

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](http://firstmethodistcherryville.com)

**JANUARY 8, 2025**

**Vol. XXXVI No. 1**

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.

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January Reflection

Mark 4:38-39 *“Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind and waves stopped. Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’”*

When I was young I hated bedtime, not because I wasn’t tired, but because of the beasts that lurked in the night. For me, I was never scared of ghosts or faceless monsters, my bedtime enemy was real, it was fierce, known around the world for its size. You see I was deathly afraid of the mighty, bloodthirsty tortoise. My parents had left me with a baby sitter at one point, a youth in the church, who convinced me that a tortoise was not only the meanest of all animals, it was fast, violent and could rip you to shreds in only seconds. And a tortoise’s favorite food was little boys. I was terrified of tortoises.

So each night I would have my dad to check my bed, closet, the hall, make sure that the doors were locked, and make sure that there were no tortoises hanging around the parsonage in Statesville, North Carolina. After he looked around he would come to tuck me in. I would try to go to sleep, but at the first sound, the first creak in the wood, I would turn and run into my parents bedroom and my dad would repeat the process. I don’t know how long this went on for, probably until I went to the zoo and saw a tortoise for real, but I always knew where to run to whenever I was scared, straight to my dad. Maybe I just needed to hear my dad say the words, “why are you afraid of a tortoise, I will go check it out.” But after he checked there was always calm afterwards.

When we meet Jesus and the disciples today, they are crossing the Sea of Galilee, certainly not the most intimidating body of water, but even a small body of water can become tumultuous in a second. So it is on this day in Galilee, a great storm arises, and as the waves start crashing into the boat, these disciples, these men who have made their lives on the sea, who live and breathe because of the sea, start to get scared. So we know that this was an awful bad storm.

While the disciples are trying to bail out water, there is screaming, yelling, and cussing, in the middle of this wild and hectic scene where the disciples are sure that they are going to die. They look over and there in the stern of the boat, sleeping like a baby is Jesus. The disciples almost can’t believe that Jesus could be sleeping while they believe that they are dying.

So Peter runs over to Jesus and starts to shake him awake, and upon waking up Jesus has all the disciples in his face yelling, “Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?” Well Jesus wakes up, rebukes the wind, says to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Wouldn’t you know it after Jesus says these words, the wind stops, the waves cease and the boats continue on their journey at a comfortable pace.

But the disciples it appears aren't quite sure what to do. I love that Mark leaves us with the questions of the disciples, for they ask one another, "Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" The disciples are coming off of this wonderful experience of seeing Jesus in action, feeding all those people with five loaves and two fish, they have seen him teach and preach, they have seen him heal, and all they are looking for is some peace and quite as they go over to the Gentile side of the Sea of Galilee. And instead of peace, they find a storm.

So it is with life, often all we want is peace and quite, we want our routines, but instead of peace and quite we find a storm. We have all been bailing water out of our boats, only to look around and scream for God to appear to quite the storms of our lives, and we feel as if God is asleep at the stern of the boat. It is important to note here, that Jesus does not say, "Don't worry" he does not say, "You have nothing to fear," he asks, "Why are you afraid?"

Because the hard truth is the fearsome things in this life are very real: isolation, pain, illness, rejections, job-loss, money problems, and death. There are things to be afraid of in this life. But as we grow in faith, we come to understand that even though such terrifying things are very real, they do not have the last word. They do not have ultimate power over us, because reigning over this world of fearsome things is a God who is mightier than they.

Time and time again in Scripture the words, "Do not be afraid" are spoken. It is, you might, say the first and last words of the gospel. It is the word the angels speak to the terrified shepherds, and the word spoken at the tomb when the women discover it empty: "Do not be afraid." We are called to let go of our fear instinct, not because there are no scary things on the seas of our days, not because there are no storms, fierce winds, or waves, but rather because God is with us.

Now hear the good news, even though we may at times feel abandoned in the storms of our lives, we are not alone. The greatest thing that faith in God can teach us is even though there are real and terrifying things in this life, they need not paralyze us; they need not have dominion over us; they need not own us, because we are not alone in the boat. God has conquered the world and indeed God is with us. I pray that your new year is off to a great start, and I for one can't wait to see what God is going to do with First UMC in 2025!

