

MESSENGER

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



5 Spiritual Exercises for the New Year

ON-SITE WORSHIP UPDATE

We are scheduled to have **online worship only at least through January 17**. You can join in worship any time after 8:30a.m. on Sunday mornings on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, or at live.munsey.org. Recorded resources for children's and adults Sunday School are available at the Munsey.org website each Sunday.

Our criteria for meeting onsite is based on our ability to follow our protocols within the accepted practice in the community. Governor Lee's executive order issued on December 20 to limit public indoor gatherings to 10, even though churches

WHEN WILL WE BE TOGETHER AGAIN?

MUNSEY

are exempt, is a call for a united response. We have consistently stood with the requests of the larger community and will continue to do so now. We are committed to

being part of the solution for the restoration of our community's health as an expression of our love for our neighbors.

We will re-visit community conditions and directives no later than the week of January 17 to evaluate the next steps. Through January 23, we will have group gatherings online only. Staff will work from home as much as possible. ZOOM classes and meetings will continue throughout this time period.

Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness that give us the resilience and commitment to stay strong as a community of faith and to make hard choices that ultimately benefit all of us. Be safe and wise and help us support our medical community, our school systems, our local businesses, and our government officials as they serve on our behalf. Let us be in prayer for our community and our congregation as we move into this new year and reach out to encourage each other during these challenging days.

FIT FOR FAITH, JANUARY SERMON SERIES

Gym memberships increase in January each year. Good luck getting into that fitness class. Optimistic and desperate souls resolve to get in shape, once and for all, for real this time. The New Year's rush, however, continues throughout the first quarter. Holiday feasting, weather that prevents people from outdoor activities, and the desire for a fresh, healthy start are contributing factors behind the increase in gym activity. The winter solstice begins to take its toll on all of us...physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

In his book, *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton writes, "Spiritual health is not dissimilar to our physical health. Without spiritual exercises or practices, we will find it difficult to keep up as Christ calls us to follow.

"We become spiritually lethargic and out of shape. We stray from God's path. Temptation is harder to resist. We don't evidence the fruit of the Spirit.

"We may exhibit less patience, kindness, mercy, and love. We worry more as we trust God less. Our thoughts revolve more around ourselves. Our values and priorities shift away from the things God values and prioritizes for us."

There's hope! Ready for a fresh start and a plan for spiritual fitness?

Each Sunday in January, we'll rediscover some valuable spiritual exercises that can help us follow Christ into this new year.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS...AND YOURS IS, TOO!

On behalf of your Finance Committee, we are grateful always for God's continued blessings for Munsey and for your faithfulness, too, with your 2020 giving support. Your impact enabled Munsey to not only end the year with an operating surplus of \$79,935, but as you shared your financial resources you joined with others to sustain and move Munsey's many effective ministries of compassion, love, and service forward in a time when these ministries are most needed.

As we look ahead for 2021, the times will likely remain challenging for the foreseeable future. With your continued faithfulness, we can still sustain and provide life-transforming ministries as the body of Christ in our community and the community of our world. We'll continue to manage our expenses closely as we also anticipate exploring a second round of PPP funding to provide additional financial certainty in uncertain times.

Finally, as we each examine our personal stewardship for God, early in this New Year could very

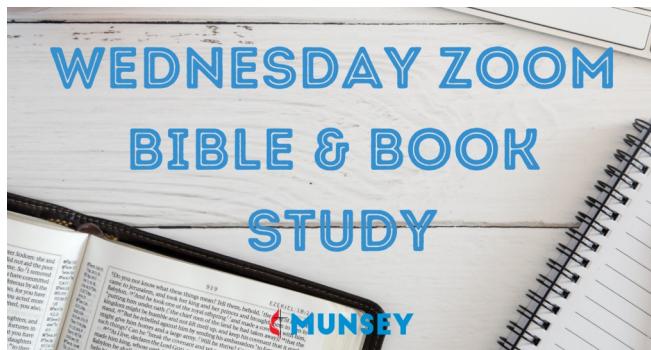
well be an excellent time for you to consider the convenience of recurring monthly or periodic giving via your bank/credit union account or your credit card. For assistance, please contact John Patterson or Madeline Becker in the Munsey Finance Office. This method also provides greater stability for our finances.

Thank you for your great faithfulness as together we'll serve a faithful God for 2021 and beyond!

