

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

February 23, 2023

Vol. XXXIV No. 2

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

Cam Alfaro
Audio Visual Tech.

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

March Reflection

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Some years ago, I was leading a Bible Study and I was trying to get the Bible Study to talk about grace. I was fresh out of Seminary, filled with all kinds of textbook answers to questions, but I was starting to learn that sometimes textbooks don't translate to real life. It's great to have the knowledge don't get me wrong, but often the way that things are portrayed in textbooks can't quite compare to lived experience. The good Sunday School definition of grace is that "*grace is the unmerited love of God freely poured out for the world.*" I was trying to drive the study to coming to that definition on their own.

I asked the Bible Study to share their experiences of grace. A woman in the study named Alecia, spoke up. She said, "I don't know what you would call this, maybe grace, I'm not sure, but it was one of the greatest experiences of my life." Before she retired, Alecia had worked for a marketing company. She had just been given a promotion, and in order to make a splash she swung for the fences with a proposal. She had used a lot of resources, spent a lot of money, and when it came time to present the final product, her presentation fell flatter than a lead balloon.

Her failure was irrefutable. The project had ended in disaster. She thought back on all the meetings where she had argued for the initiative, the skill with which she answered every objection. This was her baby, her great innovative, surefire idea that couldn't fail.

But the numbers didn't lie. This big career-ending fiasco was hers and hers alone to bear. This dud had her fingerprints all over it. Of course, this would be the end of her time with the company. Where in the world would she get a job after this big public flop?

So, she agonized over what to do next. She decided that the best course of action would be to walk into her boss's office, take the rap, and resign. That way maybe the boss would give her a good letter of recommendation.

First thing the next morning, after a sleepless and tearful night, she walked in and told her supervisor, "Goodbye." I'm going in first thing today and admit to the boss what's happened. Take full responsibility. I hope he doesn't kill me as he fires me. Bad way for me to end with the company, but there is no one else to blame.

"I've fixed it," said her supervisor. "Went in yesterday afternoon and told the boss that we thought the project was a great idea and that you did all your homework. We were all on board, but it didn't work out. Told him about the losses and said it was all my fault."

"You did what! It was my problem. You only signed off on it because I told you it couldn't fail. What did the boss say?" she asked. "Oh, he blew up as expected. Ranted and raved. Told me that he was disappointed in my leadership. Told me that I had better not mess up again. A lot of things like that."

Alecia was blown away. Here was someone who took the blame for her mistake made it right, and he didn't even chew her out. "Who does that?" she asked the Bible Study group. She then said, "When I think of grace, I think of how I felt in that moment."

We have just begun our Lenten journey, we started with the marking of an ashen cross on our foreheads, but the mark of the cross was just a reminder. The season of Lent, forty days and forty nights, that is the challenge. It is a time in which we are intentional about our spiritual formation, a time where we wrestle with our spiritual complacency, and a time in which we confront all those areas of our lives where perhaps we have gotten a little too comfortable with our own sin. Lent certainly misses the bright lights of Advent, and the cheery songs of Christmas, but don't mistake Lent for being a time simply where we are down in the mouth about everything, it is also a season of extraordinary grace.

Of course, more often than not when we experience it in life, grace is not as mushy as we sometimes make it sound. Oftentimes the greatest experiences of grace we have in our lives come to us only after wrestling with the incredible fear of what consequences might befall us because of our own actions. I loved hearing Alecia's story because it brought that point home for me. Though I would be remiss if I did not provide an answer to her question, "Who does that?" I wasn't equipped to answer her that night, but I can today because friends, the truth of the matter is, Jesus Christ does that same thing for each of us.

Jesus takes upon himself the fullness of our sin, the chains that we wrap ourselves in, he breaks them, and gives us the opportunity to live lives not constrained by the poison of our sin. Lent is a season when we consider what it means for us that we have received such extraordinary grace. As you move through this season may you confront the sin that exists in your life, and may you experience the profound grace of God.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy _____



The Backpack Ministry is taking another break from shopping in March. The schools have not supplied us with many families in need of backpacks. We have enough supplies to get us through March and we will shop again in April.

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.

Please remember our outdoor Blessing Box if you would like to place non-perishable items in this box during the month of March.

Thank you,

The Backpack Ministry Committee



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHURCH during our 10:30 worship service is for all children **3yrs thru 3rd 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 4th-5th 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 March. 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.

Mar. 5	Caroline Carswell	Ayden Canipe
Mar. 12	Lydia Bradley	Sophia Williams
Mar. 19	Amber Grace Brittain	Alayna Ross
Mar. 26	Zach Harmon	Seth Harmon



MARCH NURSERY WORKERS

We now offer an infant nursery, provided each Sunday morning, for our sweet babies during the 10:30 worship service. Our nursery is located at the end of the hall and to your right just passed the church office. A big **Thank You** to Susan Beam for her work in helping and organizing the nursery workers. And **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who have agreed to help in the Nursery. Below is the Nursery workers list for March. You will receive a reminder card and text on your given Sunday. Please let Bess or Susan Beam know if you cannot be there on your Sunday.

