

 **MUNSEY**

**AUGUST 2025**

# MESSENGER

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



## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The McInnis family is our August spotlight. Find out what Munsey means to them on page 6, inside.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



### FIVE OBSERVATIONS FROM A NEW PASTOR – REV. CHRIS BROWN

I want to thank everyone for the hospitality, warmth, and kindness shown to our family as we've begun to settle into a new chapter of ministry at Munsey. In my short time as your senior pastor, I've been soaking up all that I can to better understand the culture and ministry of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. Already, I've observed some things that are giving me hope for a bright future.

- **Munsey is a place of many spiritual gifts and fruits.** I continue to discover almost daily different passions for ministry and people among this community. There is no limit to what God can do here. Let us pray to do all we can as a church to cultivate passionate spiritual disciples of all ages.
- **Munsey has a wonderful staff** who care about the ministry and mission of the church. Our staff is an eclectic group of new and seasoned servants, and we are working to build comradery, energy, and synergy to live out our calling to be at Munsey.
- **The Munsey leadership is hungry and committed** (Church Council, Staff-Parish, Finance, Trustees) to do what needs to be done to build loving relationships, trust and transparency, and renewed vision.

- **Munsey is a community that loves to serve.** Local, regional, and global mission work is constantly on the minds and hearts of this congregation. This is evident in what goes on daily in this special place.
- **The people of Munsey love God and neighbor.** This is the pillar from which all other things we do at Munsey must rest, and it is my prayer that new disciples will be made as seasoned disciples grow in sanctification because Christ is offered, and Christ is embodied here.

I pray each of you have a wonderful August as a new semester begins for many at Munsey.

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## 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](mailto:billdarden7@aol.com)).

## WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Women's Study Group meets on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00am in the Parlor and will begin a new study on **August 4**, *The Narrow Path: How the Subversive Way of Jesus Satisfies Our Souls* by Rich Villodas. All women are welcome, and please let Amanda Onks ([amanda@munsey.org](mailto:amanda@munsey.org)) know if you have questions or would like to join us.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ROUNDUP

We'll host a western-themed Wednesday Night Roundup in the Christian Life Center Gym on **August 6 at 6:00pm** to celebrate a new season of Wednesday night programs! Our Church Life Team will provide cowboy casserole, vegetarian beans, tater tots, veggies and dip, and assorted pies for dinner, and donations will be accepted. We look forward to a night of fellowship together, and feel free to wear your western attire to join the fun! RSVP with Nora Jane Wexler (423-444-9260, call or text), at [www.munsey.org/rsvp](http://www.munsey.org/rsvp), or the church office (423-461-8070) by August 1.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

Beginning **August 13**, we'll 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 gym floor from 5:30-6:00pm. We'll have these studies available for adults:

- Pastor's Bible Study led by Rev. Chris Brown: a discussion-based study of the lectionary text for the following Sunday; please register at [www.munsey.org/rsvp](http://www.munsey.org/rsvp) (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)

## 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**. Stay tuned for more info on how you can volunteer!

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## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUNDAY

We're so excited for a new school year to begin and will celebrate with Back-to-School Sunday on **August 3!** We'll join in combined 11:00 worship in the Christian Life Center Gym to bless all of our students, educators, and Munsey Preschool and Kindergarten. We invite all students and educators to bring their backpacks, work bags, or briefcases to be blessed during worship. 9:00am worship, Open Door worship, and Sunday School will meet as usual, and we look forward to welcoming our children and youth to their new Sunday School classes for this year. We hope you'll join us for this special Sunday!

## 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 **August 11 at 2:30pm** in the Parlor. For more information, please contact Emily Ham at [parishnurse@munsey.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 some extra care, please let our Parish Nurse, Emily Ham, know ([parishnurse@munsey.org](mailto:parishnurse@munsey.org) or 423-282-8970). Thank you for helping us stay informed so we can care for each other!

## LADIES' LUNCH

All ladies are welcome to join us on **Monday, August 18, at 12:00pm** at Ole's Guacamoles, and we look forward to lunch and fellowship together. Please let Amanda Onks know ([amanda@munsey.org](mailto:amanda@munsey.org)) if you plan to be there so we can save you a seat.

