

July 2023



Malesus United Methodist Church

The Beacon

Meet the Carv-

"We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Connie, Callie, and I are excited about being appointed by Bishop McAlilly to be your pastoral family starting July 9, 2023. We have met some of you already at our covenant meeting with District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Camp. We are looking forward to meeting all of you soon.

I want to thank you for all the preparation being done for our transition to be with you. I have been praying for you, and I am confident that God has a plan and purpose for our time together. "We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength"!

It is my honor and privilege, not only to say that I am happy to be your pastor, but that we are now part of your family. I want to encourage you to pray for each other, for our community, and pray for us.

I am praying and trusting God that we will be a church for the hurting, the hopeless, the discouraged, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused will find love, acceptance, healing, hope, forgiveness, guidance, encouragement, and support.

I am praying and trusting God that we will welcome new members into the fellowship of the church family, loving, learning, laughing and living in harmony modeling God's love to the world.

You may be asking the question, how are we going to do it? The Apostle Paul gives us an important reminder that "We can

do all things through Christ who gives us strength." See you soon!

Pastor, Don



Finance Report

Financial Report year-to-date, as of May 31, 2023:

Pledged giving is at 96% of budget amount year-to-date.

Unpledged giving is approximately 88% of budgeted amount year-to-date.

Total Income is 94% of budgeted year-to-date.

Total expenses are at 95% of budgeted amount year-to-date.

May Income: \$15,999.90

May Expenses: \$16,495.35

Funds needed to date: \$82,950.00

Funds received to date: \$78,384.55



Our Weekly Stewardship

June 4, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	41
Worship	61
Offering	\$4,899.00

June 11, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	25
Worship	57
Offering	\$3,838.00

June 18, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	35
Worship	68
Offering	\$2,531.00

June 25, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	39
Worship	79
Offering	\$2,345.00

Please note that the offering numbers above are a total of pledged giving, unpledged giving, and loose plate giving. They do not include designated gifts.



Communion Rail Offering

Communion Rail Offerings

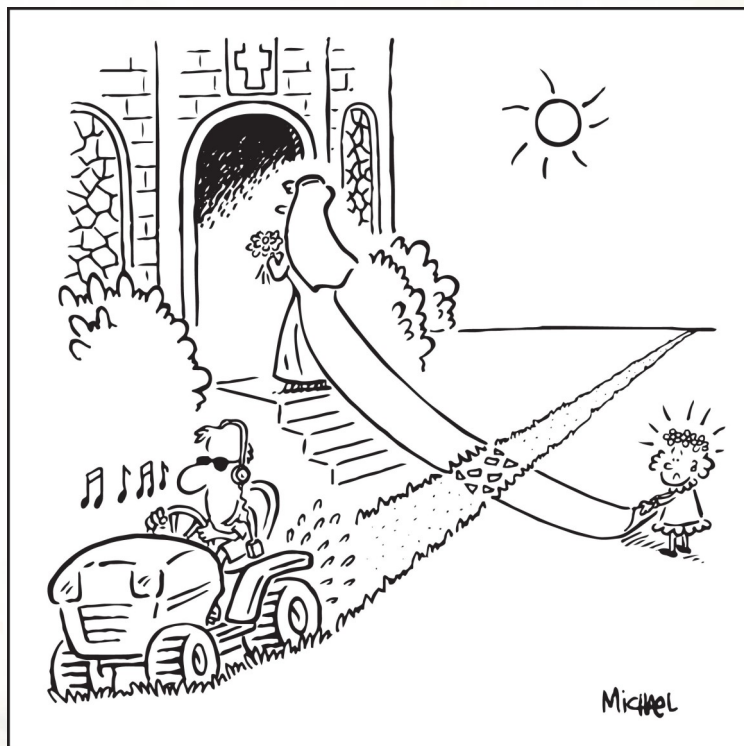
- Jan: Southside Assistance \$204
- Feb: Souper Bowl Sunday \$287+
97 cans of soup
- March: UMCOR Turkey Relief \$621
- April: Bemis "Room in the Inn" \$363
- May: VBS \$178
- June: Project Peanut Butter \$228
- July: Reelfoot School Supplies
- Aug: College Care Packages
- Sept: Undetermined at this time
- Oct: Undetermined at this time
- Nov: Reelfoot Toys
- Dec: Christmas Offering



Please remember that all events and activities taking place on the church campus need to be put on the church calendar, in the office.

