

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
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January 30, 2024

Vol. XXXV No. 2

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.

February Reflection

Psalm 51:3 "For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me."

There was a book, perhaps you have come by it in your devotional life, it is called "Whatever became of sin," it is a fascinating little read, and at the end of the book the author, kind of ends where he began. He says, "I don't hear about sin much anymore, and I don't know why. We still have violence, greed, infidelity, lying, stealing, and oppression of the poor. We have inequality in so many things, so what happened? Is it just that we don't call it sin anymore or are we just used to it?"

To me that is a terrifying little question, the thought that we could get so used to sin that it could become so common place, that we could just accept it. Of course, I don't have a good answer to that question either, I don't know what became of sin, but I do know what can become of sin. Psalm 51 makes clear what the consequences of our sins are.

There is a bit of a back story to Psalm 51, it comes at a turning point in the life of King David. A war was raging in Israel, it wasn't going quite like the people planned, David who was supposed to be the conqueror wasn't making the best moves and the Israelites were losing ground. In the midst of this tumultuous time, David had a meeting with a dear friend and prophet by the name of Nathan.

Nathan came to David with a problem, and since he wasn't doing very well trying to stave off Philistine aggression, perhaps if he could solve Nathan's problem, he could earn back some good will. Nathan says to David there were two men in a certain village. One man was exceedingly rich, the other exceedingly poor. Well, the rich man had sheep all over the hillside, covered it up white as snow, you couldn't count all his sheep that's how many he had. The poor man had one sheep; it was a little sheep that had been rejected by its mother. But the poor man loved this sheep, feed it with a bottle, nursed it to health. It wasn't much; that little sheep but it was his.

The rich man had some friends come over, and he wanted to treat them to a fine dinner, and he went to go get a sheep to slaughter. Only he didn't take one from his house, he took the sheep from the poor man and slaughtered it for the feast.

Well David was incensed he said, this greedy man stole a sheep and slaughtered it, stole from this poor man and slaughtered his sheep. Well David said I have never in my life heard of something so egregious, point me in the direction of that man I will set it right, I'm going to take four hundred of his sheep and give them to the poor man. That is not how we treat one another in Israel.

Old Nathan said to David, "You are that man." Of course, I think David knew, he had to know. It was on his mind night and day. Oh, he remembered the details, it was spring early on in the war. David had come back to Jerusalem for a little rest and relaxation, turned management of the troops over to his generals. It was during this break in combat he looked out of his window and saw a woman.

He brings her to the palace, she couldn't do anything about it, who is she? She is a no one the king invited her over. She becomes pregnant. David sends for her soldier husband to come home. Of course, her husband Uriah is a good soldier, he refuses to play along with David's plan to cover up his misdeeds. Uriah says, "I can't go out to dinner with my wife, or sleep in my bed, or take in any comfort of home, when my fellow soldiers are out sleeping on the ground, eating the measly rations that they have, just wishing they could come home." David's plan A didn't work out.

So he opted for plan B. He sends word to Uriah's commander to have Uriah's troop moved to the front to take the city. And when Uriah is out in front, the other soldiers are to fall back leaving Uriah vulnerable and exposed. Well it isn't long before word comes back, "Uriah has been killed." The king comforts the poor widow and marries her.

Nathan says to David, "you are that man." Samuel tells us that David fell prostrate, would not be consoled and then he prayed Psalm 51. "My sin is always in front of me, I wake up with it; I go to bed with it. It is against you God that I sinned. If you withdraw from me, I will become an animal. I'll be nothing, don't turn your back on me. Clean me up. Give me a clean spirit. Forgive me."

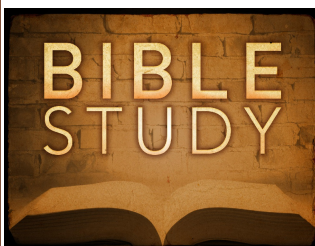
On Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30p.m., we will have our Ash Wednesday service at the church. Ash Wednesday is a time in which we are encouraged to be honest about our sin, and we mark this journey with the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads. It is a time when we resist the temptation to relativize our sin and say, "Everyone does it," and instead to proclaim, "Without the forgiveness of God I would be nothing more than a wild animal." As we journey ever closer to the wilderness of Lent, I hope you will accept the challenge of this season, I pray that you will look inward, that you won't brush off your sin, and that you will faithfully turn to God and ask for forgiveness.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



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 have Bible Study on February 14 as we will have our Ash Wednesday Service.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH during our 10:30 worship service is for all children **3yrs thru 3rd grade**. The children will leave from the sanctuary worship service following the children's sermon and go to the

classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children at the end of worship. **REMINDER:** 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 as you learn to remain in the sanctuary for worship. Please let Bess know if you are willing to help with children's church.