## 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](http://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!

## RENEWAL LEAVE

As a reminder, United Methodist clergy are encouraged to take a renewal leave periodically. It is customary for clergy to experience significant accumulated stress and fatigue from their duties, including the impacts of relocating for new appointments at various churches. The Holston Conference allocates time for this purpose every eight years, and Beth is presently beginning her 14th year of service without having taken such a leave. It is now appropriate. Beth's leave is scheduled for the month of August and we look forward to her return in September.

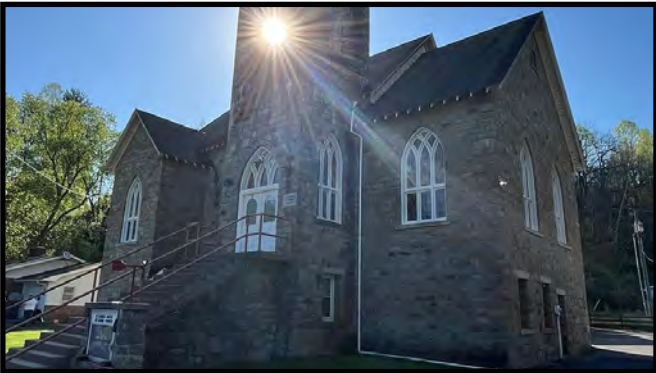
# MISSIONS UPDATES

## FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE UPDATE

The meeting held at the end of July with the six Embreeville families in our *Rebuild Embreeville Next Phase* program went very well. Our shepherds (Rubye Beck, Carlene Christian, Jamie Johnson, Cheryl Maner, Trish Patterson, and Sharon Pickering) enjoyed meeting their assigned families, learning names and faces, and starting the process of developing a plan for the best way for Munsey to be in partnership with these families as they continue to rebuild their lives. While the details are still being worked out, we ask that if you have household items (new and gently used) that you would like to donate, please take a photo of the items and email them with a description to [missions@munsey.org](mailto:missions@munsey.org). The families welcome our assistance and seem to appreciate the support we can provide. Our goal is to allow these families to be able to create the new home for their lifestyle and aesthetic. Having photos of donated items will give them an opportunity to select the things that will work best for them.

## CONNECTIONAL SUPPORT: ALEXANDER UMC

With the new school year starting soon, we ask our families with school-age children to consider donating your no-longer needed, clean, gently-used children's clothes for our connectional ministry at Alexander UMC in Bishop, VA. Both summer and winter clothing will be accepted. Donations may be left in in the designated basket at the Missions Center (near the Connection Point). For more information, please get in touch with Karen Peko at [ktpeko@hotmail.com](mailto:ktpeko@hotmail.com).



## SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many of the regular volunteers for the Shepherd's Breakfast are out of town in the month of August, when many of them (students at ETSU) are finishing their summer break. Volunteers (cooks and servers) are needed on August 2, 16, 23, and 30. Cooks need to arrive at 7:30am, and servers can arrive by 8:00am. A devotion is shared at 8:15am, followed by breakfast. Once clean-up is completed, everyone leaves by 9:45am. You can sign up at the church website ([Munsey.org/meltingpot](http://Munsey.org/meltingpot)). For more information, please contact Anthony Jackson, director of local missions, at [anthony.jackson@munsey.org](mailto:anthony.jackson@munsey.org).



## THANK YOUR FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO THE MELTING POT FOOD PANTRY

You are making a difference in the lives of your downtown neighbors! Please continue to bring items to the Missions Center near the Connection Point. ONLY the following items are needed: canned soups, canned chicken, canned tuna, canned beef stew, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, instant potatoes and hand can-openers. Please note we cannot accept fresh or refrigerated food. For anyone who doesn't like to shop, we will gladly accept monetary donations and do the shopping for you. For more information or to inquire on how to assist us, please get in touch with Karen Peko, Melting Pot Team, at [ktpeko@hotmail.com](mailto:ktpeko@hotmail.com).

## SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS

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

AUGUST 2	HELPERS NEEDED
AUGUST 9	Women's Hiker Group and The Lampost Church
AUGUST 16	HELPERS NEEDED
AUGUST 23	St. John's Episcopal Church
AUGUST 30	HELPERS NEEDED

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



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



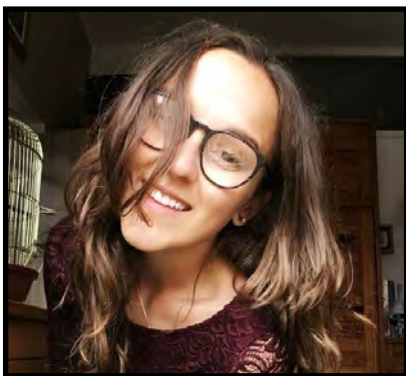
## NORTH SIDE ELEMENTARY - A GREAT PLACE TO BE!



