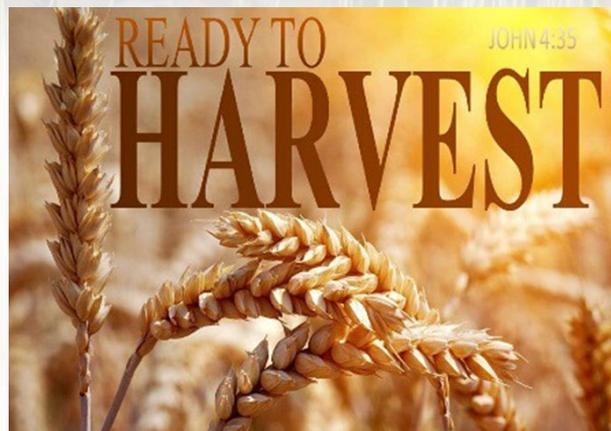


October 2023



Malesus United Methodist Church

# *The Beacon*



Ready or not harvest time is here! Let's give a big shout out to all the Farmers. This is a busy time for them. They are harvesting so the rest of the world can eat. Farmers don't work by the hour; they work by the acre. Be sure and thank them for all that they do!

The Gospel of John chapter 4 and verse 35 speaks about harvest time. Harvest Time is when we reap what we sow. Whatever kind of seed you planted, that's what you are going to reap. Jesus is using the metaphor of a harvest to describe the readiness of people to receive the gospel. Jesus has been sowing seeds in the hearts of the Samaritans.

This was a challenge for the disciples to have a vision for the kingdom of God, and to see the opportunities and needs of people around them. To look beyond their circumstances and prejudices, and to see that God was at work in unexpected places and people, even the Samaritans!

We can't see the opportunities all around us in all the unexpected places and people unless we ask God to open our spiritual eyes to see. Will you join me in asking God to open our spiritual eyes. Nothing is impossible with God!!!

Pastor, Don

# FINANCE REPORT

Financial Report year-to-date, as of August 31, 2023.

Pledged giving is at 97% of budget amount year-to-date.

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

Total income is at 95% of budgeted year-to-date.

Total expenses are at 96% of budgeted amount year-to-date.

August Income: \$14,892.80

August Expenses: \$15,933.27

Funds needed to date: \$132,720.00

Funds received to date: \$126,105.75



# Our Weekly Stewardship

## September 3, 2023

### Attendance

Sunday School	N/A
Worship	63
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$4,324.00</b>

## September 10, 2023

### Attendance

Sunday School	37
Worship	65
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$5,530.00</b>

## September 17, 2023

### Attendance

Sunday School	36
Worship	67
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$1,910.00</b>

## September 24, 2023

### Attendance

Sunday School	38
Worship	68
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$1,760.00</b>

*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	\$676
Aug:	College Care Packages	\$385
Sept:	Maui Disaster Relief	\$1,596
Oct:	Hurricane Idalia Relief	
Nov:	Reelfoot Toys	
Dec:	The Care Center	