Part of Tanya's job is to maintain the calendar and know who is meeting where and when on our campus.

Also, private events must have a representative fill out the booking paperwork in the office at least 2 weeks prior to the event.





Christmas..... In July? Sure!

Its not too early for all our talented craftspeople to start getting ready for the 3rd Annual Silent Auction in conjunction with our

2023 Christmas Dinner scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd.

Last year more than 80 fabulous items were crafted and/or donated to make the event led by the Congregational Care Team a huge success. And, to make bidding more competitive a limit 2 has been set for identical items.

So get to your workshops, and sewing rooms. Bring out your paint brushes, glass cutters, knitting needles and crochet hooks. Start planning for yummy baked goods to place on the auction table.

For more information please talk to Joyce Martin.



This spring, the Trustee Board and the Church Council asked to apply for a grant through the *Friends of Heart* group for an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). In early April, the *Friends of Heart* Board of Directors approved the

grant.

On Wednesday, June 7, Caitlin Roach delivered the AED to our church. A shelf was built and the AED placed on it, in the Fellowship Hall.

The next step is to get a group trained to use the AED. CPR knowledge is helpful but not necessary. The AED sounds scary but it is a simple machine to operate and could be "life saving".

We will try to get a member of JFD or MCFD to demonstrate how to use the AED in August. If you are interested, please call the church office or talk to a member of the Trustees.



Let us love one another.
1 John 4:7

Congregational Care

Fellowship is such an important part of our church life. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 20, 2023. Bemis United Methodist has been invited to join us for our morning church service. Afterward we will be hosting a Brunch for everyone to enjoy.



Talent Show

Malesus UMC Potluck & Talent Show

Wednesday, Sept. 20th

5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall



If you'd like to be a part - contact Loret at 731-693-5282.

Education News

A word from Adult Education: The Fellowship Class has moved to the Sanctuary and joined the Seeker / Transition Class taught by Randall Green.



The Lamplighters Class has moved from the Education wing to what was the old pastor's office, behind the Sanctuary.



Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come



The **Digital Communications & Technology Team** is dedicated to being the digital front door for our Malesus United Methodist Church to spread the Gospel message to our community and to the world.

The Digital Communications & Technology Team is pleased to announce that, effective with the May 2023 issue of the *Beacon*, that the *Beacon* will be online on our website (www.malesusumc.org). The plan now is to put the *Beacon* immediately upon publication on our home page under the new Resources block. We are also anticipating that an email or text message will be immediately sent out to anyone who receives those messages. We are hoping that this will put the issue of the *Beacon* immediately available to our online church family and thus not have to wait until the *Beacon* is distributed through the US Mail.

We will also be working on putting past issues of the *Beacon* online as well as resources become available.



THE BEACON NOW ONLINE!



Our New Online Giving System is Live!

We are moving to a new online giving platform to make giving easier, more secure, and more convenient for our church family and our community! Go to www.malesusumc.org or just scan the QR code now to make a difference for yourself and in the life of our church and community.

SCAN ME



Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box is providing for the needy in our community and is in constant need of refilling. Some items that have been suggested are things that are basically more of a complete meal. Please keep these in mind when you shop.

- Canned Chili
- Canned Stews
- Canned Meats
- Canned Spaghetti, Spaghetti Os, Ravioli, Chili Mac
- Hormel Completes Meals
- Canned or Packaged Soups
- Peanut or Other Nut Butters
- Jelly
- Bread
- Pancake Mix with Syrup
- Canned Fruits
- Boxed Meal Kits - add the Canned Meat to go with it
- Mac & Cheese
- Non-refrigerated Milk
- Cereals
- Oatmeal
- Canned Veggies

And certainly, personal care items.

The Nina Young family wishes to share this poem written by Nina on October 17, 2010, about our church.

