

September 2023



Malesus United Methodist Church

The Beacon



In the upcoming months, I want to encourage you to take “Next Steps” in getting involved in many of the wonderful ministries taking place at Malesus. I have been encouraged and excited to share in these ministry opportunities.

I want to highlight some of these next step ministry opportunities where you can get involved. During our first week here, I had someone approach me before worship service, and said I want to pray for you before service.

On Tuesday of the first week, I met with a group of men at Jack’s to have prayer. Bacon, egg, and biscuits are pretty good, too. On Thursday I met with another group for prayer. There are 650 prayers mentioned in the Bible. Approximately 450 of them are answers to prayer. The Bible records Jesus praying 25 different times during his early ministry. Praying can be done anywhere and in any posture. The Bible does list five specific postures: Sitting, standing, kneeling, face to the ground, and with hands lifted up.

There are different kinds of prayers in the Bible: Prayer of faith, prayer of agreement, prayer of petition and supplication, prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of worship, prayers of consecration, prayers of intercession, prayers for justice, and praying in the Spirit. I encourage you to research these different prayers.

The Book of Acts Chapter 4 verses 29-30 records a prayer of the first century Church. It is interesting what they pray for. I hope you will read what they prayed for. Do we need to pray this prayer?

As followers of Christ in the twenty-first century, we can learn to pray this kind of prayer. God granted them an answer. I feel if we pray for what they prayed for, God will also answer us today!

I want to invite you to attend on Tuesday’s at 8am at Jack’s in south Jackson. You can attend on Thursday’s at 8am in the library at Malesus United Methodist Church. If you cannot attend either of these opportunities, maybe God would lead you to start an additional opportunity to gather and pray. Let’s keep praying!!!

Pastor Don

Finance Report

July books are not completed at the time of this printing. Information will be available as soon as they are closed.



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	\$676
Aug:	College Care Packages	\$385
Sept:	Maui Disaster Relief	
Oct:	Undetermined at this time	
Nov:	Reelfoot Toys	
Dec:	Christmas Offering	



When you're facing... ANGER

Ephesians 4:31-32
James 1:19-20
Proverbs 15:1



Breath Prayer
Help me understand your ways, Lord.



Our Weekly Stewardship

August 6, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	23
Worship	63
Offering	\$5,384.00

August 13, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	39
Worship	68
Offering	\$2,971.00

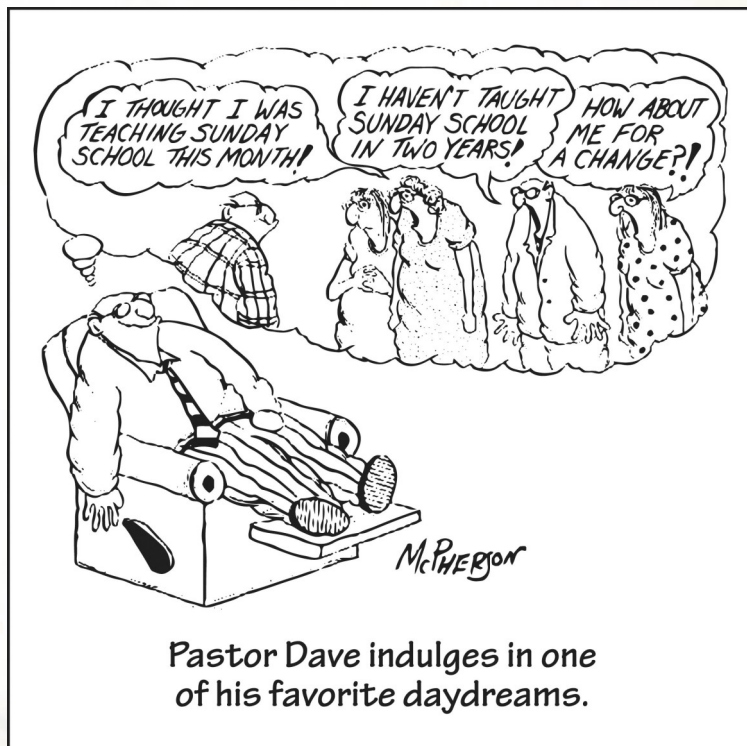
August 20, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	0
Worship	73
Offering	\$4,422.00

August 27, 2023

Attendance	
Sunday School	36
Worship	66
Offering	\$1,000.00

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.