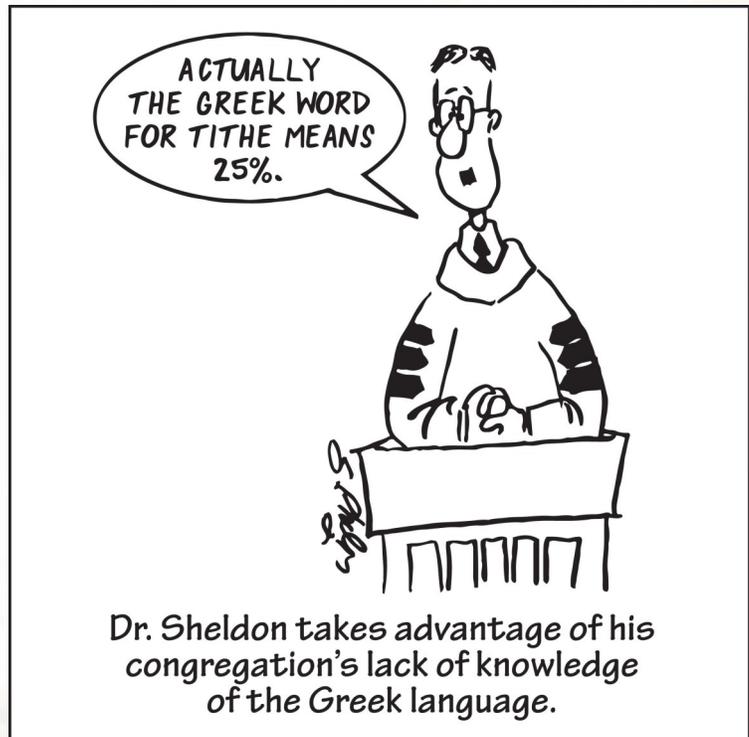


When you need... COURAGE

I Chronicles 28:20  
Hebrews 13:6



Breath Prayer  
Resting in you,  
Lord.





This year our Fall Festival will be on Wednesday, October 25th. We plan to have games, crafts, and some rooms for the children to visit for treats. Please help support this event by donating candy or small trinkets, or by helping decorate a door or room, or by helping with a game or craft. We are in planning stages and appreciate any and all participation. Help celebrate Fall and our



...Making disciples through our service to our Community...

The next time you donate to our church Blessings Box, attach an invitation for our community to join us in worship and prayer. One side of the invitation invites people to worship, the other side with an invitation to let us lift them or a loved one up in prayer.

The format is available in MS Word for you to print at home. You can print the invitations on letter size paper, or on business card stock. Then cut or separate and affix to your food donation.

\*\*\*\*

In addition, each month a separate invitation will be placed in the Blessings Box inviting a community member to join us at our Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner.

The digital file is available from the Church Office or by contacting Joyce Martin

*Share with the Lord's people who are in need.  
Practice Hospitality. Romans 12:13*



All talented Malesus artists, crafters & bakers should now be busy with their special tools preparing treasures for the 3rd Annual Silent Auction in conjunction with our 2023 Christmas Dinner scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd.

Last year over 70 fabulous items were crafted and/or donated to make the event led by the Congregational Care Team a huge success.

Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex. And remember, all auction items, except baked goods, must be turned in no later than Sunday, November 26th.

For more information please  
Speak to Joyce Martin.



*Come  
and Worship*

*You're  
Invited!*



The Missions Team has designated the Communion Rail Offering for October for **HURRICANE IDALIA RELIEF.**

It will be a long & tough struggle for many of the victims to rebuild & recover from this disaster.

We are called upon by Jesus to help our neighbor. These victims are most definitely our neighbors. Let each of us do our share & more!

## *Please Raise The Roof & Give Generously*

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### **Starting a Ripple Effect**

Shortly before his death, 80-year-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the money came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."

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It's time to check for expired items in the Manna Bags that we carry in our cars to provide to the needy and homeless in our area. These Bags with expired items should be placed in the marked plastic container in the Narthex.

New Manna Bags are also available in the Narthex.

These Manna Bags have an important role in our mission to help the less fortunate in our community. They also provide a personal opportunity for each of us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

## Mission News – October 2023

The generosity of Malesus Methodist continues to knock me over. Our Communion rail offering in September of \$1,596 has been sent to help those suffering losses from the Maui Wildfires. Our United Methodist Committee on Relief is present whenever disaster strikes, worldwide, representing each one of us.

Our Communion rail offering for October will be going to support the UMCOR efforts to help those struck by Hurricane Idalia in Florida and South Carolina. In November, our offering will go toward our Reelfoot Toys.

**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:** Be checking your Manna bags for any expired items and bring them back to exchange them. 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.

**SAMARITAN SHOEBOXES:** Looking ahead—start getting your supplies ready for a Samaritan Shoeboxes in October—or plan to order one online before Nov. 19.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** The Habitat for Humanity House has been started in Jackson and they will be needing some volunteers this fall. Contact Debbie Durham to get your name on the volunteer list.

