

**THE MESSENGER**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**601 NORTH PINK STREET**  
**CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021**  
**Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468**  
[firstmethodistcherryville.com](http://firstmethodistcherryville.com)

**January 25, 2023**

**Vol. XXXIV No. 1**

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.

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*Mark 6:7 "Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out to by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits."*

At Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, a place I served while in Seminary, they decided that they needed to grow. They voted to launch a program of evangelism. At Mt. Bethel their main concern was the lack of growth over the last twenty years. Beginning in the 1990's the church had begun a two-decade decline in membership, so the leadership figured a little church growth strategy was in order.

They studied a program from *seed casters*, a popular church growth firm at the time, that promised a big gain in membership. Among other things, the church growth program advocated a system of door-to-door visitations. So the church organized themselves into groups of two, and one Sunday afternoon we sat out to invite people to come to church.

The teams went out armed with pamphlets describing the congregation, nice little coffee mugs filled with instant coffee and Hershey Kisses, a flier with a smiling photo of the pastor, and directions on how to find the church. Each team was given a map and a number of doors to knock on.

Helen and Gladys, were given a map. They were clearly told to go down Summit Drive and to turn right. It couldn't have been any more clear. I even heard the leader say to them, "You go down Summit Drive and turn right. Do you hear me Helen? That's Summit Drive and turn right."

But Helen and Gladys, who were both approaching eighty, after serving as elementary school teachers for many years, were far better at giving directions than taking them. Because when they went to the end of Summit Drive, instead of turning to the right and going into the fancy new housing development, they turned left and went into the projects of Durham.

Late that afternoon, each team returned to the church to make its report. Helen and Gladys had only one interested person to report to the group, a woman named Verleen. She lived with her two children in a three room apartment in the projects we were told. Although she had never been to a church in her life, Verleen wanted to visit Mt. Bethel.

That next Sunday, Helen and Gladys proudly presented Verleen at the eleven o'clock service, Verleen along with two feral looking children. Verleen liked the service so much, she said, that she wanted to attend the women's Thursday-morning Bible study. Helen and Gladys said they would pick her up. That Thursday, Verleen appeared, proudly clutching her new Bible, a gift from Helen's circle, the first Bible Verleen had ever seen much less owned.

That Thursday, as the poor Duke student, it was my job to lead the women's Bible study. We were talking about Luke chapter 4 which is the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. As I was closing my opening remarks, I asked, "Have any of you ever been faced with temptation and with Jesus's help you resisted?"

One of the women told about how, just the week before, there was some confusion in the supermarket checkout line and before she knew it, she was standing in the supermarket parking lot with a loaf of bread that she had not paid for.

"At first I thought" she confessed, "Why should I pay for it? They have enough money as it is. But then I thought, 'No you are a Christian' so I went back in the store and paid them for the loaf of bread."

Her confession was met with many nods of approval. It was then that Verleen spoke. "A couple of years ago I was into cocaine really big. You guys know what that is like right? You know how that stuff makes you go crazy. Well, anyway, my boyfriend, not the one I have now, but the one who is the daddy of my first child, that one well we knocked over a gas station one night. It was easy quickest \$200 I ever made. Well my boyfriend, he says to me, 'Let's hit the 7-Eleven down the corner.' And something in me says, 'No. I'm not going to hold up a convenience store.' He beat me, but I still said no. I reckon that's about the only time in my life I ever said no to anything. Made me feel like I was somebody."

Through the stunned silence, I managed to say, "Well...um....yeah...this Scripture is about resisting temptation...let's pray together." As I left the church parlor and went into the parking lot, I was helping Helen get the leftover snack food in her car and she said, "I can't wait to get home and invite people to come to our study next week. Your Bible studies were a bit dull. I think I can get a good crowd for this."

I wasn't entirely sure whether to laugh or cry. But the church, by the grace of God grew.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy \_\_\_\_\_



The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of February.

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.