March 5	Karen Freeman
March 12	Teci Webb
March 19	Bobbi Ballard
March 26	Julie Wallace



UMK's: Our Wednesday night UMK's are going strong and looking forward to the Spring session! We are about 40 strong and meeting in the fellowship hall each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 move in to 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 back up to the sanctuary or outside for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-old thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30pm. As weather allows for the upcoming Spring months, we will start gathering outside on the playground upon arrival and leave from there also.

UMK Lesson Schedule for March: JOURNEY TO MARS

"Boldly go where Jesus leads"

Mar. 1	"Journey to Mars" BLAST OFF Genesis 12:1-9
Mar. 8	"Journey to Mars" STAY ON TARGET Genesis 20:1-16
Mar. 15	"Journey to Mars" LIVING IN SPACE Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7
Mar. 22	"Journey to Mars" BY YOUR COMMAND Genesis 12:1-9
Mar. 29	"Journey to Mars" FINISH THE MISSION Hebrews 11:17-19, 39-40

UMK Supper Schedule for March:

Mar. 1	Pizza, chips, brownies Lee and Elizabeth Shuford
Mar. 8	soup & sandwiches, fruit cups, cookies Bobbi Ballard and Robin Blackburn
Mar. 15	spaghetti, bread, dessert Zack and Crystal Christy
Mar. 22	Subs, chips, cookies Casey and Ricky Morris and Sharon Sigmon
Mar. 29	Chicken Sandwiches, apple sauce, dessert TBA

****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!!

LOOKING AHEAD: EASTER EGG HUNT CELEBRATION

This year's Easter Egg Hunt and celebration will be Saturday Morning April 8 at 10 a.m. We will begin our festivities in the fellowship hall for food and games and Easter Story fun. Then move outside for the Easter Egg Hunt.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.



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,

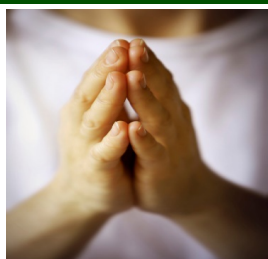
studying God's word, doing the "**CHURCH CLAP**" and of course playing hide and go seek, sardines' style, and other wacky games. We are still planning for the rest of 2023 year's activities with our UMYF - "FUMCY" characters! We have finished up our Bible Scavenger Hunt lessons, and will begin a new study time with skits, games and crafts. Our new lesson and study time as we prepare for Easter is to journey through "**LENT**." Our group is growing and we welcome all 6th thru 12th graders!

We have many activities and Mission Possible opportunities for the group in the coming months. We are still trying to keep stocking the blessing box with food and with toiletries. We provided "**God is Love**" **Valentines Bags** for 10 shut-ins. Also, we helped and served with the Romans 12 class with the "**SOUPER BOWL**" lunch on February 12th. Thanks Romans 12 for sharing the experience and the profits from the lunch with us! We have been working hard on some housekeeping projects at the church to get our Youth room organized, we used a little elbow grease to get the "Adventure Van" cleaned up for future use!! We are still planning to do some decorating; bulletin boards and a closet clean out night!

Our group had a wet & wild experience at Jonas Ridge Snow Tubing Park on February 20th. What a day on the slopes and a group building time together. Then came **chick-fil-a...YAY!!** Many Thanks to Tim Pruitt who went with us and drove the "Adventure Van." **WE LOVE YOU TIM!!!**

A future plan is in the works to go back to our Happy Place: Tekoa Foothills!!! and to help with the Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 as well as a movie night. These dates are TBA!! 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.



Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast is back in full swing at 7:00 a.m. 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 😊**



Breakfast

On **Saturday, March 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.



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Kingdom Kids is such a happy and busy place to be! The end of this school year is approaching too quickly. How can it be that we have only three more months and there is still so much to do? There are spring photos to be taken; we have measured for graduation gowns and they have been ordered. Those students are already working on the graduation program, and there is still so much teaching and learning to be done! I am so thankful for such a great group of teachers!

We just returned from chapel with Pastor Zack where the children learned about the "good Samaritan" story. Pastor Zack challenged them to remember to be caring and helpful to others. He teaches them on a level that they can understand and respond to and makes it interesting for them. Thank you, Pastor Zack!

Remember, if there are church members who wish to enroll a child, you should do so soon. We are getting quite a bit of interest already from the public.

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 and 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

Guy Eaker

BOB & CARYL AUSTELL

Bill Sneed

Jimmy & Robin Wilent

BOB AUSTELL

Ken & M'Shel Bowen

Bill & Quita Moss

Ernie & Betty Parker

Linda Alexander

Guy Eaker

Friends of Kelly Hastings

Kelly & Anika Howell Hastings

Frank & Danna Henley

Owen & Rosaleen Lennon

Donata Summey

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

CARYL AUSTELL

Guy Eaker

BEN BALLARD

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Richard & Martha Cornwell

Guy Eaker

Doris Finger

Bill & Quita Moss

Bill Sneed

TRUDY BATES

Gail Jenkins

BLANCHE BOIES

Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr.