**LIVE NATIVITY: RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER--** Plans are being made for our Live Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10. Sign up early and sign up several places for your favorite way to help. We need everybody to come out and enjoy presenting the Christmas story together. Bring your neighbors, families, friends, enemies or recent acquaintances. Let's work together to share the "Reason for the Season"

Your Mission team has recently sent some supplies to Southside for their Student Closet. Thanks, Melissa Perry for reaching out to the students in this way. We also have sent over 50 towels and washcloths to the Jackson Care Center, for the women living in their facility. With 40 women and children, there are never enough towels!

As we continue to reach out to our community, keep your



### 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 & Veggies  
Boxed Meal Kits - add the Canned Meat to go with it  
Mac & Cheese  
Non-refrigerated Milk  
Cereals  
Oatmeal  
Spaghetti or Alfredo Sauce & Pasta  
Breakfast, Meal, & Granola Bars  
And certainly, personal care items.

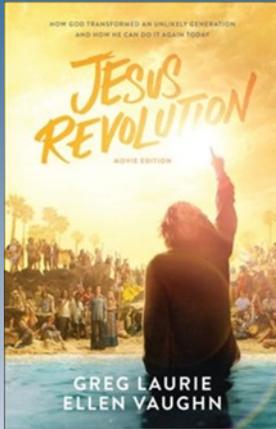
### Grateful for Grace

In this oneness, Jesus Christ is the Mediator, the Reconciler, between God and man. Thus he comes forward to man on behalf of God, calling for and awakening faith, love and hope, and to God on behalf of man, representing man, making satisfaction and interceding. Thus he attests and guarantees to God's free grace and at the same time attests and guarantees to God man's free gratitude.

—Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God*

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 October 29 at 2pm immediately after Congregational Care meeting.  
Anyone interested will be welcomed.**



A copy of the book “Jesus Revolution: How God Transformed an Unlikely Generation” has been donated to the church library. It can be checked out by contacting our Church Librarian (Jane Steel). The movie of the same name is primarily based upon this book.

God has always been interested in turning unlikely people into his most fervent followers. Prostitutes and pagans, tax collectors and tricksters. The more unlikely, the more it seemed to please God and to demonstrate his power, might, and mercy. America in the 1960s and 1970s was full of unlikely people--men and women who had rejected the stuffy religion of their parents' generation, who didn't follow the rules, didn't fit in. The perfect setting for the greatest spiritual awakening of the 20th century.

With passion and purpose, Greg Laurie and Ellen Vaughn tell the amazing true story of the Jesus Movement, an extraordinary time of mass revival, renewal, and reconciliation. Setting fascinating personal stories within the context of one of the most tumultuous times in modern history, the authors draw important parallels with our own time of spiritual apathy or outright hostility, offering hope for the next generation of unlikely believers--and for the next great American revival.

Those who lived through the Jesus Revolution will find in this book an inspiring reminder of the times and people that shaped their lives and faith. Younger readers will discover a forgotten part of recent American history and, along with it, a reason to believe that God is not finished with their generation.

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## The Body, Glorified

“I believe in ... the resurrection of the body,” we confess in the Apostles’ Creed. Yet often we speak of death of the *body*, reassuring ourselves and others that the person’s *soul* is in heaven with God. The body/soul split is rooted in ancient Greek understanding, not Christian teaching. God chose to take on the physical body as the person Jesus, and Paul uses that very image to describe the Church.

Author Flannery O’Connor reflects on this wonder in *The Habit of Being*: “For me it is the virgin birth, the Incarnation, the resurrection which are the true laws of the flesh and the physical. Death, decay, destruction are the suspension of these laws. I am always astonished at the emphasis the Church puts on the body. It is not the soul she says that will rise but the body, glorified.”

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Faith is daring the soul to go where the eyes can’t see.

Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be

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 9<sup>th</sup> and latest loan recipient is Aizada from Kyrgyzstan. Aizada is 35 years old, married, with 4 children. Her husband raises sheep and cattle on a small ranch. She is a school teacher who dreams of providing more and better opportunities for her pupils. She hopes that a new laptop and cell phone will enable her to make a difference with her students. On an interesting note, she speaks Russian.*

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. We also have coffee on most mornings! And That's Good News!



## MEN'S MINISTRY

Attention Malesus UMC Men:

You are cordially invited to attend a Men's Ministry Event, hosted by Malesus Baptist Church, on Saturday, October 21st.