Be Still and Know

Early on a Sunday morning sitting in the Sanctuary is special like no other time

It's a quiet, spiritual, holy place and it's yours and mine

After a while of thought and prayer, I watch each doorway as friends begin to congregate toward "their place"

There's love, closeness, ever binding unity and most of all sweet evidence of God's grace

Each week there are changes - the order of worship, a different scripture, new additions to the church and choir voices in song do raise

Most importantly, God is in every pew - his presence fills our needs and he hears us as we magnify him in praise

It's wonderful that this church congregation is not afraid to voice "Amen" or "Thank You, Lord"

Just any day folks all around can hear our hearts shout happiness and joy as we gather for worship in one accord

Thank you, Lord, for saving our souls

Thank you, Lord, for making us whole

As the road rises to meet us, the sun and rain will help us walk in moving sand

Hear our prayer, Lord, please keep all of us in the palm of your precious nail scarred hand

Nina

Seeking Volunteers



The **Digital Communications & Technology Team** is dedicated to being the digital front door for our Malesus United Methodist Church and spreading the Gospel message to our community and to the world

We'd like to think that we are doing a decent job of showing our community and the world what it is like to be a member of the Malesus UMC family. But our website and our Facebook page needs the outside world to come looking for us to be effective.

We need to dramatically improve our messaging out to the community, to tell them our message and encourage them to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are seeking talented persons who are knowledgeable of social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat, and Tic Tok. We don't need "experts" but we do need people who are reasonably proficient in using various social media platforms. Yes, we know that this probably means our younger members!

We believe that to fulfill our mission we must make a difference within our church family, within our community, and throughout the world. If you are looking for an opportunity to make a difference, please volunteer to serve on the Digital Communications & Technology Team. Besides, if you don't volunteer, we may have to come looking for you!



Thy Will be Done

Placing ourselves completely into God's hands can be challenging. If you need help in that area, pray these words from Thomas à Kempis: "Lord, you know what is best. May your will decide what shall be done.

Give what you will, how much you will and when you will. Do what you know is best for me. Do what pleases you and brings your name most honor.

"Put me where you will, and deal with me in all things as you please. I am in your hand — turn me backwards and forwards, turn me upside down. Here I am, your servant, ready for anything, for I have no desire to live for myself but only to live perfectly and worthily for you."



REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES

Bright yellow school buses are parked in bus barns and the kids are home eagerly enjoying summer vacation. But, it won't be long until the kids will be back in those school buses and in need of brand new school supplies for the 2023-2024 school year.

Starting mid-June into the month of July, our little school bus will once again be parked in the church narthex. You can slip your generous monetary gifts thru the door of the bus and one of the little people inside the bus will happily accept your gift to Reelfoot Rural Ministries. Also, a list of the needed school supplies is parked next to the school bus. If you enjoy shopping and would prefer to purchase the needed school supplies take a copy of the list with you. Your gifts, monetary or in-kind, will assist families in need that have school age children by preparing students for the 2023-2024 school year.

ALL donations need to be no later than July 9th.



Our mission is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples through our service to our church family, to our community, and to the world.

