

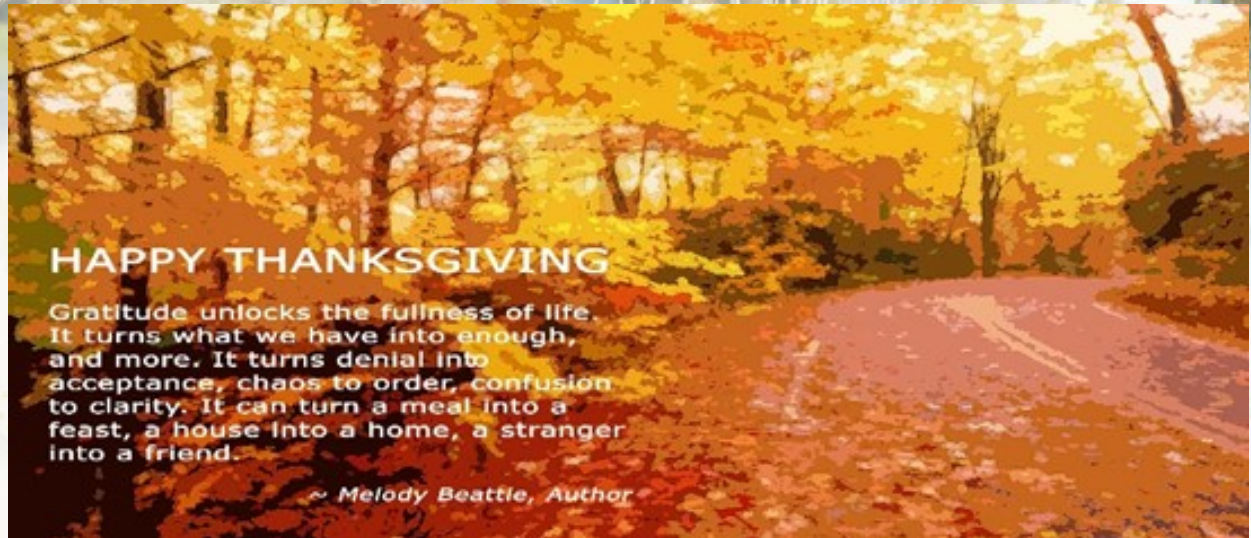
November 2023



Malesus United Methodist Church

The Beacon

"It makes the work worthwhile."



2 Thessalonians 3:13

"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing."

You may have heard this story about two old friends who ran into each other in a local restaurant. The one was an Administrative Assistant at a university. They greeted each other and talked a bit. It was clear she was under the pressure and push that accompanies a new school year. They traded a few memories, caught up on the news and even had a good laugh.

The other friend wanted to share an encouraging thought before leaving. Leaning toward her, he said, "Remember, when it's all said and done, it's all about the students." She smiled, relaxed, and reflected, "You are right. I must remember that; it makes the work worthwhile."

2 Thessalonians 3:13 reminds us to connect the "daily push to a greater purpose."

Let me end with a second story. It's about an old dog that spent his days in the backyard, sniffing out one spot and then another, rarely lifting his head. The dog had one change in routine that coincided with the lunar calendar. On the night the full moon rose, the canine would lift his head and howl. But the dog never made a connection between sniffing about and the splendor of the moon. After all, he was a dog.

I'm sure with Thanksgiving just around the corner and Christmas in December things are going to be busy. It's inevitable and inescapable! The point I want to make is connecting the "daily push to a greater purpose."

Yes, everyone will be busy for the next two months, but don't forget to make the connection. Let's connect our busyness to a greater purpose!

*Wishing all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving,
Pastor Don*

FINANCE REPORT

Financial Report year-to-date, as of September 1, 2023.

Pledged giving is at 95% of budget amount year-to-date.

Unpledged giving is approximately 86% of budgeted amount year-to-date.

Total income is at 94% of budgeted year-to-date.

Total expenses are at 97% of budgeted amount year-to-date.

