

May 2024



Malesus United Methodist Church

The Beacon

EPHESIANS 4:15 ...God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love!

May is the month to grow things. We change from one season to another. The grass becomes greener and begins to grow. The trees begin to bud with new leaves. The fields are awakened from their long winter slumber. Most of the time, when April transitions into May, winter has finally let go of its grasp and the warm spring days have arrived.

I was reminded of this recently when I was having a conversation with Mike. Mike grew up on a farm. He was sharing with me that May was the month when the tractors and planters prepare the earth for the seeds. The fields are fertilized, and it is not long before we start seeing the seeds we planted begin to grow. Mike was planting tomatoes, cabbage, corn, peppers, zucchini, beans, and cucumbers. He always has a flourishing garden!

This is the way it works in our spiritual journey as well. Spiritual growth is not automatic. It takes an intentional commitment. You must want to grow, decide to grow, and make an effort to grow. God wants us to flourish!

We need each other to flourish! Let's plan to grow in May. We will be celebrating Mother's Day, High School, and College graduates. I hope you will plan to join us. Being part of a faith community helps us flourish. I mentioned Mike always has a flourishing garden. What does he do with all of it? He and his wife, Donna, enjoy it and they love to share it with others. Sharing with others helps us to flourish in our faith as well.

I want to help each of you flourish in your faith and share with others. Remember this, you do not have to have all the answers. It is about trusting the One who does!

Pastor Don



FINANCE REPORT

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

Pledged giving is at 91% of the budgeted amount year-to-date.

Unpledged giving is approximately 108% of the budgeted amount year-to-date.

Total income is at 91% of the budgeted amount year-to-date.

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

March Income: \$17,306.99

March Expenses: 19,414.94

Funds needed to date: \$51,894.00

Funds received to date: \$47,420.34



Our Weekly Stewardship

April 7, 2024

Attendance

Sunday School 27

Worship 57

Offering \$11,984.00

April 14, 2024

Attendance

Sunday School 30

Worship 58

Offering \$2,600.00

April 21, 2024

Attendance

Sunday School 33

Worship 54

Offering \$2,595.00

The newsletter is being printed before the last April collection on the 28th.

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	\$287
April:	Bemis "Room in the Inn"	\$408
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	

"None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience."

—Martin Luther



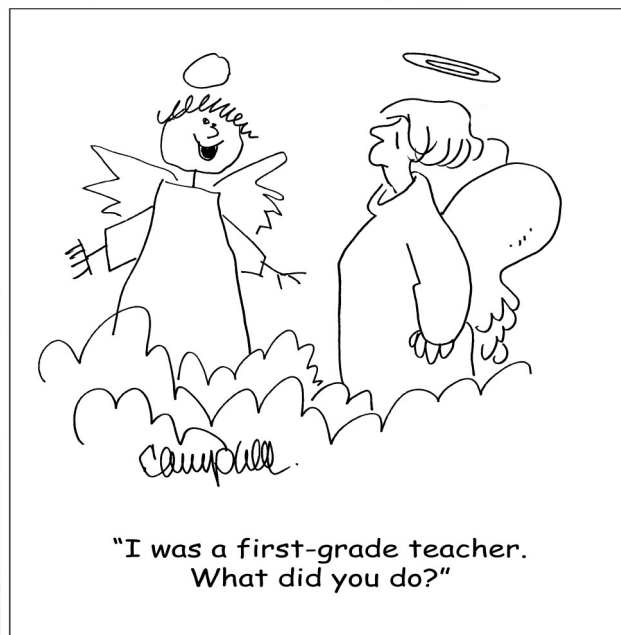
When you're facing...

Depression

Nehemiah 8:10

Hosea 6:1

Psalms 5:11



"I was a first-grade teacher.
What did you do?"



Breath Prayer

Open my heart to your love.

Mission News – May 2024

Our Communion offerings for

May : Jackson Care Center

June: Project Peanut Butter

July: Reelfoot School Supplies

HANNAH’S HOPE: During the month of April and May keep all your change in our Hannah’s Hope baby bottles. Hannah’s Hope is a Memphis Conference program that provides hope and services for young mothers, families and their children.

