



First United Methodist Church
Cherryville, North Carolina

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
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JULY 31, 2024

Vol. XXXV No. 8

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.

August Reflection

Numbers 6:24-26 *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and I will give you peace."*

I can tell that this summer is finally getting to my kids. It is a strange thing, during the school year, it is almost like pulling teeth to get my kids out of the bed in the morning. Mornings in the Christy household are permeated by bleary eyes and petitions for just "five more minutes." But now we are at the point in summer where sleeping in has lost its luster, and the freedom to craft a day anyway they see fit is no longer appealing. Yes, it is time to get back into the swing of things.

I remember being young and getting somewhat excited to go back to school. There is something almost magical about getting to start a new year, a new journey. You spend 180 days wishing for the summer, but at a certain point, you have to admit that there is something almost comforting about the structure of the school year.

I was talking with my kids this past week, trying to get them excited about going back to school. I asked them what they were most excited about in the new school year. Eli will be going into third grade, and Ella will be going into first. They were excited about the normal things, friends, sports, and learning a few new things. Then Ella said, "I am excited but I am also pretty nervous, I'm like counselor Bess I'm nervous." I said, "It is okay to be nervous, I get nervous all the time." She said, "What can I do to get rid of my nervousness."

I tried to play silly little games with her, tried my best to sing her silly songs about going back to school, tried to get her excited about her favorite lunch, cheese dippers, and everything else, but it was all to no avail. After each failed attempt I would ask her if she was still nervous, and she would tell me the nerves persisted. Finally I told her I was afraid that the nerves would be there until she went back to school. She was not pleased with this grim prospectus, she furrowed her brow, and then as if a light bulb came on in her head, she looked at me with a twinkle in her eye and said, "I have an idea!"

I asked her what her idea was, but she just kept that glint in her eye and said, "Come on daddy you should know." I said, "I'm at a loss darling." She said, "It's in your job." I said, "Do you want me to preach a sermon to you?" She said, "No, a sermon won't help" (Which as a pastor is not the response you want to hear). I said, "Okay, so what is your idea?" She said, "Duh daddy you can pray." So we had a prayer together, in the living room, and after we said our amen, she said, "That helps a lot, lets pray about school each day."

I'm a bit embarrassed that it took so long for me to get to prayer. But Ella is right, prayer is without a doubt one of the greatest tools we as Christians have. There are few things as profound as a prayer of

blessing. The most popular blessing in Scripture comes from the book of Numbers, and it occurs as the people of Israel are still wondering around in the wilderness. What makes this blessing so profound is that it is uttered during a time of uncertainty for the people. Yet even with the cloud of ambiguity surrounding them, the people make the decisive decision to put their trust in God, and this blessing solidifies this decision.

As a congregation, we are going to hold fast to Scripture and follow the example of the Israelites. On August 11th we hope that you will bring your book bag to worship with you. Because as the Body of Christ we are going to offer a blessing to each student as they begin this new school year. We as a congregation are deeply rooted in prayer, and I know many of you lift the children up in your prayers daily. This worship service will be a chance for us as a congregation to show our children what a blessing it is to be a part of a church family.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



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.



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 July. **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.**

Aug. 4	Mallie Emerson	Mikki Jane Emerson
Aug. 11	Riley Shuford	Grayce Pruitt
Aug. 18	Caroline Carswell	Amber Grace Brittain
Aug. 25	Landry Pruitt	Makayla Hicks



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The family Life/Special events committee invites you and your family to an ice cream social at the Beam house at Sunbeam Farm on August 18th from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be homemade ice cream and desserts for all. Everyone will enjoy fellowship, devotions and games and fishing for those that like to fish. Bring your lawn chair, fishing gear and plan to come and join the fun.



AUGUST 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 August. 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.

- Aug. 4 Susan Fraley
- Aug. 11 Robin Blackburn
- Aug. 18 Karen Freeman
- Aug. 25 M'Shel Bowen

Breakfast

On **Saturday, August 31**, 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.

Thank You

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

Our "Camp Firelight" VBS was a huge success because of those who gave of their time every night to come and teach, lead, play, serve, hold a science lab and do crafts. Thanks also to all those who helped prepare and decorate and make sure we had everything we needed to provide a fun learning environment for our **CAMP FIRELIGHT** campers.

