

First United Methodist Church  
Cherryville, North Carolina

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

**OCTOBER 30, 2024**

**Vol. XXXV No. 11**

Rev. Zack Christy  
Pastor

Teresa Gardo  
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg  
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena  
Organist

Linda Barger  
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon  
Handbell Director

Cam Alfaro  
Audio Visual Tech.

Mildred Young  
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

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November Reflection

*Galatians 3:26-28 "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."*

I was a Political Science and Communication major in undergrad. I then went on to get my Masters of Divinity, so I have studied the two things that you are not supposed to bring up in polite conversation. Religion and Politics, but the two are pretty hard to keep separated when we find ourselves in the position that we do today, with a Presidential election on Tuesday. I would be remiss if I did not at least remind us of John Wesley's rules for voting. To vote without fee or reward for the person you deem most worthy, to not speak evil of the opposition, and to take care that your spirits aren't sharpened against those who voted differently.

Now y'all can rest easy, I'm not going to give a political speech or anything like that, but there is something happening in our world today, particularly with regards to politics that we can't ignore. It is a trend that I find very disturbing, and I think it is brought out in this Scripture. It is what the pundits call "partisan polarization."

Since 2008, our country has grown increasingly polarized over the issues of being either a republican or a democrat, meaning that both groups have become increasingly insular, and they have less and less to do with each other. So chances are if you are a republican you only associate with other republicans, and if you are a democrat you only associate with other democrats. The biggest problem that I see with this growing trend of polarization is that we tend to live within echo chambers, where only the ideas and beliefs that we hold are parroted back to us, and those that might challenge our beliefs are filtered out.

Truth be told, I can only watch election coverage so much before I get really sad, in fact I know of no more depressing exercise than watching the election coverage and yet it is unavoidable. Several weeks ago when I was watching it, I saw something very interesting, I forget which news source it was, but they sent reporters to both a Donald Trump rally and a Kamala Harris rally. They interviewed ten people waiting in line to get into the event, and they asked them a simple question, "do you know anyone who is voting for the opposition," not a single person at the Trump rally knew anyone voting for Harris and not one at the Harris rally knew anyone voting for Trump.

For some reason we have gotten it in our minds that you can only view the world through one lens, and everything must be filtered through that same lens, we seem to think that things can either be black or white, but they can't be gray. Of course this doesn't tell the truth of the matter, for the problem is that the

polarized state that we find ourselves in is solely of our own creation. It is a limited worldview that we have chosen to embrace ourselves. Jesus shows us a new way, a way far better than the polarized state that we find ourselves marred in.

As those who have affirmed our wish to follow Jesus Christ in Baptism, we are called to follow the example of Scripture as well. Paul shouts to us this morning to be defined not by our political leanings, but by the blood of Jesus Christ. Hear the good news in a world that is constantly trying to put us in one camp or the other, telling us that we either have to be Democrats or Republicans, Conservatives or Liberals, Right or Left, we affirm that we are none of the above, we are Christians, and it is only the name of Jesus Christ that we will identify with.

In a world of polarization as Christians we are called to unity. As Christians, we are called to keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing, has always been and will always be Jesus Christ, may we embrace his call to unity in the face of a polarized world. May the divisions that exist between us be bridged by our fidelity to Christ, and may we be defined not by our political affiliation but by the salvation Christ so freely grants to us.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is held during our 10:30 worship service for all children **3yrs thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**. The children will leave from the sanctuary worship service following the children's sermon and go to a classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children at the end of worship. A packet will be available outside the sanctuary in the Narthex for children 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders or older with pencils crayons and coloring pages and Children's Worship bulletin. Again... **volunteers are needed for Children's Church teachers and helpers.** Please let Bess know if you are willing to help with children's church.