It has been said, "The journey of education begins with a single step...that step is often accompanied by a backpack filled with school supplies." While the simplicity of pencils, crayons, and glue sticks may seem trivial to some, these items are foundational tools that support a child's academic, emotional, and social development. By ensuring that students have access to adequate and appropriate school supplies, Munsey is creating an equitable learning environment and fostering lifelong success.

North Side is a Title 1 school with 350 students and in the past had a poverty rate of nearly 80 %. When all children have access to the same materials, it reduces visible disparities between students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. This helps to cultivate a sense of inclusion and community. For this reason, North Side's main secretary suggests to parents at new student registration that if they can't get supplies for their children, Munsey donates school supplies every year. Teachers can also determine which children need supplies. They often go above and beyond, using their own resources to provide for students in need. This need has been greatly reduced by Munsey's generosity.

As of this writing, we have been able to donate 50 supply bags from Vacation Bible School and 40 bags from the congregation. Our goal is to collect 130 bags. Thank you for contributing to this vital partnership and making North Side a great place to be! ~  
*Susanna Chinouth, Munsey's North Side Elementary Chair*



### OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CZECHIA

The Czech Mission Team is delighted to announce that Katya Bruckernova has arrived in Johnson City for a two-month job-shadowing internship in physical therapy. Katya attended the softball camp that our group helps organize each summer in her hometown, Litoměřice, and has gone on to become one of our coaches now that she has aged out of the camp. Katya is completing a degree in Physical Therapy at the University Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem in Czechia (formerly the Czech Republic). The job-shadowing she will do in Johnson City is part of the required practicum hours for her program. Katya is excited to be here with us for two months. If you would like Katya to speak to your Sunday school class in August or September, or if you have any questions about her time with us, contact Jason Bemby ([jabembry@milligan.edu](mailto:jabembry@milligan.edu)).



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## FROM THE COVER - A MESSAGE FROM THE MCINNIS FAMILY

We feel truly grateful to be part of the Munsey family! Since moving back to Johnson City last year, returning to church has been such a warm and welcoming experience. We've loved discovering a community of families who share so many of our values. For us, the church's inclusive spirit is especially meaningful. The social principles of the United Methodist Church align with what we want to teach our children, and it is a priority to have these values reflected in our faith community. Whether it's through the preschool, Wednesday night programs, Sunday mornings, or local missions, we genuinely enjoy being part of this wonderful community. ~The McInnis Family

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



### BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUNDAY

**August 3** is our Back-to-School Sunday. We will have combined 11:00 worship in the Christian Life Center Gym with a "blessing of the backpacks" as we ask God's guidance and provisions for students of all ages and their educators. Children will promote to their new classes for this school year during Sunday School.

### LUNCH AND LAUNCH LUAU

All Munsey parents of nursery, preschool, and elementary kids, please join us for our first annual *Lunch and Launch Luau* on **Sunday, August 17, from 12:00-2:00pm** in the Gathering Place. Successful kids have a great support system at home -and that's especially true in their spiritual lives! We have an amazing year planned for our Munsey Kids, and we want to partner with our families as you guide your kids to follow Jesus.

We'll have a great time of fellowship with a barbecue lunch and activities for the whole family together. Kids will then dismiss for a missions project and games while Munsey leadership brings you all the details about what to expect this year in Munsey Kids. Please reserve your spot by August 10 by visiting [munsey.org/rsvp](https://munsey.org/rsvp).

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## YOUTH MINISTRIES - Mindy Moore, Director of Youth Ministries ([mindy.moore@munsey.org](mailto:mindy.moore@munsey.org))



### HIGH SCHOOL PRAYER BREAKFAST

High School Prayer Breakfast will start back up on **August 14**. We'll meet at the Chick-fil-A on W. Market St. from 6:30am-7:00am each Thursday.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PICK-UP

Middle School Pick-Up for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders is on **Wednesday, August 27**. We'll pick up from Liberty Bell and Indian Trail, and students from other schools are welcome to join us at the snack stop or park. We'll stop at McDonald's for a snack and head over to King Commons Park for some outdoor fun. If the weather is bad, we will play games on the youth floor. Please let Mindy Moore ([mindy.moore@munsey.org](mailto:mindy.moore@munsey.org)) know by August 18 if your youth plans to join in on the fun. Friends are always welcome!