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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## Breakfast

On **Saturday, January 25**, 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.**



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is held during our 10:30 worship service 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 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 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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 January 2025. As you may have noticed the Acolytes and Crucifers are wearing robes now. This has been very well received by both our congregation and the young people. **Boys are asked to please wear long pants under your robe on your week to assist in worship and nice shoes!!!** **ALSO PLEASE BE IN THE NARTHEX BY 10:15 A.M. TO GET READY!**

**\*\*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.\*\***

Jan. 5	Landry Pruitt	Hunter Brafford
Jan. 12	Grayce Pruitt	Alayna Ross
Jan. 19	Sophia Williams	Lydia Bradley
Jan. 26	Caroline Carswell	Amber Grace Brittain

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL HAVE AN ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER TRAINING CLASS ON JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY. \*\*\*\*\***

This is for new acolytes and crucifers coming up and for those who have served in past years. All of you will need to be at the class to refresh and to learn of any new procedures. Some of you could use a **refresher course!** LOL!!

LOVE YA'LL , Miss Bess



## ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER TRAINING JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:00PM

Hi Guys, first of all, thanks to all of you who have so faithfully served as acolyte and crucifer for the past few years. Your service to your church is so important to our worship services. You have done a great job in presenting the light and the cross and setting the spirit for our worship time together.

It is time to hold a new acolyte training and crucifer class to learn and refresh and practice presentation of the light and cross to our service. You are invited to serve as acolyte and crucifer during the coming year and to attend a training class on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Even if you have attended class and have been trained in the past, it is still **very important that you be at this meeting**. We will be working on the acolyte and crucifer working together to **correctly** present and extinguish the light and the cross.

And **NO** you are not too young or too old to do this. It is my hope to use the older, stronger youths to bear the cross and serve as crucifer because the cross is heavy and needs to be carried correctly. Sooooo..... all 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend this class and serve your church during worship.

Thanks for your willingness to serve FUMC!  
See ya on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Miss Bess





Hello my UMYF Friends.... **U.M.Y.F.** (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. downstairs. We will resume our meetings on January 12<sup>th</sup>. I have really missed some of you lately. Our group is for all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 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. You are welcome to invite a friend to join our group.

Our lessons and devotions for the next few weeks will



be **“HASHTAG”** # Learning to think like Jesus.

We are looking forward to our exciting and uplifting trip to **The Edge Conference at Ridgecrest! The Edge begins January 18<sup>th</sup> – January 20<sup>th</sup>.** (See more information below.)

We are also planning our Winter Snow Tubing trip in February and a Lock-in possibly in March. Also, we are making plans for some future fund raisers. We need your help to plan and your in-put for our activities!



**UMYF  
THE  
EDGE  
WEEKEND  
RETREAT!!**

Hi everyone, we have a new *“VAN ADVENTURE”* coming up! As we have been talking about and planning, our UMYF weekend getaway to **THE EDGE CONFERENCE/RETREAT at Ridgecrest N.C.** is Martin Luther King weekend. We are planning to leave Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and return Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> around 2:00 ish. You will need money to eat on for Monday lunch. All other meals are provided at the conference. Our lodging will be paid for with our money raised with our coffee bar fund raisers and donations from the breakfast club and church donations. Your cost is **only \$75.00** per person to attend plus spending money for the coffee bar, and hoodies or books or any other personal things you may wish to purchase. We will spend Saturday and Sunday nights at the Ridgecrest Conference Center where we will be doing group building activities (meaning we all will have to take care of each other!), worship celebrations, late night bible sessions, concerts and Christian entertainment. Your \$75.00 is due now. Please bring it to UMYF by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

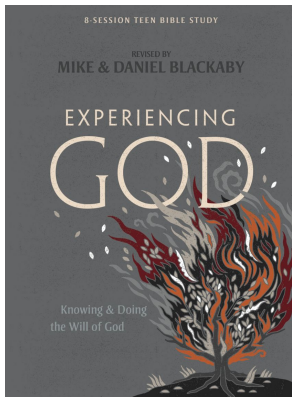
You will need to bring: your Bible, your sleeping bag or blanket, pillow, (linens are provided), personal toiletries, comfortable shoes to walk in and be outside in, preferably something warm and of course a change of clothes. You will need a jacket or hoodie just in case. Remember, it gets cold up there! We have limited space in the van so pack light! Limit 1 bag person!!! (NO NEED TO BRING THE KITCHEN SINK!!) GIRLS!!