## Breakfast

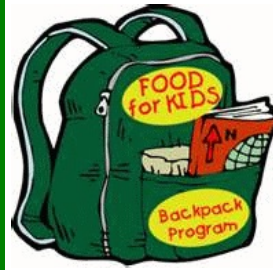
On **Saturday, November 30**, we will have our Community Breakfast. Serving times will be from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Come join us for a time of fellowship and a delicious all you can eat breakfast buffet. Cost will be by donation. Our profits have gone toward assisting our local community by giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, to the local "Handy Man's Ministry" for helping with minor repairs to homes, and to our youth for retreats and mission trips. **We hold this event the last Saturday of every month.**



## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS

Thanks so much for serving your church as Acolyte and Crucifer. You are an important part of our worship service each week. Please see the below Acolyte/Crucifer schedule for the month of November. **If you cannot serve on your Sunday, PLEASE contact Bess @ 704-435-6732, cell: 704-836-6803 or 704-435-5185 or switch with one of the other people on the list.**

Nov. 3	Alayna Ross	Hunter Brafford
Nov. 10	Mallie Emerson	Mikki Jane Emerson
Nov. 17	Riley Shuford	Grayce Pruitt
Nov. 24	Caroline Carswell	Amber Grace Brittain



We are in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of November. Your generous donations help this mission to be successful and are very much appreciated by those who receive the book bags. We can always use these items, but sometimes the list may change based on the supply of goods we have on hand.

Nov. 3	Tuna Helper
Nov. 10	Canned Tuna
Nov. 17	Vienna Sausages
Nov. 24	Ravioli

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee



## NOVEMBER NURSERY WORKERS

We are proud to offer an infant nursery, provided each Sunday morning, for our sweet babies during the 10:30 worship service. Our nursery is located at the end of the hall and to your right just below the church office. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who have agreed to help in the Nursery. Below is the Nursery Workers list for November. You will receive a reminder card and text on your given Sunday. Please let Bess or Susan Beam know if you cannot be there on your Sunday.

Nov. 3	Tessley Hayes
Nov. 10	Susan Carswell
Nov. 17	Elizabeth Shuford
Nov. 24	Kelly Brown



## Prayer Breakfast

Our Thursday morning Prayer Breakfast meets every Thursday at 7:00 am. Please note **we will not meet on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Our prayer breakfast is such a blessing to all who attend. It's a great start to our school day, work day or anyway! We are meeting at Homefolks Café at 7:00 am on Thursday mornings to feed our tummies, our souls and our hearts with friendships, devotions and prayer time before school. Everyone of all ages and all denominations are invited to join the prayer breakfast group! Our church van will be there to provide a ride to school for anyone who needs it. **BUT Buckle Up and hold on to your stuff! There may be a BUMP in the road!!!**

# UMK NEWS



## "THANKFUL HEARTS"

Our Wednesday night United Methods Kids, better known as UMKs is in full swing. All 3 yr. olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join in and be a part of our UMK program. UMKs meet each Wednesday night at 6:00 pm. Supper is served each night from 6:00 to 6:30 pm and then we will move into the sanctuary for our singing and assembly time. From 6:55 to 7:25 we will do our lesson/class time/crafts and games together and gather at 7:25 - 7:30 in the Sanctuary or playground (weather permitting) for our prayer time and vespers. Parents can pick-up your children at 7:30 pm at the side entrance or on the playground if weather permits.

Our lessons based on **GOD'S FAVORITE FRUITS** will be wrapping up and our new lessons will begin November 13. Our new lessons will be for Thanksgiving. We will also begin our Christmas program planning and practice!

Nov. 6: **KIWI FRIUT** Numbers 22:21-39  
"An unusual source of Nutrition"

### THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR, LETS HAVE THANKFUL HEARTS!

Nov. 13: **THINK THANK YOU**  
1 Thessalonian 5:18  
"SHOWING THANKFULNESS TO OTHERS AND TO GOD"

Nov. 20: **HAVE A THANKFUL HEART**  
Luke 17: 11-19  
"THANK THE LORD EVERY DAY"

Nov. 27: No meeting  
**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Everyone is so excited to get back to our Wednesday nights of fun and learning together about God's love! As always leaders, helpers, kitchen volunteers and supper providers are needed. Let Bess know if you are willing to help!

