

Rev. John Donaldson—Pastor Dee McDaniel—Administrative Assistant	Mike Kelley—Music Director Alex Kelley—Children’s Director	Ashley Hammac—Preschool Director Delon Hampton—Custodian
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Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Burns Memorial UMC P. O. Box 5157 Augusta, GA 30916	NON PROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID AUGUSTA GA PERMIT NO 213
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BURNS MISSIONS PROJECT


We are participating again this year in Operation Christmas Child, which sends shoe boxes with Christmas gifts to needy and forgotten children around the world.

The boxes were at the entrance to the church and ready to be picked up on Sunday, October 22, thanks to Dee and her grandson, Sebastian. Each box contains the information needed to pack the box and a sticker to choose to send the gifts to a boy or girl and what age range you would like your gift to go to. If you are able, you are asked to provide a \$10 donation for shipping each box you fill.

Please return your box(es) to the church by November 12 so they can be picked up for shipping. Thank you all for your continuous generosity to Missions. God bless you all.



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The Flame Deadline: November 21st

The Flame

of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

November 2023	<i>On Fire for Christ</i>	Issue Number 214
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From The Pastor

In just a few weeks we get to celebrate Thanksgiving! With great food, being surrounded by people you love, football on TV, and hopefully some football in the yard – it could be the best day all year! And the whole event is around this theme of gratitude. God is good: all the time!

I understand the Pilgrims based the original celebration of Thanksgiving on the Old Testament Festival of Tabernacles, which lasted for a whole week. Just imagine a weeklong Thanksgiving! It would be a preview of heaven.

Here’s a phrase from the Bible to take to your thanksgiving celebration: **“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psalm 118:1)** Seven times in the Bible this phrase is repeated; it is likely God repeated it so much because He wanted us to pay attention to it. And note the rationale: thanksgiving is our response to God’s goodness and enduring love. The Hebrew word for gratitude “hakarath hatov,” literally means, "recognizing the good." By giving thanks, we are recognizing the blessings that God has given us. We are acknowledging that it is by God’s grace we have had good health, been able to work, and have a place to work. It is by God’s grace that our kids and grandkids are doing so well. It is by God’s grace that we have family, friends, and a church to be part of. As G. K. Chesterton wrote, “When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.”



There are additional benefits of being thankful. Dennis Prager, author of *Happiness Is a Serious Problem: A Human Nature Repair Manual* (1998), wrote, “We tend to think that it is being unhappy that leads people to complain, but it is truer to say that it is complaining that leads to people becoming unhappy.” And he found the opposite to be true as well. He wrote, “become grateful and you will become a much happier person.”

Years ago, when my sister, Colleen, hosted a family Thanksgiving, she had cut paper leaves of different colors and placed them on the table with some markers. We were encouraged to write on the leaves what we were grateful for, share what we had written to the rest of the family, then hang our leaves on a branch she had fastened to the wall. It was a beautiful testimony of gratitude. If you were to write on a leaf, what would you say? In what ways have you experienced God’s goodness and love in 2023?

Grace & Peace, *Pastor John*

MEET YOU AT THE TABLE

As someone said, “Food tastes better when you eat it with friends.” We have two official church meals in November. Please join us!

Fellowship Lunch: Sunday, November 19, following the worship service. The meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share!

Family Night Supper, Wednesday, November 15 at 6 PM. We will be having Homemade Chili, with ALL the fixins, Corn Bread, Side Salad and Hot Peach Cobbler with Vanilla Ice Cream The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 4-12. See the church bulletin for further details and to sign up.



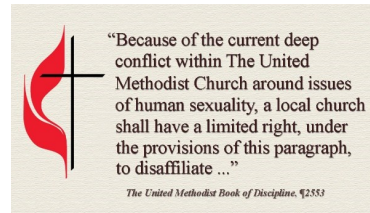
SERVING AT THE MASTERS TABLE



Studies have shown that approximately 1 in 9 people in Richmond Country struggle with hunger. Many of these people are concentrated in the downtown Augusta area. **The Masters Table**, a ministry of Golden Harvest Food Bank, seeks to help with this need. Located at 702 Fenwick Street, this beautiful, chapel-like dining hall, serves a hot lunch to approximately 300 people, 365 days a year. All are welcome. On October 12, eight volunteers from Burns Memorial helped serve lunch. It was a very meaningful and positive experience for us. We are signed up to serve two Thursdays a month. Our next dates are November 2 & 16. The shift is from 10:15 AM to around 12:30 PM. Call the church office for more information or to be added to the Burns Soup Kitchen Volunteers!

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE NORTH GEORGIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Robin Dease has called a special session of the North Georgia Annual Conference for Saturday, November 18, 2023. The session will be held at The Classic Center in Athens beginning at 10 AM. Called in accordance with ¶603.5 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, the sole purpose of the special session is to vote on the ratification of local church disaffiliation requests. Representing Burns Memorial will be our Lay Delegate Carol Echols, and Pastor John Donaldson. Visitors are also allowed, but they will need to register at the site. Registration will open in Grand Hall 4 & 5 at the Classic Center on Friday, November 17, from 5 to 7 PM and Saturday, November 18, at 8 AM.



PRAYER BREAKFAST HOST / HOSTESS TEAM



Becky Visintainer, of the Alleluia Community, is seeking to schedule the host churches for the **2024 Community Prayer Breakfasts**. The meeting is always on the 4th Tuesday of the month, with prayers at 8 AM and the breakfast at 9 AM. It would be nice to volunteer Burns to host a couple of these in 2024, but we really need a host team. If you would like to help host the breakfast, including cooking the breakfast, please contact the Pastor.

PLEDGE DRIVE

With the current state of uncertainty in our church, and knowing that people like to know to whom they are giving / pledging to, the annual pledge drive has been moved back one month, from November to December 2023.



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FALL	THANKFUL	NOVEMBER
GATHER	TURKEY	PLYMOUTH
HOLIDAY	CORNUCOPIA	STUFFING
PILGRIMS	FAMILY	THANKSGIVING
PUMPKIN	GOBBLE	CRANBERRIES
CORN	GRATITUDE	POTATOES
FEAST	PIE	TRADITION

