

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, 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 2

Rev. Zack Christy Pastor

Nancy Catena Organist

Cam Alfaro Audio Visual Tech. Teresa Gardo Administrative Assistant

Linda Barger Chancel Choir Director

Mildred Young FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir. Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Andrew Harmon Handbell Director

February Reflection

Romans 4:2 "For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God."

When I was in forth grade, I was watching T.V. and a commercial came on. In the commercial a man held up a 100 dollar bill, I don't know why he did it, but in that moment I made a decision, I wanted to have a 100 dollar bill, and I decided that I was going to do whatever it took to earn it. Well in forth grade I had chores that I had to do each week, if I did all my chores each week at the end of the month, I was given a 10-dollar bill.

So, I worked out a plan with my dad, I would work a whole year without getting paid and at the end of the year, my dad would give me a 100-dollar bill. Now I know what you are thinking, "Zack 10 dollars a month x12 months is 120 dollars" but I believe I have established math is not my strong suit. I did it though for an entire year, I did all my chores each week, and at the end of the year I was given that 100-dollar bill.

I had worked so hard for it; I truly felt that I deserved it. But I had a problem, I had worked so hard for that 100-dollar bill, that I didn't want to use it. It was too precious to me. I had earned that money I could have spent it any number of ways, but I wasn't going to break that bill no matter what. So I put it in a bank and I never took it back out.

I don't think it is uncommon for us to treat our salvation like that 100 dollar bill, even well formed Christians that we are, we need to be reminded that salvation is a gift, not something due. In no way shape or form is God obligated to do anything for us. Yet, God breaks into our lives comes to us, sheds his love all around us, because that is how amazing God is.

God condescends to us, no matter how righteous we think we are we do not ascend to God. No matter how many amazing things we do in this world we will never be worthy of the love of God. Yet, we are made worthy, we are redeemed, we are restored in relationship to God through Jesus Christ. In the church we have a really fancy word to describe what it means for us to be restored and renewed in relationship to God, are you ready for it? We call God restoring us to right relationship with him, grace.

For Paul the proof of grace as a means for salvation, is on full display in the life of Abraham. Paul uses Abraham because Abraham is this towering figure of faith. Abraham is the first person in Scripture to directly make a covenant with God, which he does on several occasions. Abraham is the first to be given law to follow, the law of circumcision, which marks him and all those who are with him as a distinct people. Abraham is a very, very important person. Throughout Scripture Abraham continues to pop up as a hero of faith, and there is very good reason for that.

God makes a covenant with Abraham that through his lineage all nations on earth will be blessed. What Paul does in this Romans passage is reinterpret the story of Abraham in light of the grace we now know through Jesus Christ. Paul says, "If Abraham was justified by works he has something to boast about, but what does Scripture say? Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. A person who works is given wages as something due, but to one who without works trusts God such faith is reckoned as righteousness."

The grace of God came to Abraham free and without strings attached, but Abraham had to make a response, he had to step out in faith to follow where God was leading him. From the story of Abraham we see grace comes first, but then we have a choice to make, a response to that grace, the question we are presented with by the grace of God is will we move in faith towards God's calling on our lives or will we move away from it? Do we choose to live into the grace that God has so freely bestowed upon us by walking in faith? Or do we choose to reject the grace of God and walk our own way trying to justify ourselves?

In order to set us straight, Paul gives us an odd instruction in verse 16, Paul calls for us as Christians and as disciples to "rest in grace." Now, I don't know about you but I find so much comfort in that image. For through the grace of God we are set free from trying to earn the love of God, we are set free from trying to be perfect, we are set free from trying to be good enough, and instead we are called to trust fully and completely in the grace of God, and to move out in faith trusting that God's grace is sufficient. I know we would all be blessed if we took a few moments each and everyday to simply rest in the grace of God, and to celebrate the joy of God's grace.

What would the world look like if we all took a few moments and just rested and celebrated the wondrous love God has wrapped us in. Much like Abraham, much like Paul's point in Romans, I believe we must first rest in the grace of God before we seek to determine how God is calling us to walk out in faith. So I encourage you to rest in the love of God to celebrate grace on this day. But I also hope that you get your walking shoes ready, because we don't rest in grace to twiddle our thumbs, we rest in grace to become renewed in order that we might go out and shine the light of God's love.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

On Saturday, February 22, 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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH is held during our 10:30 worship service for all children **3yrs thru** 3rd **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 and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children

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 4th-5th 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.



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 February 2025. As you may have noticed the Acolytes and Crucifers are wearing robes now. This has been very well received by both our congregation and the young people. Boys are asked to please wear long pants under your robe on your week to assist in worship and nice shoes!!!

ALSO PLEASE BE IN THE NARTHEX BY 10:15 A.M. TO GET READY!

| | ACOLYTE | CRUCIFER |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|
| Feb. 2 | Riley Shuford | Henry Shuford |
| Feb. 9 | Mallie Emerson | Mikki Jane Emerson |
| Feb 16 | Zach Harmon | Seth Harmon |

Feb. 23 Landry Pruitt Ava Thornburg **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.**



FEBRUARY 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 February. 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.

