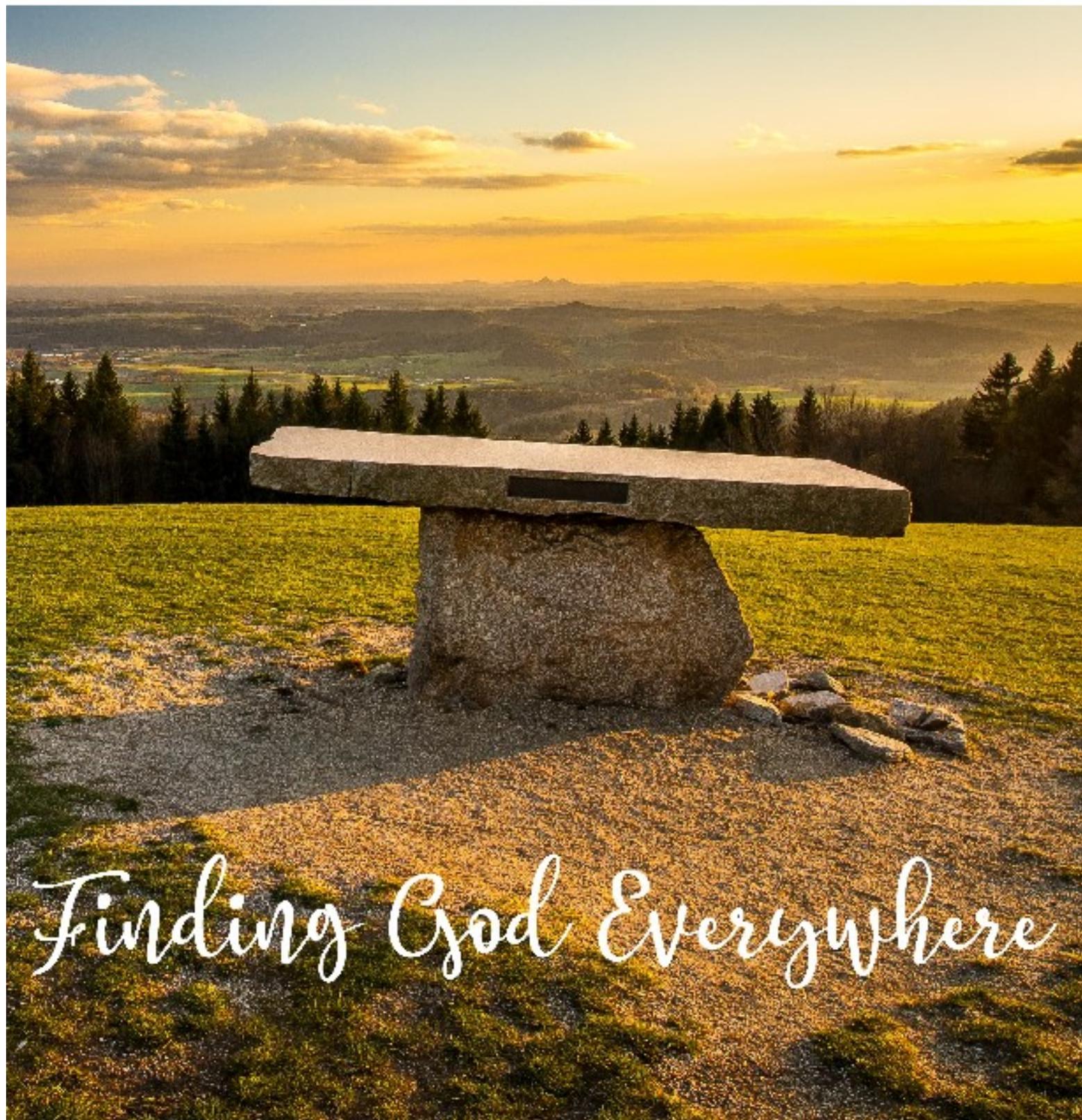


 **MUNSEY**

MAY 2021

MESSENGER

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



Finding God Everywhere

ORDINARY ALTARS — FINDING GOD EVERYWHERE MAY & JUNE AT MUNSEY

What is an altar? One definition is a table used as a focus for religious rituals such as communion, prayers, and offerings. Altars are located within the walls of every religion's buildings. But, they can also be found in the world—everywhere. Altars are in ordinary, as well as, extraordinary places. Altars are discovered and formed among human experiences when we open ourselves to the presence of God. God is everywhere. For the next several weeks, let's look for altars in ordinary places.