Pastor Dave indulges in one of his favorite daydreams.



Talent Show!

Malesus UMC Potluck & Talent Show
 Wednesday, Sept. 20th
 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite dishes to share and come and sit back and enjoy



Our AED is in place and training for use of the machine was held on Wednesday, September 6th.



Choir Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal has resumed. Have you ever given thought to singing in the choir? Come on out and join in. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

"I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: 'Go down again — I dwell among the people.'"
 —John Henry Newman

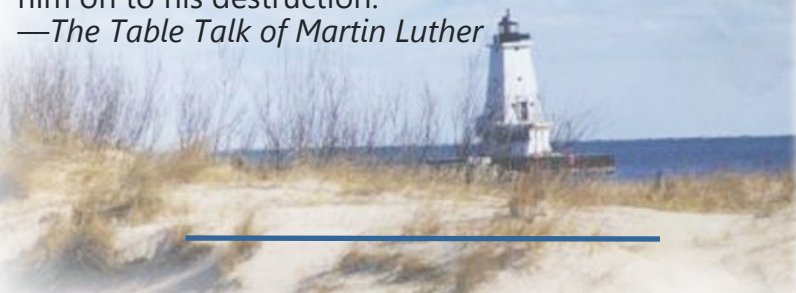
Join us on Wednesday evenings as we share in a study of the movie, *Jesus Revolution*. The study is from 6:40 pm - 7:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.



Joy in the Word of God

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—*The Table Talk of Martin Luther*



A Prayer That I May Do God's Will

The following is the Third-Step Prayer in Alcoholics Anonymous. It's surely a prayer we all can make, that God's will — not ours — may be done and guide our lives.

God, I offer myself to thee
 to build with me and to do with me as thou wilt.
 Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will.

Take away my difficulties,
 that victory over them may bear witness
 to those I would help of thy power,
 thy love and thy way of life.
 May I do thy will always!



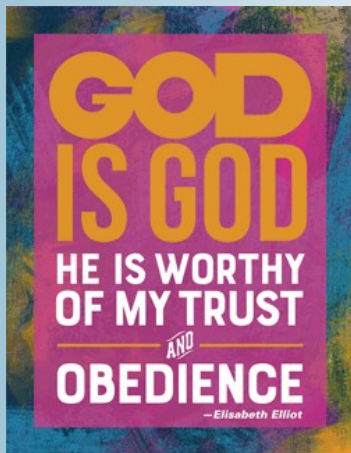
DISASTER RELIEF FOR MAUI

Many families and businesses in Maui communities have been devastated by wildfires that ravaged this Hawaiian island recently. Many of have lost their homes, all their belongings, businesses, and most tragically, many lives have been lost.

In response to this crisis the Malesus Missions team, thru UMCOR, has organized a Maui Disaster Relief Fund to help those affected by this natural disaster. We are asking for your support in this effort by making a generous donation to the Maui Relief Fund.

Throughout the remaining weeks of August and continuing into September donations to the Missions Fund will be designated for helping the people of Maui. Checks may be made payable to Malesus UMC with the word(s) Maui or Maui Relief written in the memo portion of your check. Communion Rail offerings for the month of September are designated for this purpose, and On-Line Giving is also available. Your contribution, no matter how small, will make a big difference in the lives of those affected by this disaster.

With your prayers and your generous contribution to the Maui Relief Fund our church family will be a blessing to many and a reflection of God's love.



Total Trust

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

"God is God," says Elliot. "Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks, "Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next."

The Value of Solid Relationships

"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."



Mission News – September 2023

For the month of September, our Communion rail offering will be going to UMCOR to assist with the needs of those suffering losses from the Maui Wildfires.

