

THE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By George!

Letter from the Pastor



I'm not much for bragging and even less for musical expression, but I must confess that I have been singing your praises a good bit lately. I gladly tell my friends and neighbors about Memorial's beautiful sanctuary, our awesome music, the excellent lay leadership, the well-kept facilities, and the supportive and ever-appreciative spirit of this congregation. There is so much that Wallis and I have come to value since we arrived in January.

There is one thing, however, that I am not prone to mention in most conversations about Memorial: our giving. I wrestled with myself about even mentioning this issue. (I liken it to putting a clothesline in the front yard and hanging your dirty linen there; there's nothing wrong with it, but it just doesn't feel right.) But, in this internet world, the facts and figures are already there for all the world to see. While Memorial has been especially blessed to be the recipient of invested designated funds given for specific purposes (like the McClimon Fund, which is restricted to buildings and maintenance), those funds are not available for our operating budget, which is - and should be - our responsibility!

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Here's the unsettling report through April 14. Our giving to the operating budget and the building fund is \$56,991.08 below our anticipated needs to date this year. If this trend continues, our church will end 2024 with a shortfall of almost \$200,000. Are we that under-blessed? That would be a difficult argument to make. Is it a financial issue? Ultimately, no. As some of you have already heard me say, giving (or a lack of giving) is almost always a spiritual issue. So, the challenge is for all of us to search our hearts and respond in generous and faithful giving to the bright future of this good church. I will certainly keep on bragging about Memorial Church. And, when the time is right, I will gladly volunteer to take down that clothesline in our front yard.

-George Riser
Interim Pastor

WELCOME, PASTOR DAVID!



SPRC is pleased to announce the proposed appointment of Rev. David Smith to Memorial. Currently he is the Pastor at Augusta Road UMC where he has served for the past nine years. He brings over 30 years of experience as a UMC pastor and is excited and grateful for the opportunity to serve our congregation. Rev. Smith's first Sunday at Memorial will be June 30th after the official appointment is confirmed at Annual Conference. Please pray for Rev. Smith, his family, our church and that we may continue to do God's work.

-Cindy Miller
SPRC Chairperson

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome
little one



Becky Wray



Ken Perdue



Cameron James Claycamp
Son of Brett & Catherine Claycamp
Grandson of Mark & Leigh Radlein
and David & Kenna Owens



FINANCIAL REPORT

QUARTERLY GIVING SUMMARY

OPERATING BUDGET

Amount budgeted for 2024	\$670,562.00
Amount needed quarterly	\$167,640.50
Amount received January 1 - March 31	\$118,321.83
Projected year-end total based on first quarter	\$473,287.32

BUILDING FUND

Amount budgeted for 2024	\$62,400.00
Amount needed quarterly	\$15,600.00
Amount received January 1 - March 31	\$11,680.00
Projected year-end total based on first quarter	\$46,720.00



**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO GIVE**

***The most recent up-to-date giving summaries can be found in our weekly bulletin each Sunday.*

88 KEYS: PIANO FUNDRAISER

88 KEYS
consider the gift of music



Donated as of 4/21/24: \$28,336

We have raised 47% of our goal of \$60,000





FROM THE SAFETY AND SECURITY TEAM

“And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.”

John 3:14-15

Over the past year, we have seen our team come together and grow. Where there was once some trepidation about our team, there is now acceptance and encouragement. This is a great thing. We have a dedicated and trained team that responds to any emergency and prepares the whole church body for multiple situations and scenarios.

We've had some opportunities to share our knowledge and experience on many topics. Recently we held a cyber security class that was not really advertised and still had a very positive turnout. We have had requests from several to have another presentation on the subject. Please look for that in late summer/early fall. If anyone has suggestions for topics, please reach out to me, or Mike Wells, or the Trustees.

We are also going to be running some informational constitutional carry classes soon. We hope to provide some clarity on the new law, debunk some of the misconceptions and false information, and help our members understand what it means for us in SC. Look for signup sheets soon.

Next, if you see something, say something. Over the course of the next few weeks the team will be moving to a bright colored shirt to make us easily identifiable wherever we are. So, if you need help, have an issue or have a question, please look for the bright blue shirt or name tag.

Lastly, I want to state that it is a pleasure and privilege to serve this church in the capacity that I do. We each serve in our own way, and this is a service we feel called to provide. Anyone interested in joining us on the Sentinel Safety Ministry Team, please reach out to me or Mike Wells. We are always looking for more members that love serving the congregation.

