

THE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Message from the Pastor

Attending the funeral of a relative recently, I was intrigued by a statement the pastor shared. Instead of "goodbye", when they parted, her friend made this comment, "I'm glad you are a part of my story today." In that same spirit, Wallis and I are glad that you are a part of our story today and until the end of June when a newly-appointed pastor will arrive at Memorial Church.

You all were very engaged and energetic in our first worship time together and then demonstrated what superb cooks you have in your midst as we shared in the meal after that service. Beyond that, you have prayed for us, wished us well, sent us notes, and have been so warm, welcoming, and gracious. We are grateful for your kind reception.

Just as the Hawaiian greeting, "aloha", can be used as a greeting or a farewell, in June, Wallis and I will still be saying that we are glad that you are a part of our story. But in the meantime, I pray we will together listen to what God is calling us to be and to do as His people in this place and time. Let's roll up our sleeves and work on whatever needs to be done. Let's pray for one another. Let's give of our time, talents, and treasure that the good news of Christ is shared in Greer and across the globe. And let's together marvel at what God does in and through the people of Memorial United Methodist Church. Let's celebrate!

I look forward to seeing you at worship Sunday morning. We'll even save a seat for you.

George Riser

Newsletter Highlights

Pastoral Message

Child Enrichment Program

Children Ministry

Youth Ministry

Worship

Trustees

United Women of Faith

Missions

JOY-Just Older Youth

Music Ministry

Financial Report

Child Enrichment Program



**Who says
infants can't
be musicians?**



Look who's reading in 1k!



**2K loves coming to school in
their pajamas!**



Happy Holidays from "silly" 3K!



Happy holidays from 4k!



PUZZLES & CHILI

Join us on Thursday, February 1st at 6 pm in the choir room. All you have to do is show up, be ready to eat chili, and work puzzles with friends. Sign up by January 31st. Hope to see you there.

World Class Manufacturing Tour

Thursday, February 8th
9:30am - 2:30pm

The Milliken plant is recognized as a world leader in processing fire retardant fabrics for the racing, oil and first responder industry. The tour should take about an hour and will require some walking on concrete floor. After the tour we will have lunch at Dyar's Diner and Cafeteria. Please register by February 2nd.



Friday, March 8th

Show starts at 7:30 PM
Dinner at Mama Penn's before the show. Tickets \$20 per person.

Friday, February 16th



Join us for dinner and fellowship in Tryon, NC. We will load the bus at 5:00pm and head to the restaurant. Please register by Friday, February 9th.

Music Ministry

reasons to Sing in the choir

JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:00 TO REHEARSE FOR WORSHIP

RANESSA@MEMORIALGREER.COM

PSALM 107:21 & 22

3

Singing in church choir allows for a type of expression of praise to the Lord that could not be accomplished in any other way.

PSALM 107:31 & 32

4

Singing in church choir allows participation in the overall ministry of leading in worship, which is a joy and a privilege.

PSALM 100

5

Singing in church choir gives many opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

PSALM 96:1 - 4

6

Singing in church choir implants incredibly profound messages within the heart and soul that are readily available at any moment.

PSALM 84:4

7

Singing in church choir brings people together who love the Lord and have a servant heart for sharing His word.

PSALM 95:1 - 7

8

Singing in church choir allows participation in something that is so much bigger than one person.

REVELATION 15:3 & 4

9

Singing in church choir gives a feeling of closeness to god by praising & communicating

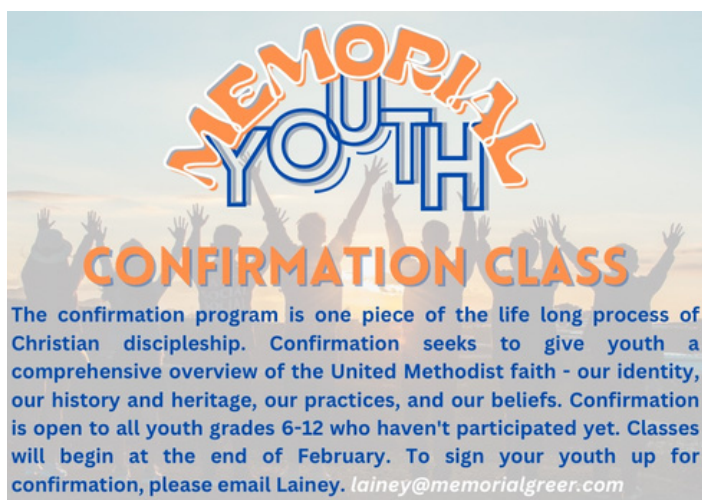
II CHRONICLES 29:26 - 30

10

Singing in church choir becomes an integral part of a person's spiritual journey.