FIGHTING HUNGER --Our Blessing Box: Our Blessing Box is being used on a regular basis. Leave food in the box on the side of the church, or leave it in the office. This is a way you can personally take care of hunger close by, and feel good about sharing some of our blessings. **“Bring what you can, take what you need, but above all, be blessed.”**

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT: Remember that we are collecting your old Eclipse glasses to share around the world, and aluminum can tabs to send to the new Ronald McDonald House in Jackson. Bring them to the Missions Cart.

5th THURSDAY AT RIFA: Our next RIFA meal will be on Thursday, May 30. Thanks to all those individuals who are always willing to help.

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 the Missions team. Our next meeting will be Sunday May 19, at 1:00 pm. Come join in on the fun!



Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

5:30 pm

Bring your favorite dishes to share!

Invite a friend!

This will be our last meal of this season.

Wednesday evening meals will begin

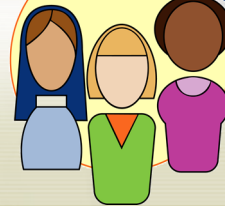


While on the ark, why did Noah scold the chickens?

Because they were using “fowl” language! 😊



Women's Circle



The Friendship Circle meets in the Fellowship Hall, at 10:00 am, on the 4th Tuesday, each month. The May meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28 The project will be working on VBS needs. Contact Sandra



Blessing Box

Please remember our Blessing Box . It empties almost as quickly as we fill it up. With our office stash nearly depleted, any and all help is much appreciated.

Thank you for your generous donation to The Care Center. It's thanks to donors like you, these ladies don't have to worry about where they'll live or what they'll eat, while they work out some issues in their lives. We're there sharing the gospel & watching God change people's hearts.



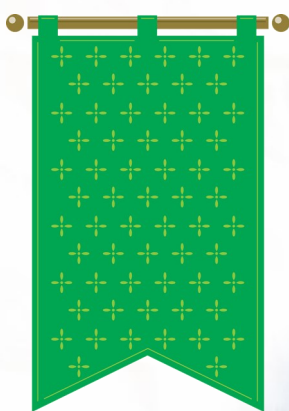
In Christ,
Kelly Sloan, Board Secretary

A big "Thank You!" to Tim Kelly and Amy McRae and their chain saw for stopping to help after the oak tree in front of the office fell, during the hail storm a few weeks ago. Tim was cutting limbs that were blocking the street and Amy was dragging limbs out of the way. All of this was before the city got out here with their chain saw and crew! There were also many people who just stopped to help. What a wonderful show of Christ-like love in our community. ♥