ONSITE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning May 9, we will offer onsite Sunday School for children, youth, and adult classes who would like to meet in person. We're looking forward to having groups together again on Sunday mornings at 10:00am! We're thankful for all of our classes that continue to find ways to meet and are glad that Zoom is still working well for some. Our class spaces are listed below and are subject to shift as numbers change. If your class would like to meet onsite, let Doug Grove -DeJarnett know (doug@munsey.org.)

ONSITE CLASSES:

Birth-kindergarteners: *Preschool Hallway*
1st-6th graders: *Elementary Hallway*
7th-12th graders: *Youth Floor*
Brown Fellowship: *Sanctuary*
Context: *CLC Meeting Room*
Cornerstone: *LL14*

Mosaic: *John Redmond's office*
New Dimensions: *LL4*
Open Door: *LL10*
Point of Grace: *LL16*
Wesley: *LL6*



VIRTUAL CLASSES: The Upper Room, Ragamuffin Faith, & Virgil Anderson

CAMP BAYS MOUNTAIN PLEDGE & SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

We are so very excited to celebrate that an anonymous donor will be generously giving \$50,500 in honor of Carol Wilson to fulfill our \$300,000 pledge to Allison Lodge! We know that this giving journey we began in 2017 would not be possible without the support of so many in our congregation and are grateful for all who have given to camping ministry through this pledge. We are already working on a wonderful celebration for faithfully completing this Munsey-sized pledge, so stay tuned for those details! If you have pledged to give to our Allison Lodge campaign in 2021,

Camp Bays Mountain would still benefit from donations given to their operating budget, which you can do through Munsey or directly to camp.



Camp Bays Mountain still needs some summer staff members, and camper registration is quickly filling up for this summer. Information on both can be found at www.campbaysmountain.com. We have \$100 scholarships for our Munsey children and youth who attend camp, and you can contact Amanda Onks (amanda@munsey.org) for more information.

SHOULD I ALWAYS TURN FIRST TO MY CHECKBOOK? - An Update from the Finance Committee

For most of us our faithful giving consists of writing a regular check (or more conveniently, having our account debited electronically to support Munsey's ministries). But perhaps we need to ask whether we should turn first to our checkbooks for our stewardship.

Just as God blesses us as individuals with differing gifts, we have different resources, too, to offer our financial faithfulness.

Sometimes over 90 percent of our assets are not in the form of cash; that is, these assets are stocks, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your IRAs, donor advised funds, real estate, life insurance policies you no longer need, and others, too. From a tax and stewardship perspective, giving "noncash" assets during our lifetimes for Munsey may make good sense (although cash is always appreciated, so please keep that checkbook handy!).

Please let us know when we may help you review which assets (cash, non-cash, or both) should be considered in your offerings for God.

As of April 27, our operating surplus year-to-date was \$70,659 on an income of \$649,286 and expenses of \$578,627. With God's blessings, your faithful giving, controlling our expenses, and the injection of PPP funding, our financial posture is okay; however, please know that often our giving during the summer months seems to unfortunately take a vacation right along with us to the beach or elsewhere. You will help significantly with maintaining steady stewardship for Munsey by signing up for an electronic debit of your account or credit card. Please contact John Patterson or Madeline Becker in the Finance Office for assistance. It's easy; it is so helpful to sustain Munsey's financial needs for ministry.

Regardless of whether you give cash or non-cash assets, thank you for your continued support to empower Munsey to serve God to the fullest in our ministries in the congregation, the community, and around the world!

For the Finance Committee, Jeff Anderson, Chairperson

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

We are so thankful for all our 2021 high school seniors have brought to our youth group over the past several years. May is bittersweet, as we are sad to see these wonderful students graduate from our Youth program, but are so very excited to see all the things God is going to do through them in the coming years. We look forward to celebrating them with their families through their Senior Celebration, and we will honor them and pray God’s blessings on them through our worship services on Sunday, May 16.



