

# Morris MEMORIAL

DECEMBER 2021

## **ANGEL TREE - It Starts With A GIFT**

Angel Tree is a Prison Fellowship program that serves incarcerated parents by giving them a way to restore and strengthen the relationships with their children and families. Every Christmas, Angel Tree mobilizes local churches and organizations to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by delivering a gift, a personal message of love from their mom or dad in prison, and the Good News of the Gospel.

**Here's how it works:** Angel Tree coordinators gather information from inmates who want to participate in the program and provide it to local churches and organizations. Volunteers prepare "angel gift tags" to provide the information to those who wish to purchase gifts. Morris Memorial has actively supported this ministry for many years. This year we have been asked to serve 22 local families with a total of 36 children.

Every child receives **TWO GIFTS**, each of which is valued between \$15 and \$20. One gift is a **FUN** gift (a type of toy, game, etc.) which is suggested by the inmate. The other gift is an item of **CLOTHING** which is suggested by the child's caregiver (type of clothing, size and color preference noted on the gift tag). Two Christmas trees with the angel gift tags will be set up in the entryway of the church sanctuary beginning Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>; one tree for the clothing gifts and the other for the fun gifts (pink ribbons for girls and blue ribbons for boys). Participants may choose to purchase a single gift or several if desired.

All gifts are to be wrapped and labeled with the angel gift tag and need to be brought to the church by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> at the latest**. Volunteers will be present in the sanctuary entryway to receive the gifts before and after the Sunday worship services on November 21<sup>st</sup>, November 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 5<sup>th</sup> (at other times the gifts may be given to Erin in the church office). Families will pick up the gifts the following week at which time they are also given the opportunity to request a free Adventure Bible for young children or a Teen Life Application Study Bible for older children.

All the angel tags that were prepared were taken on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. **HOWEVER**, we hopefully anticipate that we will be able to hang more tags soon. Why the wait? Before preparing each angel tag, contact needs to be made with the children's caregivers. Because some of the caregivers could not be reached by phone, it has been necessary to follow up with a request by mail. As responses are received, more angel tags will be prepared and hung on the trees. Thank you for your patience. For questions, contact Gloriann Caudill, Morris Memorial Angel Tree Coordinator ([glorianncaudill@gmail.com](mailto:glorianncaudill@gmail.com) or 304-421-5592).

## CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

*Our hearts are full and overflowing with gratitude to the Worship Team for sponsoring our Thanksgiving Food Drive once again. The results show our congregation willingly opened their hearts and their wallets to purchase food to share with our local underprivileged families.*

*When all was said and done, 744 items were donated four Sundays prior to Thanksgiving. If you were in church those Sundays, you could see them all collected each Week in the front of the church. It truly was quite impressive, wasn't it?*

*The Worship Team could not have done it without you, our church family and friends. You were so generous and, because of that, many of our needy neighbors had food both for their Thanksgiving meals but also in their monthly boxes because of you! Just think! These families who receive our Thanksgiving boxes were able to celebrate this special holiday right along with us! They were blessed by your generosity; you, in turn, were blessed just knowing you have made their Thanksgiving meals possible.*

*It's a "Win - Win" situation. Thank you soooooo much!!*

*For those of you interested in the breakdown of the donations, they were the following:*

Green beans - 148	Cereal - 38
Baked Beans - 57	Gravy - 63
Cranberry Sauce - 54	Corn -107
Boxed Stuffing - 84	Jelly - 39
Peanut Butter - 97	Yams - 57

*Again, thanks to the Worship Team and everyone who helped make this food drive such a success!!  
God bless you all!!*

### *Birthdays:*

Garrett Eads	December 4
Chuck Yanov	December 5
Lyndsey Jones	December 5
Roy Smith	December 5
Bill Wandling	December 11
Sharon Pittman	December 13
Mickie Bowles	December 13
Carolyn Short	December 15
June Toler	December 17
Velma High	December 19
Michelle Stigall	December 21
Timothy Pittman	December 22
Gretta Hairston	December 23
Lenese Hickman	December 24
Dean Silkwood	December 25
Ann Kautz	December 28
David Cole	December 28
Maxine Boyd	December 30
Mary Hill	December 31

### *Anniversaries:*

Katy & Don Smith	Dec. 13
Debbie & Mike Barber	Dec. 19
Mark & Monica Hatfield	Dec. 27
Candice & Ryan Anderson	Dec. 28

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

Thanksgiving has come and gone. Some of us are feeling guilty about the food we consumed, and others are still thinking of creative ways to prepare the leftover turkey so it doesn't go to waste. We have watched the parades and games; we have rekindled old relationships with friends and loved ones. There are even some who braved the crowds to share in the chaos of "Black Friday" striving to get the best deal on the perfect Christmas gift for someone.