-Scott Wentzky
Safety & Security Team Leader



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications are available for first year college students and returning college students/graduate study students. Please note we have two separate applications, one for each group. Applications are available for pick up at the Church Office. To receive an electronic copy, please email Lainey (lainey@memorialgreer.com) **Applications must be completed and submitted to the Church Office by Sunday, June 16th.**

THE BEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE A PASTOR

Pastor George has suggested that the very best gift we can give our new pastor is an updated electronic directory with pictures. Help us make that happen! We will have someone stationed before and after each worship service for every Sunday in May to take your picture, and we will upload them to Realm the following week. No sign up or registration ahead of time needed. We hope this will help Pastor David as he gets to know our church family.

MAY 5, MAY 12, MAY 19, MAY 26

ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY: COMING SOON

Beginning June 1st, we will make church members' contact information available to all Realm users as a part of the digital directory. If you prefer to keep your contact information private and NOT available to other church members, please let Tawny Johnson know prior to June 1st.

PLEASE NOTE: to alleviate some expressed concerns, please know only Memorial UMC members have access to Realm and will be able to see this information. This is the same information already available in printed directories.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Vacation Bible School

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SAVE THE DATE
SHARE WITH NEIGHBORS AND
FRIENDS



MONDAY, JUNE 17 -
THURSDAY, JUNE 20
6 - 7:45 PM NIGHTLY



MEMORIAL'S CHILDREN MINISTRY

days of summer

You are invited to join us this summer as we come together for learning, loving and growing, LOTS of fun and fellowship.

Wonderful Wednesdays are perfect for 4K through 5th graders and will meet for 6 weeks this summer from 9 - 11 am on Wednesday mornings.

Please mark your calendar and save the dates!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS
June 5 Critter Keeper
June 12 Foam Party
June 26 Emit's Farm

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS
JULY
July 11 Touch a Truck
July 24 Kona Ice
July 31 Summer Fun finale



AWANITA VALLEY

SPRING RETREAT 2024



When looking out over the ledge and across the miles of mountain tops in front of us, I was flooded with a sense of assurance that God knew exactly what He was doing. I looked to both sides of me where our youth stood in amazement of His creation, and how small they were in comparison to it. It was a humbling and overwhelming moment that I wanted to bottle up and bring home to share with our congregation the very next day, as we gathered for the church-wide vote pertaining to our future affiliation with the United Methodist Church. I wish I could have packed the entire church up and taken everyone with us to Awanita Valley that weekend. I wish everyone had the chance to witness our youth live into the call of surrendering to God's love, letting go of our desires and our need to control what's to come, and allowing God to carry us into the future without limits of what we can or cannot do together.

They offered me a renewed sense of excitement and anticipation of what our future will look like at Memorial with them at the forefront, and I determined before bringing us home that weekend that the vote was never going to change that regardless of the outcome...and it didn't.

The first few months of the year presented with the uncertain and the unknown for our church. We found ourselves in uncharted territories, having hard conversations, and making big decisions. Now we are able to look ahead and into the future of Memorial with a newfound certainty and sense of community as a church family, and I have never been more grateful for the young ones who will lead us there.

In Christ's Love,
Lainey Hannon



★ SUMMER BOYOTIONS

MONDAY MORNINGS AT 9 AM
ALL YOUTH INVITED TO WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY AT BOJANGLES ON WADE HAMPTON
TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE



GROUND ZERO

RIGHT HERE IN GREER

WEEK OF SERVICE
JUNE 27 - 29
8 AM - 3 PM



IT'S SUMMER TIME!

MYSTERY TRIP THURSDAYS

JUNE 13 & 27
JULY 11 & 25

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
COST WILL VARY PER TRIP



SAKKEHATCHIE

PIEDMONT CAMP
JUNE 22 - 29
AGES 14 & UP



CONGRATULATIONS to our graduates!



We hope you will join us as we celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, May 5th during our 10:00am worship service. We are so proud of each and every one of them, and we pray for their wisdom, guidance and protection as they enter this new beginning.



