

**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)

**September 30, 2020**

**Vol. XXXI No. 10**

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.

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October Reflection

***Matthew 14:16-17 "Jesus said, 'They need not go away you give them something to eat'. The disciples responded, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.'"***

Friends, this year has been hard, demanding and at times even demeaning. We have heard all kinds of bad news and it seems like just when you think it can't get any worse...it does. Now that has kind of been the cycle for us this year, if you are like me at a certain point you feel drained by all the bad news. Well today I don't want to give you any bad news, in fact I want to share with you some of the best news that I have heard in a long time. In fact I have waited a few days to write this because I wanted to make sure I got the story right before I told it to you.

At the beginning of August the preschool committee met, and Mrs. Millie shared with the committee some of the financial hardships facing Kingdom Kids. As you well know Kingdom Kids is a ministry of our church, and as a ministry it doesn't exist to make a profit it exists to share the love of Christ with our community. For the past ten years Kingdom Kids has been self supporting meaning they had enough children enrolled to cover their expenses, payroll, insurance, supplies, etc. Everything went well last school year until about March 2020 when the world came to a screeching halt. The preschool took a leap of faith deciding to open up in August not knowing what enrollment would look like. At the beginning of the school year the numbers just weren't working out, and it didn't seem like Kingdom Kids would have enough money to cover their expenses, roughly fifteen hundred dollars a month, or ten thousand dollars to cover the school year.

At our first meeting of the year we prayed that God would provide a way for us to meet the needs that existed. Now we didn't have any idea what that would look like, but we also knew that Kingdom Kids was too important to our church and to this community to shut the doors. We came up with a two-fold plan, the first part of the plan was to write a letter asking for donations from the church. The second part of the plan was to host a spaghetti supper. By the best estimates of the committee this would be enough to get Kingdom Kids through about October. We didn't realize how much we had undersold God, this church, and this community.

Donations began to come in, and they were far more than we had expected, almost half of what the total Kingdom Kids needed came in through donations. Then the spaghetti supper happened, and y'all that was one of the craziest experiences of my life. Initially we planned to make two hundred plates of spaghetti, but the orders kept coming in, so more supplies were purchased, and the team began to cook. Before the supper began Pam Anthony asked me how much do you think we will make. And I said, "If we are lucky we will make about twenty five hundred."

At five pm that Thursday evening, our parking lot looked like Burger King, we had cars lined up almost to the road. The folks inside were slinging spaghetti, the runners were running back and forth to cars, it was chaos. This lasted a solid hour, and in that time we served over three hundred people. From six to six thirty

we served another thirty. And at six thirty we had no more spaghetti. In fact when it was all said and done, we had half a cup of sauce, and one box of uncooked noodles, that is it!

We began to count the donations from the supper, and would you believe the other half that Kingdom Kids needed for the year was made then and there. That's right that spaghetti supper made over five thousand dollars! I told you it was the best spaghetti east of the Mississippi, but even I was blown away. Even now just thinking about it, I get chill bumps.

I tell you all this not just because we need to hear some good news this year, but also because it is just a small reminder of what God can do when we step out in faith. Back in August we didn't know how Kingdom Kids would be funded, but we gave it to God. God moved this church, God moved this community, and just like the feeding of the five thousand, all ate their fill, and only a small amount was left over. Friends, God shows up each and every time we take those small leaps of faith. So this month I want to challenge each and every one of you to take some small leap of faith. Even if you don't know exactly where you will land, trust that God has got you. Praise be to God.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in bookbags during the month of October.

We would not be able to do this ministry without the many volunteers who assist with the program. Your generous donations help this mission to be successful and are very much appreciated by those who receive the book bags.

- Oct. 4: Tuna and Chicken Helper (no hamburger helper)
- Oct. 11: Cans of corn and green beans
- Oct. 18: Canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, apple sauce)
- Oct. 25: Spaghetti noddles and canned spaghetti sauce

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee

## Plans for reopening traditional worship service

Friends, I know it has been a long time; I cannot begin to stress to you how much I have missed seeing you on Sunday mornings. **On October 11<sup>th</sup>** we will resume in person worship for the first time since March 8<sup>th</sup>. Below you will find some policies and procedures we will have in place to ensure everyone's safety and security during this time. We will be offering two services one at 9:30am and another at 11am. Because we will initially be limited to fifty persons we ask that you call ahead so we can properly plan seating in the sanctuary to accommodate everyone.

### Before Worship

- Before you arrive we ask that you call ahead so we can get an accurate count of who will be attending.
- When you arrive we ask that you come to the front doors of the church (big glass doors beside the sanctuary). Please wait for an usher to come and seat you. I know we say we don't have assigned seats in church, but for just a little bit now we will.