## UMK NOVEMBER SUPPERS:

- Nov. 6 Webb's kitchen surprise  
Darin, Emily, Danny and Teci Webb  
Nov. 13 Soup and Sandwiches and dessert  
Wes and Angie Anthony and Pam Cannon  
Nov. 20 Pizza, chips, dessert  
Brian and Jenny Emerson, Lee and Elizabeth Shuford  
**Nov. 27 NO MEETING**

## **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**



**UMYF:** U.M.Y.F. (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) has resumed for our 2024/2025 year. We have gained a few folks with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders moving up and we welcome them to our group. We offer a big thanks to Andrew and Chrystal Harmon and to Matt and Amber Brafford for joining us as leaders for the middle School age group at UMYF on Sunday nights! Our regular meetings are at the church each Sunday night 6:00 to 7:30 pm. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders are encourages to be a part of our group.

Upcoming and future plans are Lock-in November 15, Thanksgiving food donations and serving at the Community Thanksgiving Meal on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, Christmas shopping and needy family gifts, Coffee Bar Sundays on December 1 and December 22 and of course the much-anticipated Edge Conference January 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Watch your mail and FUMCY News Flash text for details!!

All 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders is invited to be a part of UMYF. And **yes**, you can Invite!!!

**\*\*\*\*\*Also... PLEA FOR HELP!** Youth helpers and counselors are needed for the coming year! If you are a parent or a friend of our young folks, please prayerfully consider volunteering to help on Sunday evenings or on our special outings with our fun, energetic group of Christian young people and UMYF members! We need you!!!





## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Wow! Almost November already! I guess time does fly when you are having fun — and we do have so much fun while learning at Kingdom Kids! October was a busy month for sure. We visited Lineberger's Pumpkin Patch; Cherryville firemen came to visit us with their big red fire truck — and gave each child a fireman hat! We had fall photos taken; Ms. Traci from the library came to read; of course, Pastor Zack has chapel with us each Wednesday, and we marched down Main Street in the Little Monsters Parade. All this while learning so much from our great teachers!

Mrs. Millie

## HOME COMING 2024

Sunday, October 27, was a beautiful day to remember in the life of our church. It was so good to see so many old friends return to worship. The Family Life and Special Events Committee along with other volunteers from the church worked tirelessly to share some of our church history and to bring us a day of fun and fellowship for Homecoming 2024. Special thanks to this committee for their willingness and dedication to our church to bring us some new events this year and to those who always "jump in" and just start helping with set up and clean up! (You know who you are!)

A very special thank you to "North Brook Family Restaurant" who catered our delicious meal!

Thank you to everyone who graciously volunteered to make desserts. Of course, they were all a big hit!!

Thank you to Our church staff, Teresa, Bess, and Zack for their support in planning this event.

Last but not least, thank you to our church family for your presence, your sharing and your dedication to our church.

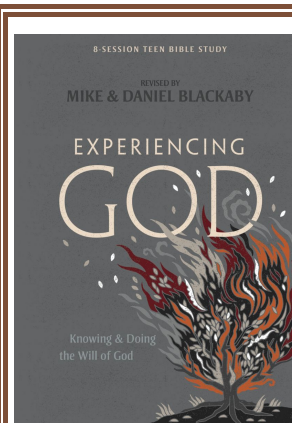
We are FUMC, Cherryville!



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX COLLECTION

Our Samaritan's Purse shoebox drive is coming soon! It is sponsored by the UMKs and UMYF. The UMKs have donated their offering throughout the year to support this project and the UMYF will be helping with the assembly and collection. Shoeboxes will be available November 10<sup>th</sup> thru November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the church for your donations and filling! Each person or family is asked to take a shoebox with a label and fill it up for a needy child. The boxes will be located on the table outside the church office and in the narthex.

**PLEASE NOTE: The shoe boxes must be returned no later than NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>.** Collection Day at our distribution spot is November 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. THANKS TO ALL THOSE YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE CAUSE. It is a lot of fun for families to work on together, so get your box soon! REMEMBER IF YOU TAKE A BOX, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RETURN IT FULL BY THE DEADLINE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24!!!



**Youth Bible Study:** The youth have started a Wednesday night Bible Study. The youth will eat with the UMKs at 6:00 and then help clean up after dinner. The book we are using is Experiencing God: Teen Version. If you want to buy a book for your youth, they are available at [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or Amazon. We look forward to seeing you at our next study.





