



**THE MESSENGER**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**601 NORTH PINK STREET**  
**CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021**  
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[firstmethodistcherryville.com](http://firstmethodistcherryville.com)

**February 24, 2021**

**Vol. XXXII No. 2**

Rev. Zack Christy  
Pastor

Teresa Gardo  
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg  
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena  
Pianist / Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger  
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon  
Handbell Director

Mildred Young  
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

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**March Reflection**

Luke 19:37-38 *"As Jesus was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'"*

I have heard it said that some people prefer the winter months because you can always put on more clothes to stop being cold, but you can only take off so many clothes to cool down when you are hot. While I appreciate the power of positive thinking, I much prefer warmer weather. I can't wait to break out the golf clubs, go hiking, and maybe just maybe dust off the old fishing pole.

We are now moving into the month of March, and the doldrums of February and January are safely behind us. If you are like me this is reason to celebrate, because hopefully you can now put your long johns back in the closet. Of course in the excitement of the change of seasons we sometimes lose focus, because there are so many new things to do.

As it stands today we find ourselves almost a month before we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. What a blessing it is to find ourselves on the doorsteps of life eternal, of course we have not yet reached Jerusalem, the road to Golgotha is still before us, and when you woke up today you may have had the distinct feeling that you were still in the wilderness.

As Christians we are still in the wilderness, journeying through this season of Lent. We have not yet reached our final destination; we are still lost in the sea of our own human sinfulness. One of the most frustrating things about the season of Lent is that it has the propensity to be isolating. Through practicing repentance, and abstaining from certain practices we have the tendency to feel lost. Sometimes in our isolation we want to move quickly to the final destination of Easter, but this is a mistake. The wilderness can be formative, moving too quickly can cause us to miss the lessons we are to learn.

In the Luke passage that is referenced at the beginning of this reflection Jesus is making his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The people are excited, there is a party going on when Jesus enters the city, folks are laying down their jackets, and you would think the rolling stones were in town or something. Of course as we know that excitement shifts very quickly and in a matter of days this same crowd will be shouting, "crucify him!"

We know that Easter is on the way, and on Easter we will celebrate like there is no tomorrow, but we have yet to reach our destination. As it stands today, we are in the wilderness. As we move ever closer to the cross, I hope that you will take some time to continue to reflect upon the story of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. Don't rush into the final destination of Easter, spend a little time getting lost in the

wilderness. Take a few moments each day to think about your relationship to God, through daily prayer and scriptural reflection. May you nurture your walk of discipleship through introspection and doing the hard work of loving God and loving your neighbor. I pray that your time in the wilderness will prepare you for future faithfulness as you strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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

We would not be able to do this ministry without the many volunteers who assist with the 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.

- Mar. 7 - macaroni & cheese
- Mar. 14 - green beans
- Mar. 21 - corn
- Mar. 28 - chicken or tuna helper

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee



Please continue to join us for Adult Sunday School lessons taught and provided by Betsy Baity on facebook or our church website each Sunday morning. Her inspiring lessons have been a blessing to all and we appreciate her dedication to bring these lessons to our church family each week.



**UMYF:** United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade) is currently meeting together each Sunday night from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the church downstairs in our new Youth room. This is our snack and games time following confirmation class. Please wear or at least bring your mask. We will be having a snack, planning activities and projects, playing games and studying God's word and His will for our group. Our lessons are from the confirmation class meeting at 4:00 p.m. just before UMYF. We will continue this schedule until after Easter. Please plan to join us as we make plans for the future of our group. We are blessed to see God's work and presence in our lives!



## Confirmation Class: Our FUMC 2021

Confirmation classes began on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. We will meet each Sunday afternoon in the Fellowship Hall. We have 8 confirmands participating in the class. Any 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up are invited to participate and be a part of the class to "**Affirm**" your faith through a study of "God's Call, The World's Need and Your Purpose." This class will prepare confirmands to join the church on Easter Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please let Bess or Pastor Zack know if you plan to be a part of this year's confirmation class.



**UMK's:** All UMK's ages 3 yrs-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to be a part of the fun activities, bible lessons, singing and evening vespers each Wednesday night from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are so excited to have UMK's back inside the church and in full swing! In order to stay safe we ask that you wear your mask to our meetings. Supper will be served each night at 6:00 p.m..



We are continuing to study the "Non-Avengers", Bible stories of forgiveness for the next 4 weeks. We will be studying Gods word and lessons through Bible "Super Heroes" that seek to non-avenge those around them.



**JELLY BEANS** (The colors of Easter) will be our next study which will begin on March 24<sup>th</sup> and we will have 4 Easter lessons. We will celebrate Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, by waving Palms and singing during 10:30 a.m. worship and Easter by having a fun Easter Egg Hunt on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and resurrection worship April 4<sup>th</sup> at our 10:30 a.m. worship service by placing flowers on the cross.

Miss Bess will continue to have our Bible lessons at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday on our church Facebook page and church website. If you can't be with us in person, please remember to join in for our lesson each week.

Our UMK Suppers are provided and served each week by volunteers, parents and even grandparents who support our children. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all those who help with this each Wednesday! If you would like to provide a supper for our UMK's we could use your help! Just contact Bess Thornburg at the church office if you feel led to cook, serve and receive a blessing from feeding the excited hungry young folks attending UMK's.