### During Worship

- Masks will be required and we will maintain social distance, which is defined as six feet apart.
- Families will be able to sit with one another.
- If you need to use the restroom, we ask that you use one of the restrooms next to the fellowship hall. And that you clean any surfaces you touch with the cleaning supplies that will be located in the restroom.
- Nursery will not be provided initially, but trust me after being in an empty Sanctuary for six months I would love to hear some screaming babies and excited toddlers.
- We will not pass the plate for offering but a collection plate will be located at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- We will not have bulletins initially, however an order of service will be provided on the projectors.
- If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary you are welcome to do so. Please call the church office before ordering flowers to make sure we do not have more than one arrangement.

### After Worship

- Please remain seated until the ushers lead you out of the church.
- Once everyone has left the church, a team of trustees and volunteers will clean the Sanctuary.

I know this seems like a lot, but these are the policies and procedures that have been handed down to us. I want to thank each and everyone of you for your prayers, and your willingness to stick with the church during these strange and uncertain times. As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to the church at 704-435-6732. We look forward to worshipping with you soon.



Please continue to join us for Adult Sunday School lessons taught and provided by Betsy Baity on facebook or our church website each Sunday morning and post at 7:00am. Her inspiring lessons have been a blessing to all and we appreciate her dedication to bring these lessons to our church family each week.



Cherryville Area Ministries and Second Harvest will sponsor a food bank/food drive for anyone in the community that is in need of food. The Food bank will take place October 12th from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon at the St. John's Lutheran Church parking lot on the Dixie Street side. Volunteers from all around our community will be needed to help with this project. If you would like to volunteer and help with this food drive please let Bess know or call 704-435-9264. Helpers are needed to sort, bag, and hand out food as families drive by.



**UMKs:** All UMK's ages 3 year old -5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to be a part of the fun activities, bible lessons, singing and evening vespers each Wednesday night 6:00 to 7:30pm. We are so excited to have UMK's back inside the church and in full swing! In order to stay safe we ask that you wear your mask to our meetings. Supper will be served each night at



6:00 pm and we are studying "Toy Bible Stories" for the next 12 weeks. We will be studying Gods word and lessons through our toys and playtime. Miss Bess will continue to have our Bible lessons at 5:00 pm each Wednesday on our church Facebook page and website. Please remember to join in for a lesson each week. We are also doing our "Zoom" Children's Sunday School class with Andrew and Chrystal Harmon at 9:45 am each Sunday morning. This has been a wonderful experience and you are invited to join in (even in your PJ's and bed head! LOL).

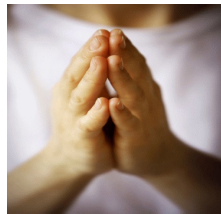


## TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER, 25<sup>TH</sup>.

FUMC will host a TRUNK OR TREAT Halloween fun night Sunday evening October 25th at 5:00 pm in the church Parking lot! Families are encouraged to decorate your trunk and come in costume to treat the kids! There will be a hot dog supper at the picnic area and crafts for all ages. We will not be able to do games this year due to COVID 19 safety but it will be a good time for all. Each car/trunk will be given gloves to hand out the candy and all who participate are asked to bring prepackaged candies and treats and also wear a mask or face covering. ☺ (Since it is Halloween that my go without saying!) Please plan to dress up, decorate your car trunk, and provide fun for our little ones!! The key to Trunk or Treat is the TRUNK AND TREATS!!



**UMYF:** United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders) is currently meeting together each Sunday night from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at the church downstairs in our new Youth room. We already have a project to do in fixing up our new Youth space. Please wear or at least bring your mask. We have been having a snack supper, planning activities and projects, playing games and studying God's word and His will for our group. Our lessons are from "COMBOS" a lesson in "a combination to the game of life" for youth age participants. October's lessons will be "TAKING OUT THE TRASH:!" Please plan to join us as we make plans for our Youth Group! We are planning on helping with Truck or Treat" in October, a youth night lock-in in November, a youth retreat in January, and a fifth Sunday outing. Each young person has also started a personal prayer journal, reflecting their personal moments with God.



## Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast:

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast is continuing each Thursday morning at 7:00 am at Homefolks Café. Everyone is welcome! Especially students and parents and grandparents are invited to attend to share a good healthy breakfast before school and food for the soul as you go about your day. A devotion and prayer time is offered for all those that wish to begin their day in fellowship and prayer with other Christians in the community.





**ATTENTION ALL  
C O L L E G E  
STUDENTS and/or  
Parents:**

**WE STILL NEED  
ALL COLLEGE**

**STUDENT ADDRESSES!** Please let us know your current college address as soon as possible. Some of you are studying from home, some virtually and some at your college campus. We need your information. Please call Bess at 704-435-6732 or email your College information to [Bessfumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bessfumc@bellsouth.net) as soon as you can. We would like to have your school, full mailing address, e-mail address, major and scholastic year. Thanks! Our prayers are with you as you pursue your plans and future careers. Thanks to everyone who has submitted your information so far.



