



MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

• A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 •

PO Box 307
Monteagle, TN
931-924-2286

Volume 27 Issue 8
August 17, 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT: ANNOUNCING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & KEY DATES

I am honored and excited to serve as your next president of the Assembly and work with the executive committee, which is:

- President: Steve Rixham
- First Vice President: Paige Cleveland
- Second Vice President: Ruth Patterson
- Secretary: Anne Byrn Floyd
- Treasurer: Jimmy Stansell

- July 10, 2027
- July 23, 2027 (4:30 pm)
- July 24, 2027 (1:00 pm)

The board's goal is to be as transparent as possible and keep the membership informed. There are many resources available to stay informed and get the facts:

With the 144th season behind us, your board of trustees, committees, executive director, and staff are already hard at work preparing for next season and addressing longer term strategic priorities.



If you're missing the pace of life during the MSSA season, start planning now for next summer!

Dates for the next three seasons are as follows:

- 2027 Season: June 6 – August 1, 2027
- 2028 Season: June 11 – August 6, 2028
- 2029 Season: June 10 – August 5, 2029

Board meeting dates for 2026-27 are as follows:

- Out-of-Season Meetings (10 am):
 - September 12, 2026
 - November 21, 2026
 - February 20, 2027
 - April 17, 2027
- In-Season Meetings (9 am):
 - June 12, 2027
 - June 26, 2027

- Reach out to one of your three caucus representative board members (listed on the website).
- Contact one of the nine at-large board members (listed on the website).
- Reach out to a committee chair (listed on the website).
- Attend a board meeting, held at

the Pulliam Center, which are open to everyone. There, you can share your concerns and ask questions.

- Read the board minutes posted on the website.
- Read Mountain Voices.
- Reach out to me directly at (704) 293-7622 or srixham@yahoo.com.

Thank you.

— Steve Rixham, MSSA Board President

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SAFETY FIRST

The MSSA security team is at your service. If you have any emergency—medical or otherwise—call 911, but our seasoned team is here to help for non-emergency situations.

If you have a safety issue or see suspicious activity anywhere on the grounds or out Sunset Rock Road, please call the security phone, (931) 607-8615 (between 5:00 pm-5:00 am), or call the MSSA office during business hours.

There are no silly concerns—it's better to call and quell your fears than to let something go because you are afraid of a false alarm.

Consider storing the security numbers in your family cell phones!

OUTREACH MAKES COMMUNITY GIFTS

The Outreach Committee met in July to select 2026 recipients for Assembly donations. The Committee is grateful for the ongoing support of the membership that makes possible these important gifts that assist our community. The following organizations received gifts:

- United for Literacy: \$940 (Easter Sunday 2026 Offering)
- Housing Hub \$5,000
- Monteagle Patio/Kiosk via The Mountain Goat Trail Alliance: \$1,000
- Monteagle - Sewanee Rotary Club Hunger Walk: \$2,500
- South Cumberland Community Fund: \$5,000
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace: \$1,000 (and in-kind donated space and utilities from Assembly)
- Grundy County Area Arts Council: \$2,000
- Monteagle Volunteer Fire Department: \$2,000
- May Justus Library: \$2,000
- Morton Memorial Food Ministry: \$1,000 (and Thanksgiving Collection)
- Outreach Sunday, July 19, benefited The South Cumberland Community Clinic - \$6,600
- Thanksgiving collection will go to Morton Memorial Food Bank

If you have any questions about any of these organizations or how our monies are used, please feel free to reach out to me or Steve Williams. We are committed to being good stewards of your generosity.

— Kent Ballow, Chair, Outreach Committee



Kent Ballow presented a \$5,000 check from MSSA Outreach to Julie Keel and Cody Jorstad of Housing Hub. Housing Hub helps provide affordable houses for those in need and fosters workforce development in the building trades on the Mountain.

QUICK BITES

Dogs must be registered at the office, including proof of rabies vaccination. Pick up after your pets.

Lawn trimmings are collected on Wednesdays.

ALL golf carts must be registered or re-registered every year. Only licensed drivers are legally allowed to drive carts.

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees.

Safety first! Call (931) 607-8615 when the main office is closed for any security questions or concerns.

