

# Morris

# MEMORIAL

JANUARY 2022

## “New Year Resolution”

Happy New Year! By now everyone has made their New Year resolutions and has begun the journey in making them become a reality. Some will succeed, whereas others will fail. Hopefully, each of you will be successful in your endeavors to fulfill your resolutions.

Can you remember when Christ came into your life? Did you make resolutions to clean up your lifestyle and live according to how you thought God wanted you to? Perhaps you promised to devote more time to God by becoming more active in the church by attending more regularly or being devoting more time by volunteering to be on a committee or an active part of the many functions/activities that takes place. Maybe you resolved to deepen your relationship with God by practicing your spiritual disciplines, seeking the transformation to perfection that John Wesley so often mentioned. How are those resolutions going? Are you being successful?

Many people give up on their resolutions when they first fail, whether it be a New Year resolution or a resolution to continue in their spiritual transformation. In the case of spiritual transformation, people often give up by thinking they are so broken that they can never be fixed which leads to giving up and returning to the life they lived prior to Christ in their life. This should not be the case and is a direct result of relying on self to change, instead of allowing God's Holy Spirit to change us from within.

I encourage each of us to continue in our endeavor to reach perfection. This can only be achieved by allowing Jesus to be Lord of your life; seeking the heart and mind of God through studying Scripture, having a discerning ear to the Holy Spirit, attending holy conferencing, partaking of the Sacraments, as well as many other spiritual disciplines. Then, and only then, will we be successful in our resolutions we made when we first began our Christian journey.

All Christians have failures and questions in their life from time to time but do not give up! Keep pressing on toward the prize. Even great theologians who began great movements have been known to question themselves. For example, John Wesley (on one of several occasions) had doubt as to whether he had faith or not, to which Peter Boehler responded to him: "*Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.*" -- John Wesley, Journal, 4 Mar 1738.

I wish you all great success in your endeavors to fulfilling your resolutions, especially the ones involving your Christian journey.

*“You never fail until you stop trying.”— Albert Einstein*

## CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

### Lenten Devotion Book Planned

Plans are being made for a Lenten Devotion Book for 2022. Written in the format of The Upper Room based on assigned scriptures, church members are asked to write daily devotions which cover each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday is later than usual this year, March 2. To have the devotion books edited, printed, and assembled by then, devotions will need to be submitted by early February.

Scripture readings for the devotion book will be available in early January. People who have submitted devotions in past years will be contacted by email or text to see if they are interested in writing a devotion this year. If anyone wants to confirm their interest in participation you may email Jim Caudill at [caudillfam@gmail.com](mailto:caudillfam@gmail.com). If anyone reading this has not submitted a devotion in the past, but would like to write one this year, please email Jim to let him know of your interest. There are plenty of scriptures available for anyone who wants to participate this year.

This devotion book is only possible through the efforts of many people at Morris Memorial, and we thank you for your help with this ministry. Be sure to pick up your copy in early March and make it part of your daily Bible Study/ devotion time during Lent.

### *Birthdays:*

Barney Frazier	January 4
Katy Smith	January 9
Mildred Bledsoe	January 11
Jim Waggy	January 17
Jerry Ballard	January 19
Elouise Leadbetter	January 20
Marie Cole	January 20
Betty Ramsey	January 24
Adam Batty	January 25
Kimberly Hess	January 25
Daniel Baker	January 26
Cathie Brown	January 30
Michael Dalporto	January 30
Sharon Byrd	January 30

### *Anniversaries:*

Angie and Jay Townson	Jan. 6
Roger and Betty Ramsey	Jan. 24
Bill & Thelma Ann Wandling	Jan. 25

*Please remember in prayer  
these members of our  
church family on their  
special day*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:            9:30 a.m.            Nurture in Action

Wednesdays:    10:00 a.m.            MEC Chapel  
                         10:30 a.m.            Bible Study  
                         7:00 p.m.              Bible Study

Thursdays        6:30 p.m.            Truth Project

Sundays:           9:00 a.m.            Sunday School  
                         10:30 a.m.            Worship Service  
                         2:00 p.m.              Youth

January 4 - Trustees at 6:30 p.m.

January 8 - UM Men at Bob Evans at 9:00 a.m.

January 11 - Finance Team at 6:30 p.m.

January 18 - Church Council at 6:30 p.m.

January 25 - PPRC at 6:30 p.m.

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The majority of communication from the church is currently through email. If you are not receiving regular emails from the church, please contact Erin at 304-925-1413 or at [eborchers@morrismemorial.org](mailto:eborchers@morrismemorial.org) to have your email address added to our database!