Our helpers and leaders were:

- ★ Video and special effects: Bo Baity
- ★ Music: Bo Baity and Kristen Freeman
- ★ Registration: Melanie Thornburg and Kaci Beck
- ★ Games and recreation: Seth Freeman, Darin Webb, Dave Plake, Zack Christy
- ★ Crafts: Madison Dellinger and Susan Fraley
- ★ Science Lab: Caleb Ballard and Tom Dellinger

Class Time Leaders:

- ★ 2 yr. – 3 yr. olds: Emily Parris, Kaci Beck, Erika Barrett, Jessie and Jessica Clippinger
- ★ 4yr – Kindergarten: Susan Carswell and Bess Thornburg
- ★ Grades 1 & 2: Maria Pruitt and Amy Shedd
- ★ Grades 3, 4, & 5: Emily and Darin Webb, Crystal Christy, and Robin Blackburn
- ★ Youth helpers: Zach Harmon, Landry Pruitt, Grayce Pruitt, and Amber Grace Brittain
- ★ Supper/snack and Kitchen helpers: FUMC Soul Sisters, Crystal Thornburg, Juanita Gunnell, Debbie Gantt, Bobbie Ballard and Phyllis Thornburg and Cindy Ford

UMK RESTART!!!!



"GODS FAVORITE FRUITS"

Our Wednesday night United Methods Kids, better known as UMKs, will “restart” again on Wednesday, September 4th. All 3 yr. olds through 5th graders are welcome to join in and be a part of our UMK program. We will meet early, at **5:00 p.m.** for our first Wednesday, 9/4, for some outdoor fun. Supper is served each night from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and then we will move into the sanctuary for our singing and assembly time. From 6:55 to 7:25 we will do our lesson/class time/crafts and games together and gather at 7:25 -7:30 in the Sanctuary or playground (weather permitting) for our prayer time and vespers. Parents can pick-up your children at 7:30 p.m. at the side entrance or on the playground if weather permits. All other regular meetings will be from 6:00 pm to 7:30 p.m.

Our lessons coming up in September are based on **GOD’S FAVORITE FRUITS!** God created a world of yummy fruits that are sweet to eat and give us what our bodies need to stay healthy. At the same time, these fruits will teach us other great blessings that God has given us in the world as well as how He wants us to live. Our memory verse is John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Everyone is so excited to get back to our Wednesday nights of fun and learning together about God’s love! As always leaders, helpers, kitchen volunteers and supper providers are needed. Let Bess know if you are willing to help!



Prayer Breakfast

Our weekly prayer breakfast will resume on **Thursday, August 15** at 7:00 a.m. 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. on Thursday mornings 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 and hold on to your stuff! There may be a BUMP in the road!!!**



There will be a back to school **Blessing of the Back Packs** on Sunday August 11th during our 10:30 worship service. All children and youth are asked to bring their school back packs to our service for a special time of prayer and blessing of the back packs before school starts back August 14.



UMYF: (United Methodist Youth Fellowship)

We will continue to have various special activities for our **“MISSION POSSIBLE”** activities throughout the remaining summer months. We worked at CAM on July 18th after having our prayer breakfast. We helped unload, sort, hang and size items at the store. Our UMYF also helped with decorating, helping and leading with our Vacation Bible school “Camp Firelight” July 21-25th. Special thanks to Amber Grace Brittain and Riley Shuford for bringing “Lu” Lume to life each night!

Sadly, our Hickory Crawdads game and concert on July 27th was postponed as we just didn’t have enough people to go. We will be planning another night out at the game for late August.



AUGUST 4th at Second Baptist church from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.. There will be a Back to School gathering for all community youth groups.

There will be pizza, snacks, drinks and sweets. Everyone will gather for games, social interaction and fellowship and a time of devotion and prayer. Plan now to come and meet with other Christian school mates for a night out before School starts.

On Monday, August 5th, our UMYF will participate in the ONE BODY ONE MISSION School Supply drive night of sorting and packing back packs. This will begin at 6 p.m. at the Second Baptist Church which is the host church this year. Everyone’s help is needed to get the back packs ready and the grade level materials sorted.

UMYF will begin our regular Sunday night meetings on **September 8th** at 5:00 p.m. We will welcome our new rising 6th grade members.