Feb. 2 Renee Allen

Feb. 9 Karen Freeman

Feb. 16 Robin Blackburn

Feb. 23 Dawn Whitworth



We are in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of February. 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.

Feb. 2 Plastic containers of grape jelly

Feb. 9 Beef Stew

Feb. 16 Chicken noodle soup

Feb. 23 Canned peaches

Thank you,

The Backpack Ministry Committee



"4th ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY" FEBRUARY 9TH

The Roman's 12 Sunday School class will be hosting a

"Souper Bowl Sunday" lunch following our worship service on February 9 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The cost is donation only. There will be various soups: chili, taco, potato and chicken noodle, with breads, crackers, drinks and desserts! Plan now to enjoy a hearty bowl of soup prior to the Super Bowl LIX event on Super Sunday, February 9th.



RSVP ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX OR IN THE



UNITED METHODIST KIDS / UMKs

Our Wednesday night UMK's winter 2025 session is a warm place to be. We meet in the fellowship hall each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 move in to sanctuary for object lessons, skits, singing and offering. Then from 7:00 to 7:25 we will have bible study and lesson time down stairs. Then back up to the sanctuary for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-olds thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. For the winter months we will enter at the side door near the kitchen and leave from there also.

UMK Lesson Schedule for February:



"WE GO TOGETHER"

Jan. 29 Me & Jesus John 15:13-17
"Jesus is my best Friend"

"SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED"



Feb. 12 "Follow the Directions" 1 Kings 17:7-24

Feb. 19 "Put the Pieces Together" Judges 7:1-22

Feb. 26 "Finish the Build" Genesis 6:9-7:5

Mar. 5 "Making Something New"

Genesis 28:10-22

UMK Supper Schedule for February:

Jan. 29 Chicken nuggets, tater tots, dessert Kaci & Ethan Beck, Mel & Vee Thornburg

Feb. 5 Tacos and trimmings, dessert M'Shel Bowen and Renee Allen

Feb. 12 Chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, dessert Robin Norwood and Lacey Spangler

Feb. 19 Meatballs, breadsticks and dessert Chrystal and Andrew Harmon

Feb. 26 Pizza Night, chips and cookies Will and Susan Carswell

Mar. 5 Pancake supper / Ash Wednesday Special events and Family life committee

**NOTE: UMK SUPPER MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE....

If anyone would like to volunteer to prepare and serve UMK Suppers please let Bess know!
Thanks to all those who have so willingly served and provided supper during the year!!



Prayer Breakfast

Our prayer breakfast is such a blessing to all who attend. It's a great start to our school day, work day or anyday!

We are meeting at Homefolks Café at 7:00 am every Thursday morning 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!

There may be a BUMP in the road!!! ☺





Hello my UMYF Friends.... U.M.Y.F. (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on Sunday nights at 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm down stairs. I have really missed some of you lately. Our group is for all 6th thru 12th graders. We have been planning for our winter/spring activities. We gather in fellowship each week and of course play games, have our snack suppers, lesson and devotions and make plans for the year. Our lessons coming up in February will be # "LEARNING TO THINK LIKE JESUS" #School #Friends #money #love: Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

We had a wonderful trip to **The Edge Conference at Ridgecrest!** Thanks to all those who supported our fund raisers and gave contributions to the youth fund so that we could experience such a wonderful weekend in the Spirit! Thanks also to Chrystal and Andrew Harmon for going with us on the trip!

The UMYF will not meet February 9th. Everyone can have a great time enjoying the Super Bowl with your family and friends.

We will meet on the snow tubing slopes on February 23rd. We will again brave our annual Snow Tubing trip to Jonas Ridge Snow Tubing Park on Sunday afternoon, February 23rd, leaving at 1:00 p.m. from the church. We should return around 6:00 p.m. We will eat at the church before we leave and head up the mountain for a day of fun in the snow. The cost is \$32.00 per person for 1 hour on the tubing course. Our appointment is for 3:00 p.m. There are also drinks and snacks available at the tubing place. Please dress to stay warm and dry! We have learned that dressing in layers is best! Plan to come with us and bring a friend!

Also, our ever-popular **LOCK-IN** plans are in the works for March. We are working on a date to be together from sundown until sunrise and breakfast. The hours of our lock in will be 8:00 pm until 8:00 am. As always fun and games, devotions and shenanigans will go on all night!!!

We will hold several more fund raisers for a summer Mission activity or camps, possibly Carolina Cross Connection or Tekoa Missions camp or FUGE. All of this is TBD as we plan on Sundays! We need everyone's help and every one's attendance to get these activities going for our youth group! All 6th thru 12th graders are invited to be a part of UMYF. And **yes**, you can Invite!!!



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Well it's hard to comprehend that February is almost here! This year is passing by so quickly. The children sure are missing being able to use our playground! We need some outdoor time!

