

**THE MESSENGER**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**601 NORTH PINK STREET**  
**CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021**  
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**March 28, 2018**

**Vol. XXIX No. 4**

Rev. Joe Collins, D. Min.  
Pastor

Teresa Gardo  
Administrative Assistant

Jeanna Spiker  
Director of Christian Education

Mary Etta Stephenson  
Church Organist

Linda Barger  
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon  
Handbell Director

Mildred Young  
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

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Each spring and summer my mother-in-law always had a garden, even before her retirement from teaching school. She wore out a couple of troy built tillers during the time I knew her. My mother-in-law always waited until Good Friday to plant her garden: silver queen corn, blue lake green beans, better boy tomatoes, okra, and the like. She was a faithful church member, and I think planting on Good Friday had as much to do with the spiritual significance of that day, as it did with making sure the ground had warmed up enough to plant. She always had a large garden which allowed for watermelons, cantaloupes and squash to grow. Some plants just need a good deal of room to grow their vines. My mother-in-law made sure the young plants in her garden received the correct amount of fertilizer, and as summer progressed made sure the plants had plenty of water when rain was in short supply. Her garden was productive, but it did not occur by happenstance. She spent hours each morning working and hoeing in her garden. Come mid-July she had plenty of corn and green beans to can in quart size jars in order to be eaten throughout the year. Her lettuce, tomatoes, bell peppers and cucumbers made delicious salads. The potatoes she dug up from her garden and fried in oil were the best her children have ever eaten.

My mother-in-law followed through on her plans for a garden each year and she, along with her children and friends, were the recipients.

This Easter Season I remind you that God is one who has followed through on his plans as well. As foretold by the prophet Isaiah, God sent his son into the world to redeem the world from sin. As scripture proclaims: "For by His stripes we are healed." He died on the cross for our salvation.

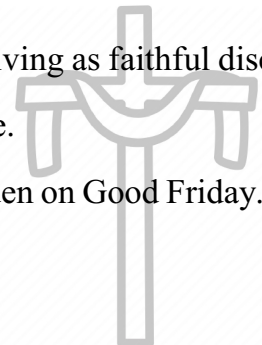
This did not occur by happenstance, but was the result of God's loving plan for His creation. God did something for us that we could not do for ourselves, and it came at a great price. His body broken, his redeeming blood, shed for us.

We are invited to repent, believe, and allow Christ to be the Lord of our life... living as faithful disciples.

Because of Good Friday and Easter morning, we have abundant and eternal life.

I believe this is the primary reason that my mother-in-law chose to plant her garden on Good Friday. May we plant our faith and trust on Good Friday as well.

Pastor Joe



## YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

The youth are gearing up for our mission trip to Pennsylvania. We are preparing a play to be performed at a community outreach we will be hosting for a local church. Part of our focus is to generate excitement about what God is doing in his kingdom and give the neighborhood a taste of what community fellowship could be like as a part of the family of God.

A vital piece of our mission is to share God's message of salvation to those we come in contact with. In order to help the youth and adults prepare for this part of the mission, we will start a study called "The Way of the Master." This series begins with learning the basics - The Ten Commandments. We will begin on Sunday night, April 8 and run for about 8 weeks. Anyone interested in learning how to share your faith more easily and comfortably may join us at 6 pm. Please let Jeanna or Eric know if you are interested.

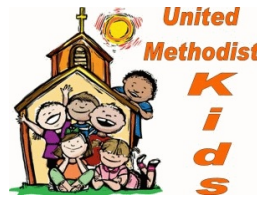
## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 8-12, 2018



Can you believe we are already talking about VBS? This year we will travel back in time in our Time Lab to meet the most important man ever—a man who was not just a man, but also God. One who turned the world upside-down. One who existed outside of time and we will learn that Jesus, our forever faithful, loving, caring, promise-keeping Lord, has been with us always!

If You Would like to Volunteer in Ministering to Children Through VBS please Contact Jeanna Spiker or the Church Office.