Watch your FUMCY News Flash text for details!! 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!!!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



ONE BODY ONE MISSION SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE will be on **Saturday, August 10** from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

at Second Baptist 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 St. John’s Lutheran Church, Cherryville at 704-435-9264 between the dates of June 1 thru August 1.** We will need volunteers to be prayer partners, and people to help give out supplies. **If you can help on August 10, please let Bess know. . Please turn in your donations of school supplies by August 4.**



ENDOWMENT FUND

Consider giving to the Endowment Fund:

How has the Endowment Fund helped the Church?
As our church facility celebrated its 50th anniversary, we have encountered a spate of capital expenditures. Roof repairs, metal replacement of wooden soffit around entire building, metal panels around windows, and an upgrade of sanctuary projectors and screens consumed a substantial amount of cash reserves. Fortunately, the Endowment Fund provided \$67,435 to assist in the payment of these expenses.



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

DON ALEXANDER

Tommy & Renee Allen
Bruce & Chris Barrett
Gail B. Beam & Ephriam Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham (Church Renovations)
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown
Richard & Martha Cornwell
Carla Eaker
Debbie Gantt (Church Renovations)
Juanita Gunnell (Church Renovations)
Clarice Harrelson
Keith & Kathy Kiser
Hazeline Moss (Youth Missions)
Ronnie & Jill Puett
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Playground Fund)
Phyllis Thornburg
Wayne & Belinda Watts

MIKE AVERY

Linda Barger
Joyce Baxter (Youth Fund)
Jack & Judy Bingham
Ben & Robin Blackburn (Church Renovations)
Nancy Catena
Debbie Gantt (Church Renovations)
Janice Hovis
T. L. & Miney Saine (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

BARBARA BETTS

Mac, Jewel & Yolonda Brawley

DAVID BETTS

Mac, Jewel & Yolonda Brawley

JACK DAVIS

Linda Kale Barger
T. L. & Miney Saine

MIKE "DANGO" DELLINGER

Don & Anita Millwood
Wayne & Belinda Watts

MARGARET BUFF

Tommy & Renee Allen
Steve & Susan Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham (Church Renovations)
Ben & Robin Blackburn (Church Renovations)
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown
Juanita Gunnell (Church Renovations)
Clarice Harrelson
Tad Huffstetler
Hazeline Moss (Youth Missions)
Wayne & Belinda Watts

JEREMY CRAFT

Bruce & Chris Barrett
Jack & Judy Bingham (Church Renovations)
Juanita Gunnell (Church Renovations)
Janice Hovis
Gail Jenkins
Hazeline Moss (Youth Missions)
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Playground Fund)
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

BENNY EARWOOD

Linda Kale Barger

DORIS FINGER

Pam Anthony
Libby Ballard
Jack & Judy Bingham
Ben & Robin Blackburn (Church Renovations)
Sandra Carpenter (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Nancy Catena
Richard & Martha Cornwell
Debbie Gantt (Church Renovations)
June Medlin Sunday School class
T. L. & Miney Saine
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

PAT GINN

Jack & Judy Bingham (Church Renovations)

DR. JUDY HOUSER

Carla Eaker
Wayne & Belinda Watts



Mrs. Eloise Mauney
501 Spring Street
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, August 4

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
5:00pm - UMYF meet at Second Baptist Church for a
Back to School gathering

Monday, August 5

6:00pm - UMYF help with One Body School Supply at
Second Baptist Church

Wednesday, August 7

10:30am - WWW to West Winds Park

Saturday, August 10

10:00am - School Supply Drive at
Second Baptist Church

Sunday, August 11

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
3:00pm - Preschool Orientation

Wednesday, August 14

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, August 15

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

Sunday, August 18

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
5:00pm - Ice Cream Social at Beam House
at Sunbeam Farm

Thursday, August 22

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

Sunday, August 25

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

Wednesday, August 28

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, August 29

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

Saturday, August 31

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

Sunday, September 1

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, JULY 28, 2024

Total Giving To Date \$196,280.69
Needs to Date \$247,335.00

OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD 2024

Church Building/Renovations. \$5,975.00
Endowment Fund \$2,330.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$3,574.25
Playground Fund. \$3,816.00
Youth Missions \$1,491.83

AUGUST USHERS:

Steve Bowen, Danny Webb, Ben Blackburn,
Darin Webb, Wayne Watts



Cereal
Collection
for
Hungry
families

Our church will be collecting boxes of cereal to be distributed during the God's Work Our Hands food give out at St. John's Lutheran church on September 5th. There will be a box in the church Narthex to put your donated boxes of cereal in. The goal is to collect 100 boxes of cereal between now and Sunday, September 1. Please help with this ministry by donating a box of any kind of cereal.