

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468
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June 29, 2022

Vol. XXXIII No. 6

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Mary Etta Stephenson
Pianist / Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

Emerson Cobbs
Summer Associate Minister

July Reflection

Luke 9:57-62 "As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go. And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me" but the man said, "Lord first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "let the dead bury their dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you Lord but let me say farewell to those in my home first." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

A friend of mine is a pastor in Charlotte, and he said that when he first got to his appointment he would sometimes meet people who would say, "I'm not a member of a church, but I am very religious." But he noted over the last couple of years, he has noted a shift. No longer do people identify as "religious" perhaps it is too specific, too demanding. No, now people say, "I'm not religious, but I am very spiritual."

In my time here in Cherryville, I have heard much the same thing. "I used to go to church at (you can put any church in Cherryville in this blank) but now I worship on my own terms. I found God, but left the religion for the spiritual." But I must say, much of this seems rather vague and mushy to me. Perhaps that is part of the appeal of spirituality, because it is so vague it can literally become whatever you want it to be.

You will note that while Jesus levies heavy criticism against the religious establishment of his day, he never falls into the vague spirituality that has so gripped our day and time. In our Scripture today Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. He is about to take up his cross and go down a narrow road that few will tread. And on his way he invites us to walk with him. Three people come to Jesus and announce, "I will follow you wherever you go." But then Jesus confronts them with specific demands of discipleship.

As this Scripture points out, Jesus is demanding and calls us to a very specific way of life. Jesus is not infinitely pliable. True, there is a great deal that we do not know about Jesus, a great deal left unsaid by the gospels. But there is also a great deal that we do know that is undeniable, unavoidable, and troubling to our settled arrangements with the present order.

In a world of amorphous, undemanding deity and nebulous spirituality we are sometimes tempted to weasel out of our encounters with Jesus to jettison a particular God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in favor of a more generic one of our making. We may be tempted to make the faith as broad and as universal in its appeal as possible. So we might be tempted to talk about "love" without giving "love" the cruciform shape that makes Christian love so demanding.

We must trust Jesus enough to create the following that he deserves. The proper object of our worship is Jesus Christ. Our challenge, as people who have been called to follow Jesus is not that we get busy believing

that God was in Jesus but that God was in Jesus reconciling the world to himself. We cannot make this faith mean anything we want. Rather than attempting to smooth out the rough places between us and the good news of Jesus Christ, our calling is to highlight the distance between our ways and God's way, a distance that isn't bridged by simply smoothing the rough edges of the gospel. The way toward a fulfilling and deep faith life is a way that looks to Christ and seeks to embody the same self-giving and self-sacrificial love through which Jesus Christ so radically reoriented our lives.

Jesus often provokes conflict with our most cherished values and widely held beliefs. Jesus sometimes speaks to us in ways that are hard to understand. Sometimes Jesus makes demands of us that seem far out of range of our abilities. But if we dare to come forth and follow, if we will dare to believe that when he said, "Follow me" he was talking to us, he promises us a great adventure named discipleship. May we lay aside our doubts and misgivings, may our sights be set not on the kingdoms of this world, but may our vision be cast continually toward the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom well defined by Scripture, a Kingdom that is not merely "spiritual" but one that is real if we will but do the work of following Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS

Thanks to all of our young people who have served as acolyte and crucifer this year! You guys have done a great job in preparing us for worship. Thanks for your willingness to serve during our worship services. Below is the schedule for July. If you cannot serve on your Sunday please let Bess know or switch with someone on the list.

July 3	Kenan Fowler	Will Fowler
July 10	Alayna Ross	Zack Harmon
July 17	Sophia Williams	Ayden Canipe
July 24	Lydia Bradley	Sophia Williams
July 31	Amber Grace Brittain	Bella Thornburg



FLOWERS ADORN OUR

ALTAR: We still have many open dates on our Sunday worship calendar for 2022 to allow anyone who wishes to place flowers in our sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one to do so. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex if you would like to offer a gift of flowers to our church altar area.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH is offered

during our 10:30 Worship Service for all children **3yrs thru 3rd grade**. The children will leave from the Sanctuary 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 4th-5th grades with pencils crayons and coloring pages and a 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 31 THRU AUGUST 4

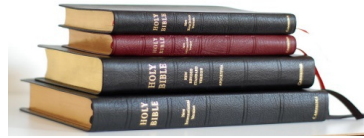
This year's VBS will be in the evenings from 5:30 to 8:00 pm beginning Sunday July 31st through Thursday August 4th. Our theme is the **CASTLE OF COURAGE: Be Strong and Courageous**, based on Joshua 1:9.