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 February. **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.**

Feb. 4	Amber Grace Brittain	Zack Harmon
Feb. 11	Landry Pruitt	Makayla Hicks
Feb. 18	Seth Harmon	Grayce Pruitt
Feb. 25	Alayna Ross	Caroline Carswell



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.

February 4	Renee Allen
February 11	Karen Freeman
February 18	Robin Blackburn
February 25	Dawn Whitworth



Our Wednesday night UMK's are going strong for our 2024 winter session. We've been getting **SLIMED!!** We are meeting in the fellowship hall each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 we move into the sanctuary for object lessons, skits, singing and offering. Then from 7:00 to 7:25 we have Bible study and lesson time down stairs. Then we head back up to the Sanctuary 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. Due to colder weather during the winter months, we will enter at the side door near the kitchen and leave from there also.

UMK FEBRUARY 2024 LESSON SCHEDULE "SLIMED!..CONTINUED"

Feb. 7	Working with Slime
Feb. 14	Valentine's Agape Love / Ash Wednesday
Feb. 21	Becoming Slime Proof
Feb. 28	Helping Others Out of Slime

UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

Feb. 7	Ham and Cheese subs, chips & dessert J. L. Beam Men's Bible class
Feb. 14	Chicken nuggets, tater tots, pudding cups Juanita Gunnell, Debbie Gantt & Bess Thornburg
Feb. 21	Surprise mystery dinner Jennifer Rudisill & Kim & Johnny Thornburg
Feb. 28	Taco Night, brownie Renee Allen & M'Shel Bowen

***** 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.



UMYF: (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. down stairs in the newly arranged youth room. This 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, devotions and make plans for the year. Our lesson coming up will be on **“TRUE IDENTITY”/Perfectly made by God!**

We had a wonderful trip to **The Edge Conference at Ridgecrest** and the UMYF would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to all who helped with donations, fund raisers and encouragement for this weekend retreat experience. BTW: 241141017! If you know you know!!! LOL

The UMYF will not meet February 11th. Everyone can have a great time enjoying the Super Bowl with your family. We will meet on the snow tubing slops for our February 18th meeting. We will brave a **Snow Tubing** trip to Jonas Ridge on Sunday afternoon, February 18th, leaving at 12:00 noon following worship at church. We should return around 6:00. Please watch your FUMCY text and “snail mail” for details and a permission slip.

Also, our ever-popular  **LOCK-IN** plans are in the works for Friday night March 22 until 8:00 a.m. on March 23.

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 every one’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!!!



Prayer Breakfast

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

fff fit fab fun bunch



The Fit Fab Fun Bunch will meet for a **“pre-Valentine’s”** dinner on Tuesday night February 13th at Lineberger’s Cattle Company Steak House and Saloon in Sherrills Ford, NC. We will plan to leave from the church at 4:00 p.m. and return around 7:30’ish. Our **“pre-Valentine’s Night Out”** is not just for couples. It’s for those who love to eat, love each other and love others and we certainly love each other and love to eat with our **FUN GROUP!** Come on and bring your loved one and friends and be with us as we share fun, food, and **LOVE** with each other!

So, plan now to get on the **FUN BUS** for a night of fellowship and good eating! Please let Bess know if you plan to join us on the trip!!



3rd ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL LUNCH

The Roman's 12 Sunday School class will be hosting a "Souper Bowl Sunday" lunch following our worship service at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, February 11**. The cost is donation only. There will be various soups: chili, taco and chicken noodle, with breads, crackers, drinks and desserts! Plan now to enjoy a hearty bowl of soup prior to the Super Bowl LVIII event on Super Sunday, February 11th.



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



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

We at Kingdom Kids certainly hope that the days are coming when we will be able to be back on the playground. The children sure have missed being outside!

They are growing so fast and in many different ways. It makes me happy that most of them have discovered that **LEARNING IS FUN!** The teachers are working hard to prepare them to move up to the next level. Those who will be moving on to kindergarten are having homework to do! We want them to be well prepared.

Early registration for the next school year at Kingdom Kids is encouraged. This can be done for the children of church members as well as current students and their siblings. Please contact me if you wish to reserve a space. Any spaces not confirmed will be opened to the public on March 1.

As always, we are so very thankful for the support we receive from our church members and the church staff.

