

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

November 26, 2019

Vol. XXX No. 12

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Nancy Catena
Pianist / Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

DECEMBER REFLECTION

Romans 14:17 *"For the Kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*

It is a busy time of the year, it seems that we are all going our own separate ways. All of us will, at sometime during this season, be busy cooking, cleaning, preparing our homes, and gathering gifts, as we embrace this Advent season. We can't escape it, and during this season we will have our feet planted firmly in two different worlds. On the one hand we will be immersed in a wonderful season in the church in which we prepare ourselves to receive the king of Kings, and lord of Lord's Jesus Christ. And on the other we will be participating the rampant commercialism that the secular world has come to identify this Christmas season with.

It is tough for us to live as divided people. It will be hard for us to keep our focus on what this season means for us as a church if we are constantly looking at the Christmas advertisements. I believe Paul knows a thing or two about living as divided people. In his letter to the Romans Paul is addressing two radically different groups, the Jews and the Gentiles. Both think that they have the right interpretation of the work of Jesus Christ and both have their own understanding of what living like a Christian truly looks like.

The passage at the top of this reflection Romans 14:17 is addressing the unique challenge of bringing these two groups together. As we well know under the Jewish law eating certain animals and meats were strictly forbidden under certain purity laws. For Gentiles eating meat that was sacrificed to god's and goddesses was forbidden by the new Gentile converts. There was the belief that one could defile one's body by what one ate, however how each group perceived that danger was radically different.

What Paul offers us in these verses is a call to unity, he clearly states, that one is not made righteous, and one does not achieve salvation, simply by works, rather one is engrossed in the love of God solely through the Holy Spirit. This month amidst the business and chaos that surrounds the Advent season, I challenge you to take a few moments every day to center yourself in the promise of this season, that Jesus Christ came to us, in order that we may learn what it means to truly live. Take a few moments to think about the love, grace, and joy that you feel in the knowledge that you are known and loved by God.

While we may be forced to live in two different worlds this Advent season, we are not forced to forget the reason for the season, and that reason is to worship God who is faithful to his promises. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whosoever believed in him, would not perish, but have everlasting life. It is worth taking a few moments each day to give thanks with a grateful heart to God for the one gift this season that we cannot give enough thanks for, the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Let the world enjoy it's commercialism, because we know that the new toys will one day be broken, the lights will come down, the promise of materialism will fade. But through it all the promise of Jesus Christ remains consistent, the gift of Jesus Christ remains sufficient, so perhaps instead of clothing ourselves with new possessions, we might clothe ourselves in the grace, love, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, as we celebrate with all the angels of heaven at his birth. Hallelujah!

Pastor Zack



During the month of **December**, we will have combined Worship Services at 10:30am. The Praise Band and Chancel Choir will alternate Sundays for the music.

Welcome



We are pleased to announce that Bess Thornburg will be joining our staff as our new Director of Christian Education. She will start her position on January 15, 2020.



If you would like to **purchase a poinsettia** in honor or in memory of a loved one, please see a member of the UMW in the narthex after the service. Dec. 1 will be last day to purchase a poinsettia and the cost is \$10.00.



The Lola Allran Circle has a new order of flavoring for your Christmas baking. We have lemon, clear or dark vanilla, coconut and almond. These come in 7 oz. bottles and are \$3.25 each. Also, we have Danny Duz it for cleaning up those baking messes for \$3.00 each.



Our UMK's meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at the church beginning at 5:30 for a meal followed by our weekly program of songs and lessons. Also, there is a schedule of special events on our website under the UMK tab at firstmethodistcherryville.com. **December 11 will be our last meeting until 2020.**

YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

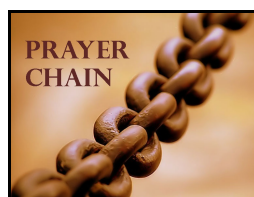
At 7:00am on Thursday mornings the youth will meet for their weekly **Prayer Breakfast** at 7:00am at Homefolks Café. All youth are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Following prayer breakfast, the adults will meet in the Church Parlor and have prayer time for our youth and the youth in the community.



Pastor Zack will start his Bible Study back on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 6:30pm on the *Gospel of Mark* in the June Medlin classroom. A fellowship meal will be served at 6:00pm prior to the Bible Study.



The Prayer Warriors meet biweekly at 6:00 in the church Parlor. December meetings will be held on Thursday, December 5, and Wednesday, December 18. Contact Randy Baxter for more details.



Prayer Chain: If you would like to be added to the prayer chain or have your name removed from the prayer chain, please contact the Church Office.



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Wow! Things are happening at Kingdom Kids! This year seems to be passing so quickly! With the changing of the clocks and the cold weather we have had, winter seems to have come early.

It is such a joy to hear the excitement from the children as they greet their friends and teachers in the mornings - and, of course, Ms. Millie enjoys all the hugs from so many of them. If I am not "in my spot" when they come through the door, I definitely hear about it from them.

We are busy practicing for our upcoming Christmas program which will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. If you attend you are guaranteed to leave filled with the true Christmas spirit!