Children's Ministry





WORSHIP WITH US

REVEREND GEORGE RISER
INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

9 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
LED BY SENIOR PASTOR AND LAY SPEAKERS

11 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE
LED BY SENIOR PASTOR

FEB 4	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
FEB 11	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Reese Hannon) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
FEB 18	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Sylvia Dobson) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
FEB 25	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Rev. Lynn Pennington) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAR 3	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
MAR 10	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: John Powell) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAR 17	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Sarah Catherine Lee) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAR 24 PALM SUNDAY	9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAR 31 EASTER SUNDAY	9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
APR 7	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary

APR 14	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Marion Waters) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
APR 21	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Kevin Duncan) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
APR 28	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Robbie Septon) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAY 5	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
MAY 12	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: John Powell) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAY 19	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Mike Henson) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
MAY 26	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR 10:00 One Worship Service FLC
JUNE 2	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
JUNE 9	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Rev. Lynn Pennington) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
JUNE 16	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Sarah Catherine Lee) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
JUNE 23	9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
JUNE 30	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Marion Waters) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
JULY 7	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary

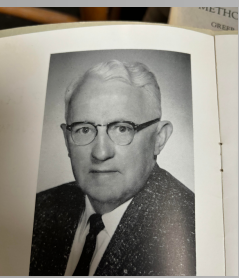
Worship...continued

JULY 14	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Rev. Lynn Pennington) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	OCT 6	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
JULY 21	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Ralph Johnson) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	OCT 13	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Don Louis) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
JULY 28	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Kenna Owens) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	OCT 20	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Reese Hannon) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
AUG 4	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary	OCT 27	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Robbie Septon) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
AUG 11	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Reese Hannon) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	NOV 3	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
AUG 18	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Lainey Hannon) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	NOV 10	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Kenna Owens) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
AUG 25	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Mike Henson) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	NOV 17	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Rev. Lynn Pennington) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
SEPT 1	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary	NOV 24 <i>CONSECRATION SUNDAY</i>	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary 11:00 Church-Wide Fellowship Lunch
SEPT 8	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Kevin Duncan) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	DEC 1	9:00 Sunday School Hour 10:00 One Worship Service Sanctuary
SEPT 15	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Sarah Catherine Lee) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	DEC 8	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Sylvia Dobson) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
SEPT 22	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Marion Waters) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	DEC 15	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Kevin Duncan) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
SEPT 29	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: John Powell) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship	DEC 22	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Sarah Catherine Lee) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship
		DEC 29	9:00 Contemporary Worship (Lay Speaker: Don Louis) 10:00 Sunday School Hour 11:00 Traditional Worship

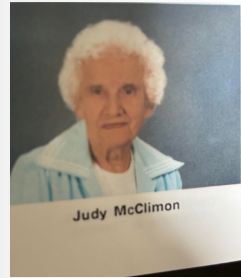
Tommy Simmons - Co-Chair (Mechanical/Facilities)
Steve Barbrey - Co-Chair (Admin)
Jamie Thompkins - Secretary

Jeff Austin
Mark Cox
Jim Scudder

Peggy Smith
Paul Wood
Scott Wentzky



The Story of the McClimon Trust Fund



Happy New Year from the Trustees. As we reflect on 2023 and years previous it is evident many projects around the church have been completed to help preserve our buildings and grounds. None of this would have been possible without the McClimon Trust fund and a couple, who through their vision for a church they loved lives today.

The legacy of Memorial is built on families like J. S. (Mr. Mac) and Judy McClimon. It is doubtful this couple could have imagined how their gift would grow and the impact it would create.

Understanding who Mr. Mac and Mrs. Judy were and how their lives exemplified their Christian beliefs and conservative lifestyle help explain how the Trust came to be. John Shaffer McClimon was born in 1890. Being one of seven children, he learned early to work hard and live frugally. Mr. McClimon was a graduate of Wofford College and embarked on a lifelong career in banking.

