

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

March 27, 2024

Vol. XXXV No. 4

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.

April Reflection

John 19:30, "When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

Failure is such an ugly word. It carries with it such a sting, such an unbelievable ambiance that it is often hard for me to even voice such a word. I don't like to confront my failures, though like any person I have many. I have personal failures, small like forgetting to pack my kids lunch, to big ones like not being there for someone when they needed me. While I can sit back and look at these failures now through the rose-colored glasses of memory, every time I am reminded of my failure that cold wave of regret washes over me.

I have often wondered how the disciples felt in those days and hours after the crucifixion of Jesus. There is no other way to describe their time in Jerusalem outside of abject failure. These men marched down with Jesus straight into Jerusalem surrounded by the crowds of people who were joyously cheering on Jesus. They were there when the crowd spontaneously broke out in song singing Psalm 118, "Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." They laid their coats down, laid their palm branches down, it was an exciting event.

Little did the disciples know this celebration would soon end. At a supper Jesus took a loaf of bread blessed and broke it with them, and told them to eat for this was his body broken for the world. He took a cup, blessed it, and told them this was the cup of the new covenant poured out for them and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Then he ominously said, "I will not eat with you again this side of the grave." Who could imagine the swirl of emotions that the disciples felt in this moment?

It wasn't long before old Judas, pockets flush with thirty pieces of silver, and the temple guard took Jesus away. He was held before a kangaroo court, sentenced to death. With Pilate washing his hands, the bloodthirsty mob had their way. Jesus was crucified.

The disciples wouldn't know when exactly it happened, they weren't there, they were hiding, scared that if they were identified as having been with Jesus that a cross bearing their names would soon be planted in the ground. Only the women were at the foot of the cross. And as Jesus called out, "It is finished." It really was.

Hope was finished, love was finished, the mission of the disciples was finished, the purpose they felt following Jesus around was finished. You would be hard pressed to call the trip to Jerusalem anything but an abject failure. The disciples knew it too. I don't know if you have ever suffered a crushing defeat. I'd be

willing to venture a bet most of us have, you know the emptiness that resides in the pit of your stomach, the despair, and the daze that accompany failure.

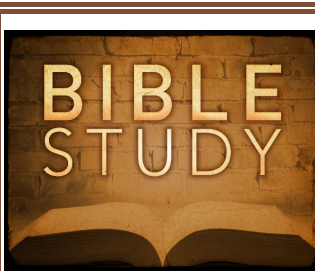
Whatever failures we have suffered, and the emotions that come along with them, were but a fraction of what the disciples felt in that upper room. Jesus was supposed to be the conquering Messiah, he was supposed to throw the Romans out, but from on top of the cross he proclaimed, "It is finished."

Yet, I want us to know that failure doesn't have the last word, regret and despair is not the story of life. Easter Sunday morning three women ran breathlessly into the upper room and proclaimed the seven words that are the cornerstone of the gospel, "He is not here, he is risen." Now it did take the disciples several minutes to believe that the news could be true, but with the resurrection of Jesus, all the failure the disciples felt was quickly turned on its head. Where they were dejected, now they were elated, where they were hopeless now, they were hopeful.

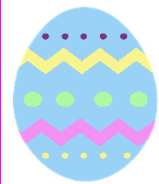
It is a profound message for us as Christians to cling to. We are a people of resurrection; we do not believe that failure gets to define us. We believe that the cross is God's eternal "yes" to all the "no" of the world. That's why we celebrate the way we do on Easter, but we must not forget that while Easter is a day, resurrection is a way of life. As you move forward from the glow of Easter, may you cling fast to the hope God has so blessed you with, and may you always remember you are more than your failures, you are more than your regrets, you are a child of the resurrection, and you always have hope.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



Bible Study continues to meet each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the June Medlin Classroom. Our study is on the Book of Isaiah. If you would like to eat here at the church prior to Bible Study, please come at 6:00 p.m. and join our UMK's for a meal. **We will not meet on Wednesday, April 3, but will resume on April 10.**