Ms. Millie



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

MARGIE ANGEL

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Clarice Harrelson

CAM BEAM

Jack & Judy Bingham
Joe Dismukes
Janice Hovis
Phyllis Thornburg
Jimmy & Robin Wilent

CLINE & MABLE BEAM

Celeste Beam Weaver

MARY BROWN

Phyllis Thornburg

JANET CARTER

Linda Alexander
Jack & Judy Bingham
Nancy Catena
Bill & Quita Moss

JOANN COLLINS

Jack & Judy Bingham

HELENA EAKER

Phyllis Thornburg

JIM EATON

Linda Alexander
Phyllis Thornburg

RONNIE GANTT

Jack & Judy Bingham

GLENDA HAMRICK

Jack & Judy Bingham

MARGIE HOMESLEY

Jack & Judy Bingham

ANICE LAWING

Gail Jenkins & Jeff Jenkins (Church Renovations)
Rob & Chelsi Thomas

DICK MAUNEY

Celeste Beam Weaver

LARRY MCGINNIS

Linda Alexander
Jack & Judy Bingham
Nancy Catena (Youth Fund)
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

PAT MCGINNIS

Libby Ballard
Bruce & Chris Barrett (Church Renovations)
Jim & Becky Beam (Backpack Ministry)
Steve & Susan Beam
Ben & Robin Blackburn
Mac & Jewel Brawley (Backpack Ministry)
Butch & Wanda Brooks
Nancy Catena
Richard & Martha Cornwell
Chuck & Julie Dellinger
Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Juanita Gunnell
Clarice Harrelson
June Medlin Sunday School Class
Ronnie & Jill Puett
T.L. & Miney Saine
Jim & Sandra Tate
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

STEVE MOSS

Jack & Judy Bingham

JEFF NEWTON

Jack & Judy Bingham

JACK & SUE NOLEN

Celeste Beam Weaver

BEULAH REYNOLDS

Jack & Judy Bingham

MARGARET SETZER

Jack & Judy Bingham
Richard & Martha Cornwell

DAVID WRIGHT

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

IN HONOR

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

JACKSON WRIGHT CARPENTER

Nancy Catena
Danny & Teci Webb

CRYSTAL WALLS

Danny & Teci Webb

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Linda Alexander, Bo & Betsy Baity, Michael Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Linda Brittain, Mike Burgess, Deanna Daggerhart, Bob Faires, Kenan Fowler, Ruth Gaston, John Hines, Reid Huss, Ken Mayhew, Barbara McGinnis, the family of Pat McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Dave Plake, Rev. Harry Queen, Vernon & Betty Smith, Wayne & Belinda Watts, Easton Webb, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

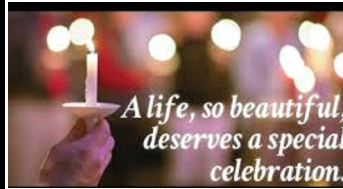
Hazel Brandon, Steve Creason, John Crocker, Mary Crocker, Joshua Faulk, Whitney Ledford, Vicky Clawson Porter, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Joe Wise, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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

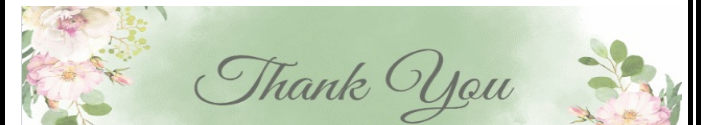
Breakfast

On **Saturday, February 24**, 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.



Community Memorial Service: The Cherryville Ministerial Association is hosting a community memorial service on Sunday, February 4, at

3:00 p.m. to remember those in the community who passed away during 2023. Shady Grove Baptist Church will be the host church for this service this year.



Dear First Methodist Friends,

Thank you so much to all of you that gave memorials in my Dad, Jim Eaton's honor! He would be so grateful for you remembering him by your giving so generously. Dad loved all of you and the Church. His constant regret was not being able to worship with you in the last few years of his life. He was always with you in spirit! Thanks also to Pastor Zack for his ministry to our family. As Dad would say - and best of all God is with Us and now my sweet Dad is with Jesus for eternity!

Thank you again for your generosity!

Janet Lynn and the entire Eaton family

February Birthdays

- 1 Sam Smith
- 2 Amber Grace Brittain
- 2 Hayden Rupard
- 5 Jedidiah Sneed
- 5 Paige Yount
- 5 Jennifer Wilent
- 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
- 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 Barbara McGinnis
- 29 David Smith

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





Mrs. Eloise Mauney
501 Spring St.
Cherryville, NC 28021

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, JAN. 28, 2024

Total Giving To Date \$31,491.01
Needs to Date \$32,978.00

Sunday, February 4

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
3:00pm - Community Memorial Service at Shady Grove
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 11

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
11:30am - Souper Bowl luncheon

Tuesday, February 13

4:00pm - FFF Bunch to Lineberger's Steakhouse

Wednesday, February 14

6:00pm - UMK's
6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15

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

Sunday, February 18

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
12:00pm - Youth snow tubing

Wednesday, February 21

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

Thursday, February 22

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

Saturday, February 24

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

Sunday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 28

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

Thursday, February 29

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

Sunday, March 3

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

FEBRUARY USHERS:

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