Trying to obtain the perfect gift can be a bit daunting at times. Many will go the extra mile to find something that is unique as a gift in order that we might express our love and friendship to another. We will brave crowds that are at times hostile, and often times less cordial than we would desire. But still we bravely put ourselves in harm's way to find the perfect gift.

Nearly two-thousand years ago on a black Friday, the perfect gift was given to all humanity. There wasn't a great difference from today's Black Friday and then; there was chaos, there was fighting, there was bloodshed. The earth quaked, the sun turned dark, and graves opened up. All because the perfect gift- our eternal life- was purchased that day by a Savior we know as Jesus Christ.



As we enter into the Advent season, let each of us take time to reflect on what the Christmas season is really about. It is a time to prepare for the arrival of King Jesus. It's the time to remind ourselves that we have been offered grace and mercy through a high price to Christ. It's a time to renew the anxiousness of our wait for the coming Lord, King Jesus. It is nice to receive gifts, and it's nice to give gifts. If you really want to give a gift that never goes out of style, offer someone the gift of the message of salvation. By doing this you will most assuredly show your love to others.

Jesus loved you enough to give you the perfect gift; his life for yours. Now share that gift with others as we await his return.

*Merry Christmas!*

# 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	7:00 p.m.	Truth Project
Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	2:00 p.m.	Youth

- December 5 – Special Charge Conference for team leaders at 2:00 p.m.
- December 6 – UM Men at 7:00 p.m.
- December 7 - Trustees at 6:30 p.m.
- December 12 – “The Messengers” movie in Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.
- December 14 – Finance Team at 6:30 p.m.
- December 24 – Christmas Eve service at 9:00 p.m.
- December 24-27: Church office closed
- December 29 – 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

Our Knit Wits, Etc. is a special group of ladies in our church which meets regularly (except during COVID) for fellowship but also to create handwork to benefit others. In doing this they make our world a better place, one item at a time. In November of this year, as in the past, and as a mission of our church, these ladies lovingly crocheted and knitted dish cloths for Common Grounds' Thanksgiving Food Boxes. Each was individually wrapped. Included within each baggie was a personalized note letting the family know that they are being prayed for and wishing the family receiving it a sense of God's presence during Thanksgiving and always. We welcomed these gifts of dish cloths and the special notes to add to these boxes of food for our underprivileged families. It's interesting to note that this group makes hand-made items for a number of other local charities. They do it quietly and behind the scenes; however, they are showing that they care and desire to spread God's love by sharing their time and talents with others. Thank you to each member of our Knit Wits, Etc. for making and sharing those special dish cloths with Common Grounds families. They added such a special touch to each of our Thanksgiving boxes. What a blessing you are!

On Saturday, November 13, 2021 our scouts and friends from Boy Scout Troop 177 (from our church) collected "Scouting for Food" grocery bags filled with food donations from Kanawha City residents. The scouts proceeded to Common Grounds, our church's local outreach mission, here in Kanawha City. Although they did not have the usual number of scouts participating, they were quite successful! They collected a lot of food, 70 bags and 560 items in all! They opened the bags, checked the items for viable dates, and placed them on the pantry shelves. Way to go, Scouts!! How proud we are at Morris Memorial Church of what you are doing in our community! How we at Common Grounds appreciate all you've done to bring this "Scouting for Food" Drive to such a successful end! We cannot forget to thank the generous Kanawha City residents as well. It takes us all, doesn't it? Together with the scouts they have provided much-needed food for those less fortunate in our neighborhood. Special thanks to the Scout Coordinators for making it all happen!