The children have been focusing on different animals that God has created with distinct characteristics. They have been learning how to apply these different qualities to their own lives in order to be more like Jesus in their daily walk. However, this week's lesson is on the "bull." The bull is a powerful animal that has some good qualities, but it has one very big quality that we want the children to be able to recognize and fight against: being a "bully." As our children grow up they will encounter bullies. We want to teach them how to NOT be a bully, but also how to react when they encounter bullies.

Like adults, children have cares and worries too. Some are different than adults, but they generally come from the same source: the enemy of our souls. Some children are under the impression that they can NOT talk about or even mention GOD at school. THAT IS NOT TRUE. I am not sure why our students would think that. I am asking parents to bring this up in conversation and ask them why they think this. We need to correct this misconception. SATAN is the biggest bully of all and he will use any means available to HURT OUR CHILDREN and STEAL THEIR JOY and SOULS!!!! Parents, we need to pray over our babies and ask God to help us equip them to stand against the enemy. School should be a safe place, but IT IS NOT. Our children are faced with lies about creation, sexuality, and the like in our schools. We must utilize every opportunity to teach our kids the Biblical truths about God and his plan for us.

Talk to your children on a daily basis and find out what their concerns are. Ask questions. Find time to study God's word together. Pray with them everyday. Help your children to know the truth, because the truth sets us free.

The Bible says that if any of us lack wisdom, we should ask. If you need help talking to your children about tricky subjects please ask. Ask God-He is the best authority. Ask Pastor Joe or Jeanna. They have resources available in the office that can help.



## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Well, at least the calendar says it's spring! We have only April and May left in this school year which has gone so quickly. We have seen growth in the children --- physically, emotionally, academically, and spiritually. I feel truly blessed to be a part of Kingdom Kids and to work with such a wonderful group of teachers.

March was a busy month — we celebrated Dr. Seuss week and St. Patrick's Day, as well as a number of birthdays. We had chapel on Wednesdays, and librarians read to all our classes. We had spring photos taken and our students who will graduate to kindergarten were measured for graduation gowns which are beginning to arrive. We have learned about the true meaning of Easter and enjoyed Easter parties and egg hunts.

I was so proud of the children when they sang in our worship service on Sunday, March 11!

Continue to pray God's blessing on our Kingdom Kids!

Ms. Millie



**Thank you to the Backpack Ministry team** for getting the Easter food boxes prepared and distributed to the families we sponsor throughout the school year. Also, thank you to the Sunday School classes who purchased hams to send in the boxes.

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT MAR. 25, 2018

Year to Date Offering . . . . . \$74,230.15  
Needs To Date. . . . . \$85,141.55  
Under. . . . . \$10,911.41

### ATTENDANCE – MAR. 25, 2018

Sunday School. . . . . 93  
Worship. . . . . 197

### APRIL USHERS:

Ron Hovis, Larry Gunnell, Steve Beam,  
Darin Webb, Tim Moss



FUMC (through the Trustees) recently purchased 20 new chairs for our choir room. This was done in appreciation of everyone who assists in the music ministry for our church throughout the year.



Thank you to those who donated supplies or money for postage for “sundrops for soldiers”.

**Congratulations** to Sara Baity who was selected to serve on staff this summer with Carolina Cross Connection. Carolina Cross Connection requests that the home church of each summer staff person assist in the cost of the expenses involved for summer staff. If you would like to assist Carolina Cross Connection and Sara by making a donation to CCC, they would be truly grateful for your support. You may talk with the church office or Sara for more information.



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

**RUTH ANTHONY**

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
Wayne & Belinda Watts

**DICK BLACKWELDER**

Jack & Judy Bingham

**FAYE BRITTAIN**

Chad & Michelle Bingham  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Larry & Juanita Gunnell  
Eloise Mauney  
Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg  
C.V. & Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Thornburg & Leslie (Backpack ministry)  
Margaret Webb (Backpack Ministry)

**MARLENE BROWN**

Pam Anthony  
Ben & Libby Ballard  
Ken & M'Shel Bowen  
Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)  
Vera Eaker (Backpack Ministry)  
Bob Faies  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
Larry & Juanita Gunnell  
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler  
Gail Jenkins (Backpack Ministry)  
Larry & Barbara McGinnis  
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)  
Ronnie & Jill Puett  
C.V. & Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**DOLLIE CONNER**