Blake Browning Wynne Cox Sarah Geeleh Allie Knox Molly McGill Sarah Kate Swearingen
Ben Collins Sydney Cross Emily Horvath Madi Mahoney Noelle Moczygemba



Katie Jackson (katie@munsey.org) & Kristi Estes (Kristi@munsey.org), Directors of Children’s Ministries

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning on May 9, we will have in-person Sunday School for all children from 10:00 until 10:45am on Sundays and can’t wait to see our kids on Sunday mornings!

Check-in and check-out for **pre-schoolers and kindergartners** will occur in the Gathering Place. An adult staff or volunteer will escort them to their class.

1st-6th graders will be checked in and out from Room 209 on the elementary hallway.

For all children, we ask that only one parent come to check-in/out, and children’s temperatures will be checked upon arrival.

TERRIFIC TRINITY PARTY!

We’re excited to invite our Munsey Kids to our Terrific Trinity party, which will take place three different weeks this summer and will feature VBS-style activities.

Munsey families can choose one week that works best for them from these options: June 1-3, June 22-24, or July 13-15, and activities will last from 6:00-8:00pm each night.

While we would love to open these dates to the community, registration will be just for Munsey families so we can keep numbers smaller. Families should have received more information and registration forms in the mail...let us know if yours hasn’t arrived. We are still looking for youth and adult volunteers, so let Katie or Kristi know if you would like to help!

LEGO FUN AT MUNSEY

Families are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and LEGO fun on Sunday, May 23, from 3:30-4:30pm in the CLC Gym.

Bring your own LEGOs or similar building blocks (either plain or themed) to build a creation representing something (a place or activity) your child enjoys. We will be encouraging the kids to build something that can be featured either in person or through a picture for a worship service later in June.

Let Katie or Kristi know by May 22 at 6pm if you plan to attend so that we



can have enough tables and chairs on hand!

NURSERY ON SUNDAYS

We now have Sunday morning childcare during worship services! RSVPs are required by Saturday night at 6pm each week.

Check-in and check-out will occur in the Gathering Place, as parents are not allowed on the preschool hallway at this time.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS

We’ve had a great time on Wednesdays at 6:00pm and will be wrapping up our Wednesday Night Kids program on May 5.

Our **1st–6th graders** enjoy socially distanced games, crafts, and a devo time. Our **birth - kindergartners** enjoy faith and community building activities.

For all ages, space is limited and parents should RSVP by each Tuesday at 6:00pm.

Information regarding drop-off, pick-up, and other details will be emailed to those who register.

We can’t wait to see the smiles and hear the laughter of our Munsey Kids each week!

PLEASE NOT THAT FOR NURSERY AND ALL CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES...

- **We follow safety rules with social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer, and temperature checks.**
- **All adults & children 1st grade and older are required to wear masks.**
- **Masks are encouraged but not required for kids kindergarten-age & younger.**
- **A Covid waiver will need to be signed the first time your child attends.**
- **RSVPs can be made at www.munsey.org/rsvp or our Munsey app each week no later at 6pm the night before so we can plan for space and adult leaders.**

Steve Wheeler (steve@munsey.org), Director of Missions

EASTER AT THE MELTING POT

Marshmallow bunnies, colored eggs and pastel food bags with lots of good food inside. That was Easter Sunday for our downtown community served outside the doors of the Melting Pot. It was festive with colorful bags festooned with styrofoam eggs and ribbons. They received a thick ham and cheese sandwich, a bottle of flavored water, 3-4 dyed eggs nestled in a colorful cup and napkin. Ramen noodles, a tuna packet with crackers, a marshmallow bunny, and a dessert bar completed the "brunch bags."

As always, our downtown neighbors were very appreciative and also look forward to being able to return to the Melting Pot for our Open Door worship service. But they are also aware that even with our silly tradition of dyeing and hiding eggs, it was a special day as we all celebrated the risen Christ. Sing hallelujah, join the chorus, sing with the redeemed; Christ is risen, He has risen indeed!



