

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468
firstmethodistcherryville.com

January 29, 2020

Vol. XXXI No. 2

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena
Pianist / Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

FEBRUARY REFLECTION

2 Kings 12:9 *“Then the priest Jehoiada took a chest, made a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the Lord.”*

Luke 21:1-4 *“[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small coins. He said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.’”*

This February we make the long and treacherous descent into lent. We will begin this journey on February 26th at 6:30pm with our Ash Wednesday service. Lent is when we are reminded of Jesus’ time spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, and during this season of Lent, we do well to remember the hold that temptation has upon us. Lent calls us to wrestle with the different ways that temptation has a grip on us.

As folks who have been around the block a few times we know what it is like to be tempted. We are tempted every single day, and while our temptations may not be as egregious as the ones Scripture tells us Jesus faced, our temptations are nonetheless significant.

Friends temptation is powerful, as the father of a one year old and a four year old, I see the ways that temptation can grip a little child. Both of my children struggle at times to make good decisions, as we all do, they know the right thing to do. But sometimes that temptation is just too powerful for them to overcome. As their father I will see them wrestle with that temptation, and I will think to myself, I’m so glad that I don’t struggle with temptation like that, I don’t lay in the floor and throw a temper tantrum over cookies, but during Lent I am forced to think about all the different ways that I struggle with temptation. And more often than not, I probably should throw a temper tantrum instead of giving in, which is where I often find myself. It is eye opening to sit down and really examine how temptation impacts our lives.

Brothers and sisters, every single day we face temptation in our lives, when we hear the voices that tell us honesty and integrity are outdated qualities. We face the temptation to assume a “if you can’t beat them join them” understanding of the world’s values, rather than the kingdom values that Christ calls us to uphold. Temptation runs deep, and it’s affects upon our lives often go unexamined. Not during Lent though.

Lent is a time when we are called to refocus. It is a season of deep contemplation, and a time for us to set our priorities right. Most of the year we can go by blissfully unaware of the insidious ways that sin makes it way into our lives, however in Lent we are called to refresh, and this begins on Ash Wednesday with the imposition of Ashes on our foreheads. We are called to repent of the ways that we have become victims and captives to sin. However, Lent does not leave us with repenting, but it opens the door for a reorientation of our lives, back into right relationship with God.

During this season we will be participating in the age-old tradition of mite boxes. A mite box is a small box where we will place an offering, each day, week, or month, and on Easter Sunday we will place our mite boxes on the altar as an offering to God. This year our offering will go to fund a Rise Against Hunger event here at our

church. Each meal that we will be packing costs six cents. The hope is that we can pack at least ten thousand meals during our packing event.

Often during Lent we are encouraged to forgo a habit that is detrimental to us. In the ancient church they would give up sugar, today many give up soft drinks, sweets, or any number of unsavory habits. I would like to encourage you during this lent season, that whatever you forgo, you place the money you would normally spend on that item in your mite box. Just think if the average cost of a soft drink is \$1.50 by placing that money in your mite box, instead of the vending machine, you would be providing 25 meals to someone in need. That is amazing!

This year as we go through lent let us refocus our priorities. Let us reorient our lives, as we repent, and we rejoice in God who so loves the world he sends his Son. During Lent this year we are going to use our temptation for good, taking those things that tempt us and turning them into meals. May we keep our eyes set to what really matters, offering Christ to all those who we come into contact with. Praise be to God!

Pastor Zack



As we contemplate the possible scenarios awaiting us this pending year, we have much to consider.

The future of our “church” as we know it is in great jeopardy. Many seek to divide our “church” in an effort to water down the scriptures to accommodate a much more liberal life style notwithstanding instruction to the contrary. The scriptures as God breathed them to be are for our benefit, edification and personal salvation.

Are we to say God made a mistake and we therefore are smarter than God? The future of our country and the direction it will be taken following the 2020 elections is at stake. Are we to become a more Christian nation? Or are we going to take the road to liberalism and certain death?

I urge you to give your most prayerful consideration to your choices for the vacancies in November 2020.

One final thought: What kind of a world will you leave for your family members? Will they follow you into eternity and eternal life, or will they choose the other direction because it is easier and without conflict?