On Sunday evening July 31, our Vacation Bible School will kick off with a hot dog supper and **CASTLE BOUNCE HOUSE** at 4:30 p.m. for everyone to enjoy. Then our night of Courage will move into the church Sanctuary for opening assembly singing, and devotions and move to classes and crafts, games and evening prayer.

Then Monday, August 1, thru Thursday, August 4, our regular VBS meeting times will be 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each night. We will continue our "knights" of courage with supper, assembly, class time, crafts, games and vespers!

All Children ages 3 years up to rising 6th graders are invited to attend. There will be pre-registration available on Sunday mornings. Look for the sign up table.

Thanks to all of those who have very graciously volunteered to help. All leaders and helpers will meet July 30 at 10 am to decorate and prepare our rooms. VBS helpers, leaders and teachers are still needed for all age groups as well as kitchen helpers. **PLEASE** contact Bess Thornburg ASAP if you are willing to help with this year's VBS. (or you will be contacted!! ☺)! **Also if you have any "castle like/princess/prince items around your house please let Bess know. We can use them for props and decorations!**



Our Sunday School classes continue to meet! We offer classes for everyone! We have:

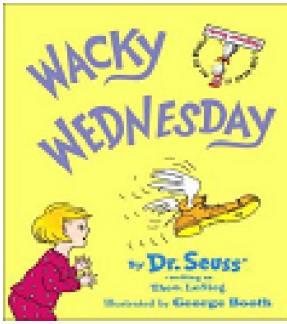
CHILDREN'S CLASSES:

- ◆ Nursery, 0-2yr olds
- ◆ Toddler Class, 2-4 yr. olds
- ◆ Younger Elementary, K-2nd grade
- ◆ Older Elementary, 3-5th grades
- ◆ Youth class, 6-12th grades

ADULT CLASSES UPSTAIRS:

- ◆ Romans 12 class, Young adults
- ◆ Etheleen Dover Class, young to middle age adults
- ◆ June Medlin Class, middle age and senior adults
- ◆ Men's Bible Class, any age men of the church;
- ◆ Discovery Class meets downstairs, any age adults.

You are invited to be a part of any one of these assemblies. **THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!** Thanks to all of you who have so graciously volunteered to teach and lead our classes, but volunteers are still needed. Some adjustments may be made, especially in the children's age groups, as class size and location is determined, but how wonderful to be able to celebrate our classes of Bible study, Christian fellowship, small group bonding and prayer time!



“WILD & WACKY WEDNESDAYS”

W.W.W. We will continue to have our “Wild Wacky Wednesday’s during the month of July. We will gather each Wednesday for a fun-filled excursion to area

places for playtime, devotions and exploring God’s world. All rising 1st graders thru rising 6th graders are invited to join in the action. If your child is a rising Kindergartener or under school age and wants to participate they are welcome to come along BUT a parent or adult must accompany them (this is mainly due to car seat restrains and the young age of the child). We will meet at the church parking lot to embark on our adventures! Below is our schedule for each Wednesday thru the end of July:

- ◆ **July 6** 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **POODLE NOODLE POOL PARTY!** visit the Harmon’s Pool and resort at 1232 Pearl Drive for a pizza lunch and afternoon pool party! We will meet at the Harmon’s house at 11:00 a.m. and the children can be picked up at the Harmon’s around 3:00 p.m. You will need your bathing suit, a towel, sun screen, etc. for this day too.
- ◆ **July 13** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: **“JUMPING FOR JOY”** visit the Altitude Trampoline Park in Gastonia. The cost for this one is \$19.00 per person for 1 ½ hours jump time plus \$3.75 “altitude sock” rental. Snacks and drinks are available for purchase at the park.
- ◆ **July 20:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **“ROUND AND ROUND ON THE TRAIN AND CAROUSEL”** visit the train and carousel at the Shelby City Park. The cost is .50 per ride. We will also have a picnic lunch that day at the park. So you will need to pack a lunch and drinks will be provided.