CONFERENCE HANDS-ON PROJECT: SCHOOL KITS FOR LIBERIA

We have an opportunity to participate in the Conference Hands-On Mission's project to provide school kits to Liberia. The items needed to complete each backpack are:

- 1 ruler, 12-inch
- 2 boxes chalkboard chalk (not sidewalk chalk)
- 1 compass for math · 1 protractor
- 1 pk. (10 ct.) blue or black pens
- 1 pk. (10 ct.) pencils
- 1 pk. Erasers
- 2 pencil sharpeners
- 3 spiral notebooks (70 ct. each)
- 1 small Bible (new or used, complete Bible-not just the New Testament)



May is the month of:

**ART SUPPLIES
(List below)**

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

- Crayons
- Crayola markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Post-It notes (regular square size)
- Blue or black dry erase markers
- Sharpies (black fine line, black & silver regular tip)
- Watercolor paper
- Cardstock (white)
- Construction paper (any color except red)
- Ziploc bags (sandwich & gallon sized with a sliding closure, sandwich regular closure)
- Clear packing tape (for book repair and adhering labels)
- Scotch tape rolls (for a tape dispenser)

*Please use only the quantities listed. *NO SUBSTITUTIONS or additional items are allowed due to Custom regulations. This includes notes, cards, photos, religious tracts, food items, or anything else not on the list. *The Send Team is purchasing the backpacks.

Please place the items in the blue bin around the corner from the Connection Point by May 28.

OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE 100 SCHOOL KITS.

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

When you search "Quotes about teaching during a pandemic", one of them says, "This too shall pass....Hard to believe when you're in the thick of it, but true." Another was, "Is this some kind of test? ...some days, it sure feels like it." There is no doubt that this year has been exceptionally hard on teachers and students. With Munsey's help, we were able to bring a little joy to our friends at North Side.

In March, Munsey donated snacks for the 90 third and fourth graders taking the T-Cap tests in April. We provided them with 235 goldfish snack bags, 252 granola or nutri-grain bars, 120 cheese cracker packs, 180 fruit snacks, 24 Little Debbie cakes and 552 juice bags. A special thanks goes to the Context Sunday School class who provided the snacks for one entire day!

In keeping with the "Treat" theme, we took some special cookies and bars from Peggy Ann's Bakery to the teachers in April. My North Side team which consists of Gini Buchanan, Karen Deakins, Jo Hemphill, and Melinda Page wrote personal thank you notes to the 70 faculty and staff. All of this was greatly appreciated!



During the month of May, we will be taking bakery treats two more times and will be collecting supplies for the Related Arts teachers. Thank you, Munsey, for helping make this school year a little less difficult for the teachers and students.

---Susanna Chinouth

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

On a bright Tuesday afternoon a group of “companions” gathered to begin construction of the community garden in the parking area above the Annex. Aided by master gardener, Ben Hunter, the crew assembled 4 beds. Up next is adding a sand base and then compost.



You can follow the progress of the community garden on Facebook at The Melting Pot—Johnson City, as well as learn of scheduled work days, plantings, and other happenings. To learn more as to how you can be involved, contact Steve Wheeler, Director of Missions, at 461-8070 x243 or steve@munsey.org.

HOLSTON HOME: A HAVEN OF HOPE

Amber had a history of running away, drug abuse and truancy. She was hospitalized for cutting herself. She was given several options for placement and Holston Home seemed to be her best option. Once into the program, she began reaching her goals. Her self-esteem improved as she understood God’s love for her. “I am going to college after graduation, continue working, and be successful in life,” Amber said. When you give to Holston Home, you are giving youth like Amber a chance to succeed.



Brandon’s mother battled her entire life with mental issues. When Brandon was 10 months old, she dropped him off at the local DCS office. His maternal family stepped in to raise him, but his behavior

declined as he got older. Brandon was eventually placed at Holston Home where the staff refused to give up on him. He learned to manage his anger and was able to return home at the end of the school year. Holston Home continues to watch his progress.

What we give this Fifth Sunday will give children and youth in need an opportunity for a better life, for an education, and for the chance to become responsible and faithful adults. Holston Home helps reunite broken families, and helps children without families find permanency through adoption or foster homes.

Please give generously to Holston United Methodist Home for Children on Fifth Sunday, May 30 so young people like Brandon and Amber will continue to experience God’s Grace, Love, and Hope for the future.

CZECH MISSION TEAM

We are cautiously optimistic about the Czech Missions Team going to Litoměřice in July. We have 7 people who are planning to go this summer and we have already had preliminary discussions with Filip Jandovsky, the new pastor at the church there. The camp is scheduled for July 5-10 this year.