E A S T E R E G G H U N T CELEBRATION This year's Easter Egg Hunt and celebration will be Saturday morning, March 30 at 10:00 a.m. here at the church. We will begin our Easter festivities in the fellowship hall with breakfast, then we will do crafts, Easter story time and games. The egg hunt will then move outside for the Easter Egg Hunt and Golden Egg challenge. All children up to 5th grade are invited to join in the "eggs-citement." Please bring your Easter basket. We should be finished around 11:30.



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 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.



Our Children's Sunday School Department has a new class division. Of course we offer classes for everyone! We still have our children's classes but the ages have been reorganized. Maria Gunnell is teaching the Nursery / Toddler Class, 2yr - Kindergarten. And

NOW...announcing our new class: the Younger Elementary, 1st -2nd grades will be taught by Teci Webb. **THANKS SO MUCH TECI** for volunteering and helping to teach the class and age group! This new class is now meeting down stairs at the end of the hall each Sunday morning. Chrystal and Andrew Harmon are teaching our Older Elementary, 3-5th graders and Seth Freeman is leading the Youth class, 6-12th grades; Of course, our adult classes are meeting upstairs: Romans 12 class, young adults; Etheleen Dover Class, young to middle age adults; June Medlin Class, middle age and senior adults and Men's Bible Class, any age men of the church. 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.



APRIL 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 April. 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.

- April 7 Maria Pruitt
- April 14 Renee Allen
- April 21 Tessley Hayes
- April 28 Kaci Beck



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 April. **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.**

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| April 7 | Landry Pruitt | Makayla Hicks |
| April 14 | Alayna Ross | Bella Thornburg |
| April 21 | Amber Grace Brittain | Kenan Fowler |
| April 28 | Hunter Brafford | Seth Harmon |

Breakfast

On **Saturday, March 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.



Our Wednesday night UMK's are going strong for our 2024 Spring session. We've been working on our new group of lessons **"AWESOME EASTER!"**. Our lesson for April 17 will be **"Rock-n-Roll Easter."**

Then on April 24 we will have our end of the year cookout and fun night! Hopefully we can be outside at the picnic shelter for our activities! We are meeting in the fellowship hall, or outside as the weather warms up, each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 move into 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 or outside for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-old thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

UMKs will sing during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on April 28. We will meet in the choir room at 10:00 a.m. for a short practice and to get ready to share our praise songs with the church congregation. Make your plans now to be there.

UMKs will NOT meet April 3 due to Easter Break.

UMK APRIL 2024 LESSON SCHEDULE

"Awesome Easter" He is Risen

April 3	NO MEETING / EASTER BREAK
April 10	AWESOME POWER
April 17	ROCK -N – ROLL EASTER
April 24	FUN NIGHT/ COOKOUT/LAST UMK

UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE APRIL:

April 3	NO UMKs / EASTER BREAK
April 10	Toasted Cheese, Cheetos, Cookies Kelsey and Zach Price
April 17	Pizza, Fruit, Little Debbie Cakes Janice Hovis and Julie Lyles
April 24	Cookout: Burgers and Hot Dogs, Chips, Ice Cream

Parents and friends of UMKs and volunteers
*** **Our UMK Supper Schedule is subject to change*****

Thanks to all those who prepare and provide our suppers during the year. We always need more volunteers to help with our suppers. **If you are willing to help or to provide a supper one Wednesday night, please contact Bess Thornburg.**



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

The calendar says it is spring, but I'm not sure that Mother Nature agrees. It is difficult to comprehend that we have only April and May left in this school year.

We have seen growth in the children — physically, of course, but also emotionally and academically. I am so proud of them and of our great teachers! What a blessing to be a part of Kingdom Kids.