Please forgive me if I have stepped on your toes but as your brother, I felt compelled to do so. Seek Gods face in your prayers and guidance and He will set you free.

Your brother in Christ,
Jack Stephenson



Final reports for 2019 indicate the following:

◆ 2019 Giving	\$392,784.15
◆ 2019 Expenses	\$342,658.09
◆ Surplus	\$ 50,126.06

Thank you for all of your contributions that support our many ministries!



My first few weeks as D.C.E. at FUMC Cherryville have been very exciting and busy! I have experienced God's blessing in so many ways. But first of all, I am so grateful for the outpouring of support and welcoming from the church staff and congregation and our Preschool. Thank you all for the calls, notes, e-mails, cards, hugs and words of encouragement as I begin my ministry here. I was met with a hug and a big "Welcome Ms. Bess" sign on my office door as well as cupcakes and popcorn. (What could be better)! I look forward to leading, learning and laughter in the Lord as we journey together to reach God's greatest plan for our church! I am so thankful for all of those who have offered their help and are helping in God's work in our church family. I am reminded of 2 Corinthians: 9:12-15. *"12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"*

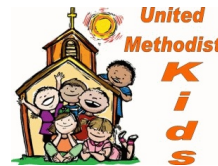
I thank God for this new opportunity to serve and for each one of you and your talents and gifts. I will be in prayer for our church programs daily and I ask for your prayers as well....My door is always open!

Bess

YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS There will be no Youth activities or UMYF this Sunday 2/2/2020.

HOWEVER, we will resume UMYF meetings on February 9th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the youth room down stairs. UMYF is for all Middle School and High School age Youth and their friends. (6th-12th graders). We will have a snack supper, Bible lessons, plan for fun activities, mission projects and fellowship. **BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!**

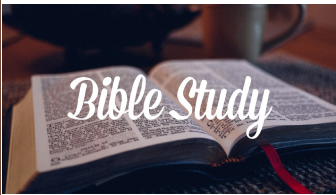
At 7:00am on Thursday mornings the youth will meet for their weekly **Prayer Breakfast** at 7:00am at Homefolks Café. All youth are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Following prayer breakfast, the adults will meet in the Church Parlor and have prayer time for our youth and the youth in the community.



Our UMK's meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at the church beginning at 5:30 for a meal followed by our weekly program of songs and lessons. A big thank you to all those that help and serve UMK suppers. If you would be willing to prepare and serve supper for our UMK's on Wednesday night, please let Bess know.



An Acolyte / Crucifer Training Class will be held February 16th at 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary. All 4th thru 12th graders who would like to serve as acolyte or crucifer for the coming year are invited to come. Even if you have served in the past and had training before, you will need to come and get a refresher course. Older youth members are needed to be there to learn to act as Crucifer. The training should last about an hour. Please contact Bess Thornburg for more information.



Pastor Zack will start his Bible Study back on **Wednesday, January 29, 2020** at 6:00pm on the *Gospel of Mark* in the June Medlin classroom. A

fellowship meal will be served at 5:30pm prior to the Bible Study.



The Prayer Warriors meet biweekly at 6:00 in the church Parlor. February meetings will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6 and Feb. 20. Contact Randy Baxter for more

details.



Prayer Chain: If you would like to be added to the prayer chain or have your name removed from the prayer chain, please contact the Church Office. **We will be putting out the new**

prayer chain at the end of January.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, JANUARY 26, 2020

Total To Date	\$29,151.00
Needs to Date	\$30,118.84
Under.	\$967.84

ATTENDANCE, JANUARY 26, 2020

Sunday School.	67
Early Worship	55
Worship.	<u>107</u>
TOTAL	162



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Wow! January has been a strange month - it's been cold; it's beenj warm; it has rained and rained. The children need some playground time!

Our students are growing in so many ways and I am excited to see that most of them have discovered that **LEARNING IS FUN!** We are working hard to prepare the four year class for kindergarten.

Early registration for the next school year begins February 15 for church members, as well as our current students and siblings. If all our children from the current three year class return we will have limited openings for the four year class. If all our children from the current two year class return, next year's three year class will be full, with no new openings. Any spaces not confirmed by March 1 will be opened to the public. I have already had a number of calls about the next two year class.

It's such a blessing to know that our school is in such demand! We are so fortunate to have the excellent teachers that do such a wonderful job for Kingdom Kids!