- ◆ ****July 28:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **“I HEAR THAT TRAIN A-COMIN”** visit to Tweetsie Railroad and Park. This will be an all day trip to Boone to ride the famous Tweetsie Railroad and experience the zoo and rides at the park. The group admission rate is \$30.00 per child under 13 and adults \$49.00. This does not include food and drinks and extras. More information will be sent out before this trip. Of course plenty of parents and adults will be needed for this trip!

**** Note this will be on a Thrilling Thursday! Tweetsie is closed on Wednesdays! ****

- ◆ **August 3:** **“Castle of Courage”** VBS 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Church. Supper 5:30 p.m. and lessons, crafts and activities 6-8 p.m.
- ◆ **August 10:** **“Back to School Party”** Mystery party day / **stay tuned!!**

I am so looking forward to another summer of fun filled days together. Of course these are the plans as of now but anything can change. If there are any changes or additional information you will be contacted.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to call Bess at the church 704-435-6732 or h: 704-435-5185 or c: 704-836-6803

Love and fun in the SON to all!!!
Miss Bess



UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6th thru 12th graders). The Youth will meet at least once a month during the summer.

- July 3: We will gather at 6:00 pm 'til 8:00 pm at the Heavner's. Our group is invited to meet for another community youth group night at Ty Heavner's at 804 Settlers Drive, for games, food, devotions, songs, prayer time and fun together.
- **July 24:** Summer Fun night. We will have a **"DIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT"**! YES DIVE IN! We will meet at Chrystal and Andrew Harmon's pool area 1232 Pearl Drive at 7:30 p.m. for supper, pool fun and a **DIVE IN MOVIE** after dark! We will be ready to go home by 11:30 pm. You will need your bathing suit, beach towel and a float!
- Looking ahead, we are still planning to attend Summitt Youth retreat in Asheville NC the weekend of October 21st thru 23rd. This will be a youth weekend with other youth groups sponsored by the WNCC United Methodist Church.



UMYF is for all middle and high school youths ages 6th thru 12th graders. Please read and follow your FUMCY text for more details.

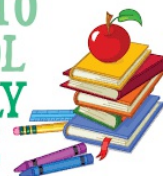


THE **FIT FAB FUN BUNCH** IS OUR CHURCH'S NEWEST EXCITING GROUP. Anyone 60 years or older is invited to join! We now have a Facebook page called Fit

Fab Fun Bunch so you can keep up with happenings and scenes from our latest adventures? Join the group if you are not already on FB. The group had a fun time on the trip to Asheville to the farmers market, Moose Café and the Cove, Billy Graham Chapel, "Ruth's Attic" and rocking chairs and ice cream. Thanks again to Chuck for driving the "Fun Bus" and to Mrs. Jerry for guiding and leading the group and while Miss Bess was still recuperating. Stay tuned for further information and future plans...

This group will keep you spiritually FIT with devotions and planning for FAB future outings and activities of the group, and we are always FUN!! Join us for fellowship and just plain fun together. You do not want to miss out on being a part of this bunch of mature adults as we experience life, love and friendships together. **You must be 60 or older to enter!**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



**ONE BODY
ONE MISSION
SCHOOL
SUPPLY DRIVE**

will be on August 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at First United Methodist Church this year. Again we will be gathering school supplies and much needed materials for back to school backpack distribution for our community. If you would like to register to receive supplies, please call 704-435-9264 between the dates of June 1 thru July 15. **There will be a meeting in the church fellowship hall on Monday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. for anyone who wishes to help with this mission project.**



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

DON BALLARD

Ben & Libby Ballard

FRANCES BEAM

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

MARTHA BEAM

Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr.
Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Clarice Harrelson

ALLAN BLACK

Bruce & Chris Barrett
Jack & Judy Bingham
Steve & Lynn Bowen
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Debbie Gantt
Juanita Gunnell
Clarice Harrelson
Gail Jenkins
Ronnie & Jill Puett
Phyllis Thornburg

DONNIE DELLINGER

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Debbie Gantt

HELEN DELLINGER

Pam Anthony (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Ben & Libby Ballard
Linda Barger (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Joyce Baxter
Steve & Susan Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham
Ben & Robin Blackburn
Ken & M'Shel Bowen
Mac & Jewel Brawley
Nancy Catena (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
The Chancel Choir & Linda Barger
Richard & Martha Cornwell
Cotton & Pam Crowder
Sarah & Ben Davis (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Debbie Gantt
Juanita Gunnell