Bill Sneed

PAT EAKER

Guy Eaker

JACOB DICKERSON

Pam Anthony

Jack & Judy Bingham

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Nancy Catena

Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Ronnie & Jill Puett (Chancel Choir fund)

Vernon & Betty Smith (Backpack Ministry)

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Danny & Teci Webb

VERA EAKER

Ken & M'Shel Bowen

David, Leanne, Alexander & Anderson Brady

Guy Eaker

Gary & Deb Husen

Brooke Larrabee

Rita Larrabee

Tyler Leonhardt

Paige McCullough

SHIRLEY FISHER

Nancy & Michael Catena

Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)

Juanita Gunnell

Gail Jenkins & family

T. L. & Miney Saine

Mary Etta Stephenson

Danny & Teci Webb

MARY GEIGER

Pam Anthony

Jack & Judy Bingham

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Nancy & Michael Catena

Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)

June Medlin Sunday School class

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Vernon & Betty Smith (Backpack Ministry)

Mary Etta Stephenson

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Danny & Teci Webb

JOAN HARRELSON

Gail Jenkins

RON HOVIS

Guy Eaker

KAYLA JORDAN

Danny & Teci Webb



-- Continued --

DAVID C. MOSS

Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)

O. C. PARKER

Guy Eaker
Bill Sneed

NANCY PIERCE

Ed Pierce

MARTIN CARLTON ROSS

Juanita Gunnell & Family

HOYLE SMITH

Ed Pierce

MELINDA YOUNT

Travis & Laura Shidal
Traci Yount

+++++

IN HONOR

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

PAM ANTHONY

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

SANDRA CARPENTER

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

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THE FIT FAB FUN BUNCH IS A GROUP FOR ANYONE 60 OR OLDER.

We thoroughly enjoyed our last trip to Narrowway Productions on February 4th, to see "Jesus the Teacher." It was a **FABULOUS**

experience. We were made **Spiritually FIT** with the parables and the greatest storyteller of all time. Of course, we had to stop to get a **FAB** treat at "SWEET FROGS" on the way home. We are so grateful to have our **FUN BUS DRIVER** Chuck Dellinger as a part of the group. Please watch for more details and information on future plans...

This group will keep you spiritually **FIT** with devotions, offer **FAB** outings and we are always **FUN!!** We now have a great theme song: "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!



SPRING SONGFEST

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
6:30 PM

AT FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH
CHERRYVILLE, NC

Come join us for a night of fellowship and community praise to the lord!! We have many talented voices to be heard from our town and neighboring towns around us!

Cherryville Area Ministries Board of Directors will be hosting the 9th annual Songfest! Let us all come together as God's children and enjoy a night of praise and worship!

Admission is FREE. However, we will be taking up a "Love Offering" to help with the Building Fund at CAM.

Sponsored by Cherryville Area Ministries Board of Directors

March Birthdays

1 Ella Christy
 1 Clarice Harrelson
 1 Alex Smith
 2 Janet Carter
 2 Janice Metcalf
 3 Ayden Canipe
 5 Spencer 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 Bureson
 11 Leah Griffin O'Connor
 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 Jewel Brawley
 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

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

Thank You



Dear Church Family:

No words can express how grateful I am to have such a wonderful and caring church family. Your thoughtfulness, prayers, calls, food and visits were very much appreciated as I recovered from surgery.

In Christian Love,
Phyllis Thornburg

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Betsy Baity, Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Linda McQuaige Dellinger, Sandy Dismukes, Jim Eaton, Jenny Emerson & family, Ruth Gaston, Ken Mayhew, Larry McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Dick & Carol Metzger & family, Rev. Harry Queen, Phyllis Thornburg, Belinda Watts, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Courtney Bradley, Don Childers, 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



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 and on the church website

www.firstmethodistcherryville.com.



Ray McSwain
Carolina Care Health & Rehab.
111 Harrilson Rd.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 28

1:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal (SATB)
1:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 2

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

Sunday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 7

1:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal (SATB)
1:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, March 8

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

Thursday, March 9

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

Sunday, March 12 *(Daylight Savings Time begins)*

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

Tuesday, March 14

1:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal (SATB)
1:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

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

Sunday, March 19

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

Tuesday, March 21

1:00pm - Easter Cantata rehearsal (SATB)
1:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, March 22

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

Thursday, March 23

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

Saturday, March 25

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

Sunday, March 26

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, FEBRUARY 19

Total Giving To Date \$57,359.00
Needs to Date \$63,516.40

MARCH USHERS:

Johnny Brown, Ethan Beck, Ken Bowen,
Stacey Bradley, Chuck Dellinger



Don't forget to set your clocks forward on Saturday night, March 11, before you go to bed.