MAKE YOUR 2027 SEASON PLATFORM RECOMMENDATIONS

We are already starting to think about the 2027 season and welcome your recommendations for speakers, programs, ministers, and workshops. Please email me at susan.acker@mssa.org with any ideas. Contacts are always welcome, but we do love getting topics of interest. Thank you for all your support.

Fondly,

— Susan Acker, Platform Superintendent



Susan Acker sent us this picture from the decoupage chicken make-and-take workshop, led by Colby Henderson-Black in Week 1.



Above: These boys set up a lemonade stand during the Cottage Tour & Bazaar. Photo from Rick Boeth.

Below: Jen Reynolds shared this photo from the Outreach Project at Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Week Four.



LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE

#23	Edgeworth Inn	\$1,923,000
#52	Mamie Lou	\$850,000
#72	Memphis Home	\$1,400,000

To arrange a tour or for more information, contact Steve Williams, Executive Director, steve.williams@mssa1882.org or (931) 924-2286.



Flags festooned the grounds for the celebration of America's 250th anniversary this summer. Photo from Rick Boeth.

OFF-SEASON OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday:
8:00 am-4:00 pm

OFF-SEASON PICKLEBALL HOURS

Monday-Saturday:
10:00 am-6:00 pm

Sunday:
1:00-6:00 pm



Thanks to Kelly Wells for this picture of Ellen Moore and her beloved dog from the Blessing of the Animals.

AROUND THE GROUNDS

August 28 & 29

Leah Hayes McAlister & Charles Hirsch Wedding

Harton Hall, Chapel, Auditorium

Multiple cottages rented

September 26

Maggie Kunkel & Jack Perdue Wedding

Harton Hall, Chapel, Auditorium

Multiple cottages rented

October 2

Leadership Nashville

Chapel, Harton Hall

September 30-October 5

University of the South Family Weekend

Multiple cottages rented

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

P.O. Box 307

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www.mssa1882.org

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Security (non-emergency): (931) 607-8615



Executive Director:

Steve Williams, steve.williams@mssa1882.org

President:

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Platform Superintendent:

Susan Acker, susan.acker@mssa1882.org

Director Housing & Guest Services:

Rhonda Atkins, rhonda.atkins@mssa1882.org

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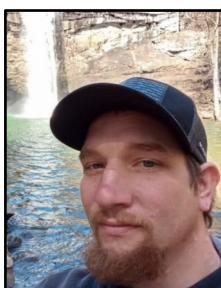
Facility Superintendent:

Rick Duncan, rick.duncan@mssa1882.org

IN OUR PRAYERS



Sam Graham's mother, **Billie Jean Graham**, passed away August 2, 2026. Read her obituary at: <https://www.memorialparkfuneralandcemetery.com/obituaries/billie-graham-3/obituary>



Deanna Caldwell's son, **Christopher Matthew Plantz**, passed away August 6, 2026. Read his obituary at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/christopher-plantz-obituary?id=62141222>



CHAPEL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Chapel Committee would like to thank you all for another amazing season! We were able to bring together ministers, musicians, volunteers, and members of our assembly unity for a meaningful program of worship, music, fellowship, and reflection. All while building the Kingdom of God!



Throughout the season, participating ministers provided thoughtful messages that encouraged those in attendance and strengthened the spirit of the worship series. Their preparation, leadership, and willingness to share their time and talents were central to the success of each service.



Music and special programs also played an important role in the season. These offerings added depth to the worship experience and created memorable moments for the congregation and guests. A very special thank you to Jonathan Brettschneider and Kate Dosel for their leadership in our music program.

There is deep gratitude in my heart for Susan Acker, Charlie Whitt, Davis Arnold, Hays Haney, Steve Williams and the entire chapel committee. Their individual contributions, service, and support helped ensure that each program was organized and presented with care.

Warren Chapel represents more than a series of worship services. It provides an opportunity for the community to gather, renew relationships, welcome visitors, and share in a common experience of faith and fellowship. The dedication of so many individuals resulted in a successful worship series and a season that will be remembered with appreciation.

The Chapel Committee is receiving the Annual Fund donations this year, thank you for your generosity! We look forward to updating you throughout the year on the progress. In the meantime, have a glorious fall filled with God's love!

— Mary Balfour Van Zandt
Chair of the Chapel Committee

The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: "... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination."

The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.