We are looking forward to our spring break as well as a field trip to KidSenses Museum in Rutherfordton in a few weeks. Even though it's hard to believe we are also working on our graduation program for May. This year seems to have gone by so quickly.

Continue to pray for our students and our staff. We covet those prayers.

Ms. Millie



Prayer Breakfast

There will be no prayer breakfast on Thursday, April 4th due to Easter break. We will resume our meetings on April 11th. 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 a.m. 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!!!



UMYF: (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in our youth room down stairs. This group is for all 6th thru 12th graders. We have been planning for our spring activities. We gather in fellowship each week and of course play games, have our snack suppers, devotions and make plans for the year. Our lessons coming up will be on:



“Awesome Easter”
and
“Swipe Right”



The UMYF will not meet March 31st in hopes that everyone can have a great time enjoying Easter Sunday with their family.



Our Lock-in was postponed due to weather and so many activities taking place at the same time. Our new date for the lock in is Friday night April 19 until April 20 sunrise and breakfast. The hours of our lock-in will be 8:00 p.m. April 19 until 8:00 a.m. April 20. Watch your mail for specifics and permission slips etc.

Our UMYF mission project for March was to pack more toiletry bags for the blessing box and also to help prepare eggs and decorations and games for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th. **THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED WITH PACKING AND PLACING 10 BAGS IN THE BLESSING BOX AND FILLING EGGS AND TREAT BAGS FOR OUR CHILDREN’S EGG HUNT!!!** Our mission project for the month of April, will be making gifts for shut-ins of our church and filling the blessing box with food.

We have held several fund raisers for a summer Mission activity or camps, possibly Carolina Cross Connection or Tekoa Missions camp. All of this is TBD as we plan on Sundays! We need everyone’s help and everyone’s attendance to get these activities going for our youth group! All 6th thru 12th 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 with our fun, energetic group of Christian young people and UMYF members! We need you!!!



Attention all 2024 High School and College Graduates.

Senior Sunday at FUMC will be May 19. Your church will honor all graduating high school and college students during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We are proud of you and want to acknowledge your success. If you are a **High School or College Graduate, please let Bess know your college and degree information.**

FFF FIT FAB FUN BUNCH



The Fit Fab Fun Bunch will witness “SAMSON - The Last Judge” on Saturday, April 27th at 12:00 noon at the Narroway Theater in Fort Mill South Carolina. This is one of our favorite places to visit and if you have ever been you know why! We will leave from the church at 10:15 a.m. aboard the fun bus and arrive in time for lunch and the show. The tickets are \$43.00 per person. We will have lunch at the theater and stop for a snack on the way home. Please let Bess know ASAP if you plan to go with our fun fantastic group to experience the biblical story come to life!



The Cherryville Area Ministries and the Second Harvest Food Bank will sponsor a **Mobile Food Pantry** on Monday, April 8, 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 and need to be there by 9:00 a.m. If you can help please let Bess Thornburg know at the church office.



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

CAM BEAM

Tommy & Renee Allen
Pam Anthony

BEN BLACKBURN, SR.

Tommy & Renee Allen
Pam Anthony
Linda Barger
Joyce Baxter
Steve & Susan Beam
Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Nancy Catena
Joe Dismukes
Debbie Gantt (Church Renovations)
Juanita Gunnell
Curtis Harrelson
Gail Jenkins
Bill & Quita Moss
Ronnie & Jill Puett
T. L. & Miney Saine
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Endowment Fund)
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

DELLA B. BRIDGES

Debbie Gantt (Church renovations)

JANET CARTER

Tommy & Renee Allen

HELENA EAKER

Pam Anthony

JIM EATON

Tommy & Renee Allen
Pam Anthony

LARRY MCGINNIS

Tommy & Renee Allen

PAT MCGINNIS

Tommy & Renee Allen
Roy Houser Family
Mike & Becky Ross (UMK programs)

