

# Morris

# MEMORIAL

SEPTEMBER 2022

## *The Seasons of Life*

It's hard to believe that summer is almost gone. It seems just yesterday when the earth was coming back to life after its winter nap. By now, we have witnessed new life in nature and have harvested the bounties of our labor in the garden, but we are preparing to enter the season of fall; a time to prepare for the earth's coming winter rest.

Human life is like the seasons of the earth. We are born, we grow, we age, and we die. As children, we often think we will live forever and do not take into consideration that the span of our earthly life is really only a flash in time. It is usually only the fall or winter season of our lives that we begin to wonder where time has gone and desire to go back and do the things we had planned to do when the season was right.

No one knows how many seasons they will be given on earth except for God, therefore, must do our best with the ones we are given. I trust that you have made the most of the beautiful days we have had in these passing seasons, and you have grown both physically and spiritually.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays: 10:00 a.m. Nurture in Action  
Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. MEC Chapel  
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
          10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
          2:00 p.m. Youth

September 6 – Trustees 6:30 p.m.  
September 12 – Worship Team 1:30 p.m.  
September 14 – Nominating Team 6:30 p.m.  
September 19 – Knit Wits  
September 19 – MEC 6:30 p.m.  
September 20 – Church Council 6:30 p.m.  
September 21 – Bible Study resumes 10:30/6:30 p.m.  
September 25 – District Conference at  
                    Forrest Burdette UMC 3:00 p.m.  
September 26 – Vision Team 7:00 p.m.  
September 27 – PPRC 6:30 p.m.  
September 28 – Bible Study 10:30/6:30 p.m.

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## **Financial Update**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Needed monthly to meet our 2022 budget:       | \$ 33,681     |
| Received Year to Date (January 1- August 31): | \$ 237,250.79 |
| Expenses Year to Dates (January 1-August 31): | \$ 239,875.21 |

Thank you for your dedicated tithes and offerings to Morris Memorial.  
Your gifts are deeply appreciated.

# SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

## *Birthdays:*

|                  |             |                |              |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Larry White      | September 1 | Jim Kautz      | September 8  |
| Ruth Lancaster   | September 1 | Barbara Skull  | September 12 |
| Jackson Anderson | September 3 | Carolyn Gibson | September 18 |
| Sheila Wade      | September 3 | Peggy Barker   | September 20 |
| Debbie Johnson   | September 4 | Kay Brooks     | September 26 |
| Bob Leadbetter   | September 7 | Lynn Thompson  | September 26 |

## *Anniversaries:*

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Rick & Barbara Adkins    | September 9  |
| Barbara & John Skull     | September 16 |
| Gretta & Jerome Hairston | September 18 |
| Cathy & Randy Dobbins    | September 19 |
| Chris & Terry Terpening  | September 24 |

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## Vision Team Update

The Vision Team has received 62 responses as of August 28 to our values questionnaire. We plan to share the results with the congregation at our church service September 18 and will use these results to help develop recommended action points for our congregation. We are aiming to have those available in November so that we may aim to implement them in 2023.

The values questionnaire is an attempt for the Vision Team to get input from our congregation as to what programs and ideals our congregation values most highly, which we hope will guide us on where to concentrate our efforts and our financial resources in the future. If you have not had an opportunity to give your opinion by completing the questionnaire, we will be sending one out via email shortly. We need to have the completed forms within a week to be included in our analysis. Thank you so much!

If you have any questions, you may direct them to Pastor Ray, Bruce Reed, or Jim Caudill.

## **Common Grounds News and Needs**

Excitement is in the air as we enter Fall and all that brings with it! In September we are so thankful that Morris' Nurture 'N' Action Team is sponsoring a food drive for the benefit of our families at Common Grounds. It will be held in our church's front parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Donors will be able to drive through and drop off their donations or they can park and bring their donation(s), staying awhile to have some cookies and visit with those volunteers who are there. All donations will be appreciated! Some suggestions are the following: peanut butter and jelly, fruit in its own juice, unsweetened family-sized cereal, green beans, corn, mixed vegetables, canned tuna or chicken, pasta and spaghetti sauce, mac 'n' cheese, baked beans, soup of any kind, pancake mix, and syrup. This list, however, is not exhaustive. Thank you for whatever you donate whether it be food or money. We appreciate your caring and sharing! Speaking of sharing, we are always hopeful this time of year that people will share some of the vegetables from their gardens with our families.

In October, we will sign up our families for our Thanksgiving boxes of food. Each box is filled with "the makings" for a complete Thanksgiving meal and is tailored to the size of the family. Those will be handed out the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This is always a joy-filled time!

We are also looking forward to signing up families for the United Way Christmas Bureau offerings. Eligible families may sign up for a Christmas dinner for the whole family and if they have children 12 years of age and under they can sign up for clothing and three toys (value up to \$75) for each child. It's quite a generous program for eligible families.

If you would like to help us this month with food, please consider bringing CANNED FRUIT ( in its own juices, if possible), CANNED TOMATOES, , AND/OR NOODLES. As you know we are grateful for whatever food you donate. Please place them in the woven trunk 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. Thanks for sharing in whatever way(s) you choose! May God bless you beyond measure!

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

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**Don't forget that our Kids for Christ program begins on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> during our 10:30 worship service. Children will begin in the sanctuary and Pastor Ray will dismiss them to go to their classes.**