- Jan. 29 Spam
- Feb. 5 Knorr's Rice Sides
- Feb. 12 Green beans
- Feb. 19 Corn
- Feb. 26 Chicken Noodle soup

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee



**Ash Wednesday Service** will be held on February 22, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

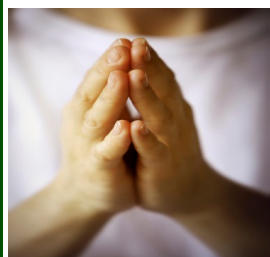
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** during our 10:30 worship service is for all children **3yrs thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**. The children will leave from the sanctuary worship service following the children's sermon and go to the classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children and the end of worship. **REMINDER:** A packet will be available outside the sanctuary in the Narthex for children 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 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. 5	Hunter Brafford	Ayden Canipe
Feb. 12	Bella Thornburg	Mallie Emerson
Feb. 19	Kenan Fowler	Will Fowler
Feb. 26	Makayla Hicks	Landry Pruitt



## Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast is back in full swing at 7:00 am at Homefolks 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. Miss Bess will drive our church van and will take any middle school and/or high school students that need a ride to school.

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



**UMK's:** Our Wednesday night UMK's are going strong for the winter session! We are about 40 strong and meeting in the fellowship hall 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 we will go back up to the sanctuary for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-old thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30pm. For the winter months we will enter at the side door near the kitchen and leave from there also.

### UMK Lesson Schedule for February:

#### Chill: Keeping our Cool

Feb. 1	"CHILL" FROZEN	1 Kings 19:1-18
Feb. 8	"CHILL" AVALANCHE	James 1:19-21
Feb. 15	"CHILL" SNOW EFFECT"	John 13:34-35
Feb. 22	"JOURNEY TO MARS"/BLAST OFF	Genesis 12:1-9

### UMK Supper Schedule for February:

Feb. 1	Tacos, chips, fruit, "frozen cicles" Rene Allen, M'Shel Bowen
Feb. 8	Breakfast, brownies Andrew and Chrystal Harmon, Melanie Ross
Feb.15	<b>Valentines Party</b> Pizza, chips, Valentines treats Bess Thornburg, Debbie Gantt, Carol Roberts
Feb. 22	Subs, chips, cookies Tim and Maria Pruitt

### **\*\*NOTE: UMK SUPPER MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.....**

If anyone would like to volunteer to prepare and serve UMK Suppers please let Bess know! Thanks to all those who have so willingly served and provided supper during the year!!



**UMYF:** Regular UMYF meetings are “a-happening” at the church, downstairs in the youth room at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 each Sunday night. We have a great time together eating, studying God’s word, doing the “**CHURCH CLAP**” and of course playing hide and go seek, sardines’ style and other wacky games. We are still planning for the rest of 2023 years activities with our UMYF - “FUMCY” characters! We are continuing to work on our Bible Scavenger Hunt lessons, skits, games and crafts. Our group is growing and we welcome all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders!

We have many activities and **Mission Possible** opportunities for the group in the coming months. We are still trying to stock the blessing box with food and with toiletries. We are going to be working on “**God is Love**” **Valentines Bags** for our shut-ins and those in need. Also, we will be helping the Roman’s 12 class with the “**SOUPER BOWL**” lunch on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will meet together at 9:30 a.m. that morning to decorate and set up. We will be waiting tables, filling drinks and cleaning up afterward. Please wear your apron and waitress gear! We are also planning some housekeeping projects at the church to get our Youth room organized, closet clean out and get the “Adventure Van” cleaned up for future use!!

Our group had a wonderful experience at the **EDGE** student & leaders conference 2023, on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> at **Ridgecrest, NC**. This was a worship filled weekend of fun and entertainment for students and adult leaders. We jumped and clapped worshiped with the “**CHURCH CLAP SONG!!**” **so fun!!** We had 9 students and 2 adults on the trip. **A BIG THANK YOU TO TIM PRUITT for going, giving his time and driving his truck along with us. WE LOVE YOU TIM!!! And a BIG THANK YOU TO THE “BREAKFAST CLUB” for your donation of monetary proceeds to help pay for the retreat! Your money was well spent!!**

A future plan to go tubing again is in the making, possibly for Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon and another weekend at our Happy Place: Tekoa Foothills!!! Please be at UMYF to get involved in these activities!!

UMYF is for all middle and high school youths. Please read and follow your FUMCY text for more details.

# Breakfast

On **Saturday, February 28**, 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.