August Income: \$13,624.00

August Expenses: \$17,243.01

Funds needed to date: \$149,310.00

Funds received to date: \$139,729.75



Our Weekly Stewardship

October 1, 2023

Attendance

Sunday School	34
Worship	52
Offering	\$5,946.00

October 8, 2023

Attendance

Sunday School	26
Worship	48
Offering	\$3,155.00

October 15, 2023

Attendance

Sunday School	20
Worship	47
Offering	\$5,375.00

October 22, 2023

Attendance

Sunday School	29
Worship	53
Offering	\$1,565.00

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	\$676
Aug:	College Care Packages	\$385
Sept:	Mauai Disaster Relief	\$1,596
Oct:	Hurricane Idalia Relief	\$757
Nov:	Reelfoot Toys	
Dec:	The Care Center	

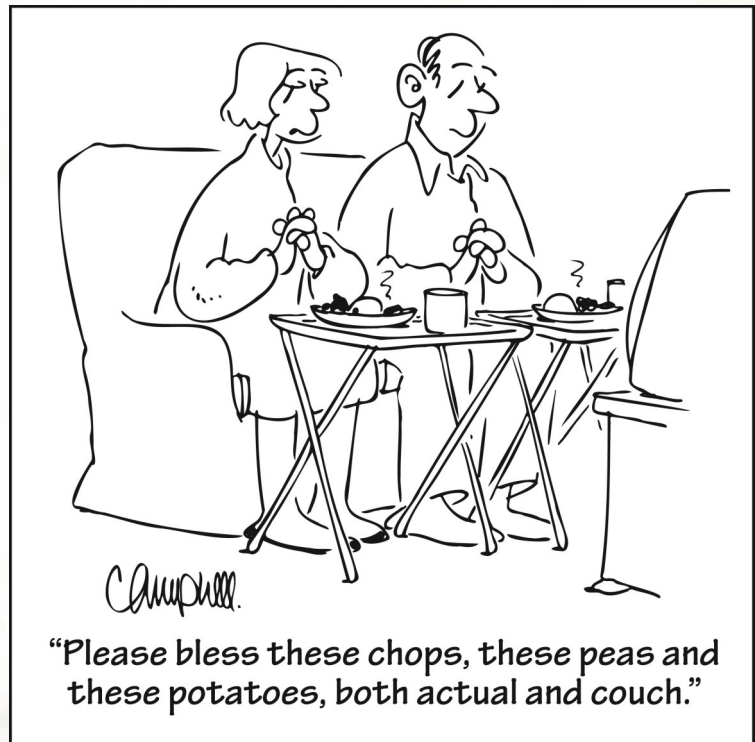


When you're facing ...
ANXIETY

1 Peter 5:7
Matthew 11: 8-30



Breath Prayer
I belong to you, O Lord!



Campbell

"Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch."

Fall Festival Thank You

Due to unforeseen illness, I was unable to plan the Fall Festival like it was intended. It warmed my heart to know that our church family is so supportive when a need arises. Many unknown and known helpers stepped in and put the festival together and for that, may God be glorified and thanks be given to you. Thank you so very much.

With much love in Christ,
Susan Wheatley

Many
Thanks!



God doesn't need your advice —



Did you know that Reelfoot Rural Ministries (RMM) in Obion, TN maintains a **CHRISTMAS TOY STORE** where disadvantaged parents can “buy” toys for their children? The cost to the parent is just \$3 per child. Our generous Communion Rail Offerings for November will go to support this very worthwhile endeavor. While physical toys are welcome, Reelfoot Rural Missions would prefer cash donations in order to obtain the toys which best meet the needs of their community. About 1,200 children each year receive toys purchased at the Christmas Toy Store!

The deadline for Malesus UMC to send donations to RMM is November 13th.

Please do your part to support this program.

Artists and crafters from our Malesus family have been busy preparing beautiful items to be featured during the Silent Auction held in conjunction with our 3rd Annual 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. This year's Silent Auction will also feature a Mystery Box, if you'd like to donate an item to surprise the high bidder of this addition to the Silent Auction, place it wrapped/bagged and appropriately marked "Mystery Gift", and place in the mission cart.