College and Military Boxes: Our College & Military Care Packages have been sent out to 14 students and 1 serving in the Military. Thanks to all who helped purchase items, packed them and contributed to the Communion offering for this cause. Your \$385 made 15 young people feel your love and care.

5th Thursday at RIFA: Thanks to all who helped served supper to our friends at the RIFA Soup Kitchen on Thursday August 31. Meet us at RIFA at 4:30 and it will be an experience you will never forget. How many of us are really grateful for a good meal?

FIGHTING HUNGER : Right here on the local scene... Our **Blessings Box** has been used regularly. Buy a few extra items, and don't forget the toiletries and/or cleaning supplies that may be needed, too. **“Bring what you can, take what you need, but above all, be blessed.”**

MANNA BAGS: Thanks to the Good News Sunday School class for supplying the Manna bags for all of us to distribute as we are out and about. You never know how much a small gesture might brighten up someone's day.

Communion Rail Offering: In October our CRO will be going to the Care Center of Jackson. This is a Center serving women and children in downtown Jackson who are recovering from an abusive or bad relationship. The Center takes no government funding, so they can require the families to attend worship and educational sessions. They have a longstanding record of many successful stories, and have helped many families get back on the right track.

Shoebboxes: Looking ahead—start getting your supplies ready for a **Samaritan Shoebox in October**—or plan to order one online.

As we continue to reach out to our community, keep your eyes and ears open. If you see a need, share it with one of your fellow church members—maybe we can take care of each other!!

Next Missions meeting: Sunday September 24 at 2pm immediately after Congregational Care meeting.



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
- 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
- Breakfast, Meal, & Granola Bars
- And certainly, personal care items.

God's Helpers

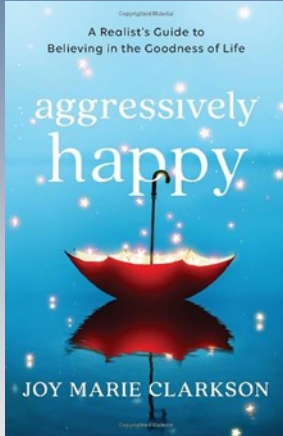
God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."

—George Buttrick

CHOOSE JOY

JAMES 1:2-3





The Good News Sunday School class is pleased to announce the next book to be studied has been selected. With happy hearts, we will begin on Sunday, September 3rd with the book *“aggressively happy: A Realist’s Guide to Believing in the Goodness of Life”* by Joy Clarkson.

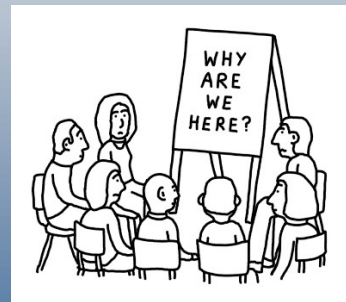
Published in 2022, **Joy Marie Clarkson** is a doctoral candidate at the Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts at Scotland's ancient University of St. Andrews, where she teaches courses in theology and ethics. She hosts the *Speaking with Joy* podcast, which offers an arsenal of good stories, music, and imagery. She writes regularly for publications such as *Christianity Today*, *Plough*, and the *American Bible Society*. She has co-authored one book, *Girl's Club with Sally and Sarah Clarkson*, and wrote the *Girl's Club Experience*, a small group guide based on the trade book.

Joy says: *“This world can be exhausting, despairing, and cynical. But you don't have to be. Instead, you can unlock the power to a happy life--an act of defiance that will make you more resilient in times of turmoil, pain, and chaos. Cultivating happiness takes grit, determination, and a good sense of humor. It's not always easy, but it's well worth it.”*

Joy Marie Clarkson leads the way, crafting an audacious case for happiness no matter what you're going through. With her signature humor and lyrical storytelling, Joy offers an irresistible invitation: *“If we accept that life will be full of difficulties and sorrows, we then have two options: to resign ourselves to life generally being a bummer, or to seek enjoyment, delight, and hope in the midst of (and in spite of!) life's up and downs. To put it bluntly: You could choose to cultivate happiness, or you could not - I think we should go for it.”*

We choose an aggressively happy life.

