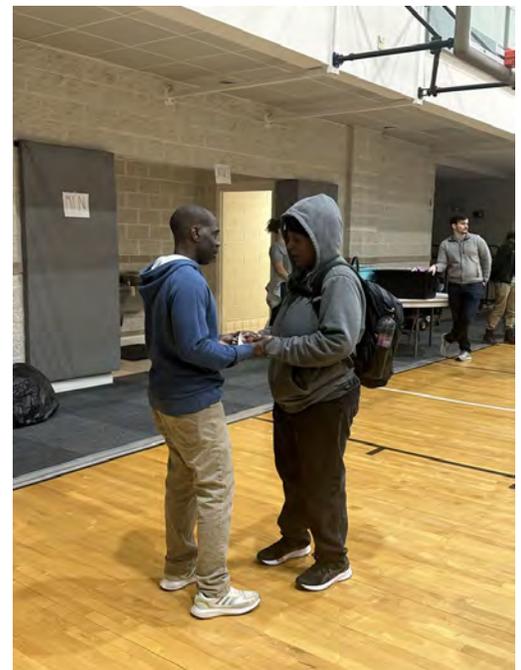
FLOOD TASK FORCE UPDATE

Did you know that the best time to plant grass is in the fall, and the second best time is in the spring? Thanks to Task Force member, Jim Hughes, we did! Since most of our Embreeville families did not get into their new homes until late fall and early winter, we are looking at the spring planting season to help them with their new yards. The *Rebuild Embreeville* committee has scheduled **Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12**, as days for Munsey to help our original six families, and perhaps one or two additional families, get their yards in shape by spreading grass seed and straw, and planting plants and bushes. Saturday's time is 9:00am to noon, with lunch being provided at the end of the day. Sunday's time is after worship, with lunch being served at Munsey and then the work teams being on-site 1:00 to 4:00pm. You can sign up on the church website at www.munsey.org/flood-relief. Please consider joining the task force in this project, for as the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." For more information, please contact Trish Patterson (1956tlpatt@gmail.com) or Cheryl Maner (cherylfmaner@gmail.com).

MELTING POT – HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

For our first Health and Wellness Resource Fair of the year, we had 178 people in attendance with seven different community groups providing wellness and resource services. We were joined by Tri Cities Mutual Aid (123 served), ETSU health/health screenings (93 served), Project Access (57 served), Washington County Health Department (91 served), Appalachian Highlands Care Network (8 enrolled on site 50+ served), Women's Health (58 served), and Haircuts by Crown Cutz (28 served). The Melting Pot had a table with hygiene items and clothes available to attendees. Lunch was provided by Feeding In Action. We appreciate each and every one who helped make this day a success.

Our next Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for **Saturday, May 23**.



MISSIONS (CONTINUED)

BACKPACKS FOR LIBERIA

Join us in making a difference with the 2026 Hands on Mission Kits! Throughout April, our Send Team will have backpacks ready at the church, complete with a list of supplies you can choose from. Simply pick up a backpack, fill it with the items listed, and return it to the church Connection Point by **Monday, April 27**. Don't worry, the Send Team will take care of the shipping costs. Pastor Chris is excited to be part of Holston Conference's team that will deliver these meaningful kits to Liberia in September. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Pastor Chris at chris.brown@munsey.org. Let's work together to bring joy and support to children in Liberia!

MUNSEY SPOTLIGHT: "ALL IN" WITH THE WHITMORE & KLAASEN FAMILY

Wendy Whitmore and Paul Klaasen, along with their sons, Dax and Alex, have found Munsey to be a place where faith, family, and community life all overlap. For Wendy, it's the first church where she has felt free to lead as her full self. She now serves as Vice Chair of Church Council, helping guide and listen in on the many ministries unfolding across Munsey. "All in means imperfect people just showing up and doing the thing Jesus asked us to do - love God and love others."



Paul and Wendy share in service centered around building community for kids and families. Both have spent years in Scouting leadership at Munsey, where dens and packs not only meet in the church's classrooms but also connect directly with Munsey's outreach - packing North Side food baskets, helping with food delivery, and joining projects like *Rise Against Hunger*. Paul is drawn to the smaller settings where people live life with others in a real way. "What I enjoy most is the smaller groups, where you can interact on a deeper level, where you can live your life with others. And for those of us introverts, that's not a big class, but places where you can be yourself, you can tell other people your struggles without being judged....what the church should be is unconditional love."