Wayne & Belinda Watts

**LEE CORNWELL**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)  
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

**DENNIS COSTNER**

E.L, Gail & Ephriam Beam (Backpack ministry)  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**JACK DELLINGER**

Amy Tallent  
Bess Thornburg

**MIKE HEAVNER**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Jill Puett

**NORA HEAVNER**

Tad Huffstetler  
Virginia Clark Sigmon & L. Ray Sigmon  
Wayne & Belinda Watts

**AVA HOWELL**

Jack & Judy Bingham  
Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)  
Katherine Goins  
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

**LESTER JENKINS**

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

**VERA JONES**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Jack & Judy Bingham  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Larry & Juanita Gunnell  
C.V. & Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**JUNIOR LINGERFELT**

Bob & Caryl Austell

**PRESS LINGERFELT**

Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
Larry & Barbara McGinnis

**RONNIE MOSS**

Hazeline Moss (Youth Missions)

**DENNIS NEILL**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Jack & Judy Bingham  
Chad & Michelle Bingham  
Larry & Juanita Gunnell  
C.V. & Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg





## April Birthdays

1 Nancy Catena  
2 Mallie Emerson  
2 Terry Young  
3 Gail Beam  
3 Elizabeth Austell Shuford  
3 Vernon Smith  
4 Molly Whitworth  
5 Pat Spiker  
7 Carol Metzger  
7 Emily Grace Nytko  
9 Billy Alexander  
10 Jody Fowler  
10 Linda McQuaige  
11 Nick Brown  
12 Molly Wright  
14 Linda Kale Barger  
14 Suzanne Day  
15 Colton Ballard  
16 Mitchell Bowen  
18 David Baity  
18 Ephie Beam  
18 Mary Etta Stephenson  
19 Todd Sorenson  
20 Mary Wiles  
21 Wesley Anthony  
21 Linda Brittain  
21 Chrystal Harmon  
22 Dawn Moss  
22 Holly Skibo  
23 Travis Dellinger  
23 Susan Fraley  
25 John Dimiceli  
25 Eddie Ledford  
27 Grayson Cushman  
27 Dartha Stroupe  
28 Tricia Beall  
28 Sam Dellinger  
29 Scott Beam  
29 Madison Moss  
30 Seth Harmon



**United Methodist Women Spring Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, April 14, at 10:30am. Tickets are \$10.00 and if you would

like to purchase a ticket, please contact Phyllis Thornburg or the church office.

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



LaVerne "Buzz" Eaker  
Somerset Court  
401 W. Academy St.  
Room 103  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Saturday, March 31**

10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt  
10:30am - Youth Easter celebration

**Sunday, April 1**

7:00am - Sunrise Service  
9:45am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship (Easter Cantata)

**Monday, April 2**

Church Office closed

**Wednesday, April 4**

No UMK's  
No Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

**Sunday, April 8**

8:45am - Early Worship  
9:45am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

**Monday, April 9**

6:00pm - Lola Allran Circle  
6:00pm - Callie Beam Circle  
6:00pm - Aunt Pearl Circle  
6:00pm - Vera Eaker Circle  
(Guest Speaker, Karen Dixon)

**Wednesday, April 11**

5:30pm - UMK's  
6:00pm - Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

**Thursday, April 12**

7:00am - Youth Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's  
8:00am - Prayer Time in Parlor

**Saturday, April 14**

10:30am - UMW Spring Brunch

**Sunday, April 15**

8:45am - Early Worship  
9:45am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

**Wednesday, April 18**

5:30pm - UMK's  
6:00pm - Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

**Thursday, April 19**

7:00am - Youth Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's  
8:00am - Prayer Time in Parlor

**Sunday, April 22**

8:45am - Early Worship  
9:45am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

**Wednesday, April 25**

5:30pm - UMK's  
6:00pm - Youth Bible Study  
6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

**Thursday, April 26**

7:00am - Youth Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's  
8:00am - Prayer Time in Parlor

**Saturday, April 28**

UMK's - Bowling

**Sunday, April 29**

8:45am - Early Worship  
9:45am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

**NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR:**

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed.

6 And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here;

**MARK 16:4-6**