Below is a PREVIEW of a few of the exciting hand-crafted Silent Auction items you'll be able to bid on at the Christmas Dinner on December 2nd. Bidding will open at 5:00 pm.



STAINED GLASS SPINNER



HAND TURNED BOWL



QUILTED MAGNOLIA TABLE TOPPER



SLOTH
HANGING BASKET



CHERRY END TABLE



CROSS STITCH
HOME DECOR



LIGHTHOUSE TAPESTRY



CHEERY SANTA
HOME DECOR



CHARCUTERIE BOARDS

There's still time to contribute your handiwork and new items you wish to donate to the Silent Auction! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

All auction items, except baked goods, must be turned in no later than Sunday, November 26th. For more information please speak with Joyce Martin

Mission News – November 2023

We all have a mission- to reach out and be the hands and feet of God's love---and in 2023 your Missions committee thanks you for doing just that: in many ways, our congregation has reached out and touched many in our community. THANKS!

Communion Rail Offering for November will be going to our Reelfoot Toy Store, and in December will be designated for the Jackson Care Center, helping some of our own Jackson women who are facing difficult times in their lives.

Blessings Box: When you go shopping, put a little extra in your basket, and find out how you can bless someone in need. **“Bring what you can, take what you need, but above all, be blessed”**

Samaritan Purse Shoeboxes: Remember to pack one online or bring one up to the church by Nov. 15. If you need labels, there are some in our Mission Cart.

RIFA: Our next RIFA meal is coming up on Nov. 30. We will need shoppers and servers. Thanks to our volunteers for our “Fifth Thursday” meal. A very worthwhile way to give of your time!!

Live Nativity: Coming up Dec 9-10—from 6-8. Put it on your calendar and plan on helping out as you can. Everybody will be needed to help reach out to our community with the “Reason for the Season”



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.

A Powerful Witness

St. Ignatius of Antioch was a bishop and martyr in the early years of Christianity, well known for his extensive writing about Christ and the church. On his journey to martyrdom in the early second century, he wrote letters to the Christian communities of the time that are still instructive today.

On November 1 we celebrate All Saints' Day, remembering all who have died in faith, as well as particular models of strong faith whom the church has named “saints.” Especially inspiring — and challenging — are these words of Ignatius, written near the end of his life: “I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire.”

More important to God than your ability,
is your availability.

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**.

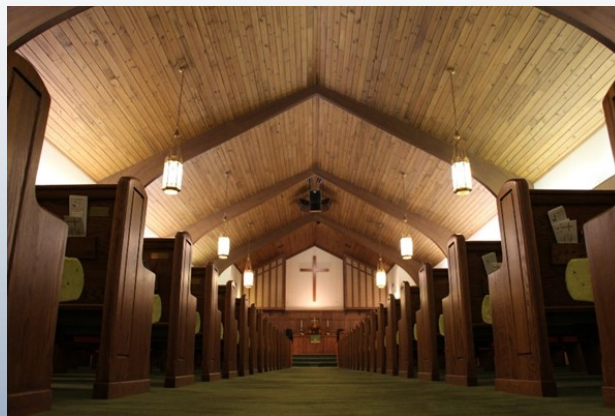
As part of our mission to the world, the Good News Sunday School class is actively engaged with an organization named KIVA. KIVA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that enables anyone and everyone to loan money via the Internet to low-income entrepreneurs and students in 77 countries. KIVA uses crowd-funded 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 10th and latest loan recipient is **Jorge Luis** in Nicaragua. He is 25 years old and married with one child. For the past four years, he has been raising and selling chickens. By generating income in this manner, he is able to put food on the table each day.