If you are still searching for a Sunday School class that can make a difference in your life and the life of your church family, please consider joining us.



Thank you to my church family:
When I became ill at church, you surrounded me with your kindness and was largely responsible for getting me to the hospital in a timely way. For this I am forever grateful. Since that day you have extended your friendship and kindness through your thoughts and prayers and your cards and phone calls. A special thank you to minister Don and Connie for their visit. I continue to recover and I am grateful for that opportunity. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



Normagene

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$228 to Project Peanut Butter from your Mission Day. 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to the feeding programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since PPB is a nonprofit organization, it is only possible with your continued support to help with the treatment of our children. A donation of just \$40 provides the cost of a life altering, 8 week treatment for a child in need.

We appreciate and thank you for being a part of our journey. Your steadfast love and support do not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mark Manning and the PPB Team

Thank you to the Malesus group who brought the library piano to the parsonage. Also, thank you to the congrega-



One-Way Ticket

While on a red-eye flight from California to Philadelphia on a stormy night, evangelist Tony Campolo sat near someone who wanted to chat. Upon learning that Campolo was a Christian, the seatmate said, "I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia," meaning you can get there by various modes of transportation. "We all end up at the same place."

When Campolo woke from a nap and saw that the descending airplane was circling Philly in the fog, he told his neighbor, "I'm glad the pilot doesn't agree with your theology." Confused, the man asked what Campolo meant.

"The people in the control tower are giving instructions to the pilot: 'Coming north by northwest, three degrees, you're on beam, don't deviate from the beam.' I'm glad the pilot's not saying, 'There are many ways into the airport. There are many approaches we can take.' I'm glad the pilot's saying, 'There's only one way we can land this plane, and I'm going to stay with it.'"




Bible Quiz

Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to _____ the world, but to _____ the world." Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to

Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)




I thank God for those who know me so well,
and still love me so much. 

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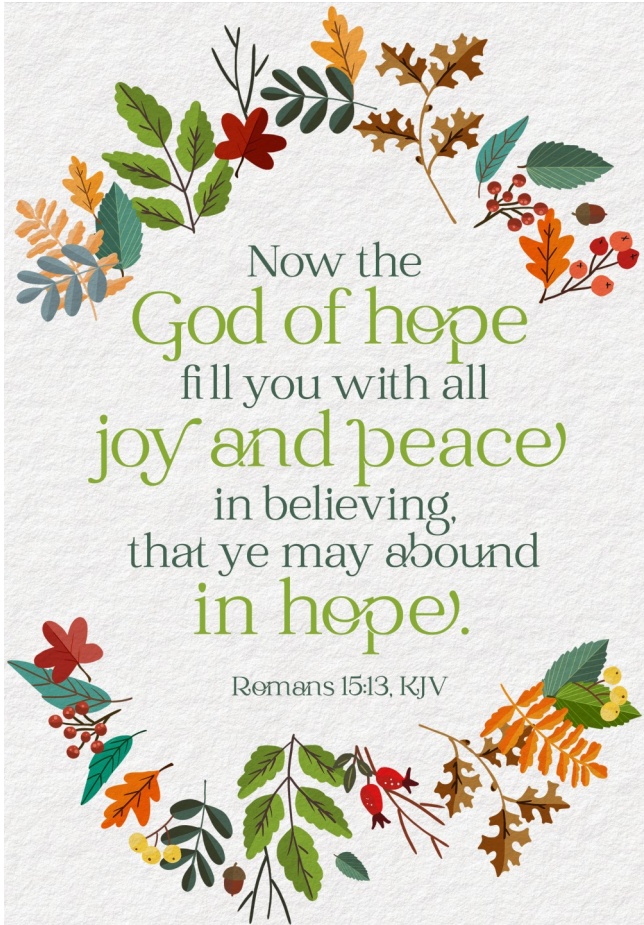
 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

 A Safe Sanctuaries Congregation



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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



Christian Symbol



STONE TABLETS — The tablets of stone symbolize God’s giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They’re often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV

through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

Safe & Sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.

—James Bryan Smith