



**NOVEMBER 2023**

# MINOR MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Guiding and encouraging people to take their next steps following Christ*

## **Greetings, Minor Memorial UMC Family!**

As we have arrived in the month of November, our church family continues to do the amazing work of discipleship, both inside the walls of the church and out into our community. So, as we head into the new month of Fall Festival and the end of daylight saving time, our focus shifts towards the God-centered practice of Christian stewardship.

I think it's worth exploring both what stewardship is and what it isn't. Stewardship is understood on the basis that God is the owner of all things, meaning that God has entrusted these things to us for a specific purpose. Perhaps we can define stewardship as the careful and prayerful use of God's resources for the accomplishment of our goals in honoring God. That's what it *is*, so here's what it *isn't*. Stewardship is not a programmatic scheme or drive to increase the wealth of the church. Rather, it is a shared effort to meet God-given goals for the world *through* our church. This includes our financial resources, yes, but also so much more. This includes our salvation in God, living out the Gospels, how we are educated, what our spiritual gifts are, how we care for the environment, our talents, our jobs, our homes--all of these belong to God, but God gives us these for our responsible use in achieving His ends.

Realistically speaking, financial resources are necessary for the operation of the church and its continuation of ministries in the name of Jesus Christ. This news is not new. But in the age of ever-increasing costs for basic living, financial stewardship becomes a complicated issue. Our church budget illustrates the means by which our finance committee, through prayerful discernment, believes that our operation and ministries should most effectively and efficiently be handled. I commend them on their work during this season. But as difficult as navigating our personal finances have become, we must declare that even this should not take the focus off of our mission to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. And the way to do this is to not focus the idea of stewardship primarily on finances, but rather on our utilization of all of God's resources.

So while it's true that our time, talent, and financial resources are very important in considering stewardship, let's not forget one other thing that's required: your spirit. Your willingness to offer all that God has given you for His purpose is what proper stewardship is all about. I'm reminded of the Charles Wesley hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have," where Wesley reminds us in the first two verses, *"A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill, O may it all my pow'rs engage to do my Master's will!"*

In the month of November, you will have the opportunity to express your level of stewardship and giving of your time, talent, financial resources, AND your spirit by considering how you will "keep your charge," so to speak. In fact, this commitment effort is all a part of "Our Charge to Keep," which is our worship focus for this month. It will culminate in you making that commitment during our Stewardship/Thanksgiving Sunday on November 19th and our United Methodist Student Day on November 26th. The time to begin praying about this is now.

I'll close with the words from the prophet Joshua, who summed up stewardship in chapter 24:14-15: *"Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

In Christ's Name and in God's Service,  
Rev. Sam

## **SERVING OTHERS**

### **Coat drive for Matthew 25 Ministry and Manna House**

Our box in the Narthex for donations of men's and women's coats and jackets, gloves, and hats/toboggans is overflowing! Thank you! Matthew 25 and Manna House are ministries that work with the homeless in Memphis. Let us help our unsheltered brothers and sisters this winter.

### **Feed My Lambs T-Shirts for Sale**

You may have seen folks in the church wearing the beautiful blue t-shirts with the Feed My Lambs logo. These are being sold for \$25, with proceeds going to Feed My Lambs. Contact the church office if you would like to order one.

### **Crochet Crosses**

Savannah Billett is crocheting crosses that can be used as bookmarks or Christmas ornaments. The price is \$2.00 each, half of which is being donated to Feed My Lambs Ministry. On the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, please list how many and what color you would like.

### **MMUMC Golden Cross Fund**

Minor Memorial has a special fund to help those in our community who need assistance with rent, utilities, etc. Right now those funds are very low. Please consider giving to the Golden Cross.

LEARNING IN COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITES

Jesus was in a small group.



life change happens in small groups

Youth Ministry

November Schedule:

Sundays:

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Wednesdays:

D Groups @ 6:00 pm

Youth Fellowship:

Saturday 11/4 Fall Festival

BreakThru 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, December 30th - Tuesday, January 2nd. Cost is \$100 per person. Money is due Sunday, December 3rd. One more chaperone is needed for this trip. If you would like to volunteer, please let Destinee know.