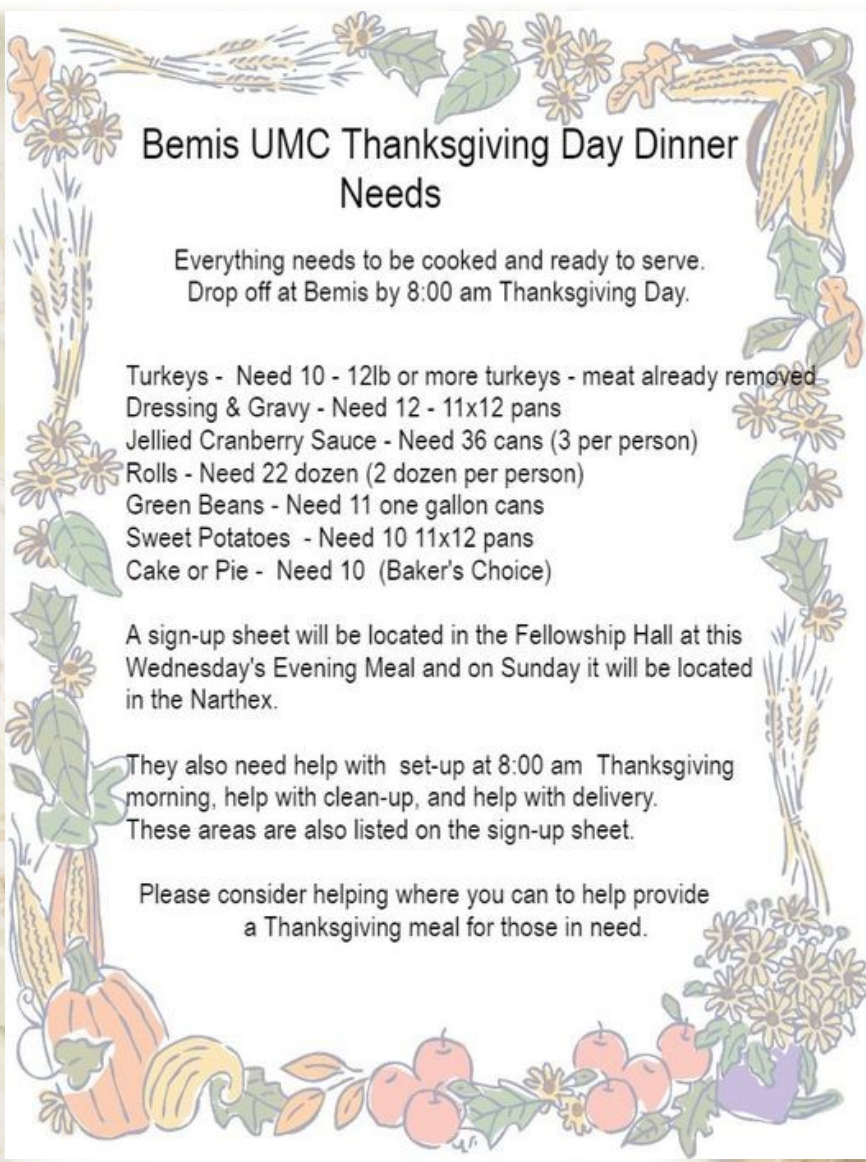
Jorge requested a Kiva loan to buy wire mesh, cement, and sand to expand his chicken coop so that he can raise more chickens and generate more sales. Jorge dreams of owning a large chicken farm. An anonymous donor has doubled our donation.

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.



This is one of the many pictures considered for the Home Page of our Website at www.malesusumc.org.

Unfortunately, all of the considered pictures had **EMPTY** pews!
If you have pictures of the interior of our beautiful sanctuary with **FILLED** pews, please send them to Paul Martin at pjm1096@aol.com so that we can present a better first impression to anybody digitally visiting our church and our church family.



Bemis UMC Thanksgiving Day Dinner Needs

Everything needs to be cooked and ready to serve.
Drop off at Bemis by 8:00 am Thanksgiving Day.

Turkeys - Need 10 - 12lb or more turkeys - meat already removed
Dressing & Gravy - Need 12 - 11x12 pans
Jellied Cranberry Sauce - Need 36 cans (3 per person)
Rolls - Need 22 dozen (2 dozen per person)
Green Beans - Need 11 one gallon cans
Sweet Potatoes - Need 10 11x12 pans
Cake or Pie - Need 10 (Baker's Choice)

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Fellowship Hall at this Wednesday's Evening Meal and on Sunday it will be located in the Narthex.