Gather with us to watch the game and afterwards we will be treated to a message from David Burton, of David Burton Enterprises.

Mark the date. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins, on our Facebook Page, and our website.



## Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)



"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."

—Native American saying



The Nelson's / Pinson Baptist Church  
Friday, October 13, 2023 / 6:00 PM / Love Offering Event

Dear Church,  
We, Pinson Baptist Church, would like to take this time to invite you to come and worship with us on Friday night, October 13th, 2023 at 6:00 pm. We would love to have you come and enjoy The Nelons as they bring to us a great night of worship in song. This will be a Love Offering event.  
We look forward to seeing you there!



The Friendship Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, October 24th, at 10:00 am. The October Project will be to work on Live Nativity items. If you'd like to be a part of this Circle, contact Anita Sanders.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – PACK A SHOEBOX ONLINE

Join the Malesus church family in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children living in remote places of our world. We can participate in evangelism and discipleship by packing shoebox gifts online for Operation Christmas Child. For every shoebox you purchase, at a cost of \$25 each, you may select the items you wish to pack online and Samaritan's Purse will pack the shoeboxes and send them for you in Jesus' Name. Be sure to share this opportunity with others and let's see what God will do!



portunity with others and let's see what God will do!

### To Shop Online

Follow the links shown below to arrive at the Goal Page for Malesus UMC.

- ◆ [Build A Shoebox Online \(samaritanspurse.org\)](https://www.samaritanspurse.org)
- ◆ Scroll Down to **SEARCH FOR A GOAL PAGE**
- ◆ Enter our church's identifying Page Title as

# Congregational Care

There is a saying that goes something like this – “Laughter does the heart good, like a good medicine”. For the 75 or so from Bemis and Malesus that attended the Talent Show and Potluck Meal they received a good dose of medicine. A special thanks goes to Loret Evens and all of our entertainers. The food was great and the entertainment was even better. Thanks again to all that had a part in the planning of this special night.

Also, thanks to those that assisted with the Joint Worship Service with Bemis and Malesus families. And we can't forget the food. We had 78 that attended.

It's October, time to get your calendars out and start planning for the holidays. Our annual **Thanksgiving Potluck Meal** will be **Wednesday November 15th** at 5:30 pm. Even though this is “potluck”, we need you to contact the Church Office and make reservations. Cathy Riley will be preparing the turkey, dressing, rolls, and beverages. Everyone is asked to bring all the side dishes and desserts. We will be inviting Bemis to join us. Making reservations helps Cathy know how much turkey and dressing to prepare. **Reservations** need to be made by **November 5th**. Get your favorite recipes out and start planning the side dishes you will bring.

Our annual **Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction** will be Saturday **December 2nd**. The Auction will begin at 5:00 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. This will again be a catered meal and you will need to make reservations. More details to follow in the November newsletter.



## What is Lament?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we're raised to stay silent if we can't say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn't seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God's perspective. As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what's troubling us. He knows that this world's woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.

—Janna Firestone

## Gathered as One Body

On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

"This do in remembrance of me," Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. "In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south

**"The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."** —Søren Kierkegaard



We tend to think of clouds as gloomy, Lord, but your pillar of cloud protected the newly escaped Hebrews from their Egyptian enslavers. May we sense your protection in the clouds of life. Amen.

**We love  
our pastor!**

Thanks for ministering to our church.

**Malesus U.M.C.**  
448 Old Malesus Rd.  
Jackson, TN 38301  
(731) 427-9195  
www.malesusumc.org

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 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

 A Safe Sanctuaries Congregation



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Giving

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



**WATER** — Water flows through the Scriptures: the Flood, the Red Sea crossing, water springing from a rock to nourish Israelites in the wilderness, the healing of Naaman's leprosy when he washed in the Jordan River, John baptizing Jesus and, chiefly, our baptism into Christ. The water of baptism symbolizes cleansing from sin, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and God raising us from death (drowning in sin) to life everlasting. Just as we cannot live without physical water, neither can we truly live without the living water Jesus gives (see John 4:13-14).

We are tenants, not owners, of this "vineyard" — this earth, this life. God, as we live and work in your vineyard, teach us to cultivate love.