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

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OPPORTUNITY

We hope you'll make plans to join us in the Christian Life Center Gym **on August 31 at 10:00am** for *ShelbyNext Refresh*. We'll learn more about connecting with our church membership app, ShelbyNext, have a photo area to take updated pictures for individuals and families, and help update contact info. It's a perfect time to update our profiles as Pastor Chris is getting to know our congregation, and we hope all Sunday School classes, small groups, and individuals will plan to join us!

## 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: **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](https://www.munsey.org) under resources.

## TRUSTEES UPDATE

A generous large financial gift has recently been received by Trustees. This is very encouraging as Trustees are actively working hard to develop care and improvement plans for Munsey facilities. It's inspiring to see such generosity fueling their efforts.

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June 30, 2025

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

Dear Send Team friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to Family Promise!

Bessie and her two children -- daughter Ella (11) and son Jonathan (6) -- came to us after a house fire. When this family connected with Family Promise they literally had nothing. Erin, our case manager, worked closely with this family. They accomplished much during their time with us including procuring new IDs and getting stable with medical, mental health, dental and vision care all while maintaining employment. **Best of all, we were able to help this family move into their own home THIS MONTH.** Through Family Promise's ongoing collaboration with the Johnson City schools, Bessie and her kids moved into a furnished apartment!

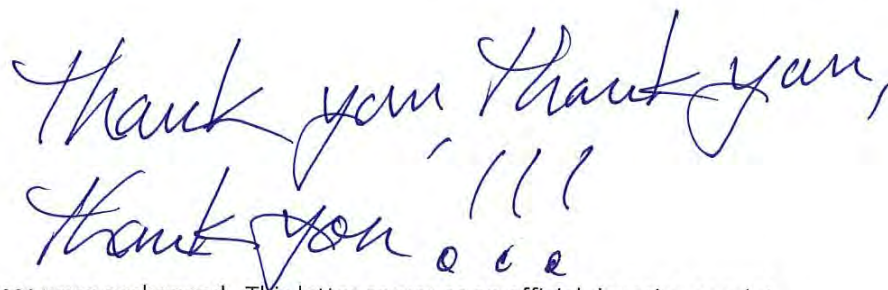
Thank you for believing in Family Promise's mission of keeping families together while they work to put homelessness behind them. We are grateful for you walking alongside us as **together** we care for and value these families.

**Your recent donations\* of \$25 and 4 \$25 gift cards** to Family Promise of Greater Johnson City is a great help to the families we serve like Bessie and her kids. Thank you for your wonderful partnership!

Sincerely,



Bob Hall  
Director



\*No goods or services were exchanged. This letter serves as an official donation receipt.

Building community, strengthening lives.

## A LOOK AT YOUR WEEKLY GIFTS AND ATTENDANCE

	7/6/25	7/13/25	7/20/25	7/27/25
<b>Weekly Budget Offering</b>	\$21,134	\$20,893	\$13,415	\$108,154
<b>Weekly Budget Requirement:</b>				<b>\$30,577</b>
<b>Missions Offering</b>	\$1,735	\$2,119	\$1,701	\$7,417
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	374	287	303	323

**MESSENGER DEADLINE:** The deadline for August Messenger submissions is **AUGUST 25, 2025**.

## WORSHIP AT MUNSEY– AUGUST SERMON SCHEDULE

### AUGUST 3

9:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Journey  
**One Combined Service**  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

9:00am Open Door  
Anthony Jackson  
preaching

### AUGUST 10

9:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Journey  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

9:00am Open Door  
Anthony Jackson  
preaching

### AUGUST 17

9:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Journey  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

9:00am Open Door  
Anthony Jackson  
preaching

### AUGUST 24

9:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Journey  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

9:00am Open Door  
Anthony Jackson  
preaching

### AUGUST 31

9:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Sanctuary  
Rev. Chris Brown  
preaching

11:00am Journey  
Rev. Chris Brown  
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.

**201 South Roan Street, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601**

Web: [www.munsey.org](http://www.munsey.org) | Email: [info@munsey.org](mailto:info@munsey.org) | Phone: 423-461-8070

Parish Nurse: [parishnurse@munsey.org](mailto:parishnurse@munsey.org)