They also need help with set-up at 8:00 am Thanksgiving morning, help with clean-up, and help with delivery. These areas are also listed on the sign-up sheet.

Please consider helping where you can to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for those in need.

We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.
~ Robert Louis Stevenson



MALESUS UMC LIVE NATIVITY

Once again, the Malesus UMC family will present the true meaning of Christmas to the community thru its annual Live Nativity. The event is scheduled for the weekend of December 9th and 10th.

Is there a favorite part you like to play in the cast?
Sign up early!!!

There's also a sign-up sheet for those who prefer working on the crew.
Sign-up Sheets are in the narthex.

Did we mention - **SIGN-UP EARLY?!**



What's Your November?

For Davey Blackburn, a pastor in Indiana, one particular month has brought "the highest of highs and the lowest of lows." He was born in November, moved to a new church in November 2011 and learned he'd be a father in November 2013. But two years later, in November 2015, Blackburn's wife and unborn second child were murdered during a home invasion.

Despite that painful tragedy, the pastor determined not to "let the enemy have a claim over November" or "steal the many beautiful memories I once held" about it. Since then, his church's worship team recorded an album one November, he proposed to his second wife another November, launched a new ministry one November and welcomed another child the following November.

That journey, Blackburn says, is evidence of God's faithfulness to replace a spirit of despair with a garment of praise (see Isaiah 61:3). And it's an important reminder for the holiday season, with all its memories and traditions. Just as God wants to heal and restore, Blackburn writes, "Your [deceased] loved one would not want your 'November' to haunt your memory forever."

Blackburn, author of the forthcoming book *Nothing Is Wasted*, says everyone has a November but can choose what to do with it. Instead of letting your November haunt, you can let God use it to heal.

—Stephanie Martin



The Friendship Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, November 14th, at 10:00 am. The November Project will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for our homebound. Contact Anita Sanders.



MALESUS BAPTIST CHURCH | WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

N.A.I.L. NEVER ALONE IN LIFE

N.A.I.L. Night

Thursday, Nov. 16th at 6 p.m.

Malesus Baptist Church
480 Old Malesus Rd, Jackson

RSVP by Thursday, Nov 9th



Speaker: Rachel Jeter

Rachel Jeter is a devoted but talkative wife and mom. She has been married to her husband Jeremy for 19 years, and they have 3 teenage sons: Drey, Isaac, and Ashton. Rachel attends Dixie Hills Baptist Church in Bolivar, TN. She is a genuine, funny, and transparent woman of God who will love your guts out and tell you how it is all at the same time! She has a strong passion for the Word of God, Prayer, and having INTENSE fun!

Worship Leaders: Daniel & Meleah Joyner

Daniel & Meleah have always had music at the heart of their relationship - ever since they first shared a car ride to an honor choir rehearsal in 2014. After years of friendship, music, and comradery, it seems only natural they would one day fall in love! Together, they love serving the Lord and His Church through music, worshipping together through all of life, and showing the Love of Christ to everyone they encounter.



www.malesus.org
731-424-0591

We will be serving Soups & Sandwiches

for dinner. This event is free, but we request you RSVP so we can prepare.

RSVP deadline is Thursday, Nov 9th.

To RSVP, scan the QR code or go to www.malesus.org/women.

We hope to see you there!



THE BEATITUDES

"Rejoice
and be glad,
for your reward
is great in
heaven."

Matthew 5:12, ESV



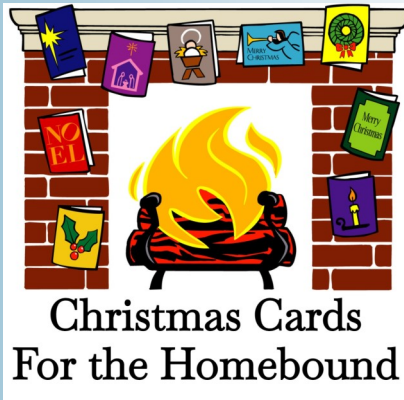
Our first official “sit down and visit” visitor at the parsonage!! Thank you, Ms. Carolyn, aka Grannie, for your visit and the delicious homemade, old fashioned, pound cake. Come again soon!!

