



THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
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August 24, 2022

Vol. XXXIII No. 7

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena
Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

September Reflection

Mark 8:11-13 "The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.' And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side."

I had a friend in Seminary who for eight years, taught in a school in Nashville, for children with hearing disorders. Their ears were all right; they just didn't make contact. Some with the help of hearing aids could hear a little bit, but the work was tough. He said that after eight years, "I just could not stand it anymore. I went home crying; I went to work crying." He said, "One year right after the Thanksgiving holiday, there was this sweet little girl in the school. Heather was her name. She was seven years old, and the nicest, kindest little child ever. We were out on the playground, and I went over to Heather, took her by the shoulders, squatted down in front of her, and said, 'Heather? Heather, what did you eat for Thanksgiving?' Heather said, 'My shoes are red.'"

He said to me, "I just couldn't do it any more."

I didn't have the heart to tell him, but as Christians we have an awful lot of experiences like that. While attending Seminary, I would occasionally worship in Duke Chapel on Sunday mornings. There was one worship service when it all came together, the music, the anthem, the prayers, the songs, everything gelled, and in the sermon everything was just right. It was one of those Sunday's that just gave me goose bumps, I felt so close to the presence of God. Standing there after the benediction I didn't want to move. I was immobilized by the presence of God in the service. I just wanted to stand there. A man in the pew in front of me, I didn't know him, he didn't know me, turned around and said, "Do you think Coach K can get these freshmen in shape for the start of the season."

You know what that man said to me, that man said, "My shoes are red."

It is indeed a painful thing when we miss out on the bigger picture. We answer questions, but certainly not the right ones. Our Scripture from the Gospel of Mark kind of highlights this dichotomy for us. Here some Pharisees are asking Jesus for a sign. Which I understand, it is easy to want to make fun of and ridicule the Pharisees, but in this instance wanting a sign, some kind of outward verification, I think it is just human nature.

They want to see something that proves to them Jesus is the Messiah. Sure he teaches differently from their other teachers, perhaps their hearts are warmed by the way he interprets Scripture, but it's not enough to have the inward verification, they want to see something. Something grand, something unexpected,

something that no one can deny, and the truth is very often we look for some outward verification in our faith walks as well.

What makes this remarkable is literally right before the Pharisees corner Jesus, four thousand people have been fed by seven loaves and a few small fish. The Pharisees were present for this miracle, but from their perspective it wasn't grand enough, it wasn't big enough, it wasn't enough of a sign. Jesus feeds four thousand people and these Pharisees come up to him and say, "My shoes are red."

As we go forth into this new month, getting back to routines, back to some sense of normalcy with the summer now firmly in the rearview mirror, let us not fix our gaze on too narrow a focus. Let us perceive what God is up too in our lives, in the life of our church, and in Cherryville. And for goodness sakes when someone asks you where you have seen God at work, don't say, "My shoes are red."

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



It is time to start stocking up on items for The Backpack Ministry as the new school year has begun. We are in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of September.

Thank you to all who assist with this program. Your generous donations help this mission to be successful and are very much appreciated by those who receive the book bags. We can always use these items, but sometimes the list may change based on the supply of goods we have on hand.

Sept. 4 Canned fruit cocktail
Sept. 11 16 oz. Creamy Peanut Butter
Sept. 18 Plastic jars of grape jelly
Sept. 25 Green Beans

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee



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 September. If you cannot serve on your Sunday please let Bess know or switch with someone on the list.

Sept. 4	Sophia Williams	Lydia Bradley
Sept. 11	Bella Thornburg	Ayden Canipe
Sept. 18	Landry Pruitt	Grayce Pruitt
Sept. 25	Amber Grace Brittain	Sophia Williams



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.



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:

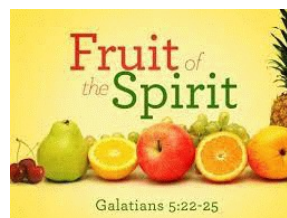
- ◆ Romans 12 class, Young adults
- ◆ Etheleen Dover Class, young to middle age adults
- ◆ June Medlin Class, middle age and senior adults
- ◆ Men's Bible Class, any age men of the church
- ◆ Discovery Class meets downstairs, any age adults.

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.



UMK's Our UMKs will start up again on Wednesday, September 7. All 3yr olds thru 5th graders are invited to join in the activities on Wednesday evenings. We will meet on the playground at

6:00 p.m. and move into the fellowship hall for supper and our assembly time in the sanctuary and then break into our classes. UMKs will be over at 7:30 p.m. each night. You can pick-up your children up at the side door or the playground (weather permitting).