## EASTER EGG HUNT: SATURDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>



Mark your calendar and make your plans now for our children's Easter Egg Hunt. All children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to meet together for egg hunting, Easter games and crafts, lesson time and refreshments beginning at 10:00 a.m. on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will gather in the church fellowship hall first and venture outside weather permitting. Please bring your Easter basket and wear your mask.



## C A M F O O D P A N T R Y ...

The C.A.M. along with The Second Harvest food bank give out will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church parking lot on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. food unloading and 3:00 -5:00 p.m. food distribution pick-up time and on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. unloading and 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. distribution, and on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. unloading, and 10:00a.m. - 12:00 noon distribution. Volunteers are needed from the community to help unload and distribute the food on the dates and times given. If you can help for any or all of these dates please let Bess Thornburg know at the church office. Each church will be asked to donate \$300.00 toward this project so any monetary donations will be accepted and appreciated. Also, if you are in need of food, or know someone who would benefit from this service please call Cherryville Area Ministries at 704-435-3816 to sign up for the food distribution from the food bank. Thanks to all that have volunteered to represent our church for this project!



## **KINGDOM KIDS KORNER**

This school year seems to be flying by with only a few months left! The four year class has begun to practice for graduation and I have already ordered their caps and gowns!

We don't normally begin to market for the upcoming school year until March; however, we are already almost completely full for all classes.

The first week in March is Dr. Seuss Week which is always fun for everyone. Spring photos and graduation photos have been scheduled, and we are hoping to be able to spend time on the playground soon.

The children and teachers are working hard, while also having so much fun! It warms my heart to see the friendships the children have made and the way they care about each other. They bring so much joy to all of us here at Kingdom Kids.

Ms. Millie



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

### **AVA ANTHONY**

Bruce & Chris Barrett

### **DAVID BEAM, JR.**

Steve & Susan Beam  
Steve & Lynn Bowen  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Ron & Janice Hovis (Backpack Ministry)

### **PAT BEAM**

Jack & Judy Bingham  
Ben & Robin Blackburn  
Ronnie & Jill Puett  
Rhonda Wehunt

### **BETTY BLACKBURN**

Pam Anthony  
Randy Baxter  
Joyce Baxter  
Jack & Judy Bingham  
Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)  
Ron & Janice Hovis (Backpack Ministry)  
Ronnie & Jill Puett  
T. L. & Miney Saine  
Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg  
Rhonda Wehunt

### **HANK BRADLEY**

Bruce & Chris Barrett

### **RODNEY BRIDGES**

Bruce & Chris Barrett

### **BOB CARPENTER, JR.**

Richard & Martha Cornwell

### **MILES GANTT**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
Deanna Daggerhart  
Margaret Webb  
Rhonda Wehunt



## March Birthdays

1	Ella Christy
1	Clarice Harrelson
1	Alex Smith
2	Janet Carter
2	Janice Hammond
3	Ayden Canipe
5	Benjamin Blackburn
5	Landon Hudson
5	Kay Moths
5	Eric Stroupe
6	Michael Moss
7	Crystal Christy
8	Robin Blackburn
8	Stephanie Elmore
8	Vee Thornburg
10	Brent Burleson
11	Leah Griffin
11	Lacey Spangler
13	Deanna Daggerhart
14	Joe Dismukes
14	Steven Gunnell
14	Doris Huss
16	Mildred Young
17	Brent Goforth
17	Chapel Moss
17	Caleb Narron
19	Michael Smith
20	Bob Austell
20	Steve Buff
20	David Hovis
21	Chuck Dellinger
22	Amy Tallent
24	Barbara Crews
26	Heidi Cash
26	Brooks Gunnell
26	Carla Eaker Truluck
29	Ryan Costner
29	Van Dellinger
29	Grayce Pruitt
31	Butch Sneed



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



Ms. Janet Carter  
Carolina Care Center  
111 Harrilson Rd.  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, FEB. 21, 2021**

Total Giving To Date ..... \$47,291.98  
Needs to Date ..... \$61,063.04

**Sunday, February 28**

Sunday School (on Facebook)  
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
4:00pm - Confirmation Class  
5:30pm - Youth

**Wednesday, March 3**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, March 7**

Sunday School (on Facebook)  
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
4:00pm - Confirmation Class  
5:30pm - Youth

**Wednesday, March 10**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, March 14**

*(Daylight Savings Time begins)*

Sunday School (on Facebook)  
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
4:00pm - Confirmation Class  
5:30pm - Youth

**Wednesday, March 17**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, March 21**

Sunday School (on Facebook)  
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
4:00pm - Confirmation Class  
5:30pm - Youth

**Wednesday, March 24**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, March 28**

Sunday School (on Facebook)  
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
4:00pm - Confirmation Class  
5:30pm - Youth

**PRAYER LIST (Members)**

Bob Austell, Ben Blackburn & family, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Pat Eaker, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Nell Griggs, Ken Mayhew, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Terry Moss, Terry Pearson, Karleen Price, Rev. Harry Queen, Chris Sneed, Amanda Sorenson, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

**PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)**

Brenda Beam, Martha Beam, Jayme Christy, David Crane, Lisa Eaker, Randy Heafner, Dianne Heavner, A. J. & Teresa Henley, The family of Johnathan Henley, Jason Hollifield, Steve Moss, Sandra Taylor Mossman, James Richardson, Stephanie Willis, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

**LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:**

#Ethan Beck, Aron Dickerson, Jessica Lovell, Cody Spiker.

# Church Member



**Don't forget to set clocks up one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13.**