Connie



With sincere appreciation... The ladies of The Care Center would like to thank you all so much for the donations of towels, washcloths, and pillows. They are greatly needed & appreciated.

Sincerely,
Emma Hopkins



It's time for Christmas Cards for our Homebound members. Below you will find a list of our Homebound. Turn your cards in by November 25th and we'll get the bags stuffed so they begin going out that first Sunday in December. You can drop them in the Missions Cart in the Narthex.

Gail Caruso	Jim & Peggy Dallas
Beth Hayes	Robert & Bettye Hudson
Bobby McKnight	Faye Morris
Carolyn Seavers	Al Van Kirk
Steve & Jane Watlington	Carol Young

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner: November 15th 5:30 pm
Reservations must be in by Nov. 5th. Those attending need to bring a side &/or dessert to share. Mrs. Cathy will be baking the turkey, dressing, rolls, and making gravy and tea/coffee.



Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service: November 19th 6:00 pm
This year's Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held at Malesus Baptist Church. Our Thanksgiving Offering that evening will be split between the 2 churches and our portion will go to the Missions Fund.

Our office will close at noon the day before Thanksgiving and be closed both Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after. The office will open again on Monday, November 27th.

POINSETTIAS!

It's that time again - time to place your poinsettia orders to decorate our Sanctuary. They will be red flowers with green sleeves and the price this year is **\$10 each**. If you would like to place one in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out the information below and place it in the offering plate along with your check or cash. You can also mail it or bring it by the church office.



We will be taking orders through **November 12th**. (The new vendor requires an earlier deadline.) The poinsettias will be in the Sanctuary on December 10th, 17th and 24th and may be taken home after the worship service on the 24th or Christmas Eve service that evening. Thanks!

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

PLACED BY:

Total Poinsettias: _____

Total Paid: _____ Cash _____ Check _____

In Matthew 21:33-46, Jesus tells a parable in which vineyard tenants plot to kill the landowner's son and thereby to "get his inheritance." Of course, that's not how life works: Unless the owner of wealth *gives* it away freely, the recipients aren't heirs — they're *thieves*!

We are all tenants entrusted with the cultivation and harvest of God's worldly vineyard. As such, we are to turn the fruits of the vineyard back over to God. We have no need to hoard them because the divine Landowner provides all our needs. What's more, we *already* have an inheritance of life and love, brought to us by the Son. May we not see Jesus as a threat to our way of life but welcome him among us. May we not hoard what he brings but share it. And remembering these words of Scripture — "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (v. 42) — may we not reject Jesus but let him be the cornerstone of our lives.



Christian Symbol



ROCK — We call Christ "the Solid Rock," remembering his parable about the wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7:24). Jesus changed his disciple Simon's name to Peter, meaning rock, saying he'd build his church "on this rock" (Matthew 16:18). Although some Christians understand Peter to be the rock-foundation of Christ's church, others interpret

Thanksgiving Humor



Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?
Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?
To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?
Your nose.


Why didn't the chef season the turkey?
There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?
People were fighting over the drumsticks.

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 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

 A Safe Sanctuaries Congregation



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for
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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.



Save the Date!
Mark your calendar and get your reservations and plans made!

Dec. 2nd Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm
Reservations MUST be in by Nov. 22nd. Any that come in after this date will be put on a waiting list should there be a cancellation. Tickets are as follows: Adults (13+) \$10, Children (6-12) \$5, and children 5 and under eat for free.

Dec. 9th & 10th Live Nativity 6:00 pm
Sign-up sheets are available. (In the Narthex on Sunday and the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday night.)

December 17th Cantata 9:00 am

December 24th Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

This year's Christmas Eve Candelight Service will be held here at Malesus UMC and will begin at 5:30 pm.