MISSIONS

The missions committee feels that we should reach out into our community and the community at large. In March, we collected items for the Greer STEP program. We have brought back the Honey Dudes program whereby we give physical assistance to members of our congregation. If someone needs help with yard work or small items around the house, they can call the church office and request help. We have two mission trips lined up; one in the fall at Hinton Rural Life Center and one nearby in Easley. We are also in the process of planning an event with Evans Training Center.

-Daryl Rishforth

Missions Committee Chair



THANK YOU FROM THE STEPPING STONES CLASS

Special thank you from the Stepping Stones Sunday School Class for your support of their recent Breakfast Fundraiser! They raised \$767 for Greer Relief to help pay CPW customers utility bills that are in danger of being cut off.



JOY MINISTRY



Lunch with Drew Hines was a time well spent as we learned about the dark corner up highway 14 near Landrum. The covered dish lunch provided the group with a time of being together and hearing from a very talented local author.



Many thanks to Bobbie McQuaid who is carrying our Wednesday study group through the Torah.



It is an 18- week study and the teaching has been excellent as we are learning the bible from old testament to new testament is a thread all held together by Jesus.

-Steve Barbrey
JOY Ministry Leader

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

On June 1st we will host the UWF Greenville District for their DayApart event at Memorial. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the program will run from 10:00am until 12:00 pm. We invite the congregation to help us collect pull tabs (from soda cans, soup cans, etc.) for Ronald McDonald House. We have placed a container on the counter in the lobby of the FLC for the tabs. This is an easy way to help without any added expense.

-Margaret Long
UWF Leader



TRUSTEES UPDATE

As 2024 is now moving along, the trustees have several projects in discussion but are going to pull back as we feel the wrong impression is being given to our congregation that Memorial is in a very good financial position with all that has been performed using McClimon Trust monies. We were hoping to resurface the gym floor but now plan to move the project to 2025.

The trust restricts that it only be used for facilities improvements and cannot be used to supplement operating budget shortfalls. Our goal beginning in 2021 was to identify potential projects that would give our aging campus a boost to make sure the facilities would be in good shape for the future.

Since 2017 we have spent \$1,181,811 on those projects which were needed either because of emergency failures or preventative maintenance for the next generation.

A recap of how the McClimon trust provided for Memorial in 2023:

- a. Stain Glass project - \$125,000.00
- b. FLC window replacement - \$83,000.00
- c. FLC roof recoating - \$24,600.00
- d. Paint FLC gym - \$22,000.00
- e. Paint Sanctuary Columns - \$9,000.00
- f. Install Shades in FLC - \$11,783.00

Total - \$275, 383.00

PARSONAGE SALE

The parsonage sale has been completed as of April 15th. After following the guidelines of the Methodist process for selling property and guidance from the District Board of Trustees, we realized a net proceed of \$706,000.00. The Book of Discipline requires we retain 80% for future pastor's stipends. The finance committee will be giving more information about how the money will be invested.

VIDEO AND SOUND BOOTH

A huge thank you to Tommy Simmons, David Owens, David Mayberry, Bobby Shennan, John Shennan, and Adam Wickliffe who built and engineered the wiring for our new sound and video booth in the balcony. A much-needed space and improves our online stream, as well as our worship experience in the sanctuary.

-Steve Barbrey
Trustees Co-Chair



HOLY WEEK AT MEMORIAL



We'd like to extend a special thank you to all who were a part of our Holy Week services and celebrations. It was a special season at Memorial!



CHILD ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



3-K CLASS



CRAZY SOCK DAY



1-K CLASS



1-K CLASS



4-K CLASS



2-K CLASS



2-K CLASS



3-K & 4-K WITH DR. JEAN



WORSHIP WITH US



SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

We hope you'll join us for a special service of worship at 11 am on May 19th as the Hosanna Brass accompanies our Traditional Choir and our confirmands are received as professing members of our congregation.

SUPPER @ 6 - SAVE THE DATES

We thoroughly enjoyed our time of fellowship and breaking bread with one another during our Wednesday Night Suppers at Six this spring. We hope you'll save the dates and plan to join us again in the fall!



SEPT. 4TH

OCT. 2ND

NOV. 6TH





DRINKS

tea and lemonade provided

ENTREE

chicken tenders provided

SIDES

bring your favorite side to share

DESSERT

Pelicans Snoballs



**SUNDAY
LUNCH**

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH @ 11 AM

LET'S GATHER AROUND THE
TABLE AS A CHURCH FAMILY

FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL AGES