J. S., as some referred to him, established a reputation encouraging conscientious and conservative banking practices. He became a well respected member of the Greer community. As 1925 dawned, he made a lifelong commitment and married Jennie Goldsmith Richardson, known to us as Judy. Born in 1900, she would earn an education degree from Anderson College. She taught kindergarten and music in public schools and was an accomplished singer and musician, playing both piano and violin. She shared her love of music with others by offering private music lessons. In 1933, the McClimons moved to Greer when The Peoples Bank of Duncan became Bank of Greer. Judy worked with her husband in the bank for many years and J.S. would retire as President of Bank of Greer in 1966. The McClimons shared with Memorial their faith, love, wisdom, kindness, and generosity. Mr. Mac held various positions at the church and according to Rev. George Strait, his conservative nature encouraged the church to save money for projects rather than borrow. In the 1960s they established several trusts; Memorial was fortunate to be named one of the beneficiaries. Mr. Mac died in 1969, but Mrs. Judy lived until 2001. She was 101 years old. It was after Judy died that Memorial learned of the trust and how the amount had increased in those 40+ years. In 2002, their bequest became the McClimon Building Endowment Fund, and a special committee was appointed under the direction of the Rev. John Rush to decide how to spend and invest the funds. The committee established guidelines for the Trust Document in keeping with the wishes of Mr. Mac and Mrs. Judy. Therefore, the Document states "the Fund shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the physical plant and property of the Church . . . and the preservation and improvement of the same and [complying with] provisions of the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline." The original balance was \$1,571,226.49. The church's Board of Trustees and Administrative Board voted to immediately spend \$450,000 to retire the debt on the Family Life Center and to replace the HVAC systems in all older buildings.

In 2002, the McClimon Trustees set a policy to be responsible in accordance with the 2000 Discipline and funding would not be tapped again until it reached 2.5 million. Unfortunately, the stock market did not cooperate, and the fund did not cross the mark until December 2016.

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At that time, the Trustees amended the withdrawal guidelines of the Document to allow “up to 6% of an average of 12 rolling quarters at the end of a year as long as the balance never drops below \$2.5 million.” This allows the church access to funds as the Trust continues to grow. Both decisions have been financial blessings to Memorial. As of December 2023, the McClimon Trust is valued at \$2,791,388.00.

Since annual withdrawals began in 2017, the church has used McClimon Trust funds to renovate the Sanctuary Chancel, re-roof all church buildings; replace HVAC systems in the Family Life Center, Social Hall, and Sanctuary, paint and reseal parking lots, install a campus-wide security system, make improvements in the Parsonage, repair breezeway gutters and drains, install a retractable gym partition and new basketball goals, improve Sanctuary sound systems, and purchase livestream audio/video equipment.

This past year saw a complete refurbish of the FLC after 30 years by creating an inviting meeting space in the foyer, replacing all 222 windows and painting sections of the building, as well as painting the gym to repair water damage.

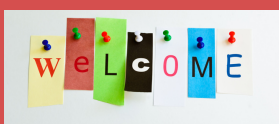
In 2024 the trustees will address protecting our stained glass windows and recoating the FLC roof to protect the building for several more years.

The total distribution from the fund since 2017 is \$1,267,117 which is an astonishing number. Memorial has not sought or borrowed funding for projects which many churches deal with for needed projects. The distribution this year will be \$170,000.00.

As mentioned earlier, the McClimon Trust is used only for building and properties. The operating budget through your pledges funds the trustee items such as HVAC maintenance, utilities, grounds maintenance, janitorial services just to name a few. We also pay all insurance fees from your pledges, thus the importance of Memorial pledging the budget each year.

Memorial United Methodist Church has been blessed by J. S. and Judy McClimon during their lives and beyond. They loved their church family and cared about the future of their church. Let us live and minister in all ways that please God and emulate the generous legacy left by this special couple.

Harriet Johnson and Susan Mayberry worked together to track the history of how the McClimon gift started and excerpts from their research were shared in this writing.



The trustees welcome Peggy Smith, Paul Wood, and Scott Wentzky to serve for the next three years. We want to thank Mary Ann Catafygiotu for her service on the committee for the past three years.