**\*\*\*\*\* You must have your permission slip to go with us\*\*\*\*\* Please let Bess know ASAP if you are still planning to go! Call with any questions! cell: 704-836-6803 I'm Looking forward to another adventure and fun in the SON!!!**

With Peace, Bess

P.S. UMYF starts up again Sunday January 12th 6:00 p.m. – 7:30p.m.

Prayer Breakfast resumes January 9.  
(Report card day! Come pray!) 😊



**Youth Bible Study:** The youth have started a Wednesday night Bible Study. The youth will eat with the UMKs at 6:00 and then help clean up after dinner. The book we are using is Experiencing God: Teen Version. If you want to buy a book for your youth, they are available at Lifeway.com or Amazon. We

look forward to seeing you at our next study.

- Jan. 22 Paul & Peter Galatians 2:11-14  
"Friends are honest with each other"
- Jan. 29 Me & Jesus John 15:13-17  
"Jesus is my best Friend"

**UMK Supper Schedule for January:**

- Jan. 8 Pizza, chips, cookies  
F.U.M.C., Bobbi Ballard, Debbie Gantt, Juanita Gunnell
- Jan. 15 Subs, chips, ice cream cups  
Tim and Maria Pruitt
- Jan. 22 Breakfast for supper  
Chrystal & Andrew Harmon, Amber & Matt Brafford
- Jan. 29 Chicken nuggets, tater tots, dessert  
Kaci & Ethan Beck, Mel & Vee Thornburg

**\*\*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!!**



**UNITED  
METHODIST  
KIDS / UMKs**

Our Wednesday night UMK's will begin again for the winter 2025 session beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>. We will meet 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-olds 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 January:**

**"WE GO TOGETHER"**



- Jan. 8 David and Jonathan  
1 Samuel 18:1-5 & 1 Samuel 20:18-23  
"Friends protect each another"
- Jan. 15 Elijah & Elisha 2 Kings 2:1 -12  
"Friends stick together"

**FFF FIT FAB FUN BUNCH**



What do you do on a cold afternoon?? How would you like to see something **WICKED**???? The **Fit Fab Fun Bunch** will have a movie day on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. We will leave from the church at 12:15 pm to experience the music and magic of a wicked witch story from the "Wizard of Oz" like you've never heard or seen it. The tickets for the 1:05 matinee will be \$8.00 each, Sr. special. We can grab a **Chick-fil-A** meal and shop a little at the mall if the group wants to after the movie. Let Bess know if you want to go with this **"Wicked"** group!!



**KINGDOM KIDS KORNER**

We at Kingdom Kids are excited to see what 2025 holds for us! Happy New Year to all of you!

Our children did an awesome job of presenting the Christmas program to a church filled to capacity. What a blessing this was! And, we were so proud for all these people to see our beautiful sanctuary.

After the program we were visited by a jolly man in a red suit who had treats for all the children.

Now that January is here we are becoming more focused on making sure that all forty-seven students are learning and preparing to move up to their next classes or on to kindergarten.

We are so thankful for the great teachers we have and for all the support we receive from you, the church! May God bless and keep you throughout this new year!

Ms. Millie

**PRAYER LIST (Members)**

Bo & Betsy Baity, Kent Ballard, Michael Beam, Susan Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Mac & Jewel Brawley, Mike Burgess, Michael Catena, Deanna Daggerhart, Bob Faires, Ruth Gaston, John Hines, Reid Huss, Eloise Mauney, Ken Mayhew, Ray McSwain, Roy Norwood, Dave Plake, Tim Pruitt, Rev. Harry Queen, Vernon & Betty Smith, Todd Sorenson, Jim Tate, Ron Walls, Wayne & Belinda Watts, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

**PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)**

Hazel Brandon, Alan Cannon, Mary Crocker, Becky Estes, Lori Peeler Gillis, Jennifer Pruitt, Leslie Queen, Donna Frye Smith, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Rick Webb, Matt Williams, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

**LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:**

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson, \*Hunter Haire, \*Jessica Lovell, Paxton York.  
# Church Member, \*Deployed