We are starting a new lesson series on **Fruit of the Spirit!** Based on Galatians 5:22-23. Each Wednesday we will look at each **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**

Sept. 7	Love	Luke 15:1-7
Sept. 14	Joy	Luke 24:50-53
Sept. 21	Peace	1 Samuel 25:1-35
Sept. 28	Patience	Genesis 21:1-7

UMK Supper Schedule for September:

Sept. 7	Pizza night, fruit, cookies Bess Thornburg, Debbie Gantt & Carol Roberts
Sept. 14	Hot dogs, chips, dessert Chrystal Thornburg & Chris Barrett
Sept. 21	Chicken nuggets, mac-n-cheese, fruit Chrystal & Andrew Harmon, Melanie & Michael Ross, Amber & Matt Brafford
Sept. 28	Spaghetti, bread, dessert Robin & Roy Norwood, Lacey & Steven Spangler, Rozzie Norwood

If you are willing to prepare a meal or to help with UMKs please contact Miss Bess.

A BIG THANK Thank You YOU...

To everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School and huge success! THANK YOU also to all those who teach Sunday School each week in every age group and to those who give of their time and talents with our UMKs and our UMYF youth group. You are planting seeds of faith and seeds for our church's future! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!!



UMYF: Regular UMYF meetings began Sunday night August 21 here at the church at 6:00 p.m. downstairs in our youth room. We had a great supper thanks to Tim and Maria

Pruitt and we finally got our volleyball net up and played a little wacky volleyball in the rain! We started planning for the year and got a new start on this year's excitement with our UMYF - "FUMCY" characters! We also "dove into" our Bible Scavenger Hunt lessons, games and crafts. Our group is growing and we welcomed our rising 6th graders to the group. Welcome Grayce and Lauren! And we had several visitors joining our group. YAY! We will continue to meet every Sunday night from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. downstairs in the youth room! **(EXCEPT SEPTEMBER 4 - we will not meet!).**

Looking ahead we are planning to have a lock-in and outside camp out/movie night on September 30. Also, we are still planning to attend Summitt Youth retreat in Asheville, NC the weekend of October 21 thru 23. This will be a youth weekend with other youth groups sponsored by the WNCC United Methodist Church. All those who are planning to go will need to have your \$35.00 deposit in by our October 2nd UMYF meeting. Our **Mission Possible** opportunities for the group will be serve as Ushers for the month of September and to participate and help and volunteer for Trunk or Treat on October 30.

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



ATTENTION ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS and/or Parents:

We want to stay in touch with you!! Please let us know your current college address as soon as possible. Some of your addresses have changed and some of you are studying from home, some virtually and some at your college campus. We needed your information. Please call Bess at 704-435-6732 or email your College information to 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.



Football Friday nights are back at **CHS** and First United Methodist Church is on schedule to work and handle the concession stand at the home game on **September 9**. Volunteers are needed to help out and support our school and team boosters that night! Please sign up to help!!!



Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast will continue every Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Homefolk's Café. Everyone is welcome! Especially students and parents and grandparents are invited 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. Please NOTE: Miss Bess will drive our church van and will take any middle school students that need a ride to school.

**BUT watch out for the
BUMPS!!! LOL ☺**



The Cherryville Area Ministries and the Second Harvest Food Bank will sponsor a Mobile Food Pantry on Monday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the St John's Lutheran Church Dixie Street parking lot. Our church will be sponsoring the \$300.00 truck transportation fee for this month's food distribution. 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.



THE FIT FAB FUN BUNCH IS A GROUP FOR ANYONE 60 OR OLDER. Our next outing will be to visit the **Fabulous Frescos** at St. Mary's church in West Jefferson and Holt Trinity in Glendale Springs

on September 23. The **Fun** bus will leave 11:30 a.m. and return 7:30 p.m. (ish). And of course, we will stop to get **Fit** eating at Mountain Aire Seafood and Streaks before coming home. Please watch for more details! 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. 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!**

Breakfast

On **Saturday, September 24**, we will resume 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.



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

PHILLIP BRADLEY

Ben & Libby Ballard
Jack & Judy Bingham
Ben & Robin Blackburn
Steve & Lynn Bowen
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Nancy Catena (Endowment Fund)
Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Juanita Gunnell
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)
Gail Jenkins & Jeff Jenkins (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Bill & Quita Moss
Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)
Rob & Chelsi Thomas (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Phyllis Thornburg

HELEN DELLINGER

Gary & Deb Husen

BOB HUDSON

Mrs. Gail V. Jenkins (Kingdom Kids Preschool)

SUSIE JENKINS

Jack & Judy Bingham
Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Juanita Gunnell
Clarice Harrelson
Ronnie & Jill Puett
Phyllis Thornburg

JANICE KISER

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

GREG MILLWOOD

Jack & Judy Bingham
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Clarice Harrelson
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Danny & Teci Webb