ANN NEWTON

Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Joe Dismukes
Clarice Harrelson
Gail Jenkins
Bill & Quita Moss
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Endowment Fund)
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

VICKIE PORTER

Pam Anthony
Ben & Robin Blackburn
Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Joe Dismukes
Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)
Juanita Gunnell
T. L. & Miney Saine
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Endowment Fund)
Danny & Teci Webb

JOE WISE

Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Phyllis Thornburg



IN HONOR

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

BILLY & BARBARA CREWS

Mac & Jewel Brawley



	To Our Church Family,
	Thank you so much for all of your love, support, and prayers shown to us during the time of the loss of our dad and grandfather. There are no words to describe our gratitude for your heartfelt sympathies.
	The Ben T. Blackburn Family

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Bo & Betsy Baity, Michael Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Deanna Daggerhart, Bob Faires, Ruth Gaston, Curtis Harrelson, John Hines, Reid Huss, Ken Mayhew, Barbara McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Dave Plake, Rev. Harry Queen, Vernon & Betty Smith, Ron Walls, Wayne & Belinda Watts, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

John Crocker, Mary Crocker, Whitney Ledford, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Iris Walls, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson, Jessica Lovell.
Church Member



SPRING SONGFEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

6:30 P.M.

AT FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHERRYVILLE, NC

Come join us for a night of fellowship and community praise to the lord!! We have many talented voices to be heard from our town and neighboring towns around us!

Cherryville Area Ministries Board of Directors will be hosting the 10th annual Songfest! Let us all come together as God's children and enjoy a night of praise and worship!

Admission is FREE. However, we will be taking up a "Love Offering" to help with the Building Fund at CAM.

Sponsored by Cherryville Area Ministries
Board of Directors



**Please keep our church in prayer during this general conference,
April 23 - May 3, 2024.**

April Birthdays

1	Nancy Catena
2	Mallie Emerson
2	Terry Young
3	Gail Beam
3	Elizabeth Austell Shuford
3	Vernon Smith
4	Molly Whitworth Carpenter
7	Carol Metzger
7	Emily Grace Nytko
10	Linda McQuaige Dellinger
10	Jody Fowler
11	Nick Brown
12	Molly Wright
14	Linda Kale Barger
14	Suzanne Day
14	Mike Wallace
15	Colton Ballard
16	Mitchell Bowen
18	David Baity
18	Ephie Beam
18	Mary Etta Stephenson
19	Todd Sorenson
20	Mabry Freeman
20	Mary Wiles
21	Wesley Anthony
21	Linda Brittain
21	Chrystal Harmon
22	Dawn Moss
22	Holly Skibo
23	Travis Dellinger
23	Susan Fraley
25	John Dimiceli
25	Eddie Ledford
27	Grayson Cushman
27	Dartha Stroupe
28	Tricia Beall
28	Sam Dellinger
29	Scott Beam
29	Madison Moss Dellinger
29	Dylan Freeman
30	Seth Harmon



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



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

Saturday, March 30

7:30am - 10:30am - Community wide breakfast buffet
10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31 (Easter)

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

Monday, April 1

Church Office closed

Wednesday, April 3

No UMK's

No Bible Study

Thursday, April 4

No Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, April 7

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café

Sunday, April 14

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café

Sunday, April 21

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

Tuesday, April 23 - May 3

General Conference in Charlotte

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café

Saturday, April 27

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

10:15am - FFF Bunch depart to Narrowway Theater in Ft. Mill

Sunday, April 28

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, APRIL 24

Total Giving To Date \$83,073.92
Needs to Date \$98,934.00

APRIL USHERS:

Danny Webb, Steve Beam, Bruce Barrett,
Darin Webb, Tim Moss



We will adorn the Easter Cross again this year with flowers on Easter Sunday, March 31, prior to Worship. As you enter the church for Worship, the cross will be located in the Narthex for placing your flowers. We will also have time at the end of the service to place flowers if the cross is moved to the front of the church when you arrive.