HELEN DELLINGER

-- Continued --

Gail Jenkins
Ken & Darlene Mayhew
Betty Jane Robinson
Vernon & Betty Smith
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

LARRY GUNNELL

Kelvin & Linda Brittain

PAULA HOMESLEY

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

DONNA JAECKSCH

Debbie Gantt
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

CAREY BETH DAVIS KRYWY

Bruce & Chris Barrett
Steve & Lynn Bowen
Danny & Teci Webb

RUTH LEONHARDT

Jack & Judy Bingham
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

JOE MARTIN

John & Linda Dellinger

NORA MCINTYRE

Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

MARTHA POPE

Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

CHRIS SNEED

Ken & Darlene Mayhew

GARY THORNBURG

Billy & Linda Alexander
Pam Anthony
Ben & Libby Ballard
Chris & Bobbi Ballard
Bruce & Chris Barrett
Joyce Baxter
Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr.
Jim & Becky Beam (Backpack Ministry)

July Birthdays

1	Brian Emerson
2	Sheri Sneed
3	Macie Beam
3	Taylor Paputseanos
6	Jason Ledford
7	Jace Brittain
7	Linda Mauney
9	Betsy Baity
9	Paul Jaecksch
9	Paitlyn Yount
10	Teresa Gardo
10	Deb Husen
12	Kaci Thornburg Beck
12	Tyler Buff
12	Gail Jenkins
12	Teci Webb
13	Blair Moss
14	Bobbi Conner
14	Zach Harmon
15	Alayna Ross
15	Michael Wright
16	Kristina Houser Haynes
16	Darin Webb
19	Jay Allen
19	Brian Gardo
20	Josh Skibo
20	Betsy Sneed
21	Richard Cornwell
22	Lydia Bradley
22	Cheryl Dobson
22	Kathy Kiser
23	Keith DeVenny
25	Kennedy Dellinger
27	Kelvin Brittain
27	Kristi Buff
28	Amanda Sorenson
29	Michael Baity
30	Valerie Wallace



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



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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, JUNE 26, 2022

Total Giving To Date \$188,285.98
 Needs to Date \$207,230.92

JULY USHERS

Steve Beam, Ed Pierce, Todd Sorenson,
 Andrew Harmon, Chad Thornburg

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Billy Alexander, Bob & Caryl Austell, Betsy Baity, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Sandy Dismukes, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Ron Hovis, Ken Mayhew, Larry McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Rev. Harry Queen, Phyllis Thornburg & family, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Courtney Bradley, Shirley Fisher, Susie Jenkins, Rev. Joel Long, Vicky Clawson Porter, Larry & Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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

Sunday, July 3

9:30am - Sunday School
 10:30am - Worship

Monday, July 4

Church Office Closed (Independence Day)

Wednesday, July 6

11:00am - UMK's Pool Party

Sunday, July 10

9:30am - Sunday School
 10:30am - Worship

Monday, July 11

6:30pm - School Supply Drive helper meeting

Wednesday, July 13

9:30am - UMK's to Altitude Trampoline Park
 6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, July 17

9:30am - Sunday School
 10:30am - Worship

Wednesday, July 20

10:00am - UMK's to Shelby City Park

Sunday, July 24

9:30am - Sunday School
 10:30am - Worship
 7:30pm - UMYF supper & dive in movie

Wednesday, July 27

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, July 28


8:30am - UMK's to Tweetsie Railroad

Sunday, July 31

9:30am - Sunday School
 10:30am - Worship
 4:30pm - VBS Kickoff Celebration
 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School

Monday - Thursday, August 1 - August 4

5:30pm - Vacation Bible School



The Cherryville Area Ministries and the Second Harvest Food Bank will sponsor a Mobile Food Pantry on **Monday, July 25**, at 10:00 a.m. in the St. John's Lutheran Church Dixie Street parking lot. Volunteers are needed to distribute the food and to unpack the trucks and food boxes. Please let Bess know if you can help this year. Any helpers will need to be there by 9:00 a.m. Thanks to all those that have volunteered. This has been a very successful ministry for our community in the past and we look forward to helping those in need again.