## “2ND ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY”

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

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







## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Wow! January has been a strange month! We had a few days of warm and sunny; it has been cold and windy; it has rained and rained. We need days of sunshine and outdoor time on the playground!

The children are growing in so many ways and I am excited to see that most of them have discovered that LEARNING IS FUN! They shower the teachers and me with so many hugs and so much love, and they make us proud!

**ALERT!** Early registration for the upcoming school year for children of FUMC, as well as current students and their siblings begins on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Students must have reached the appropriate age by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Registration will open to the public on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

I am so very thankful for the wonderful staff we have at Kingdom Kids, and for the support we receive from our church family.

Ms. Millie



Special Prayer Time for addiction and Substance abuse! I have been contacted by several concerned church members, youth pastors, caring Christian people of our community, prayer warriors from across our area and frightened, concerned parents to address the drug problems and loss of life to addiction in our community as of late! We have lost too many wonderful young people and young adults in our town to the horrors of addiction and the grip of drug abuse. A special prayer time has been designated for Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for us to stop and pray for all those struggling in any way with drug abuse, addiction, distribution, and the dangers of all substance abuse. We can make a difference by coming together in prayer wherever you are to take a moment to ask the Lord to help and to intervene with those struggling at this time. Please share this with your family and neighbors.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 "then if my people will humble themselves and pray and search for me, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear them from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land!"*

## PRAYER AGAINST ADDICTION

### PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND FORGIVENESS

Precious Lord,

I come to you in prayer today for salvation.

Lord, I'm an addict, but I don't want to be defined by that anymore. I pray for your forgiveness. Please forgive me for this act and

cleanse me of all unrighteousness. Take my hand Lord, and deliver me from this habit.

Give me the strength to let go and not look back. Help me to avoid friends that will tempt or influence me to give in to this addiction again. Fill me with your grace so that I don't relapse into addiction.

Thank you for the life you have given to me in Christ Jesus. Thank you for setting me free through your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ,

*Amen*



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

**BILLY ALEXANDER**

Chuck & Julie Dellinger  
Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)  
Jimmy & Robin Wilent

**BOB AUSTELL**

Pam Anthony  
Linda Barger (Choir Fund)  
Joyce Baxter  
Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
H. L. Beam, III  
J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class  
Jim & Becky Beam (Backpack Ministry)  
Jim & Edwina Beam  
Steve & Susan Beam  
Jack & Judy Bingham  
Ben & Robin Blackburn  
Steve & Lynn Bowen  
Dennis Bradley  
Lainey Bradley  
Mac & Jewel Brawley  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Marsha Brown & David & Sara & Dan Broberg  
Olin & Kay Bumgarner  
Robert & Hilda Burton  
Jeff & Cynthia Cash  
Nancy Catena  
Alan & Cathy Cloninger  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Barbara Deaton  
Chuck & Julie Dellinger  
Joe & Sandy Dismukes  
Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)  
Juanita Gunnell  
Clarice Harrelson  
Curtis Harrelson  
Robert & Connie Hoops (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
Nick & Frances Hopkins  
Janice Hovis  
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)  
Gail Jenkins & Family  
David & Louanna Kiser  
Harold & Kim Mauney

**BOB AUSTELL**

- - Continued - -

Linda Mauney  
Dave & Pam Owens  
Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)  
T. L. & Miney Saine  
Sarah Hopkins Sauders & Family  
John & Cindy Smith  
Mary Etta Stephenson  
Phyllis Thornburg  
Danny & Teci Webb

**CARYL AUSTELL**

Pat McGinnis

**BOB & CARYL AUSTELL**

Jimmy & Rita McGinnis (Church Renovations)

**BEN BALLARD**

Linda Alexander  
Pam Anthony  
Stan & Ann Ballard  
Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class  
Steve & Susan Beam  
Jack & Judy Bingham  
Ben & Robin Blackburn  
Louetta Bloecher & Connie Ralston  
Steve & Lynn Bowen  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Nancy Catena  
Chuck & Julie Dellinger  
Mike Dellinger  
Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)  
Juanita Gunnell  
Hamilton & Whitecotton Orthodontics  
Clarice Harrelson  
Curtis Harrelson  
Janice Hovis  
Gail Jenkins & Family  
Harold & Kim Mauney  
Pat McGinnis  
June Medlin Sunday School class  
Lisa Millwood  
Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)  
Betty Jane Robinson  
T. L. & Miney Saine  
Bill & Debbie Sessoms  
Todd Sorenson & Rhonda Beam (Church Renovations)  
Phyllis Thornburg  
Danny & Teci Webb