Wednesday Night Activities

We have something for ALL ages starting at 6:00 pm

- Kids for Christ (ages 4-5th grade)
- Youth D Groups (6th-12th grades)
- Adult Bible Study (in-person and on Zoom)

Minor Memorial UMC Youth

# Turkey Fundraiser

Original \$50

Cajun \$55

PRE-ORDER YOURS TODAY  
Call (662) 781-1333

Order Due • 11/12 | Pick Up • 11/22

EXPERIENCE & SPEND TIME WITH GOD

As a spiritual discipline, consider praying for those on our prayer list and praying for each person on their birthday (and couple on their anniversary).

Prayer Concerns

- 10/1 Everett Marbry; Jim Champion; Daniel Justice (friend of Judith Nance)
- 10/8 John Thompson (father of Mary Bonner); Chuck Hazelrig (friend of Judy Harvey)
- 10/15 Cheryl Davis; Jean Long (aunt of Alicia Butler); Israel
- 10/22 Cheryl Denley

In Sympathy

Pat Stanley (sister of Billie Wilhite); Ronnie Long (brother of Ann Jolley); Ben Sayle (uncle of John Sayle)

Joys

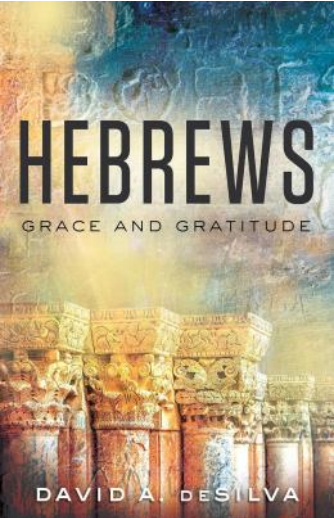
Patsy Vick has a new great granddaughter— Hadley Reese Hudgins was born on 9/26; LCHS Band were the grand champions at NECC contest; Terry Billett has a new job that will keep him at home; Nancy Johnson has her first great grandchild— Briggs Quinton Johnson was born 10/17

The Upper Room Books

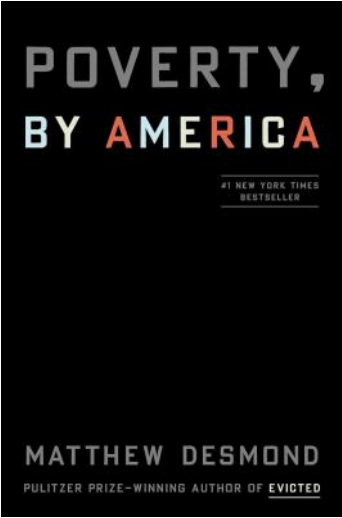
The November/December issues of *The Upper Room* are in the Narthex and office. If you need one delivered, please contact the church office.

FROM THE PASTOR'S BOOKSHELF

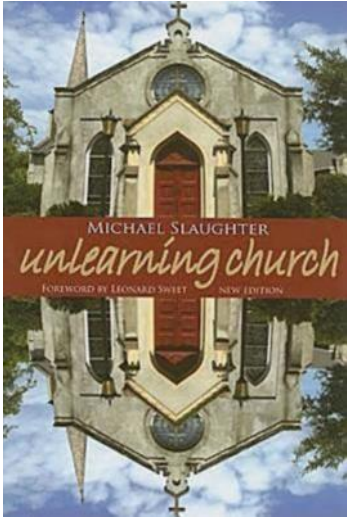
I love to read. I love to read Scripture. I think that reading is important to sustain our growth in various topics surrounding our faith practices. That's why I like to read other books and I thought I would share with you what I'm reading every month. Many of the topics I enjoy are books on theology, Biblical scholarship, histories, biographies, and books on issues of social justice.