Our team will depart July 2, arrive on July 3, do some sight-seeing in Prague, worship at the church on Sunday and then start the camp Monday morning, July 5. The camp will end on Saturday, July 10 and we will fly back to Tennessee on Sunday, July 11. This year’s camp theme is “Spojka” (pronounced “spoy kah”) – Czech for “connection.” This is an interesting word because not only does it convey “connection,” but it is also the term they use for “shortstop,” the softball position in the middle infield.



We are going to use the parable of the vine and the branches that Jesus tells in John 15 to convey the importance of being connected to God. The vaccine rollout in the EU has not gone well so far. So we will continue to be in contact with Filip and hope that there will not be any travel restrictions once July arrives.

Please continue to pray for the ministry there in Litoměřice and our Czech brothers and sisters who will be working with us. As always we appreciate your prayers and financial support for Czech Missions. If you have any questions, contact Jason Bemby at jabembry@milligan.edu.

FREEDOM GLOBAL - FREEDOM FOOTBALL

Freedom Football Ministry in Kenya uses soccer to raise up leaders in the community to become disciples of Jesus who in turn make disciples. We currently have six leaders who work with 35 men from the streets twice per week by teaching soccer, leading Bible study, and providing a meal. Although we have dealt with many challenges, we praise God for His faithfulness despite the many hardships these men face on the streets of Limuru.

We currently meet at a local field in Limuru and there is an unfinished church with a roof that we meet at when it rains. There have been 105 men to date who have come out to the ministry, and we average about 35 men per week, with around 25 of them coming consistently twice a week. The

ministry costs \$280 approximately a month right now to operate. It costs \$0.50 per meal per man, as we do work with a local business in Limuru to get a good price. Food is our biggest expense, but being able to feed one man twice a week for \$1 is incredible.

First, we need prayer for God to continue to move in big ways to draw more hearts to seek Him despite the immense pressure of cultural views that are not biblical. Second, we need monthly financial support to not only continue what God has so graciously allowed us to do, but to grow and help more men become followers of Jesus and get off the streets.

— Jeff Schap, Freedom Football Ministry Director (jeff@freedomglobal.org)

If God is tugging at your heart to be a part of this ministry, please go to www.freedomglobal.org. Click on "Donate" at the top right. Where it says, "Do you have a specific area your gift needs to be applied?", type in "Freedom Football Ministry". Or you may send a check to Freedom Global, P. O. Box 51373, Durham, NC 27717. Any amount would be greatly appreciated!!! Just \$35 will provide two meals for 35 men!



MUNSEY YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning on May 9, we will have in-person as well as Zoom Youth Sunday School at 10:00am on Sundays and look forward to being back on the 3rd floor! We'll wear masks, be spaced out in rooms, and continue to send our Zoom link via email and text each week for those who would like to connect virtually. So that we can plan for classes and adult teachers, we ask youth to RSVP on the Munsey webpage or app by 6:00pm each Saturday.

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups will continue through May 5 on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00pm! We meet in church rooms that have plenty of space so groups can safely spread out, and we ask everyone to wear a mask. If you would like to connect to your group virtually, just let your leaders know, and we'll be glad to have everyone participate how they feel comfortable.

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR INFO

On Sunday, May 16, we'll honor our seniors in the 8:30 Sanctuary and 11:00 Journey services. Seniors should wear their graduation gowns, be in the Sanctuary by 8:00am, and plan to attend both services. We also look forward to our Senior Celebration that afternoon at 4:00pm in the CLC. Senior families should RSVP to Caitlin by May 5, and we look forward to a great day together!

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

We've been so thankful to grow with our Discipleship Team this year. Our last meeting for this school year will be on Sunday, May 23 at 9:00am on Zoom, and Youth Staff will send Zoom info to team members.

SERVICE FOCUS

For our May service focus, we're asking students and volunteers to sign up for our summer Service Week, which will be June 21-24. We'll meet together each morning that week from 9:00am-12:00pm to serve together. Sign up with Caitlin or Michael King by May 11 to join the team!

COUNSELING RESOURCES

We know that the last several months have been especially difficult and that having someone to help process what we're experiencing and feeling can be so important. We have some wonderful trained counselors who have volunteered their services for our students. If you would like to be connected to a counselor, please reach out to a Youth Staff member, and we'll be glad to connect you.