FRANK OSBORNE

Jack & Judy Bingham
Juanita Gunnell
Ron & Janice Hovis

VICKY RANDALL

Jack & Judy Bingham

DALE RUSSELL

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

TOMMY STROUPE

Steve & Lynn Bowen

GARY THORNBURG

Carl & Linda Dellinger

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IN HONOR

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

ALICE MARIE BLACKBURN

Ben & Robin Blackburn

EMERSON COBBS

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

BILLY & BARBARA CREWS

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

BRIAN EMERSON

Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)

BESS THORNBURG

Bill & Quita Moss

VBS WORKERS

Bill & Quita Moss

JUSTIN & EMILY WINTER

Ben & Robin Blackburn

+++++

September Birthdays

1 Hattie Beck
2 Leland Gaskins
2 John Hines
3 Crystal Essary
3 Amber Sneed
4 Ann Harmon
5 Anice Lawing
5 Teesie Smith
5 Billy Warlick
6 Hadley Webb
7 Jeff Jenkins
7 Belinda Watts
8 Carol Falls
8 Ada Smith
10 Seth Freeman
10 Camille Freeman Harden
10 Evelyn Southards
10 Jimmy Wilent
11 Roy Norwood
12 Kevin Gardo
12 Danny Smith
14 Julie Dellinger
14 Andrea Leffingwell
15 Gary Husen
15 Jack Rupard
15 Kent Shaw
15 Robin Wilent
16 Jessica Lovell
16 Gabrielle Shedd
17 Amy Kilby
17 Dick Ledford
18 Easton Webb
20 Pam Owens
20 Chelsi Jenkins Thomas
21 Julie Hovis Lyles
21 Earlene Williams
22 Lynn Bowen
22 Shane Stroupe
25 Mary Geiger
25 Brent Walls
26 Cooper Sain
27 Ken Mayhew
27 Alex Morehouse
28 Randy Baxter
28 Oakley Parris
28 Ryan Sorenson
29 Michael Beam
30 Trent Thornburg



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Today as I prepare this update our students have been in school for one week. It is so wonderful to see their sweet faces and to hear the laughter and joy they bring. Today we also had our first chapel service with Pastor Zack for this school year. He taught the children about God being our Good Shepherd. As he carried a shepherd's crook, the children followed him around while "baa, baa, baaing" as the sheep. What fun while learning about God!

We have such good teachers who put a lot of effort into planning and teaching the children. I am so thankful for them.

Enrollment is down quite a lot this year mostly due to the economy according to what I hear from parents. This leads to much less income, which is why we had the giving tree in the narthex. I thank the members of our preschool Board of Directors for doing that for us. A very special "Thank You" to all those who have picked an apple from the tree and have donated so generously! God knows who you are and you will be blessed!

Ms. Millie

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



Janet Carter
Carolina Care Health & Rehab.
111 Harrilson Rd.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Thursday, September 1

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café
7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting

Sunday, September 4

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

No Youth

Monday, September 5

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, September 7

6:00pm - UMK's
6:30pm - Bible Study
6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 8

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

Friday, September 9

6:00pm - FUMC to work football concession stand

Sunday, September 11

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

Tuesday, September 13

6:00pm - Church Council meeting

Wednesday, September 14

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

Thursday, September 15

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

Sunday, September 18

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

Wednesday, September 21

6:00pm - UMK's
6:30pm - Bible Study
6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 22

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

Friday, September 23

11:30am - "FFF" Bunch to West Jefferson

Saturday, September 24

7:30am - 10:30am - Community Wide Breakfast
Buffet

Sunday, September 25

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

Wednesday, September 28

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

Thursday, September 29

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

Friday, September 30

Youth lock-in and outside camp out/movie night

Sunday, October 2

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, AUGUST 21, 2022

Total Giving To Date \$241,661.18
Needs to Date \$270,994.28

SEPTEMBER USHERS

Youth

PRAYER LIST (Members)

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

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Courtney Bradley, Shirley Fisher, Jim Maxey, 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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2022						
				1 7:00 - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café 7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting	2	3
4 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship No Youth	5 LABOR DAY Church office closed	6	7 6:00 - UMK's 6:30 - Bible Study 6:30 - Chancel Choir	8 7:00 - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café	9 Work CHS football concession stand - volunteers needed	10
11 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 6:00 - Youth	12	13 6:00pm - Church Council meeting	14 6:00 - UMK's 6:30 - Bible Study	15 7:00 - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café	16	17
18 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 6:00 - Youth	19	20	21 6:00 - UMK's 6:30 - Bible Study 6:30 - Chancel Choir	22 7:00 - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café	23 11:30 - "FFF" Bunch to West Jefferson	24 7:30am - Community wide Breakfast Buffet
25 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 6:00 - Youth	26 9:00 - Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry - volunteers needed	27	28 6:00 - UMK's 6:30 - Bible Study	29 7:00 - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café	30 Youth Lock-in / and outside camp out/movie night	