— For the Finance Committee,
Jeff Anderson, Chair

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP

Each Wednesday from 6:00-7:00, a small group gathers by Zoom to share in scripture, prayer, and discussion. This group began in Lent of 2020 and has continued to meet ever since. On January 13, the group will begin a discussion of *The Book of Joy*, based on a conversation between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. Kathie Wilson-Parker facilitates the group. If you would like more information or the Zoom invitation, please contact Kathie at revkrwp@Ls.net.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Nancy Whistine has served as our executive assistant at the church for the past several years. We have been blessed by her efficiency and pleasant manner. Nancy and her husband, Dustin, are now expecting their first child. Nancy has left her position to get ready for this exciting development for their family. We are thankful for Nancy's service and join in her anticipation of this new chapter. We are grateful to those who are assisting in the church office during this time until Nancy's successor is determined.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

It is time to begin thinking about the application process for the Munsey Scholarships. This year, things will be similar to last year with the addition of being able to upload your transcript. The application is on the Munsey Youth page.

Please read the first page of the application to make sure you understand the purpose, what the scholarships are based on, and that you qualify. The deadline for online submission of your application is **January 31, 2021**. If you have any questions, please contact: Gayle Hughes, Chair, Scholarship Committee at jimgayletn@gmail.com.

SCOUTING AT MUNSEY

Munsey has a long history of serving youth by guiding its young people into adult lives of good character, faith and responsibility. These goals are mirrored in the Boy Scouts mission statement "to prepare young people to make moral and ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." One of the church's oldest traditions in this respect has been Boy Scout troop 37, which will celebrate its 102nd anniversary this spring and Cub Scout pack 37, which will celebrate its 68th anniversary this October. Throughout their existence both units have excelled at developing their youth into responsible young adults of good character.

The Cub Scout Pack is a co-ed unit open to boys and girls from kindergarten through 5th grade. Troop 37 is open to boys from the 6th grade thru age 18. Both of these units engage their members in a variety of activities from education in a range of subjects to outdoor adventure programs including camping, hiking, water sports and community service projects. Mr. Brad Johnson, scoutmaster of troop 37, and Dr. Kevin Sweet, Cub Scout master, provide the leadership necessary to develop the structure, enthusiasm and programming that make these units outstanding examples of what the Scouting program can be.

So as we celebrate these significant anniversaries please consider helping the youth of your family join one of these great Scouting units or become a volunteer leader yourself by contacting Brad at (423) 202-2128, Kevin at (423) 262-3242 or Scouting Leader, Mike Farmer, at (423) 302-9182.



A VERY MELTING POT CHRISTMAS (EVE)

Christmas Eve in the Melting Pot had a much different look this year from years past. Unable to hold the usual indoor gathering with our downtown community, the Melting Pot team conducted a "walk through" Christmas Eve event that served 51 of our downtown neighbors. While the weather at the time may have less than inviting, our neighbors were treated to a "to go" meal, and a wrapped Christmas present consisting of a poncho, socks, gloves, Chapstick, and handwarmers.



This event could not have taken place if not for the "companions" who contributed to the overall success of the event. These "companions" were the Munsey Kitchen staff (Carol and Roy Lowe); Ron and Betty Dawson; Les, Karen, and Angelee Page; Jean and Ed Stead; Karen Peko; Dick George; Becky Edmiston, Rose and Nora Honeycutt, and Beverly Wheeler.

HOLSTON HOME 5TH SUNDAY OFFERING

Holston United Methodist Home for Children's accredited on-campus Christian school, River Academy, serves special education day students from area school systems and provides education for youth in our residential centers. River Academy exists to assist students who have fallen behind in their studies – most students are not performing at grade level when they arrive.

Our most recent numbers show that:



- 52% of youth improved in Reading after 90 days
- 71% improved in Math in that same timeframe
- Over the past four years, an average of 91% of graduates enrolled in college or technical school

One of our graduates was anxious about adulthood, but after finishing high school on our campus, learned independent living, social, housekeeping, and employment skills at Brumit Center. While living there, he worked at Little Caesars and was complimented on his hard work. He also enrolled in community college and graduated in May. So much growth happened at Holston Home and in August he moved into his dorm room at a four-year college. He is now pursuing a bachelor's degree and has a job at the library.

Like many, he had a hard time leaving "home," but he knew that we would always be there for him. Although we miss his visits and smiles, we are excited for him and he continues to check in regularly. We are proud of his determination and courage and look forward to celebrating his future!

Fifth Sunday is on January 31. Will you please give generously to support Holston Home children?

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

John Greenleaf Whittier said, "Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing returns to you glad."

Every year, the Open Door Sunday School Class (located for many years in the Counseling Center) has adopted eight needy North Side students at Christmas time. Jo Hemphill had been spearheading this with her impressive shopping skills. Plus, the class has been adopting three children at Holston Home.

The North Side home/school counselor, Tina Lunsford, coordinates this effort and gives us a list with the children's name, age and sizes. Each child is given at least one coat, shoes, socks, underwear and

several outfits. In addition, each child is asked to list two items below \$20 on a wish list. This can be anything from a Legos set to a toy train.

