



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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January 2017

How is it With Your Soul?

It is January and the news advertisements and infomercial have all turned to self-help. Many of our thoughts and actions have turned to self-help as well. We declare changes we will make. We make resolutions. We search for a better life. Most of the time self-help is directed to our physical health. It is true, almost every one of us could benefit from better physical health. However, it is not just our physical health we need to consider. We also need to consider our spiritual health. And so today I ask the question, How is it with your soul?

It may seem an odd question to be asking. It may seem as though the answer to the question is none of my business. Many of us consider our spiritual lives to be just that – **OUR** spiritual lives! I have been told on more than one occasion that religion, politics, and sex are private and need not be discussed. As your Pastor, your spiritual life is of great to concern to me. I consider the souls I am charged to care for to be a very serious duty. I consider your soul and relationship with God in every aspect of my ministry.

Each year, around this time, I have a meeting with the District Superintendent. In this meeting, I give a report on the status of my soul. I also meet with the members of Memorial's staff in January and I inquire about the status of their soul. The questions we use as a guide for discussing our souls are this: Describe your daily walk with God in terms of the spiritual disciplines you follow. Are you a member of a spiritual group?

While we ponder these questions yearly, such questions were constantly asked by John Wesley. Every time Wesley gathered in small groups for prayer, biblical instruction, acts of mercy, or communion; he asked the question. How is it with your soul? This was a very important question to Wesley. A good portion of time together was spent on this question. Wesley wanted to make sure everyone was spiritually fit.

As we begin 2017, I would ask you to reflect on the following:

- Describe your daily walk with God in terms of the spiritual disciplines you follow.
- Are you a member of a spiritual group?
- If not, why not?
- How is it with your soul?

If your reflection indicates a need for you to improve your soul. I will be happy to help you find ways of practicing the spiritual disciplines. I will be happy to pray with you and guide you.

My continued prayer is for us to spiritually healthy, active, and productive this year.

Blessings,
Pastor Donna

YUMS (Young United Methodist Students) News

Thank you, church, for making 2016 a great year of learning and growing in Christ. I look forward to THIS new year!

January Wednesday Night Line-Up

1/11—Prepare for Morning Pointe Visit

1/18—YUMS to Morning Pointe

1/25—Begin PARABLES study

The Sower

Our memory verse is: *Everyone who has ears should pay attention.* –Luke 8:8

Morning Pointe Visit

We plan to share some acts from our Christmas Variety Show with the residents of Morning Pointe. Parents, please encourage your child to attend our first YUMS program of 2017 to prepare for our visit. You will need to make transportation arrangements for your child to be at Morning Pointe on the 18th. Our program will start at 6:15 PM, and you may pick up your child at Morning Pointe by 7:15 PM.

Blessings,

Leanne

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(865) 257-2946

YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday Night Study Schedule

01/11	The Church	John 21; Acts 1-2, 4
01/18	Signs and Wonders	Acts 3-5
01/25	Persecution & Growth	Acts 6-8

Resurrection 2017

Resurrection 2017 will be held January 20-22 at the LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge. The theme is Follow and Mick Veach will be the speaker. The band for the Resurrection 2017 will be Rend Collective. Final plans are being arranged and details for the weekend will be given in the youth meeting on January 11th.

Blessings,

Pastor Donna

RevGoofy96@aol.com

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(423)967-5365 (cell)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pat McBryde, Otto and Marie Briscoe, Lee Wysor, Deloris Johnson, and Ben Edwards. Our Pastor, Church and Church Families; Our Nation's Service Men, Women, and their families.



Flower Donors for JANUARY 2017

January 1 Altar Guild—Epiphany Sunday
January 8 Mark Medley
January 15 Ty and Judy Foster
January 22
January 29 Leslie and Betty Sellers

Operation Christmas Child Update

We learned that on November 23rd our shoeboxes shipped to ECUADOR! Samaritan Purse sent us this information about their work in Ecuador:

Shoebox gifts collected in the United States in 2016 will be delivered to 337,680 children in Ecuador. Praise God that over 1,812,680 children have received a shoebox since 1997, when Operation Christmas Child began distributing gifts here.

Ecuador has 16 million people and is located in northwestern South America 28% of the population is 14 years old or younger

Please pray for the children of Ecuador who will receive our shoeboxes!

JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 1 10:00a Sunday School
Mon. Jan. 2 OFFICE CLOSED
Thur., Jan. 5 11:3a Grace Circle and UMW, FH
5:30p Food Pantry
Sun., Jan. 8 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
11:15a Trustees Meeting
4:00p Confirmation Class
Wed., Jan. 11 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
6:00p-7:15p YUMS
6:00p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
Sun., Jan. 15 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
4:00p Confirmation Class
Wed., Jan. 18 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
5:30p-7:15p YUMS
5:30p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
Thur., Jan. 19 5:30p Food Pantry
Fri., Jan. 20th thru Sun., Jan. 22nd—Resurrection
Sun., Jan. 22 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service
Wed., Jan. 25 5:30p-6:00p Dinner in FH
6:00p-7:15p Bible Study
5:30p-7:15p YUMS
5:30p-7:15p Youth
7:30p Chancel Choir Practice
Sun., Jan. 29 8:30a Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:00a Sunday School
10:00a Morning Service

FAREWELL

After many, many years of cleaning up around Memorial UMC, Alice Daugherty has retired from her duties as custodian. There is no way of knowing how many tables Alice has moved. We can't count the number of times the sanctuary has been vacuumed or the fellowship hall mopped by Alice. She probably does not want to consider the number of toilets cleaned over the years. All of these tasks – and quite a few others – have been completed by Alice over the years. We give thanks for Alice's hard work around the building and grounds. We wish Alice well as she retires from her duties.

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

FUND

William McBryde

Richard and Melissa Snead
Tim and Melinda Christian

Music
General

Sue Wilson

Mark, Donna and Corey Medley
Bill and Ouida Steinkamp

Ida Gamble Scholarship
Youth

Ebb Lomax
Ruth Lomax
Debbie Lomax
Carol Lomax Kittle

John Lomax
John Lomax
John Lomax
John Lomax

Men's Bible Class
Choir
Food Pantry
Food Pantry

UMW NEWS

The Grace Circle of United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, January 5 at 11:30a. Please bring a sack Lunch. In preparation for our devotion, read the fourth chapter of our book *THE PARABLES*. Happy New Year to everyone.

Welcome

If you see an unfamiliar face behind the vacuum or mop, it is the face of Dawn Walker. With the new year, comes a new staff member and custodian. We welcome Dawn to the staff of Memorial UMC. Dawn cleans for Norris UMC as well as other businesses and homes. We look forward to getting to know her in the coming years. Welcome to MUMC, Dawn!



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Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Donna Hester
Joshua Allen
Leanne Hennessey
Andrea Fritts
Dawn Walker

Serving God's People
Pastor
Music Director/Organist
Children's Activity Coordinator
Secretary
Housekeeping/Custodian

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