## **KINGDOM KIDS KORNER**

Even with all the changes from normal, the first full month of school has gone well. The children are having fun while learning - and they are thriving on the interaction with other children and the teachers. We are loving having them back in the building!

Pastor Zack has been going into each class and having chapel which the children always look forward to. We appreciate him so much!

Our Preschool Board of Directors has been so supportive and we can't thank them enough.

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**Church Family**, my heart is full to overflowing as I write this. THANK YOU is not enough to express how grateful we at Kingdom Kids are for the overwhelming support we received for our fundraiser.

Our preschool board of directors met with Pastor Zack and me to discuss the needs and we all prayed to God that His will be done. A lot of people got to work and God has blessed us beyond our expectations!

A special THANK YOU to those who organized, those who donated supplies, those who helped in the kitchen, those who delivered meals, and to all of you who purchased meals or made a donation.

We had good support from our preschool families, as well as from other citizens of our great city, and our church families were wonderfully supportive. We are so fortunate to be a part of the amazing people of First United Methodist Church!

God is great! God is good!

Ms. Millie



Our Chancel Choir has been presenting a series on our church website. It is entitled "Lessons From The Chancel". It is pre-

recorded and can be viewed each Wednesday evening during the regular Choir Rehearsal time at 6:30 pm. Various choir members sing hymns from our Methodist Hymnal, and as your Choir Director, I tell you about "The Story Behind The Song" ...of how the hymn came to be written. You can view this on the church website [www.firstmethodistcherryville.com](http://www.firstmethodistcherryville.com) and clicking on the tab at the top "Chancel Choir". This past week Barbara Crews sang "The Gift of Love" for Sunday's Worship Service! She also sang "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" on Wednesday evening! Others who have sung on Wednesday and Sunday are Debbie Gantt, soprano; Rhonda Wehunt, alto; and Dennis Bradley, tenor! Pastor Zack has announced that we will worship inside our Sanctuary Sunday, October 11 at 2 services! Also, remember to view our Facebook page for Pastor Zack's wonderful sermons! See you soon in church!

Your Choir Director,  
Linda Kale Barger



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

**SELENA ALEXANDER**

Bob & Caryl Austell

**E. L. BEAM**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Tad Huffstetler  
Janice Metcalf

**SAM BEAM**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Martha Beam & family (Kingdom Kids Preschool)  
Clarice Harrelson  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Thornburg & Leslie (Backpack Ministry)

**RODNEY BRIDGES**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Janice Metcalf  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Thornburg & Leslie (Backpack Ministry)

**DIANE BROWN**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr.  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

**NED COSTNER**

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

**ANNE DELLINGER**

Janice Metcalf

**DEBORAH DEVENNY**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Clarice Harrelson  
Shirley Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Thornburg & Leslie (Backpack Ministry)  
Danny & Teci Webb

**GERT FISHER**

Ken & Darlene Mayhew

**TRENT GARDO**

Harold & Kim Mauney (Backpack Ministry)

**DON LYLES**

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr.

**BETTY NEILL**

Bob & Caryl Austell

**SUE NOLEN**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Steve & Susan Beam  
Clarice Harrelson  
Janice Metcalf  
Shirley Smith  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Danny & Teci Webb  
Tom & Diana White  
Linda Whitworth

**TONY PROPST**

Gail & Jeff Jenkins (Endowment Fund)  
Chelsi & Rob Thomas (Endowment Fund)

**JOE BILL PUTNAM**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Betsy & Alfred Brand  
Dorothy Ellison, David Marks, Kenneth Marks and  
Elizabeth M. Gordan  
John B. Garwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Gombar  
Ken & Darlene Mayhew  
Janice Metcalf  
Pam Reid & Steven Pitschke  
Brooks & Ben Singletary  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Stroupe Acres, LLC  
Danny & Teci Webb

**GERALD QUINN**

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**BOBBY ROBERTS**

Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Clarice Harrelson  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Danny & Teci Webb

Mr. & Mrs. Chad Thornburg & Leslie (Backpack Ministry)

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*IN HONOR*

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

**ALI & ALEX ANTHONY**

Pam Anthony (Kingdom Kids Preschool)