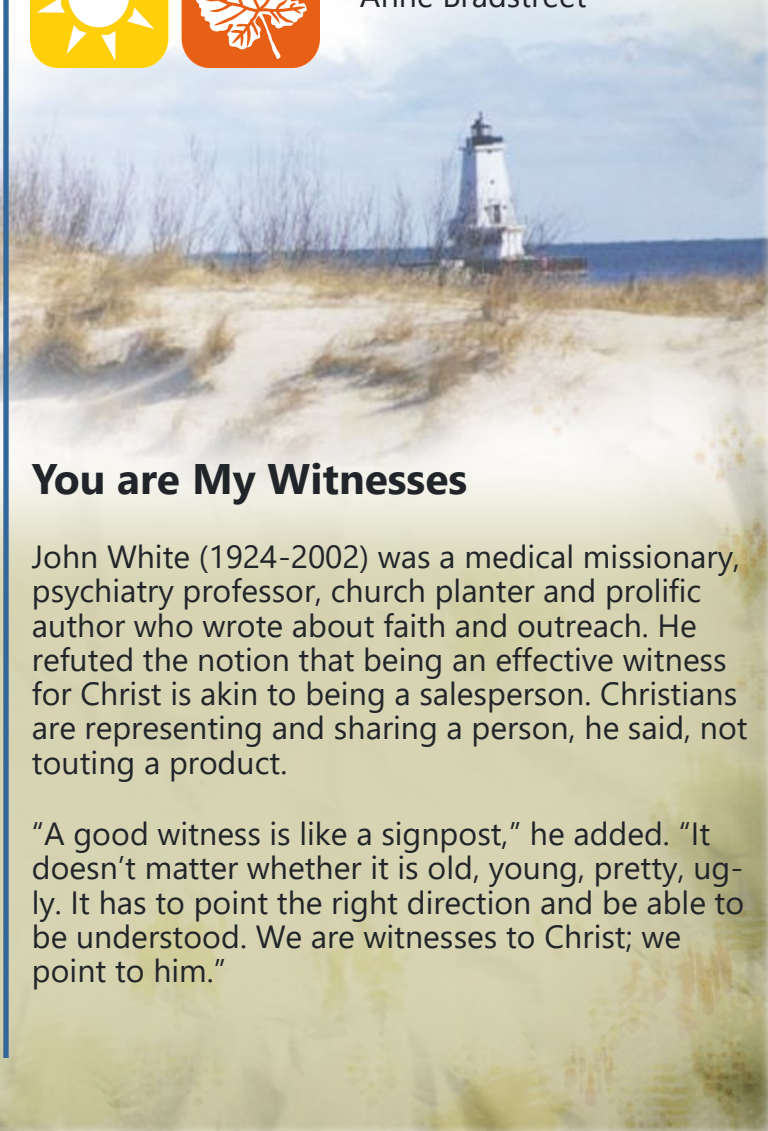
Many heartfelt thanks,
The Office

Christian Symbol

GREEN — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."
—Anne Bradstreet



Open Hands

Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an "a-ha" realization about the significance of praying with

open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we're saying before God that we renounce "all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence." We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, "I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands.

You are My Witnesses

John White (1924-2002) was a medical missionary, psychiatry professor, church planter and prolific author who wrote about faith and outreach. He refuted the notion that being an effective witness for Christ is akin to being a salesperson. Christians are representing and sharing a person, he said, not touting a product.

"A good witness is like a signpost," he added. "It doesn't matter whether it is old, young, pretty, ugly. It has to point the right direction and be able to be understood. We are witnesses to Christ; we point to him."

Then there was April...



Well, there was a storm...



Wednesday Night Meals



:Lovely irises in the Courtyard that came to us from Jester



Art Angels



So many opportunities for fellowship, service, and



Join us in June!



Talent Show!

It is time, once again, to get ready for the Bemis/Malesus Showcase of Talent. So tune your guitar, warm up your vocal cords, and get your act ready for a fun night of entertainment. Don't like performing? Then show off your artistic abilities with your own creations. Did I mention culinary skills? Hooray! There will be a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dishes to share with everyone.

The Showcase and Potluck is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm. We will have more information as we get closer to the event.

Call or Text:

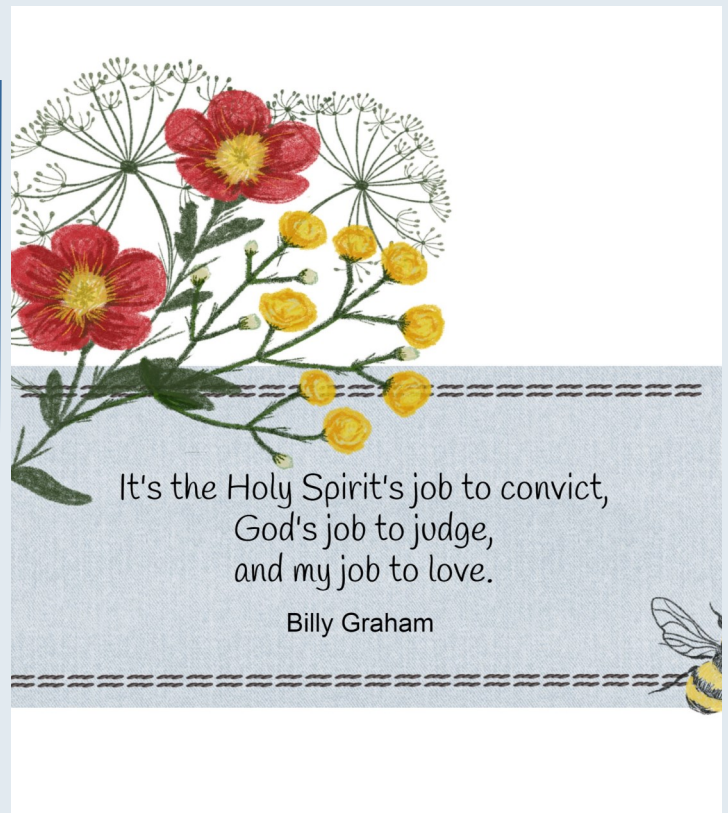
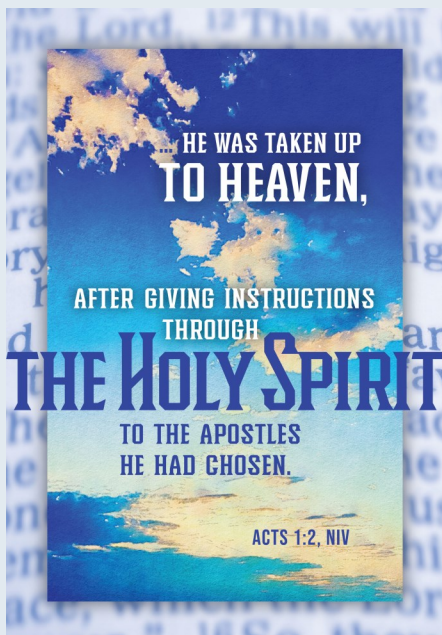
Performers contact Loret Evans at 731-693-5282.