Dax and Alex experience that same community in their own way. They've been part of Scouts and VBS at Munsey for many years, and Alex serves as an acolyte. Dax says his favorite parts of Munsey are the friends and the lessons, especially in Sunday School, where things feel more personal and understandable than in "big church."

For their family, being "all in" is about the future. Paul sees Munsey focusing on relationships and building trust. Wendy looks ahead to the next decade, when their boys will become young men, and she's grateful that so many of their spiritual milestones are happening now, in this community.

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN TAYLOR ABOUT PLANNED GIVING

The changing of the clock and the season mean many things, but to Christians, it surely says Easter is upon us. The celebrations that surround Holy Week are the stuff of fond memories for my family and, doubtless, yours. Chocolate and eggs were nice, worship and reverence essential.

As we fall on our knees with our face to the rising sun and the cross, let us not forget several things. Munsey Church is our Home, where we are cared for and loved. Its members are some of the best people in the world, as well as leaders who make this community a better place to live. We all want to see a future where Munsey Church continues to be this and more. You can be a part of that future, just like you are of its present.

Think seriously about a gift today or in your will that enriches our beloved House of Worship and leaves you with a full heart. Such gifts can be targeted to a particular ministry or left unrestricted. There may even be tax advantages that go with your generosity, which your tax advisor can explain to you. Any Munsey staff member can give you the direction you need. Happy Easter. ~John Taylor, Chair of Planned Giving (Endowment).

FROM SPRC

The Holston Conference has published the list of projected pastoral appointments for 2026–2027, and I'm happy to report that Munsey is not projected for a change. This means the Conference plans for Pastor Chris and Pastor Beth to continue serving here at Munsey, and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue this season of ministry together!

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has been grateful to be part of the standard appointment process with the Conference, and we are thankful for the opportunity to continue in shared ministry with Chris and Beth. We give thanks for our Munsey clergy, and we look forward with great anticipation to what God has in store for Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church!

~Cooper Reaves, Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

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



WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

- Sunday School: meets weekly on the Youth floor at 10:00am, with fellowship and snacks at 9:45am
- Life Groups: Wednesday nights on the Youth floor from 6:00-7:00pm (except for Holy Week)
- Prayer Breakfast: Thursday mornings from 6:30-7:00am at the W. Market St. Chick-fil-A for high school students; transportation is not provided to the school, and students need money for breakfast.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Our Youth Fellowship is a **Youth vs Parents Trivia Night** on **April 19 at 5:00pm in the Gathering Place**. The winners will walk away with a car detailing or room cleaning from the other team. We'll provide popcorn chicken and drinks. Please use the link in your email to sign up for a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP by April 16 to Mindy. Friends are always welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CELEBRATION

Parents of high school seniors, please check your mail and email. Invitations and information for our Senior Celebration dinner on **May 17** have gone out. RSVPs for the dinner are **due by April 26**. Pictures for the slideshow are also **due by April 26**. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy.

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



SAVE THE DATE!

Spark Camp (formerly VBS) will be here soon, and we don't want you to miss the fun! Mark your calendars for **June 22-26** and invite your friends! Sign-ups are coming your way soon.

JOIN US FOR OUR MUNSEY COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT!

Spring is officially in the air, and we've got a field full of hidden treasures just waiting to be discovered. Whether you're a seasoned egg-hunting pro or a toddler taking those first wobbly steps toward a bright plastic prize, there's a place for you here. The event will take place on **Saturday, April 4, at 9:30am** at King Commons Park, and best of all - it's absolutely free! We've created age-divided zones for toddlers, younger elementary kids, and pre-teens to ensure everyone has a fair and safe shot at the goodies. There will also be photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, so be sure to bring your camera and your best smile. This event is open to everyone in the community - you don't need to be a member of our church to join the fun. We simply want to celebrate the season with you, so don't forget to bring your own basket!

For more information about our Children's and Youth Ministries, see our Family Ministries Newsletter at www.munsey.org.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Munsey's newest members! If you are interested in joining the Munsey family please reach out to Pastor Chris Brown at chris.brown@munsey.org.