PIANO FUND

The piano in our sanctuary is in need of our attention. The trustees would like to replace the aging piano with a performance piano. This is not a small expense, so a piano fund has been established. You may contribute to this special fund by designating "Piano Fund" on your giving. Thank you!

United Women in Faith

On December 4th, our Christmas Gathering opened with the children from our church's Child Enrichment Program entertaining us with an enthusiastic performance of Christmas music. We were truly blessed to see first hand what a wonderful ministry our church has to the children of our church and community. Also, we welcomed Vickie Failor, President of the Greenville District UWF, who led the installation service of our officers for 2024. We had 21 ladies attend the event.

We look forward to our annual observance of the Call to Prayer and Self Denial event scheduled for February 6th at 10:30 AM in the Social Hall. The emphasis this year is on the environment and our desire to take care of God's creation. We will receive an offering. All ladies are invited to attend.

Please contact Margaret Long (864-895-5320) for information about United Women in Faith and our two circles here at Memorial.

Altar Flowers

The congregation is invited to place flowers on the Sanctuary altar any Sunday. In the past, flowers have been given "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one. Flowers have also been given to honor a birthday, anniversary, baptism, or other special event. The cost is \$85 for the two arrangements, however, if you have special flower requests, the arrangements may cost more.

Please call Harriet Johnson at 864-449-1396 to reserve the date, and she will contact the florist.

Missions

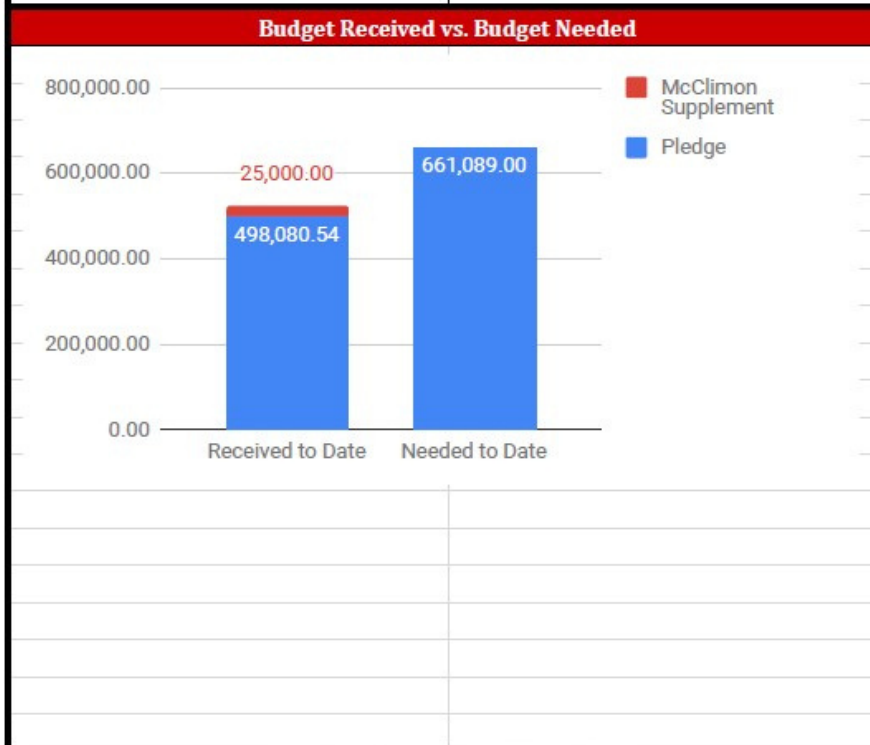
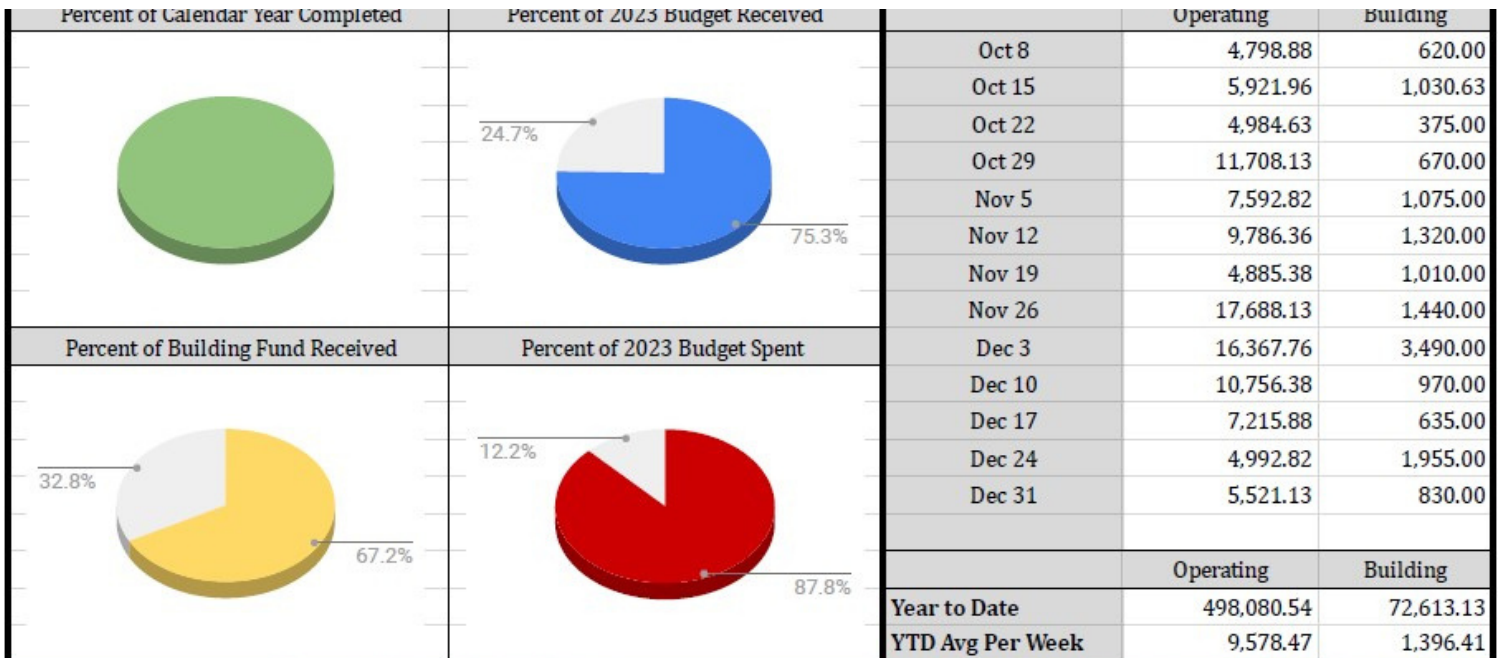
To Do LIST:



THE HONEY DUDES ARE BACK IN BUSINESS

If a church member has a small job or task around the house, we're here to help in any way. Please call the church office at 864-877-0956 or email Tawny Johnson at Tawny@memorialgreer.com and she will put you on the list.

Financial Report



Use of McClimon Trust Funds

Maximum allotted for 2023	\$173,097.00
Church Property Survey	\$5,200.00
Roller Shades for Admin Building	\$1,245.45
FLC Window Replacement	\$86,083.72
Stained Glass Appraisal	\$2,234.00
Narthex Floor Refinish	\$4,500.00
FLC Lobby Renovation	\$43,181.71
Sanctuary Front Doors	\$10,204.85
Admin Sidewalk Addition	\$2,100.00
Exterior Painting	\$15,550.00
Stained Glass Repair	\$123,420.00
Parking Lot Improvements	\$3,265.00
Sanctuary Sound Upgrade	\$8,064.51
FLC Roof	\$24,600.00
FLC Paint Gym	\$22,100.00
FLC Shades	\$10,000.00

2023 Mission and Service Totals

Greer Community Ministries	\$1,050.00
Greer Relief	\$750.00
Daily Bread Ministries	\$1,550.00
Greer Christian Learning Center	\$250.00
Good Samaritan	\$1,342.51
UMCOR	\$250.00
Emmanuel's Hammer	\$1,400.00
Epworth Children's Home	\$2,095.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$320.00
Hinton Center	\$2,370.00



ONLINE GIVING:

memorial.com/give-online OR
simply text MUMCGreer to 73256

ASH WEDNESDAY

February, 14th

Supper at 6 pm

Lasagna, salad, and garlic bread

Adults \$10 Child \$6

Service at 7 pm

Please sign up by February 11th



HOLY THURSDAY

March 28th

Service at 7 pm in the Sanctuary



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31st

9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