Visual Artists contact Martha Morris at 731-234-1995.

If your talent is too big to transport, such as cabinet making, sky diving, or training seals, then take a photo or several photos, frame it or put it in a small display and give it to Martha.

Participants need to contact one of the coordinators by July 30th so we can know what is needed to set up and get a performance program printed.

Any other questions, you can contact Susan Watlington at 731-695-4628. We look forward to hearing from you.



SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, June 9 - Wed. June 12

Sunday, June 9	5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Monday, June 10	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Tuesday, June 11	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Wednesday, June 12	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

A snack supper will be provided each evening, beginning at 5:30 pm with VBS beginning at 6:00 pm. Look for more details on our Face Book page and in your Sunday bulletin.



Congratulations to our 2024 Gradates!

HIGH SCHOOL

Alex Bragg

Alex is the grandson of Debbie Durham. He is graduating from Crockett County High School and plans on attending MTSU this fall and majoring in Audio Production.

Cole Coffman

Cole is the grandson of Ed and Debbie Coffman. Cole is graduating from South Side High School and plans on attending Ole Miss in the fall and working on a degree in Nursing.

Joshua Fugate

Joshua is the son of Stan & Christy Fugate. Joshua is graduating from Madison Academic High School and will be attending Union University in the fall and studying Nursing.

Kayli Fullington

Kayli is the daughter of Christina Newsom and the granddaughter of Jan & Scott Baker. Kayli is graduating from Home Life Academy and will be attending UT Martin in the Fall.

Ruby Tackett

Ruby is the daughter of Becky Tackett and the granddaughter of Jane Steel. Ruby is graduating from Jackson Academic Steam Academy and will be attending Jackson State in the fall.

COLLEGE

Josie Davis

Josie is the granddaughter of Carol Pirtle. Josie will be graduating from the University of Memphis with a Bachelor's in Health Science. At the present she is interning at Jubilee Therapy in Mississippi and hopes to obtain her Master's.

Emma Morris

Emma is the daughter of Bill & Lynn Morris and the granddaughter of Faye Morris. Emma is graduating from Northeast Mississippi Community College with a Associates Degree in Applied Health Science of Dental Hygiene. This summer Emma will be obtaining certification for Local Anesthesia for Dental Hygienist.

Will Powers

Will is the grandson of Wayne & Brenda Powers. Will is graduating from UT Martin with a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Music. Will plans on teaching music in Middle or High School.

Alexandria Wildes

Alexandria is the daughter of Maryann Wildes. Alexandria graduated from the Colorado Technical Institute with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She hopes to become a U.S. Marshall and work on obtaining her Master's.

MASTERS

Laurel White

Laurel is the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Derek White and the granddaughter of Nancy Johnson. Laurel will be obtaining a Master's in Education from Lipscomb University and plans on teaching.



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to David & Karen Roe and their family in their loss of David's father, Colonel Farrell Parker Roe, who passed away on Sunday, April 14, 2024. May they feel the love and prayers of their Malesus UMC family surrounding them during this difficult time.



Some of you expressed wanting the lyrics to the song that Don and Connie sang a couple of weeks ago. Written by Connie, she graciously agreed to share

them with us.

A Way For Me

From the manger as His bed
 To the thorns upon His head
 From the cross on which He died
 To the spear that pierced His side
 From the tomb in which he lay
 To his resurrection day
 He fully paid the price for all my sin.