We are looking forward to having our Kingdom Kids sing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 23. Thanks for inviting us to do so!

Ms. Millie



We gratefully acknowledge gifts presented to the church in loving memory of:

BECKY CHURCH

Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

DON LYLES

Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

SANDY MITCHEM

Bruce & Chris Barrett (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Joyce Baxter (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Nancy Catena
Clarice Harrelson
Kingdon Kids Preschool
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb
Rhonda Wehunt (Nursery Renovations)

CORNELIA MOSS

Billy & Linda Alexander
Pam Anthony
Jim & Becky Beam (Backpack Ministry)
Steve & Susan Beam
Chad & Michelle Bingham
Ben & Robin Blackburn
Ken & M'Shel Bowen
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)
Nancy Catena
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)
Debbie Gantt
Larry & Juanita Gunnell
Gail Jenkins
Hazeline Moss
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)
Ronnie & Jill Puett
T.L. & Miney Saine
Bill & Chris Sneed
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson
Amy Tallent
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg
Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb
Rhonda Wehunt

FRANCES PUTNAM

Billy & Linda Alexander
Brookie B. Allen
Pam Anthony
Bob & Caryl Austell
E.L., Gail & Ephriam Beam (Backpack Ministry)
Jim & Becky Beam (Backpack Ministry)
Ken & M'Shel Bowen
Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)
Nancy Catena
Richard & Martha Cornwell
Joe & Sandy Dismukes
Alice & O'Neal Douglas
James & Annette Furr
James & Monica Harris
Ray & Laura Homesley
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler
Gail Jenkins
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Maskarinec
Harold & Kim Mauney
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Mayhew
Jim & Lynn McCallie
National Christian Foundation
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)
Mickey Payseur
Brooks & Ben Singletary
Bill & Chris Sneed
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson
Amy Tallent
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb
Rhonda Wehunt (Nursery Renovations)

BARRY QUICKEL

Amy Tallent

DANA WALLACE

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

KEITH WEASE

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)
Sylvia C. Norton (Backpack Ministry)

ROBERT WILLIS

E.L., Gail & Ephriam Beam (Backpack Ministry)
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg





Rita Lorrey
 Lincolnton Rehab
 1410 East Gaston St.
 Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday, February 2

8:45am - Early Worship
 9:45am - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship
 4:00pm - Chancel Choir practice

Monday, February 3

2:00pm - Lola Allran Circle
 6:00pm - Aunt Pearl Circle
 6:00pm - Vera Eaker Circle

Tuesday, February 4

7:00pm - Saturday Breakfast group planning mtg.

Wednesday, February 5

5:30pm - UMK's
 5:30pm - Fellowship Meal
 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study
 6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 6

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
 8:00am - Prayer in Parlor
 6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet
 7:00pm - Pastor Parish Relations Committee mtg.

Sunday, February 9

8:45am - Early Worship
 9:45am - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship
 4:00pm - Chancel Choir practice
 5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet
 6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, February 12

5:30pm - UMK's
 5:30pm - Fellowship Meal
 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study
 6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 13

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
 8:00am - Prayer in Parlor

Sunday, February 16

8:45am - Early Worship
 9:45am - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship
 4:00pm - Chancel Choir practice
 5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet
 6:00pm - Youth

Monday, February 17

Church office closed

Tuesday, February 18

7:00pm - Education Committee meeting

Wednesday, February 19

5:30pm - UMK's
 5:30pm - Fellowship Meal
 6:00pm - Adult Bible Study
 6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 20

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
 8:00am - Prayer in Parlor
 6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet

Sunday, February 23

8:45am - Early Worship
 9:45am - Sunday School
 11:00 - Worship
 4:00pm - Chancel Choir practice
 5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet
 6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday February 26


5:30pm - UMK's
 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service
 6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 27

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
 8:00am - Prayer in Parlor
 6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet

Saturday, February 29

7:30am -10:30am - Community Breakfast

 <p>in case of INCLEMENT WEATHER</p>	<p>In case of inclement weather / dangerous road conditions, we will advertise any changes to our regular worship schedule on WBTV, channel 3 or WSOC TV, channel 9 as well as on the church website www.firstmethodistcherryville.com.</p>
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