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

**BEN BALLARD**

Libby Ballard

**LARRY CARPENTER**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

**JANA CROWE**

Jack & Judy Bingham

**JOE GAINEY**

Jack & Judy Bingham

**CRAIG HARRELSON**

Anne Harrelson

**DR. HENRY HARRELSON**

Anne Harrelson

**MAE W. HARRELSON**

Anne Harrelson

**LORETTA HOWELL**

Vee & Melanie Thornburg

**WHITNEY LEDFORD**

Vee & Melanie Thornburg

**HAROLD & MARGARET LONG**

Barry & Wanda Dellinger

**ADRIENNE OSBORNE**

Jack & Judy Bingham

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***IN HONOR***

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

### **KACEE, JAYCE & WRENLEY BUFF**

James & Wendy Beam

### **WRENLEY KADE BUFF**

Kristi Buff & Pat Harry  
Danny & Teci Webb

### **NANCY CATENA**

Bill Sneed

### **PASTOR ZACK CHRISTY**

Sandra Carpenter (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
Bill Sneed

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Danny & Teci Webb

### **BRIAN & JENNY EMERSON**

Bill Sneed

### **MALLIE EMERSON**

Bill Sneed

### **MEG EMERSON**

Bill Sneed

### **MIKKI JANE EMERSON**

Bill Sneed

### **TERESA GARDO**

Sandra Carpenter (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
Bill Sneed  
Phyllis Thornburg

### **JUNE MEDLIN CLASS**

Vernon & Betty Smith

### **MICKEY PAYSEUR**

Bill Sneed

### **ROMANS 12 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

Vernon & Betty Smith

### **SHIRLEY SMITH**

Bill Sneed

### **BILL SNEED**

Shirley Smith

### **MARY ETTA STEPHENSON**

Vernon & Betty Smith

### **BESS THORNBURG**

Sandra Carpenter (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
Bill Sneed

### **CHAD, CRYSTAL & LESLIE THORNBURG**

Vernon & Betty Smith

### **UMK'S**

Debbie Gantt (Playground Fund)

+++++

### **January Birthdays**

3 Jax Carpenter  
4 Haley Alexander  
4 Pat Yount  
5 Anna Burlson  
5 Bess Thornburg  
6 Jalie Creech  
6 Steven Spangler  
7 Kristen Husen  
8 Shafer Rupard  
8 Clay Thornburg  
11 Cam Alfaro  
11 Jack Bingham  
12 Robin Norwood  
13 Ilene Dellinger  
14 Tad Huffstetler  
16 Bob Elmore  
17 Bill Sneed  
17 Melanie Thornburg  
22 Lindsey Cartee Hetrick  
22 Frankie Dellinger  
23 Annie Norwood Downer  
23 Gunnar Shedd  
23 Vivian Wallace  
24 Roy Pursley  
25 Eric King  
25 Margaret Starling  
26 Charlie Smith  
27 Tabor Elmore  
28 Julie Wallace  
29 Megan Emerson  
29 David Huss  
30 Blaze Dedmon  
30 Barbara Lamanna  
31 Cameryn Bell  
31 Michael Catena  
31 Ed Pierce

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







**JANUARY HOMEBOUND  
MEMBER TO SEND A CARD**

**Mr. Bob Faires  
c/o Katherine Faires  
1123 Arrow Lake Ct.  
Ft. Mill, SC 29707**

**Sunday, January 5**

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

**Wednesday, January 8**

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

**Thursday, January 9**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Sunday, January 12**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
5:00pm - Acolyte & Crucifer training  
6:00pm - Youth

**Tuesday, January 14**

12:15 - FFF Bunch departs to movie in Shelby

**Wednesday, January 15**

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

**Thursday, January 16**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Saturday, January 18**

2:00pm - Youth depart to Edge Conference

**Sunday, January 19**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
Youth away at Edge Conference

**Monday, January 20**

Church Office closed

**Wednesday, January 22**

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

**Thursday, January 23**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Saturday, January 25**

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

**Sunday, January 26**

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

**Wednesday, January 29**

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

**Thursday, January 30**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast @ Homefolk's

**Sunday, February 2**

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

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT: DECEMBER 29, 2024**

Received to Date . . . . . \$376,244.54  
Needs to Date . . . . . \$428,714.00

**OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD:**

Church Building Renovations . . . . . \$14,379.00  
Endowment Fund . . . . . \$4,315.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund . . . . . \$7,388.25  
Playground Fund . . . . . \$14,744.00  
Youth Missions . . . . . \$3,185.22

**JANUARY USHERS:**

Dick Ledford, Darin Webb, Ethan Beck,  
Chuck Dellinger, Ben Blackburn



Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for your calls, texts, cards, visits, food, love and especially your prayers. Pastor Zack welcomes visitors each Sunday and always ends with "By the third visit you are family." I am so thankful for my amazing church family!

Much love, Susan Beam