**ZACK CHRISTY**

Janice Metcalf

**VERA EAKER**

*(Happy 99th Birthday)*

Janice Metcalf

Bill &amp; Chris Sneed

Rhonda Wehunt

**JIM EATON**

Janice Metcalf

**TERESA GARDO**

Janice Metcalf

## RUTH GASTON

Janice Metcalf

**ELOISE MAUNEY**

Janice Metcalf

**BILL & CHRIS SNEED**

Janice Metcalf

**JACK & MARY ETTA STEPHENSON**

Janice Metcalf

**GARY & PHYLLIS THORNBURG**

Janice Metcalf

**MARGARET WEBB**

Janice Metcalf

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### **PRAYER LIST (Members)**

Bob Austell, Judy Bingham, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Julie Dellinger, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Sherie Harrelson, John Hines, Ken Mayhew, Bertha Maxey, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Karleen Price, Rev. Harry Queen, Chris Sneed, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

### PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Don Alexander, Martha Beam, Wanda Bruce,  
Thomas Dellinger, Jacob Dickerson, Doris Finger,  
Cindy Gales, Miles Gantt, Rhett Guest, Lisa  
Hastings, Teresa Henley, Dan Jonas, Melissa Beam  
Kale, Terry Laughlin, Kenneth Moffitt, Steve Moss,  
Sandra Taylor Mossman, Margaret Sigmon, Beverly  
Hamrick Stiles, Mag Stroupe, Olivia Sutton, Angela  
Wurster, Martha Jane Zeitler, and our loved ones in  
the military.

### **LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:**

#Ethan Beck, Aron Dickerson, Jessica Lovell, Cody Spiker.

#Church Member, \*Stationed in the Middle East

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT, SEPT. 27, 2020

Total To Date .....	\$242,303.68
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Expenses to Date.....	\$244,583.49
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Under.....\$2,279.81

## October Birthdays

- 1 Eddie Eaker
- 1 Tim Pruitt
- 2 Stan Allen
- 3 Baylor Gunnell
- 4 Patience Foster
- 4 Kevin Moths
- 4 Lory Paputseanos
- 5 Bo Baity
- 5 Brent Gardo
- 6 Betty Smith
- 6 Emily Webb
- 7 Sarah Fowler
- 7 Ben Huffstetler
- 9 Emily Kirby
- 10 Marley Hudson
- 10 Shawn McQuaige
- 11 Will Skibo
- 12 Holly Bell
- 12 George Conner
- 12 Ron Hovis
- 13 Tracy Gardo
- 14 Chesley Walls
- 15 Donnie Bell
- 15 Ryan Davis
- 15 Curtis Harrelson
- 16 Mike Burgess
- 16 Bob Kirby
- 17 Bobbi Ballard
- 17 Taylor Costner
- 18 Tom Dellinger
- 19 Ava Thornburg
- 20 Gene Hubbard
- 20 Melinda Yount
- 21 Ray McSwain
- 23 Archie Mitchell
- 23 Kirk Thornburg
- 24 Bob Faires
- 24 Dave Owens
- 25 Erika King
- 27 Amy Dellinger
- 29 David Carpenter
- 30 Pat Eaker
- 30 Juanita Gunnell
- 30 Brody Thornburg
- 31 Jill Puett



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





Mr. Jim Eaton  
139 Cricket Creek Dr.  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Sunday, October 4**

9:30am - Sunday School (on Facebook)  
10:30am - Outdoor Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

**Monday, October 5**

7:00pm - Preschool Committee meeting

**Tuesday, October 6**

7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting

**Wednesday, October 7**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Thursday, October 8**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's

**Sunday, October 11**

7:00am - Sunday School (on Facebook)  
9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary  
6:00pm - Youth

**Monday, October 12**

7:00pm - Pastor Parish Relations Committee mtg.

**Wednesday, October 14**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Thursday, October 15**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's

**2021 Budget Request Due to Church Office**

**Sunday, October 18**

7:00am - Sunday School (on Facebook)  
9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary  
6:00pm - Youth

**Monday, October 19**

7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting

**Wednesday, October 21**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Thursday, October 22**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's

**Sunday, October 25**

7:00am - Sunday School (on Facebook)  
9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary  
5:00pm - Trunk or Treat

**Monday, October 26**

7:00pm - Church Council meeting

**Wednesday, October 28**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Thursday, October 29**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's

**Sunday, November 1**

7:00am - Sunday School (on Facebook)

9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

5:00pm - Trunk or Treat

**Our Charge Conference** will be held on Sunday, November 15, at 5:00pm by Zoom. There are several forms that must be completed 10 days prior to our Charge Conference and submitted to the District Office.

**Committee chairs** are asked to meet with their committees and submit their 2021 budget request to the church office no later than Thursday, October 15. Please contact the church office if your committee needs to schedule a meeting so that we can make sure that the rooms have been "fogged/sanitized" for your meeting and that we are maintaining social distance (face masks will be required for meetings). We need to have an approved budget prior to our charge conference as well as our upcoming Stewardship Campaign.