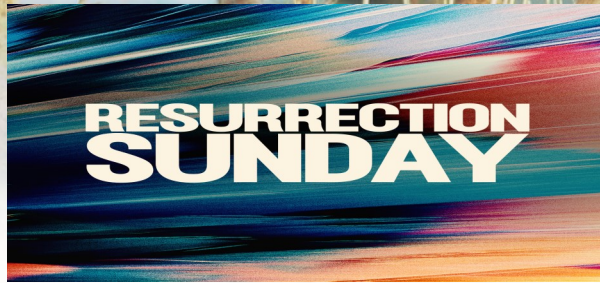


March 2024



Malesus United Methodist Church

The Beacon



“No one who **HOPES** in you will ever be put to shame...”

I have to confess, winter has not been terribly bad, but I am more than ready for spring. This week has been fantastic. Today, it is sunny, 63 degrees and hardly a cloud in the sky.

Here's what I know. I can't control the weather and I know spring will spring when it's time. Winter will be over, and spring will usher in new life. I keep reminding myself, spring is just around the corner! YES!!!

Let me remind you of another event just around the corner. We are planning to celebrate it at Malesus. **EASTER!** You are invited, too! Go ahead and mark it on your calendars. You don't want to miss it. Let me tell you why:

Easter is going to be a celebration at Malesus. There will be great music, a simple sunrise service and homemade **Cinnamon Rolls** after the sunrise service. Put your order in now. Call the office and let us know how many dozen cinnamon rolls you want to take home! We plan to watch the sun rise at 6:42 am and start the service at 7:00 am.

There is one more thing we have planned for Easter at Malesus. Again, you will not want to miss it. At the 9:00 am worship service we are going to share why Easter makes all the difference today!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. We all need to know why Easter makes all the difference today... I plan to see you soon!

Pastor Don

FINANCE REPORT

Financial Report year-to-date, as of January 31, 2024.

Pledged giving is at 86% of the budgeted amount year-to-date.

Unpledged giving is approximately 84% of the budgeted amount year-to-date.

Total income is at 84% of the budgeted amount year-to-date.

Total expenses are at 82% of budgeted amount year-to-date.

January Income: \$14,545.55

January Expenses: \$114,119.19

Funds needed to date: \$17,298

Funds received to date: \$14,545.55



Our Weekly Stewardship

February 4, 2024

Attendance

Sunday School 25

Worship 45

Offering \$4,015.00

February 11, 2024

Attendance

Sunday School 38

Worship 68

Offering \$4,379.00

February 18, 2024

Attendance

Sunday School 42

Worship 53

Offering \$4,130.00

February 25, 2023

Attendance

Sunday School 31

Worship 53

Offering \$1,815.00

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: Feed My Starving Children \$470
- Feb: Souper Bowl Sunday 114 cans of soup \$255
- March: UMCOR - Admin. Costs
- April: Bemis "Room in the Inn"
- May: Jackson Care Center
- June: Project Peanut Butter
- July: Reelfoot School Supplies
- Aug: College Care Packages
- Sept: TBD
- Oct: TBD
- Nov: Reelfoot Toys
- Dec: TBD



When you're facing ...
Crisis
Jeremiah 29:11-13
Lamentations 3:55-58
Proverbs 12:25



Breath Prayer
Holy one, heal me.



Mission News – March 2024

What is your church doing for others? What are YOU doing?

In December our church members helped out on a cold night with our Live Nativity. Thanks to all who participated.

Thanks also for our January Communion rail offering of \$470 designated for the "Feed my Starving children" packing event. This is a program hosted by Jackson Christian School and Skyline Church of Christ, with the objective of packing 381,000 fortified rice and beans meals in sealed bags to be distributed overseas. It will be a rewarding way to make us think of all those around the world who are literally starving daily. **It will take place the week of March 19-22, and we would like to have as many Malesus members as we can to help out. Sign up for a 2 hour shift right away!** There is a job for everyone! Sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

A big thanks goes out to all participants in our **Souper Bowl Sunday** collection. We delivered 114 cans and \$255 to RIFA. SUPER good job!!!

Remember that our **Blessing Box** is a very easy way to reach out to your neighbor. "Leave what you can, and take what you need" is the theme. We can share any non-perishable foods and hygiene/paper items. Pick up a few items as you shop and show these people that God does indeed love them.