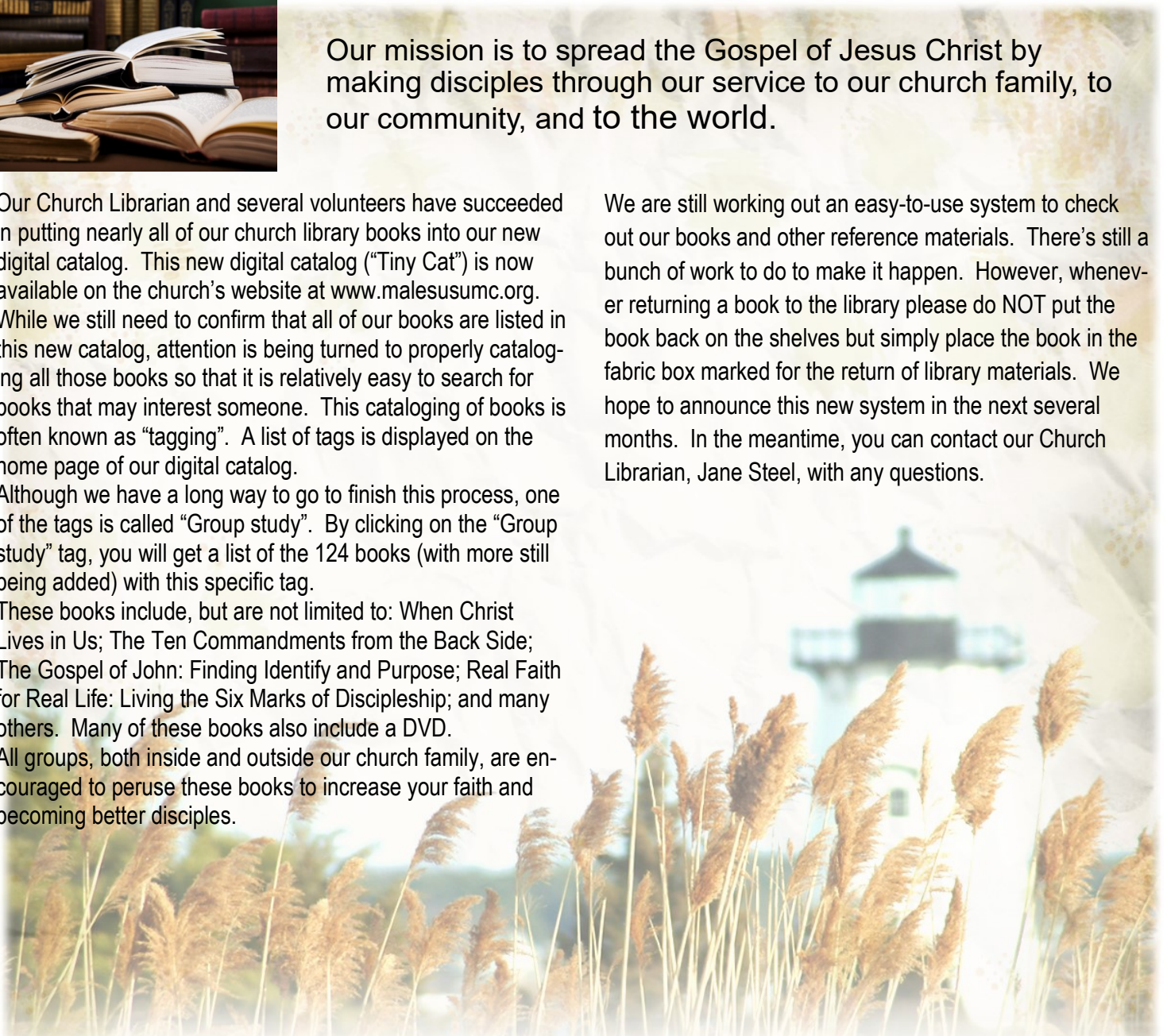
Our Church Librarian and several volunteers have succeeded in putting nearly all of our church library books into our new digital catalog. This new digital catalog ("Tiny Cat") is now available on the church's website at www.malesusumc.org. While we still need to confirm that all of our books are listed in this new catalog, attention is being turned to properly cataloging all those books so that it is relatively easy to search for books that may interest someone. This cataloging of books is often known as "tagging". A list of tags is displayed on the home page of our digital catalog.

Although we have a long way to go to finish this process, one of the tags is called "Group study". By clicking on the "Group study" tag, you will get a list of the 124 books (with more still being added) with this specific tag.

These books include, but are not limited to: When Christ Lives in Us; The Ten Commandments from the Back Side; The Gospel of John: Finding Identity and Purpose; Real Faith for Real Life: Living the Six Marks of Discipleship; and many others. Many of these books also include a DVD.

All groups, both inside and outside our church family, are encouraged to peruse these books to increase your faith and becoming better disciples.

We are still working out an easy-to-use system to check out our books and other reference materials. There's still a bunch of work to do to make it happen. However, whenever returning a book to the library please do NOT put the book back on the shelves but simply place the book in the fabric box marked for the return of library materials. We hope to announce this new system in the next several months. In the meantime, you can contact our Church Librarian, Jane Steel, with any questions.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you does not seem like enough to say for all you have done to care for Joe and me. First my surgery - you provided wonderful meals, cards, prayers, phone calls, and more. And about the time I was starting to be better, Joe had a heart attack and you took care of us again. This is truly one of the most caring groups of people. Thanks so much for caring and loving us during our time of need. God bless each of you.