**MATTHEW
WOOD**



**WILSON FAMILY'S
BABY BAPTISM**



**BILL & PHYLLIS
WILSON**



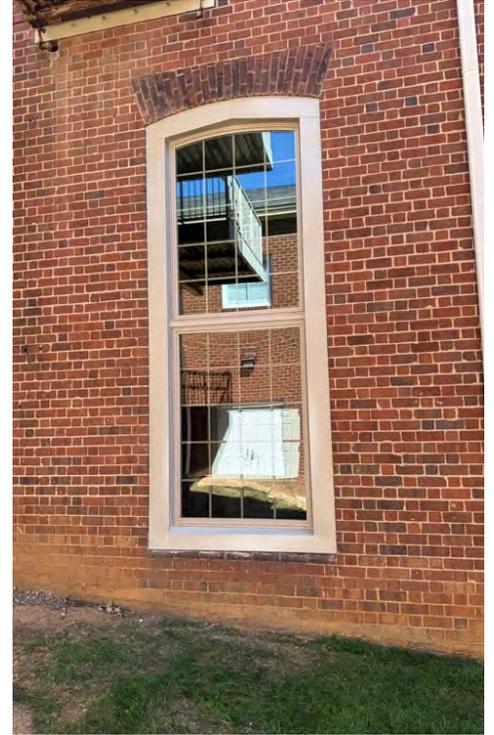
**CHRISTY
GRAHAM**



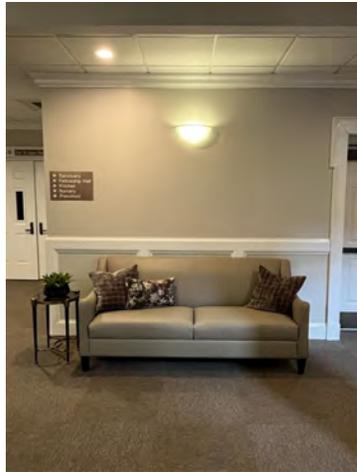
**TIPTON
FAMILY**

IMPROVEMENTS HAPPENING AROUND MUNSEY

NEW WINDOWS IN THE GATHERING PLACE



CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER LOBBY & BABIES' NEST



MAHJONG AT MUNSEY



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

9:00am Open Door Worship ~ Melting Pot
 9:30am Drop-In Communion ~ Chapel
 10:00am ~ Sunday School
 11:00am Combined Worship ~ Sanctuary

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Mid-Week Prayer Service with Communion
 12:00pm ~ Chapel

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Contemporary Worship with Communion
 6:30pm ~ Christian Life Center Gym

GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae Service with Chancel Choir
 7:30pm ~ Sanctuary (prelude music at 7:15pm)

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00am Sunrise Worship ~ Camp Bays Mountain
 9:00am Open Door Worship ~ Melting Pot
 9:00am Traditional Worship ~ Sanctuary
 10:00am ~ Sunday School
 11:00am Traditional Worship ~ Sanctuary
 11:00am Contemporary Worship ~ Christian Life Center Gym

A LOOK AT YOUR WEEKLY GIFTS AND ATTENDANCE

	3-1-26	3-8-26	3-15-26	3-22-26	3-29-26
Weekly Budget Offering	\$22,766	\$22,160	\$31,036	41,873	21,118
Weekly Budget Requirement:				\$32,278	
Worship Attendance	348	273	278	324	355

MESSENGER DEADLINE: The deadline for May Messenger submissions is **April 22, 2026**.

WORSHIP AT MUNSEY– APRIL SUNDAY SERMON SCHEDULE

APRIL 5	APRIL 12	APRIL 19	APRIL 26
9:00am Sanctuary John 20:1-18 Rev. Chris Brown preaching	9:00am Sanctuary John 20:19-31 Rev. Chris Brown preaching	9:00am Sanctuary Luke 24:13-35 Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	9:00am Sanctuary John 10:1-10 Rev. Chris Brown preaching
11:00am Sanctuary John 20:1-18 Rev. Chris Brown preaching	11:00am Sanctuary John 20:19-31 Rev. Chris Brown preaching	11:00am Sanctuary Luke 24:13-35 Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00am Sanctuary John 10:1-10 Rev. Chris Brown preaching
11:00am Journey John 20:1-18 Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00am Journey John 20:19-31 Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching	11:00am Journey Ephesians 5:8-14 Rev. Chris Brown preaching	11:00am Journey Acts 2:42-47 Rev. Beth Sullivan preaching
9:00am Open Door Anthony Jackson preaching	9:00am Open Door Tom Campbell preaching	9:00am Open Door Anthony Jackson preaching	9:00am Open Door Tom Campbell 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. Breakfast 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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 Web: www.munsey.org | Email: info@munsey.org | Phone: 423-461-8070
 Parish Nurse: parishnurse@munsey.org