All of us at Kingdom Kids wish for each of you a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Millie



As a reminder, Cherryville Elementary and Beam Intermediate schools both collect Box Tops. There is a box at the church office where you can drop these office. If you have questions regarding this program, please see Kelly Brown.

Stewardship is...

Stewardship update: We are off to a great start with our 2020 pledge campaign and a special thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge card. **We have received 50 cards totaling \$162,176.00.** If you have not turned in your pledge card and wish to do so, please turn it in to the church office by December 31.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, NOV. 24, 2019

Previous Total	\$280,945.47
Total To Date	\$303,924.47
Needs to Date	\$333,995.24
Under.....	\$30,070.77

ATTENDANCE, NOV. 24, 2019

Sunday School.....	87
Early Worship.....	47
Worship.....	138
TOTAL	185

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Billy Alexander, Mike Burgess, Joanne Carpenter, Janet Carter, Billy Crews, Deborah DeVenny, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Peggy Gardo, Ruth Gaston, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Sue Nolen, Ed & Nancy Pierce, Karleen Price, Joe & Frances Putnam, Jack Stephenson, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Joie Arthus, E. L. Beam, Grebb Biebault, Mike Dellinger, Teresa Henley, Dan Jonas, Danny Jonas, Don Lyles, Cornelia Moss, Jeff Schrum, Marc Sigmon, Marissa Smith, and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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

Church Member, *Stationed in the Middle East

DECEMBER NURSERY WORKERS

10:30am

- Dec. 1 Amy Tallent
- Dec. 8 Robin Blackburn
- Dec. 15 Crystal Christy
- Dec. 22 Bess Thornburg
- Dec. 29 Jenny Emerson

DECEMBER USHERS

Gary Freeman, Danny Webb, Reid Huss,
Guy Eaker, Vee Thornburg



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

CARROLL NED BEAM

Joe & Sandy Dismukes

DIANA BEAM

Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)
Margaret Webb

LOIS BRADLEY

Dennis Bradley and family

SHELDON "SHEL" BUNDY

Ben & Robin Blackburn (Sudan Missions)

W. CONE CARPENTER, JR.

Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)
Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)

MAXINE DAVES

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

HAROLD MAUNEY, SR.

Harold & Kim Mauney

STEVE MCDOUGALD

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

DAVID MOSS

Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)

RONALD MOSS


Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)

BILL SIGMON

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

C. V. THORNBURG


Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)



The church has 2020 calendars available for each family. You can pick up your copy on the events table today or come by the church office.

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A NOTE OF



To my fellow worshipers: Accept my profound thanks for all the cards and prayers for my healing. The warmth of your love was appreciated more than words can express.

Your Brother in Christ,
Jack Stepehnsen



December Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Allen
- 2 Kacee Buff
- 5 Steve Beam
- 5 Robert Smith
- 6 Reid Huss
- 6 Riley Shuford
- 9 Karley Powell
- 10 Fin Beam
- 11 Pierston Elliott
- 11 Tracy Lyles
- 11 Mary Beth Wyatt
- 12 Larry Gunnell
- 12 John Warlick
- 15 Stacey Bradley
- 15 Jennifer Mauney Cushman
- 15 Quita Moss
- 16 Cale Tinkler
- 17 Gary Freeman
- 18 Dean Starling
- 19 Kelly Brown
- 19 Bryan Flynn
- 20 Carolyn Abernathy
- 20 Scott Aldridge
- 21 Palmer Huffstetler
- 23 Angela Jones
- 24 Rob Elmore
- 24 Chris Sneed
- 25 Harold Mauney, Jr.
- 26 Sara Baity
- 26 Chad Bingham
- 26 Dwight Stroupe
- 27 Sophie Williams
- 28 Jimmy McGinnis
- 29 Will Fowler
- 29 Emily Whitworth Parris
- 30 Carroll Sneed
- 30 Kyle Wilent



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



Karleen Price
409 S. Elm St.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, December 1

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
12:00pm - First Light Dinner
4:00pm - Christmas Music practice
5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Monday, December 2

11:30am - Lola Allran circle meet at Roma's

Wednesday, December 4

12:00 noon - Young At Heart (meet at church)
5:30pm - UMK's
6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 5

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
8:00am - Prayer in Parlor
6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet

Friday, December 6

3:00pm - UMK's play practice
6:00pm - June Medlin Class party in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 7

Kids shop for Christmas family

Sunday, December 8

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - UMK Christmas Program
4:00pm - Christmas Music practice
5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Wednesday, December 11

5:30pm - UMK's
6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 12

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

Sunday, December 15

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
4:00pm - Christmas Music practice
5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Monday, December 16

6:30pm - Aunt Pearl Circle meet at the home of Doris Huss

Wednesday, December 18

6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet

Thursday, December 19

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

Thursday, December 19

7:00pm - Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Christmas Cantata
5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Tuesday, December 24

6:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday - Friday, December 25 - 27

Church Office closed

Sunday, December 29

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