Love,
Joe & Sandra Atherton

Dear Malesus Members,

Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you all so much for all of your prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy during the illness and death of my Daddy. You all are so special to me and I treasure your friendship and love.

Sincerely,
Shelley McQuin

Dear Church Family,

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the love and support shown for us during the loss of our beloved mother, Nina Young. For those of you who were able to attend her service—we thank you. All the cards, food brought by, and mostly your prayers have meant so much to us. Our hearts are full! We find comfort and peace knowing that our Mom is with our Lord and Savior, and our Dad. God bless you all.

Love,
Peggy and Rusty, Barry and Mona, & Family

Dear Malesus Methodist Church,

I want to thank your sweet Friendship Circle for the Valentine gift bag and the Easter basket that you sent to me.. You are always so kind to remember me and it just makes my day when I see that you took time to think of me.

Thank you for kindness.

Much love,



Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in Vacation Bible School this year. We had fun learning about Daniel and his friends, Jesus feeding the 5,000 and his time with his disciples eating by the shore. We tried foods that were different and made fun crafts to remind us of the Bible lessons.

I also appreciate the financial and prayer support of our congregation. A special thanks to the Mini Donut Bus for making our party extra special.

Yours in Christ,
Susan Wheatley

If you can't thank God for what you have,
thank Him for what you escaped.

Bible Quiz

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

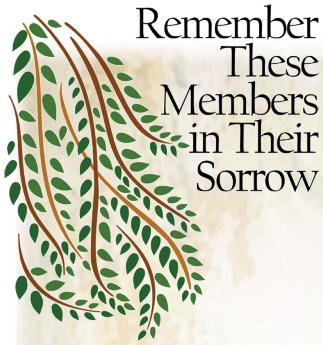
- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old

Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7.)



It's a Miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred. —J. Ellsworth Kalas



Remember
These
Members
in Their
Sorrow

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to members in their recent loss of loved ones. We hope they felt the love and prayers surrounding them in this difficult time.

Bill Wheatley and family in their loss of Bill's brother, Baxter Wheatley

Bo Perry & family in their loss of Bo's mother, Carolyn Perry

Shelley McCuin in the loss of her father, H.R. Blurton

Peggy Riley and family in their loss of Peggy's mother, Nina Young

Tyler and Alex Wortham in the loss of their mother, Resia Rainey


An Abundance of Gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

—Stephanie Martin



Our mission is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples through our service to our church family, to our community, and **to the world**.

As part of our mission to the world, the Good News Sunday School class is actively engaged with an organization named KIVA. KIVA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that enables anyone and everyone to loan money via the Internet to low-income entrepreneurs and students in 77 countries. KIVA uses crowd-funded micro-loans as a force for good, creating a space where people can have one-to-one impacts, and together, expand financial access in under-developed countries around the world.



Our 8th and latest loan recipient is Fanantenana from Madagascar. Fanantenana is 34 years old, married and has three children. She lives in a small rural village with her family. She is enterprising, earning a living farming and raising animals. She is proud of being able to contribute to making money for her household. Her spouse works as a driver.

With a previous loan she invested in her potato crops and she bought a pig with her profits. She also put some cash into savings as the family plans to construct a suitable house.

Fanantenana requested this loan to buy a cow, 2 more pigs and feed for the animals. She will keep the cow. The pigs will be fattened and sent to the butcher. She hopes to again make good profits to add to her savings for the future family home.

We believe that to fulfill our mission we must make a difference within our church family, within our community, and throughout the world. If you are looking for a Sunday School class and grow your faith by making a difference, please visit us in the church library.

And That's Good News!



DOLPHIN — Because dolphins often swim alongside ships, they've been used to symbolize Christ's presence, guiding people through earthly life and into eternal life. Although they're mammals, dolphins have been depicted as the fish that swallowed Jonah. Jesus compared his three days inside the tomb to Jonah's three days inside the fish, so dolphins also came to symbolize resurrection.



Mission News – July 2023

REELFOOT RURAL MISSIONS SCHOOL SUPPLIES :

Even though we are enjoying summer vacation, it won't be long till the kids are back in school in the Reelfoot Rural Missions area. You can shop for supplies or give a monetary gift for this project up until July 9. These gifts will assist families in need that have school age children in this impoverished area of West Tennessee.