## GRATITUDE CORNER

On Sunday, November 21, just prior to Thanksgiving, our Youth Group came to Common Grounds to help prepare the Thanksgiving boxes for distribution to Common Grounds families on Tuesday, November 23. They filled the boxes with the non-perishable foods and divided them according to the family size for ease of distribution. There were nineteen youth and six adults. They came eager to work, pleasant to work with, and worked well as a team. How we appreciated their help at a time we really needed it. Once again, they proved the old adage "Many hands make light work" and it was such fun!

Genuine thanks to members of the Youth Group, their Leaders (Ryan and Candice Anderson), their Assistants, and interested family members. They all shared their time and talents so underprivileged families in our area could share in a wonderful Thanksgiving. We thank them for being an important part of "making these filled boxes happen." We hope to see them again next year. God bless them ALL!

*In November Georgeanne Leake, MEC Director, challenged all of her classes to take part in a competition to see which class could collect the most food. She set a time-frame and the competition began. The classes collected food from children, parents, and teachers. It became a real competition all in good fun! When all was said and done they counted their items and donated their collected food to Common Grounds. All in all they donated **1000 items in nine large buckets**. Isn't that simply amazing?! We at Common Grounds are thrilled and so very thankful for these donations. What is even more important is the "sowing of seeds" in these young lives of the value for caring for people who are hungry in their own neighborhood. That's such an important life lesson and it's never too young to begin to learn it! Georgeanne, Staff, Families and Children - we thank you for sharing your resources to benefit those less fortunate in our community. We pray it impacted your family and the MEC family positively. Thank you from all of us at Common Grounds. May you be blessed as you have been a blessing!*

*Our downstairs ladies restroom is getting a well-deserved facelift! We are fortunate to have several individuals who have taken on the task, and we look forward to seeing the final results. In the meantime, please note that the restroom will be unusable for a short time. Thank you to all the individuals who donated toward this project and those that have taken on the labor!*

## Important News

*The United Methodist Men's group will be holding a fellowship and prayer breakfast Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 am at Bob Evans in Kanawha City. Any interested men are welcome to attend and spouses are invited to join us also. The Covid pandemic has curtailed this group's ability to meet, and the purpose of this meeting is to assess the interest in having an active men's group at this time. The purpose of the UMM group is to encourage fellowship and spiritual growth among the men attending Morris Memorial. Our group has also provided help with small maintenance projects around the church as well as providing the annual Christmas dinner prior to being cancelled the past two years. All interested men, please attend so we can gauge the interest in continuing this ministry. Please text Mark Miller at 304-517-0523 if you are planning to attend so that he will have an idea of how big a space we will need.*

The Morris Enrichment Center was so happy to reinstate their annual Christmas show! We had six classes represented and the kids did a great job singing and jingling bells. Everyone began practicing in November and were well prepared. It was wonderful to see all our families and finally have the opportunity to celebrate together.



Our students were also treated to a Breakfast with Santa! We certainly found the best Santa in Barney Frazier – and we could not thank him more for his

time. The children were so excited and all received a small gift. While we always follow health guidelines, it's a fantastic feeling to share time together and focus on our blessings. MEC is very aware of just how blessed we are – from our church family to our students, parents and staff.



**Thank you for a great year!**

## COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

As we enter 2022, we at Common Grounds would be amiss if we were to forget to give our “thanks” to those who were so helpful to us this past year. We thank our church family and friends who have helped us in any way, whether it be by volunteering, donating food, praying for our outreach mission, or by donating money or other goods. (Speaking of donating money, we want to be sure to thank those who have given financially to us throughout this year. Included in this are checks you’ve written to our church with “Common Grounds” on the memo line. Because of the need to protect your privacy we at Common Grounds do not know who you are specifically.) Be assured that our gratitude is none-the-less great and overflowing no matter what your means of supporting our mission. You all are a true blessing to us! It’s people like you who help us keep our mission doors open to serve our local underprivileged families.

Near the end of November and into December the Morris Enrichment Center held a friendly competition between classes to see which class could bring the most items to be donated to, you guessed it, Common Grounds. They came through with flying colors! (Please see the short, separate article thanking them for this highly successful food collection.)

Also, our Morris Youth Group came to help fill our Thanksgiving boxes we prepared for our families. What a blessing they were! (Please see the short, separate article thanking them and for further information.)



If you would like to help us this month, please consider bringing **BOXED MACARONI AND CHEESE, CANNED SOUPS, BOXED PANCAKE MIX AND/OR SYRUP**. Your donation(s) may be placed in the woven trunk in the closet in the Narthex. If you would like to give a donation by check, please make the check out to Morris Memorial Methodist Church and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds. Don’t forget-If you are supporting Common Grounds with food, with money, by volunteering, and/or by praying for this mission outreach of our church, **YOU are MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in our own neighborhood guaranteed! Bless you!

If you are interested in learning more about Common Grounds, have comments to share, or would like to volunteer here, please contact Susan Vieweg, our Morris Memorial Common Grounds Coordinator, at (304) 344-2617 or (304) 549-6155.