- - Continued - -

### BLANCHE BOIES

Jack & Judy Bingham  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Phyllis Thornburg

### VERA EAKER

Steve & Susan Beam  
Alan & Gwynn Cannon  
Eddie & Cindy Eaker  
Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)  
Shirley Smith  
Jimmy & Robin Wilent

### ROSE NAVEY

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

### O. C. PARKER

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

### STOWE SELLERS

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

+++++



in case of  
**INCLEMENT  
WEATHER**

In case of inclement weather / dangerous road conditions, First UMC will

advertise any changes to our regular worship schedule by our "One Call" now system as well as on WBTV, channel 3 or WSOC TV, channel 9 as well as on the church website [www.firstmethodistcherryville.com](http://www.firstmethodistcherryville.com).



### THE **FIT AFAB FUN BUNCH**

IS A GROUP FOR ANYONE 60 OR OLDER. Our next outing will be another trip to Narroway Productions. We will attend the noon show, "Jesus the Teacher." Those of you that have

been before know what a **FABULOUS** wonderful experience this will be. We will leave from the church on the **FUN** bus at 9:30 a.m., Saturday Feb 4th. Come with us and reflect, renew and get **Spiritually FIT** with a boat, a sack lunch, a hungry crowd and the greatest storyteller of all time. You don't want to miss out on this experience as we sit in the crowd as Jesus tells the world's most famous stories. The cost is \$45.00 per ticket. This includes lunch and show. There are limited seats so please let Bess know and sign-up ASAP! And of course, we will stop to get FIT with a treat on the way home. We are so thankful for our **FUN BUS DRIVER** Chuck Dellinger for driving for us that day!!

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 already on FB or if not get on and join the page. Stay tuned for further information and future plans...

This group will keep you spiritually **FIT** with devotions and planning for **FAB** outings and activities of the group, and we are always **FUN!!** We now have a great theme song for the group thanks to Pam Anthony, "We're having the time of our lives." LOL Join us for fellowship and just plain laughter 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!**

## 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 Rita Lorrey
- 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.





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

### **Sunday, January 29**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Easter Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

### **Tuesday, January 31**

7:00pm - Worship Committee meeting

### **Wednesday, February 1**

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

### **Thursday, February 2**

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

### **Saturday, February 4**

9:30am - "FFF" Bunch departs to Narroway

### **Sunday, February 5**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
3:00pm - Community Memorial service at  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church

4:00pm - Easter Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

### **Wednesday, February 8**

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

### **Thursday, February 9**

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

### **Sunday, February 12**

9:30am - Confirmation Class begins  
9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
11:30am - "Souper Bowl Lunch"  
4:00pm - Easter Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

### **Wednesday, February 15**

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

### **Thursday, February 16**

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

### **Sunday, February 19**

9:30am - Confirmation Class  
9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
12:00pm - Youth snow tubing  
4:00pm - Easter Cantata Rehearsal

### **Wednesday, February 22**

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

### **Thursday, February 23**

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

### **Saturday, February 25**

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

### **Sunday, February 26**

9:30am - Confirmation Class  
9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Easter Cantata Rehearsal  
6:00pm - Youth

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT, JANUARY 22**

Total Giving To Date ..... \$30,622.00  
Needs to Date ..... \$31,758.20

### **FEBRUARY USHERS:**

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

### **PRAYER LIST (Members)**

The family of Bob Austell, Betsy Baity, Libby Ballard & family, Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Sandy Dismukes, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Ken Mayhew, Larry McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Rev. Harry Queen, Belinda Watts, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

### **PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)**

Courtney Bradley, Don Childers, Shirley Fisher, Mary Geiger, Windy Kirby Gibson, Whitney Ledford, Vicky Clawson Porter, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Rick Walker, Rick Webb, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

### **LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:**

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Aron Dickerson, Caleb Dickerson, Jessica Lovell, Cody Spiker.

# Church Member