## November Birthdays

- 2 Mikki Jane Emerson
- 2 Allen Fraley
- 3 Elli Warlick
- 4 Ella Shuford
- 4 Henry Shuford
- 5 Dustin Beam
- 5 Ken Bowen
- 5 Daniel Owens
- 5 Eli Payseur
- 5 Lizzy Payseur
- 5 Wade Payseur
- 6 Kelsie Costner
- 6 Emma Pruitt
- 8 Kim Mauney
- 8 Leslie Thornburg
- 10 Joyce Baxter
- 11 Pam Anthony
- 13 Ethan Beck
- 14 Debbie Sorenson
- 15 Judy Bingham
- 15 Becky Phillips
- 16 Richard Mauney, Jr.
- 18 Kristen Freeman
- 20 Alan Dellinger
- 21 Dick Metzger
- 21 Crystal Thornburg
- 23 Connor Bradley
- 23 Guy Eaker
- 23 Lori Gibson
- 24 Preston Elliott
- 25 Kirsten Leffingwell
- 26 Natalie Beam
- 26 Justin Thornburg
- 27 Frank Harmon
- 27 Jason Huss
- 27 Emily Blackburn Winter
- 28 Anna Dellinger
- 29 Karen Freeman
- 30 Kara Morehouse

If your birthday is in November and not listed, please contact the church office.

## FFF: FIT FAB FUN BUNCH



Our Fit Fab Fun Bunch will take a local trip to Shelby, N.C. to visit the Earl Scruggs Center Museum on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. We will leave from the church at 10:30 a.m. to arrive by our appointment time of 11:00 a.m. for a tour of wonderful musical history and stories from the American South. There are galleries and exhibits and “Scruggs Style” Bango picking known around the world. If you have not visited this wonderful exhibition right here in our area, you do not want to miss it! We will leave on the bus with our “Fun Bus” driver and FFF member Chuck at the helm! We will stop for lunch at Toscano’s Bistro around 1:00 p.m. and be home by 3:00 p.m. The cost for the center is \$8.00 per person plus your lunch. There is also a gift shop at the Center. Invite your friends! Please let Bess know ASAP if you plan to go with the group.





Mrs. Ray McSwain  
Carolina Care Health & Rehab.  
111 Harrilson Rd.  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Sunday, November 3**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

**Tuesday, November 5**

10:00am - Somerset Court devotions

**Wednesday, November 6**

6:00pm - UMK's  
6:00pm - Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, November 7**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Sunday, November 10**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

**Monday, November 11**

Church Office Closed

**Tuesday, November 12**

10:00am - Somerset Court devotions

**Wednesday, November 13**

6:00pm - UMK's  
6:00pm - Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, November 14**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Friday, November 15**

Youth Lock-In

**Sunday, November 17**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Charge Conference  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

**Tuesday, November 19**

10:00am - Somerset Court devotions

**Wednesday, November 20**

6:00pm - UMK's  
6:00pm - Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, November 21**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Saturday, November 23**

11:00 - 2:00pm - Youth serve at Community  
Thanksgiving meal

**Sunday, November 24**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

**Tuesday, November 26**

10:00am - Somerset Court devotions

**Wednesday, November 27**

No UMK's  
No Youth Bible Study  
No Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, November 28**

Happy Thanksgiving  
Church Office Closed

**Friday, November 29**

Church Office Closed

**Saturday, November 30**

7:30am - 10:30am - Community wide breakfast  
buffet

**Sunday, December 1**

9:00am - Youth Coffee Bar Fundraiser  
9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
2:30pm - Carolina Care devotions  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT: OCT. 27, 2024**

Received to Date . . . . . \$262,289.34  
Needs to Date . . . . . \$354,513.50

**OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD:**

Church Building Renovations . . . . . \$11,779.00  
Endowment Fund . . . . . \$3,235.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund . . . . . \$5,324.25  
Playground Fund . . . . . \$4,479.00  
Youth Missions . . . . . \$2,426.83

**NOVEMBER USHERS:**

Chesley Walls, Chad Thornburg, Allen Fraley,  
Terry Moss, Bruce Barrett