The Open Door class women make this a social event. We meet for dinner and then adjourn to the Hemphill's for a wrapping party, complete with cider and cookies! The items purchased amounted to approximately \$200 per student.

This year, The Solon Gentry and The Wesley Class each adopted two children. In addition, a child was adopted by another church member and North Side teacher.

Thanks to your generosity, thirteen children were given a joyous Christmas!

--Susanna Chinouth



January is the month of:

**CLOROX WIPES
KLEENEX
LICE KITS
WATERS (LG & SM)**

Bring your donation to bin around the corner from Connection Point.



GLOBAL MISSIONS**HERI YA MWAKA MPYA! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We have EXCITING news! The students at Uhuru Girls High School (aka Uhuru Academy) will be returning to school in Tigoni, Kenya in January! PRAISE GOD!

Due to Covid-19 the Form 1's, 2's and 3's (Freshmen through Juniors) have been at home for nine months. Each day they participate in our online education programs. Our school is one of only a few in Kenya offering online programs. It is hard to study at home and the students yearn to be back in school so they can focus on their education. Fortunately, the Form 4's (Seniors) returned to Uhuru in October and are preparing for their final months of their high school careers, with the goal to finish up in April.

Our Uhuru girls each have dreams for their lives. To get to those dreams they need a sponsor to send them to secondary school. Do you remember these stats we shared previously from UNESCO?

- Almost 60% fewer girls would become pregnant under 17 years in sub-Saharan Africa if they all had a secondary education.
- A girl with an extra year of education can earn 20 percent more as an adult.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A MULTIBILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

Human Trafficking Sunday will be observed by your church on January 10. Munsey's Church and Society Team partners with Hope for Justice, a worldwide organization that seeks to end human trafficking. Hope for Justice works with police, healthcare organizations and others to recognize human trafficking victims so they may be rescued and rehabilitated. And human trafficking exists in all communities, even east Tennessee and southwest Virginia and isn't confined to large metropolitan areas.

Here are a few facts about human trafficking, also called modern day slavery:

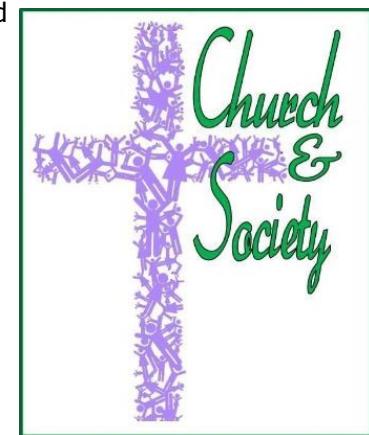
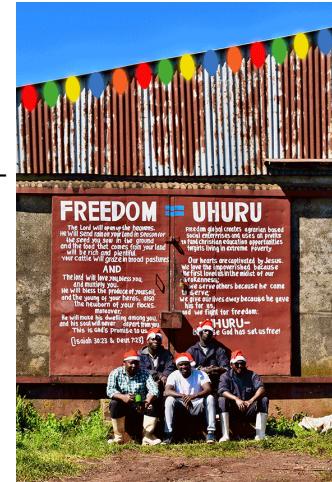
- 40.3 million people in forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and a forced marriage worldwide.
- \$150 billion made each year from forced labor, that's over \$4,750 a second.
- Hope for justice has rescued hundreds of people, including babies younger than one year old and adults up to the age of 63.

More details are available on hopeforjustice.org/aboutus/

The Kenyan government is allowing all of our students to come back to school in January. To get ready for the students' return we have several needs. Would you consider helping? Here are some specific needs:

1. Covid-19 Prevention: \$1,250
2. Dorm Alterations: \$650
3. Lab Supplies: \$500
4. Extra Lessons to get students caught up: \$450
5. Firewood for the Kitchen: \$400
6. New Oven for Kitchen: \$350
7. Office Supplies: \$250
8. Sponsor a student: Any amount from \$25/month to \$175/month

You may go to www.freedomglobal.org/donate to make a contribution. Or you may contact Donna Crosswait at donna@freedomglobal.org or text her at 423-677-5808.



CHILDREN'S Ministry

SAFETY UPDATE

We continue to stay in touch with the Holston Conference and our Three Rivers District office regarding guidelines for children's ministry during this pandemic. We currently aren't able to host Sunday School or other groups for all of our children but continue to be in conversation about safety updates and what we may do when we are able. We miss seeing your kiddos so much and look forward to when we're able to meet with them again!

— Katie Jackson (katie@munsey.org) & Kristi Estes ([Kristi@munsey.org](mailto:kristi@munsey.org)), Directors of Children's Ministries

MUNSEY YOUTH MINISTRIES

RESURRECTION

Resurrection will be a one-night, virtual event held on January 23, starting at 7:00pm. While we won't know what Covid numbers look like following Christmas break, our plan is to tune in together from our own homes to most safely participate. We have some fun things planned for those who would like to participate, and Resurrection is free this year!