Chorus

His blood flowed rich and free
 At the Cross of Calvary
 For the debt I owed but never could repay
 He willingly took on the cost
 So that I would not be lost
 He gave up His life to make a way for me.

There are times I cannot see
 That God has a plan for me
 I've encountered many storms
 I've been battered and forlorn
 But He's there for me to call
 He is with me through it all
 He knows me and my name is in His hand.

Copyright Connie Carver



We can be so busy listing our troubles that we forget how to count our blessings.

Trustees News

Church Family---

As you've noticed while walking around our campus, we have a rather large facility for a congregation of our present size. Facilities include our Sanctuary (1984), our Fellowship Hall/Kitchen (1976) which is well utilized, two Educational wings (1960 and 1965), our Office building (1950 +/-) next door, and our parsonage (1980).

As you know from your own home/residence experiences, things break and have to be repaired, insurance costs increase, and utility expenses are unavoidable.

At this time all our facilities are in good condition. Our goal as Trustees is to maintain these as much as possible. We appreciate your support in accomplishing this.

If you notice something that needs to be addressed, please let one of the Trustees listed below know about it (you may be asked to help with the issue, as well!). Possibly it can be accomplished quickly, or if it's a major item, it can be on our priority list for future funding.

Trustee area of responsibility:

- Parsonage.....Doris Spain
- Sanctuary..... Hutch Hutcherson
- Office.....Ed Coffman
- Educational Wings..... Sherre' Fielding/
Bo Perry
- Sound/AV/IT Systems.....Jeff Fielding/
Brennan Replogle
- Fellowship Hall.....Bill Ward
- Courtyard/Grounds.....Alan Morris
- General Facility/Custodial needs... Ross Hudson

Thank you again for your support in keeping our church facilities in good condition.

Fix your *thoughts* on what is *true*, and *honorable*, and *right*, and *pure*, and *lovely*, and *admirable*. Think about things that are *excellent* and worthy of *praise*.



- *Philippians 4:8*



Aflame with Faith

In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."

A Prayer for Roots

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.




Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your

? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14)

Mother — and More

Though I've primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- "For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant" (Isaiah 42:14).
 - "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13).
 - "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them" (Hosea 13:8).
 - In others, God is pictured doing traditional "women's work": making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).
- One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama's care: "It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them" (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

When I don't know how to pray or what to pray for, Holy Spirit, help me in my weakness; intercede with your

A House United

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan’s power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes’ words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can’t drive out evil. Sin isn’t stronger than sin. Hate doesn’t solve hate. Violence doesn’t end violence. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God’s goodness.



Our next *5th Thursday at RIFA* will be on Thursday, May 30th. We need volunteers to do our shopping (check provided) and volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up. If you can help out, see Martha Morris.

First-Team Followers

Jesus’ ascension into heaven shortly after his resurrection was “one of God’s most audacious ploys,” according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. “Jesus, resurrected, is Master of space and time, yet he passes on the work of spreading the Good News to his imperfect disciples, who ultimately pass it on to us (who are also imperfect disciples).”

By contrast, most Old Testament patriarchs often stayed on the throne until they died. Many of them could have benefited from a timely “exit strategy,” Ramirez notes.

“As a child, I always felt that the world would have been a better place if the resurrected Lord had just taken over everything,” Ramirez continues. “But though Jesus is active with us (‘For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them’ — Matthew 18:20, NRSV), we’re part of the first team now.”

HANNAH’S HOPE



Be sure to pick up your *Baby Bottle of Hope* from the Mission Cart, located in the Narthex. During the month of May, fill it with your spare change for Hannah’s Hope. Drop it back off in the Mission Cart on June 2nd. Don’t want to bother with change? Cash donations and checks are also welcome. (Make checks out to Malesus UMC.)




A verse for **GRATITUDE**: Hebrews 12:28



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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
JACKSON, TN 38301
PERMIT # 11

 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

 A Safe Sanctuaries Congregation



QR Code
for
Online
Giving

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Running Slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, “Why are they running so slow, Mommy?”

These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he’d felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she heard strong, pointed encouragement. “You’ve got this!” “Someone’s approaching; time to pick up the pace!” “Great stride — keep going!” The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who “train” alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, “Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.”

—Janna Firestone