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!

SYMPATHY TO:

- Sympathy to Jeff and Jennifer Clements upon the death of Jeff's father, Greg Clements, Monday, April 5, in Johnson City.



It has been over a year since I was last in the library at Munsey. I have missed the books, but I am looking forward to being back in there. The articles I have been writing over the past year have come from what I have read in my Bible that particular week. This time, I am reading one of my favorite passages in the Bible, Isaiah 40. The entire chapter is a song that tells of the comfort that God provides for us, and how His glory has no comparison. The Lord is with us always, and that is reassurance for the days ahead. (Isaiah 40)

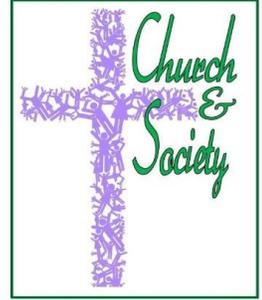
—J.T. Rucker

CHURCH & SOCIETY

YOUR CHURCH AND SOCIETY TEAM NEEDS YOU!

The ministry of the Munsey Church and Society Team helps address issues that are more relevant now than ever before, given the hardships created by the pandemic. Here are some of the pressing problems we seek to help end by our ministries:

- The terrible increase in hunger that is confronting our community, the nation, and the world. Bread for the World Sunday provides our congregation with information to address food shortage as it has risen exponentially during COVID-19.
- Gun violence is on the rise with over 100 Americans killed every day with a firearm.
- Human trafficking, also called modern day slavery, is effectively addressed by our partnership with Hope for Justice.
- The lack of health insurance causes millions die that could be prevented by access to medical care.
- Our annual Care for Creation Sunday helps create awareness on the need to pursue efforts to take care of our natural world. This also includes Blessing of the Animals.
- Our Hispanic community in Johnson City needs our support. We partner with other Munsey ministries to support one of the most vulnerable segments of our population.



So, if you would like to become part of our work, contact Aubrey Lee, Church and Society Team Chairman, at galee@king.edu. You will be blessed!

MISCELLANEOUS

KIDMIN HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are so excited to resume children's activities at Munsey -- the smiles and laughter of our Munsey Kids are bringing wonderful energy into our halls! We are looking for a few helpers on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. If you would be willing to help (either regularly or on a rotating basis), please contact Katie (katie@munsey.org) or Kristi (kristi@munsey.org) for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PARENTS

We love having programming for children and youth on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00pm through May 5 and have a group for parents, too. Parents can meet in the Gathering Place after dropping their kids off, and we look forward to this time in community together with John Redmond and Jason Onks leading. If you have any questions, please contact John Redmond (john.redmond@munsey.org).

A LOOK AT YOUR GIFTS

	4/4/2021	4/11/2021	4/18/2021	4/25/2021
Budget Offering	\$74,465	\$21,888	\$15,873	\$38,278
Weekly Budget Requirement: \$38,344				
Capital Campaign	\$467	\$725	\$667	\$1,190
Missions Offering	\$11,931	\$3,065	\$1,320	\$1,374
Pastor's Discretionary	\$55	\$50	\$155	\$360
Online Viewership	511	285	317	288
In-Person Worship	403	163	133	261



Instagram

FOLLOW munseychurch ON INSTAGRAM

SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST COMPANIONS

- May 1: Cooking Companions Needed**
- May 8: BCCC**
- May 15: Wesley Class**
- May 22: Context Class**
- May 29: Virgil Anderson Class**

We continue to practice safe guidelines, face coverings, and no more than 5 "companions" per group.

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

June Messenger Deadline: May 24



Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church
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WORSHIP AT MUNSEY

MAY SERMON SCHEDULE

MAY 2	MAY 9	MAY 16	MAY 23 <i>PENTECOST SUNDAY</i>	MAY 30
Waking up and Finding God	Walking Alongside God	God People	Is God Really at Church?	Work with me, God!
Genesis 28:10-22	Genesis 5:21-24; Luke 24:13-35	Matthew 25:34-37	Acts 2	Colossians 3:23,24
Michael Lester preaching	Doug Grove-DeJarnett preaching	Michael Lester preaching	Doug Grove-DeJarnett preaching	Michael King 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.