Manna Bags have been sponsored by the Good News class, kept handy in your car so we can share a bag with anyone we see in need. Keep a Manna box in your car and replace those you give out with bags in the Narthex.

Project 20/20 is our ongoing project for Feb./March. We are collecting sunglasses and old or new glasses/readers. These will be taken on mission projects this summer to areas of the world where the loss of sight could impact a whole family. You can continue to bring these glasses to the box in the Narthex.

Are you still looking for a way to help? We are still working on prayer squares, prayer shawls, scarves, and baby blankets to be distributed through Women's Care Center, Threads of Love and Birth Choice. If you are interested in any of these projects, contact Martha Morris.

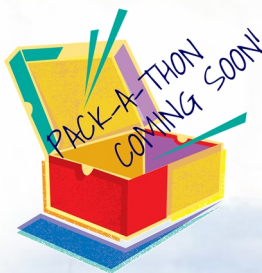
Upcoming Communion Rail offerings:

March - UMCOR- This is offering designated to help with the administrative costs of our United Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief. This is our way to help those in disaster situations around the world. UMCOR is always ready to step in when disaster strikes!

April - "Room in the Inn" at Bemis- Once a month Bemis hosts an evening meal and breakfast for a group of men needing a warm place to spend the night.

May - Jackson Care Center

STAY TUNED: We are trying to locate a group project for this spring/summer. Any ideas of a worthy project?



The opportunity to help pack 181,000 meals doesn't come often. Sign up to help pack meals on Tuesday, March 19th from 5-8 pm or Thursday, March 21st from 5-8 pm, in the Jackson Christian School Gym.

**URGENT
NEED FOR
LAMBUTH
STUDENTS**

We have been notified that the Student Pantry at Lambuth is very low on certain items. We can help them out by bringing any hygiene products, cleaning supplies or paper goods (toilet tissue, especially) to resupply their pantry. Many of them receive Food Stamps, but cannot buy these items with the stamps. Donations can be left in the Missions Cart located in the Narthex.





HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 24 at 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunrise in the Courtyard
Sunday, March 31 at 7:00 am

Cinnamon Roll Breakfast
Sunday, March 31 at 8:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Service
Sunday, March 31, at 9:00 am

Roll Up Your
Sleeves for



All hands and feet are needed for our Spring clean-up in the courtyard — Saturday March 16th at 9:00 am. Bring gloves, rakes, and any other garden tools you might need. We will have more pine needles to spread. Raindate will be Saturday, March 23rd.

“Pray, and let God worry.”
—Martin Luther

“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”
—Carl Bard



If you would be interested or willing to become a Communion Steward for our church, please reach out to Peggy or Rusty Riley. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of

this way to serve.



I would like to thank the Congregational Care Committee for the touching remembrance during the Christmas season, of the loss of Mom this past year. What a precious gesture! Special thanks to my “person”, Mom

Cathy, for the 12 gifts.

Nina would have been so pleased that you thought of me. Much appreciation for all this committee does throughout the year. A big thanks to ALL who serve our church.

Love,
Peggy Riley

Project 20/20

February and March are always a great time to clean out old and/or broken glasses and sunglasses to benefit Project 20/20.

Project 20/20 is a human service program that protects and improves the sight of disadvantaged persons of all faiths in underdeveloped areas of the world, where medical care for the poor is very limited. The project provides eyeglasses to medical teams that provide the poor with professional eye care free of charge. This non-profit all-volunteer program is sponsored by the United Methodist Church as a response to people in need regardless of their faith.

We will be collecting glasses and sunglasses during the month of February and March. Glasses can be placed in the 20/20 box located in the Narthex. Thanks for your support.



The cast of the Christmas Cantata presented on December 31, 2023, to our church family



Join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm for a meal and fellowship. Stay afterwards for our





March 10th 2024
Don't be late for church!



The Friendship Circle meets at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday, each month. The March project is to make Easter treats for our shut-ins. See Martha



Potluck Dinner


Wednesday, March 20th
5:30 pm

Bring your favorite dishes to share!

Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11)

"Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it." — Joyce Meyer

Be The Donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."



Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

Resurrection Rumbblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the "earthshaking promise" of Jesus' resurrection. Easter Sunday "shatters the power of fear," he writes. "Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don't remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new."

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn't forsaken us and is present among us. "The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world."

Jesus' followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. "The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, 'Do not be afraid.'"



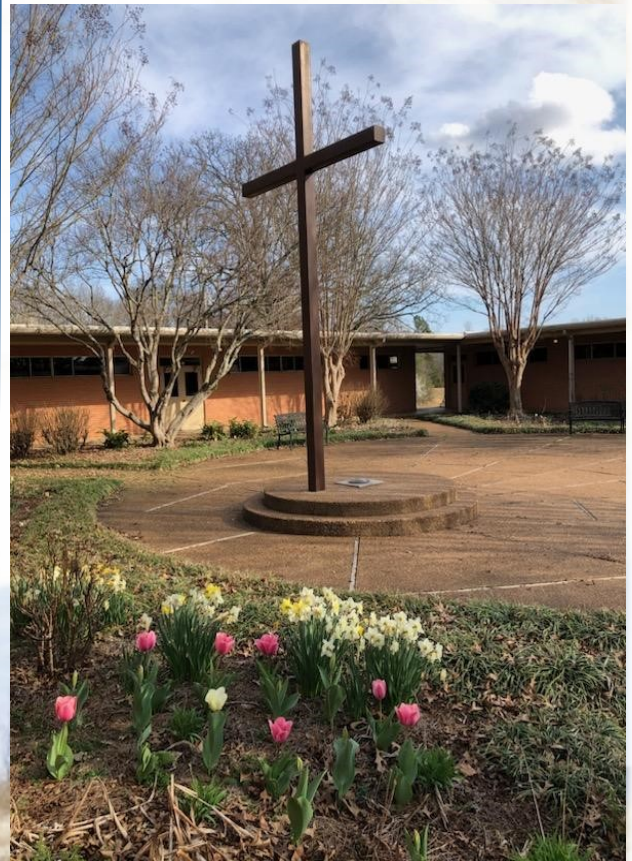
Following our Easter Sunrise Service we will have our annual Cinnamon Roll Breakfast. Extra cinnamon rolls can be purchased for \$12 a dozen with the money going to the Easter Offering.

Orders for extras will need to be in by Friday, March 22. Call either the church office or Mrs. Cathy at 731-394-5327.



Blessing Box

Please remember our Blessing Box . It empties almost as quickly as we fill it up. Any and all help is much appreciated.



Take Time to "Examen"

I'm grateful to live in an area with distinct seasons. Each time of year has unique characteristics that give way to the next. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven," says Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV).

Each change of season also lends itself to *examen*, a spiritual practice that involves reflection. Typically done daily, examen invites people to recall past events (highlights, struggles, even mundane activities) and consider when they especially sensed God's presence or when he seemed distant.

Try a deeper examen four times a year as the seasons change. As a starting point, use your answers to these questions:

- Looking back at the past season, when did I see God at work? What was life-giving to me?
- In what areas did I need God to work? What was life-draining?
- As I enter this next season, how is God inviting me to engage more with his presence?

—Janna Firestone

Because Jesus Said So

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."



Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

"All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."



Christian Symbol

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

By Faith

'Tis by the faith of joys to come
We walk through deserts dark as night,
Till we arrive at heaven our home.
Faith is our guide, and faith our light.

Cheerful we tread the desert through,
While faith inspires a heavenly ray,
Though lions roar and tempests blow
And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abraham, by divine command,
Left his own house to walk with God;
His faith beheld the promised land,
And fired his zeal along the road.

—Early American hymn



Save the Date!

Saturday, April 13, 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
200 S. Church St. Jackson, TN 38301

***Evangelism for Non-Evangelists
from The Foundation for Evangelism***

Lunch provided.

Email delores.smith@twkumc.org to register

Dr. Heather Lear co-teaches the online course, “Evangelism for Non-Evangelists” with Rev. Dr. Mark Teasdale. In addition to being invited to teach evangelism courses at several UM Seminaries, she has also led workshops at the United Methodist Leadership Institute and various annual conference events.

Clergy and Laity, please make your plans to attend this event. The following books, “Evangelism for Non-Evangelists” and “Participating in Abundant Life”, will be available (1 copy per church) for those who attend this event.



A Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me. —Aelred of Rievaulx (12th century)

Spring Training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

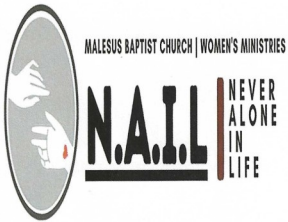
Transformed

Before becoming a Christian late in life, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge denied that Jesus was God's Son and had risen from the dead. If Jesus' body was missing, he said, someone probably snatched it and abandoned it to the vultures, leaving the bones to whiten in the sun.

For Muggeridge, the turning point was encountering a living Lord. "If you should ask me by what authority I talk about the power of Christ to change human nature, I should reply to you simply ... because he has changed me," Muggeridge said after discarding agnosticism. "I can look anybody in the face today — my friends, my colleagues and what, perhaps, is most difficult of all, the members of my family — and be sure that they know, as I know, that I am really and literally a new creature in Christ Jesus since the day when he came into my life."



Thank you Jenniebeth King for the lovely tulips in the courtyard and thank you to Martha Morris for planting them.
The Courtyard is lovely!



N.A.I.L. Night

Thursday, March 21, 2024 @ 6:00p.m.

RSVP by Monday March, 18th

Malesus Baptist Church
480 Old Malesus Rd, Jackson



Speaker: Blair Parker

Blair Parker is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who has touched the lives of countless youth during her career as a teacher at South Side High School. Blair will share God's grace, mercy and faithfulness even in the darkest hours.

Worship Leaders: Daniel & Meleah Joyner

Daniel & Meleah have always had music at the heart of their relationship - ever since they first shared a ride to an honor choir rehearsal. 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.



We will be serving BBQ for dinner. This event is free, but we request you RSVP so we can prepare. **RSVP deadline is Monday, March 18th.**

To RSVP, scan the QR code or go to www.malesus.org. We hope to see you there!



Thank you, Friendship Circle, for the lovely card and the Valentine's Day treats. It was so sweet and thoughtful of you to remember me. It is very much appreciated.

Many blessings,
Carol Young



Daisy Scout Troop 40212 Leaders Shayna and Lindsey and Daisy Scouts Rosali and Addy want to thank everyone for their cookie orders and supporting their troop.

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



A Stephen Ministry Congregation



A Safe Sanctuaries Congregation

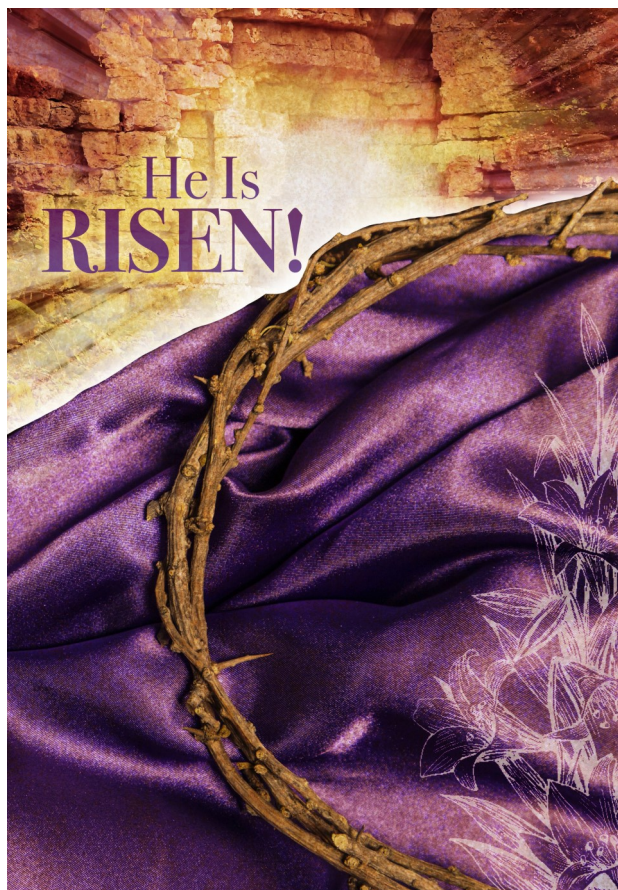


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Our mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples through our service to our church, community, & world.

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