Hebrews Grace and Gratitude by David A. DeSilva



Poverty, By America by Matthew Desmond



Unlearning Church by Mike Slaughter



**Greetings from the Finance Committee**

First, thank you to those that support the ministries here at Minor. We would not have a preacher, a worship leader/ secretary, a financial secretary, or a cleaning crew if it were not for your giving, those of you that follow Jesus' command, "to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." These employees give of themselves to bring God glory through their work. A majority of our budget goes to pay their salaries. If you looked in last month's newsletter at the giving for the month of September, you would have noticed we were almost \$5000 short. How does that happen? I believe many of us put ourselves before God and we look at the income we bring in as ours not God's. We don't give back to God what actually belongs to God. I'm leading a small group, and we are reading a book called "Unfinished: Believing is only the Beginning." In the book, the author states that the average American is in the richest 99% of the world. Many of us here in America don't feel we are rich, but in comparison to someone who earns \$2 a day, think again. Richard Stearns talks about the Magic Kingdom, Tragic Kingdom, and God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom is the place where things are as God wants them to be. Before Jesus left, he gave us an assignment to work with God to bring in his kingdom. Do you see yourself already fulfilling that assignment through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness? One week in our small group we addressed the questions "What is the most valuable thing you possess?" and "Would you be willing to offer it to Jesus?" The things we cling to say a lot about our heart's desires. There was a story about a 13-year-old girl named Ruse. Her virginity was the most valuable possession her family had. She was confronted with a terrible choice. Her mother was seriously ill, and her family didn't have food to eat. Ruse chose to spend 3 years in a brothel giving of herself to save her mother and siblings. This is the same kind of love Christ lavished on us. But Jesus is not impressed by our money we give but by our OBEDIENCE to give. Please join me in being faithful and obedient in giving and living for Jesus. There is so much more we can do to bring God's Kingdom here on earth with your love and support.

Blessings,  
  
Karla Lance

**MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS**

*In Memory of Ted Haynes*  
Billie Wilhite  
  
*In Memory of Ron Long*  
Billie Wilhite

<b><u>Worship Through Giving</u></b>		
<b>OCTOBER 2023</b>		
Oct. 2023 (as of the 25 <sup>th</sup> )		Oct. needed to meet Budget
Income	\$16,535	\$19,769
YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Ahead/(Behind)
Income	\$172,050	\$197,688 <b>(\$25,638)</b>

THANKS  
*from the*  
HEART

A big "thank you" goes out to all who shared their love for Brittany Cavallo at her baby shower on October 15.  
Your presence and gifts mean so much!  
  
Rita Cavallo



# November 2023

Wednesday Schedule:  
Kids for Christ 6:00 pm  
Youth D-Groups 6:00 pm  
Adult Bible Study  
in-person & zoom 6:00 pm

Sunday Morning Schedule:  
Joy Class 9:30 am  
Caring Peeps 9:30 am  
Youth Sunday School 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Choir 11:45 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ★ Pat Plante	2 ★ Hannah Babb ★ Traci Gregg Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am	3 Friday Night Community Group @ 7:00 pm	4 <i>Fall Festival</i> ★ Gary Boisseau ★ Druan Elliott ★ Ramona Vaughan ★ Sommer Williams
5 <i>All Saint's Sunday</i>	6 ★ Cham Babb ★ Samantha Holland ★ Andrew Jolley	7 🍂 Brad & Debbie Randall	8 ★ Pam Armstrong ★ Lisa Owen	9 ★ Karla Lance ★ Jackson Lumpkin ★ Eugenia Tanner Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am SPRC Meeting @ 6:30 pm	10 ★ Douglas Warren Friday Night Community Group @ 7:00 pm	11 ★ Caden Cushman
12 Deadline to Order Turkey 	13 Disciple III @ 6:30 pm	14 ★ Mike Beasley	15 ★ James Cavallo ★ Chuck Jolley 🍂 John & Ilene Hogan	16 ★ Jim Dunn 🍂 Billy & Polly Speed Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am	17 ★ Audrey Aaron ★ Patrick Jones	18 ★ Tina Patrick 🍂 Sam & Rosemary Jones
19	20 ★ Ann Robison ★ Paula Jean Walton	21 🍂 Randall & Betty Park	22 Turkey Pickup 	23 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed 	24 ★ Elizabeth Patrick	25
26 ★ James Champion	27 🍂 Ronnie & Judy James	28 ★ Fred Foshee	29 ★ Jase Scott	30 Pack & Pray @ 10:00 am		
	Disciple III @ 6:30 pm					



**FALL FESTIVAL 11/4 8:00-2:00**

**Ways to help:**

- \* Invite your friends and family to attend. Personal invites and social media invites are great! Definitely share on Facebook!
- \* Plan what you will bake for the bake sale and sign up to help!
- \* Come up during the day on Friday or early Saturday to help with set up.
- \* Plan to stay after the Fall Festival from 2-4 pm to help with clean up...a big need, and a big help!
- \* Show up and volunteer in the areas and during the time to which you committed.
- \* Be friendly and courteous to all of the visitors and members of the community; introduce yourself, thank them for coming and invite them to church if they don't have a church home.
- \* Encourage one another! Everyone works hard at the Fall Festival and an encouraging word goes a long way!
- \* Visit the vendors and community exhibits. Thank them for coming!