*The Morris Enrichment Center would also like to thank Carolyn Ballard for her years of service. She has served on the MEC Board as the treasurer and chairperson, and she will be taking a step down in 2022. She has been a blessing to our teachers and children and we are grateful for her dedication. Pastor Ray has also begun chapel services for the children each Wednesday and they love the stories and songs! As many of our children don't attend a local church, this is a wonderful way for them to begin hearing about God's Word.*

*Our students are also currently competing to bring in the most non-perishable food items to help Common Grounds! The class that brings in the most items will receive a pizza party! All food will be given to Common Grounds. Our parents have been so generous this year and we look forward to making a large donation!*

## Important News

- *Poinsettia orders are due by Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Please email Erin with any questions.*
- *Please celebrate Christmas Eve with us at our 9:00 p.m. service - all are invited!*
- *Our men have decided to relaunch the United Methodist Men since Covid is markedly decreasing. They will host a Meet and Greet breakfast together on Saturday January 8, 2022, at Bob Evans in Kanawha City, 9 a.m. All spouses are welcome to attend.*

CHRISTMAS WITH  
**THE CHOSEN**  
"THE MESSENGERS"

**We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a viewing party for the movie "Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers." Please join us on Sunday, December 12th at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary to view the movie. Tickets are \$11 adults and \$9 for children 12 and under, plus fees, \$1 plus 1%. Tickets will be limited. This is the link to purchase tickets:**

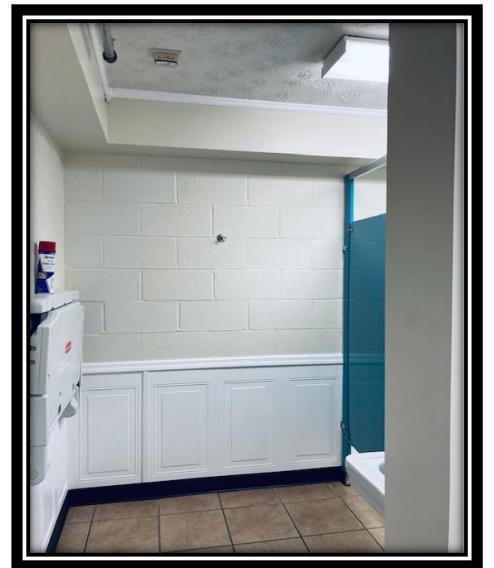
**<https://faithcontentnetwork.brushfire.com/thechosen/521656>**



Under the skillful guidance of Bruce Reed and the help of many UM Men, we have renovated the men's restroom in the main hallway from the sanctuary.

Our earnest thanks to all who participated.

Mark Miller,  
President UM Men



## COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

November is a busy time at Common Grounds and an energizing one as well. We prepared our Thanksgiving boxes ---- 113 of them this year. We truly thank each and every one of you who donated food to the Worship and Nurture Team's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our Thanksgiving boxes were distributed the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. They included the full Thanksgiving meal tailored to the size of the family. Each box had a turkey, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, green beans, sweet potatoes, gravy, a bag of potatoes, rolls, butter or margarine, and a pumpkin pie. Sounds like a complete Thanksgiving feast, doesn't it? Surely many were blessed on this day set apart for giving thanks.....those people who received but also those people who gave! Thanks for helping to make it all possible! God bless you!

Our Knit Wits, Etc. hand-crafted dish cloths for each of the Thanksgiving boxes. Included with each cloth was a personalized message for the recipients. Dr. Michael Richardson, DDS donated oral care items for each family member of each family receiving a Thanksgiving box. We seek to encourage healthy habits for our families and by giving them the "tools" for oral hygiene we are hoping to demonstrate the importance of good, regular oral hygiene. Thank you, Dr. Richardson for helping us help them! Our Morris Memorial Youth Group came to Common Grounds the Sunday before Thanksgiving to set up the Thanksgiving boxes and fill them with the non-perishables in preparation for Tuesday. As always they were a great help and proof that "many hands do make light work!" We appreciate them greatly!! Thanks Morris Youth Group as well as Ryan and Candice Anderson, their leaders.

*The greatest joy  
in all of living is the  
joy that comes from  
freely giving*

In December in addition to regular monthly food boxes, our families will receive a Kroger gift card to help with their Christmas celebrations. We do not usually give Christmas food boxes as many other charitable agencies do offer them. We did, however, give Christmas boxes last year since we were unable to do Thanksgiving boxes that year.

If you find you can help us this month, please bring CANNED FRUIT (in their own juices), OATMEAL, and/or CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE. As always, we are ever so grateful for whatever you donate. Please place your donation(s) in the woven trunk in the alcove in the Narthex. If you would like to write a check, please make the check out to Morris Memorial Church and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds. Thanks again for sharing in whatever ways you choose! May God 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, Morris Memorial's Common Grounds Coordinator at (304) 344-2617 or (304) 549-6155.