HANNAH'S HOPE: Your loose change in baby bottles for Hannah's Hope amounted to \$504.53. A big thanks from all the children this will touch.

FIGHTING HUNGER: Right here on the local sceneOur **Blessings Box** continues to be used. Don't forget to share our blessings by sharing with those in need. **"Bring what you can, take what you need, but above all, be blessed"**

RIFA: Have you ever been REALLY hungry? Our church members served at RIFA on June 29. Follow on Facebook for weekly needs in the Soup Kitchen. RIFA serves meals every day at noon, and volunteers serve supper on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Our time to provide a meal is every fifth Thursday night. As always, thanks to the shoppers, cooks and servers. A very worthwhile way to give of your time!!

MISSION TRIP: Teresa Sanders is back from her Mission trip to Cuba. Thanks to those who supported her efforts with donations.



Princess Dresses: We need to get our sewing machines oiled up and working. If you think you might be interested in any aspect of making Princess dresses, contact Martha Morris. We need to get some dresses made to send with the next mission trip.

Habitat for Humanity: We are still waiting to get a date scheduled to help with one of the new Habitat houses in Jackson. More news to follow.

You may not be able to help with all of these projects—but pick a few and reach out to our neighbors. You will not regret it.



Prayer Brings Heaven to Earth

When you received Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes — earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God's home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.



But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord.

—Ben Jennings

Finding Freedom

What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits.

A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.

—Janna Firestone

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation



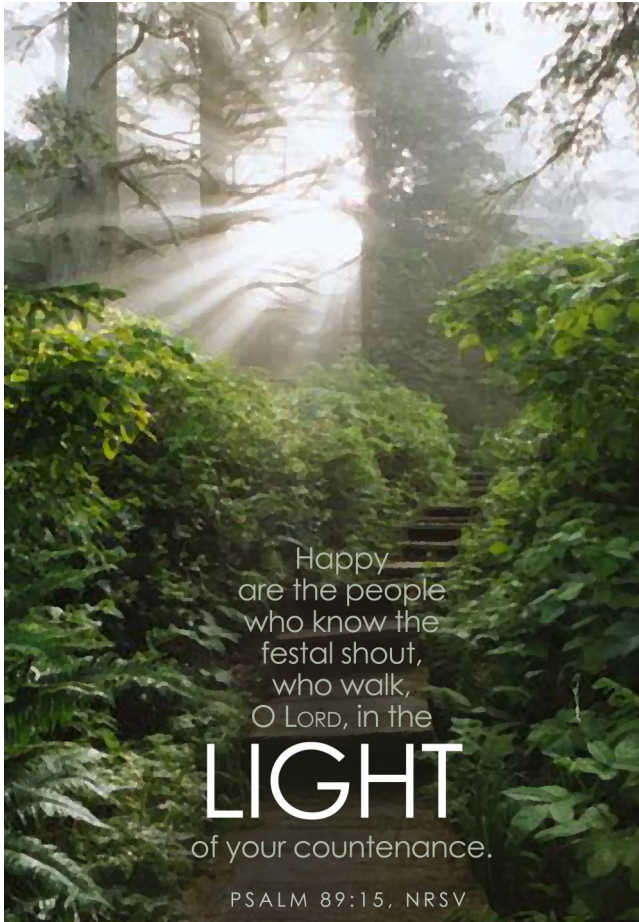
A Safe Sanctuaries Congregation



Our mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples through our service to our church, community , & world.

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God's Got You

In Roman 4 Paul writes: "If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ... For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace" (v. 14, 16, NRSV). Here and elsewhere, Paul firmly explains that we are saved through God's grace, or unconditional love, made known most profoundly in Jesus Christ. But this passage raises a question: If belief (trust, faith) reckons us as righteous before God, what if we don't trust, can't believe, have lost all faith?

Pastor Martin Luther (1483-1546) assures us that even this is a gift of God: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead *the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith*" (*The Small Catechism*; emphasis added). Later in Romans, Paul declares that when we feel so lost (unbelieving, lacking in faith) that we don't even know how to pray, the "Spirit himself intercedes for us" (8:26, NIV). Rest assured, dear one: God's got you. —Heidi Hyland Mann