Please RSVP to a Youth Staff member or by emailing (youthstaff@munsey.org) by Sunday, January 10. If you would like to order Rez merchandise, the store is open, and purchases will ship beginning January 3: <https://na.eventscloud.com/556436>.

CONNECTING WITH YOUTH STAFF

We love getting to connect with our students through porch visits, so just let us know if you would like a Youth Staff visit on your porch or in your yard! We would also love to see you in your extracurricular games and programs, so please send us your schedules, and we'll come cheer for you!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have Youth Sunday School on Zoom at 10:00am on Sundays, starting back on January 10, and hope to see you there! Our Zoom link is sent via email and text each week.

LIFE GROUPS

We will continue to stay on Zoom for Life Groups while the weather is too cold to be outside. Life Group leaders will send out Zoom info to their students, and we'll keep you posted on when we're able to meet in person again. Life Groups will start back on January 13, and we hope we get to see you each week on Zoom!

SERVICE PROJECT

For our January service project, we're asking students, parents, and volunteers to donate to AdaptoPlay, a non-profit our own Alex Nelson started. You can purchase items from their Amazon wish list that will ship directly to them or donate monetarily through their website: <https://adaptoplay.org/donate/>. Thanks in advance for helping!

— Caitlin King (caitlin@munsey.org) & Michael King (michael.king@munsey.org), Co-Directors of Youth Ministry

SYMPATHY: to Haynes and Bonnie Wilkes on the death of Haynes' brother, Clem Wilkes, on December 13; to Dana and Vickie Grist in the death of Dana's aunt, Roberta Grist, on December 13 in Lexington, VA; to Michael Scalf, Trish Patterson, and Allie Greer in the death of Michael's brother, Jim Scalf, on December 26; to Tom DeHart in the death of his brother, Rufus DeHart, on December 27; and to Sandra Vance and family in the death of her uncle, Billy Long, on December 31.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Alexander Wilson**, a son born to Nathaniel and Lauren Wilson on November 29. **Sara Lynn Greer**, a daughter born to Isaiah and Allie Scalf Greer on December 3; proud Munsey grandparents are Michael Scalf and Trish Patterson. **Camelia Marie Gallo**, a daughter born to Maddie and Nick Gallo on October 10 in Oklahoma City, OK; proud grandparents are Lucy and Steve Gallo, and great-grandmother is Caroline Lockett.

CIRCLE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

AT THE LIBRARY



The commencement of the New Year is always encouraging. January serves as a month when we can remember our blessings, examine our expectations, and trust that our necessities will be met. Over the next thirty days, ponder the peace that comes from faith in Christ. This contentment assures us that we will not be alone in the upcoming days, and, knowing that he is for us, we will not worry. Our hope is built on nothing less than this solid rock of truth. (Psalm 13:5 - 6)

—J.T. Rucker

A LOOK AT YOUR GIFTS

	12/6/2020	12/13/2020	12/20/2020	12/24/2020	12/27/2020
Budget Offering	\$30,620	\$44,544	\$37,922		\$71,215
Capital Campaign	\$322	\$1,007	\$1,249		\$653
Missions Offering	\$2,004	\$4,543	\$3,591		\$12,212
Pastor's Discretionary	\$237	\$5,787	\$332		\$1,307
Online Viewership	1,381	725	512	1,864	361
In-Person Worship	103	102	102	N/A	N/A



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SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST HOSTS

All meals will be pre-packed breakfast bags to be distributed. Recipients will take their breakfast bags to go.

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

**February Messenger Deadline:
January 20**



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Johnson City, TN 37605-1336

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WORSHIP AT MUNSEY JANUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

JANUARY 3	JANUARY 10	JANUARY 17	JANUARY 24	JANUARY 31
Kneeling Before God in Worship	Rising from Baptism to Listen & Learn	Walking in Service to Others	Fishing with Passion	Strengthening the Heart through Giving
Matthew 2:1-12 Michael Lester preaching	Mark 1:4-11 Carol Wilson preaching	John 1:43-51 Bishop Ken Carder preaching	Mark 1:14-20 Doug Grove-DeJarnett preaching	Matthew 6:19-21 Carol Wilson preaching

Online giving is easy and secure! For a brief tutorial, go to www.munsey.org/give.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

4 WAYS
TO GIVE



ONLINE

www.munsey.org/give



TEXT TO GIVE

Set up at www.munsey.org/give



MAIL

P. O. Box 1336
Johnson City, TN 37605



QR CODE

- 1 - Open your smartphone camera
- 2 - Hover over the QR code
- 3 - Follow the link



Contact John Patterson at john.patterson@munsey.org for assistance.