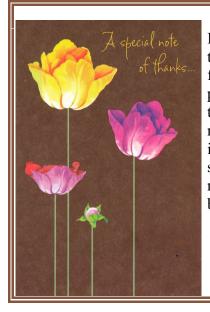
The only scheduled day off for February is on Monday, February 17th for Presidents Day. Of course, Mother Nature may provide other days off. During this month we will celebrate Groundhog day and Valentines Day.

The children are growing in so many ways and it makes me happy to know that most of them have discovered that LEARNING IS FUN! The teachers are working hard to prepare them to move up to their next level.

Early registration for the next school year at Kingdom Kids is encouraged for current students or siblings, as well as our church members. We do tend to fill up quickly. Any spaces not confirmed will be opened to the public on March 1.

Thank you to all who continue to support us at Kingdom Kids!

Ms. Millie



I would like to thank the members of FUMC for the out pouring of prayers and support that I received during my recent health issues. Without your support these last few months would have been more difficult.

> Thanks be to God Roy Norwood

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Bo & Betsy Baity, Kent Ballard, Michael Beam, Susan Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Mac & Jewel Brawley, Mike Burgess, Michael Catena, Deanna Daggerhart, Bob Faires, Ruth Gaston, John Hines, Reid Huss, The family of Eloise Mauney, Ken Mayhew, Ray McSwain, Roy Norwood, Dave Owens, Dave Plake, Tim Pruitt, Rev. Harry Queen, Vernon & Betty Smith, Todd Sorenson, Jim Tate, Ron Walls, Wayne & Belinda Watts, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Hazel Brandon, Alan Cannon, Tim Chambers, Mary Crocker, Becky Estes, Lori Peeler Gillis, Jennifer Pruitt, Leslie Queen, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Rick Webb, Matt Williams, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson, *Hunter Haire, *Jessica Lovell, Paxton York.

Church Member, *Deployed

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: JANUARY 26, 2024

| Received to Date. | | | | | | | | | \$21,374.00 |
|-------------------|--|--|--|------|--|--|--|--|-------------|
| Needs to Date | | | | | | | | | \$33,578.48 |

OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD:

| OTHER TOTAL RECEIVED TIES |
|---------------------------------------|
| Church Building Renovations\$1,100.00 |
| Endowment Fund |
| Backpack Ministry \$50.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$30.00 |
| Playground Fund\$5.00 |
| Youth Missions |



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

BRADFORD KELLY

Sandra Carpenter

GLENDA LEATHERMAN

Bruce & Chris Barrett (Church Building Renovations)

ELOISE MAUNEY

Clarice Harrelson
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

DONNA SMITH

Bruce & Chris Barrett (Church Building Renovations)

IN HONOR

We gratefully acknowledge gifts presented to the church in honor of:

JACK BINGHAM

Happy 82nd Birthday

Richa Clark

JACK & JUDY BINGHAM

Happy 60th Anniversary

Richa Clark

RICHARD & MARTHA CORNWELL

Sandra Carpenter

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FEBRUARY USHERS:

Danny Webb, Curtis Harrelson, Kirk Thornburg, Billy Crews, Royal Norwood

February Birthdays

- 1 Sam Smith
- 2 Amber Grace Brittain
- 2 Hayden Rupard
- 5 Jedidiah Sneed
- 5 Jennifer Wilent
- 5 Paige Yount
- 6 Martha Allen
- 6 Freida Clawson
- 6 Kathy Panton
- 6 James Putnam
- 7 Jacob Ross
- 11 Dennis Bradley
- 11 Hunter Brafford
- 12 Johnny Brown
- 13 Melanie Ross
- 14 Maria Pruitt
- 14 Bobby Putnam
- 14 Justin Winter
- 16 Will Elmore
- 18 Cindy Dellinger Swisher
- 20 Kay Bumgarner
- 20 Terry Moss
- 21 Aiden Sneed
- 22 Lauren Carnes
- 22 Martha Cornwell
- 22 Bennetta Dellinger Dunning
- 22 Rita McGinnis
- 23 Chad Thornburg
- 24 Shaina Anderson
- 24 Aidan Harmon
- 24 Haley Wilent
- 26 T. L. Saine
- 27 MeKenzie Drum
- 27 Morgan Morrow
- 27 Katie Walls
- 28 Kathy Craft
- 28 Zack Fraley
- 29 Hudson Beam
- 29 David Smith

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



FEBRUARY HOMEBOUND MEMBER TO SEND A CARD

Mrs. Deanna Daggerhart 2038 Lincolnton Hwy. Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, February 2

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

4:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, February 5

6:00pm - Chancel Choir

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 6

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

Sunday, February 9

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

11:30am - Souper Bowl luncheon

Wednesday, February 12

6:00pm - Chancel Choir

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 13

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

Sunday, February 16

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

4:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal

6:00pm - Youth

Monday, February 17

Church Office closed

Wednesday, February 19

6:00pm - Chancel Choir

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Adult Bible Study

Thursday, February 20

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

Saturday, February 22

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

Sunday, February 23

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

11:30am - Preschool luncheon (fundraiser)

1:00pm - Youth snow tubing at Jonas Ridge

4:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal

Wednesday, February 26

6:00pm - Chancel Choir

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Adult Bible Study