

**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)

**August 26, 2020**

**Vol. XXXI No. 9**

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.

---

**September Reflection**

*Revelation 21:5 "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"*

As we enter into another month surrounded in the uncertainty that has comprised many of our days, I have been thinking about what the future holds for First United Methodist Church Cherryville. We know even in the midst of a global pandemic there is a future for our church; God doesn't stop working because a virus has taken hold. So we naturally question, what future does God envision for us? What kind of future do we envision for ourselves?

I must admit that when the Bishop sent out his first address to every United Methodist Church in our conference, I initially thought that it would be a one to two week disturbance in the flow of our worship life, but that we would soon be right back in the church. I even thought perhaps it would be nice to mix it up for two Sundays. Shows what I knew. Friends this Sunday will mark the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday we have not been in the Sanctuary for worship.

You read that right, half of a year, the Sanctuary has been closed! It has been half a year since many of you sat in your familiar seats. Though I will say, I can still imagine many of you in the Sanctuary when I give sermons. I miss our normal Sunday mornings and I know you do too.

Yet, we know we don't just go through experiences like this to go through them. We know that God can redeem even the worst experiences of our lives. That's why Paul writes to the church in Rome, "God works all things together for the good of those who love him." I have no doubt in my mind that this church loves God, and loves one another. I am confident that even in this period of time when we are socially distant God is using these moments to shape and to form us.

My question is how are we being formed in our walk of discipleship during this time? Well I have been thinking on this question quite a bit over the last few weeks. If we were in church for normal Sundays, I would ask for the joys of our church family, I would ask "Where have you seen God this week?" We could expand that question during this time of coronavirus to, "Where have you seen God during the pandemic?"

In searching for an answer to this question I felt drawn to Revelation. Truthfully it isn't a book that we mainline protestants spend a lot of time in. It is a complicated book filled with depictions of doom and gloom, good versus evil, right versus wrong. I certainly don't have enough time in one newsletter to get into everything. But what I do find striking is in the end of revelation, after an intense period of turmoil, John's eyes are opened to a new creation. And as he sees a new Jerusalem descending, the voice of God booms down to John saying, "See, I am making all things new." At the conclusion of Revelation, a single message remains, God is in control. We see that even during strife and turmoil, God does not abandon God's people, rather God prepares a new way for them.

I believe our church has lived into this truth over these past few months. I have seen God in the ways we as First United Methodist Church have continued to reach out to our community even in the midst of this pandemic. We have served more than 7,000 hot dogs! We have done everything in our power to bring worship to you whether that was over the Internet, at drive-in, or worshipping in the field. You have seen Ms. Bess Lessons each Wednesday, you have been treated to Adult Sunday School with Mrs. Betsy Baity. You see indeed God is making all things new, and when we are able to get back, when this long nightmare is over, I hope we will continue to follow where God is leading us.

I am so thankful for your prayers, for your presence, and for the support our church continues to offer to one another and to this community during these trying times. If you ever need anything please reach out to the church, we are here to serve. I pray you have a wonderful week, and I want you to know I look forward to what the future holds for us, for remember our God is making all things new.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

---



Although we have continued the backpack ministry throughout the summer, we have been able to purchase the items we have needed from donations that have been made for The Backpack Ministry.

As we prepare to send more bookbags home during the school year, we will be asking for weekly nonperishable items to be brought by the church:

The following is a list of items that we will be asking for during the month of September:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Aug. 30:  | Cans of Ravioli  |
| Sept. 6:  | Boxes of <b>Tuna or Chicken</b> helper                     |
| Sept. 13: | Cans of fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce) |
| Sept. 20: | Cans of Green Beans and Corn                               |
| Sept. 27: | Cans of Chicken Noddle or Tomato Soup                      |

Your assistance in helping us to “stock up” on food for our backpack ministry is greatly appreciated, not only by the backpack committee members, but also those who are receiving the bookbags.

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY FOR

**DRIVE IN  
WORSHIP**  
10:30AM

PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CARS  
SOUND WILL COME THROUGH RADIO  
TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 90.5 FM.



SERVICE WILL ALSO STREAM ON  
FACEBOOK

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHERRYVILLE

We will continue with drive in Worship or Worship on the lawn until we are able to safely join together in the Sanctuary again. We are still observing our Bishop's recommendations regarding COVID-19 and corporate Worship.

**ADULT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ONLINE**

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 at 9:45 a.m. Her inspiring lessons have been a blessing to all and we appreciate her dedication to bring these lessons to our church family each week.

Latest update from our Bishop for Worship & Ministry During COVID-19

6/25/2020 is the latest update.

As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the midst of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain committed to our Biblical mandate to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and our Wesleyan call to "do no harm." In doing so, we seek ways to engage faithfully in worship, study, and ministry while ensuring the health and safety of our members and communities. We do not recommend returning to indoor worship at this time. Continue hosting online, drive-in, or outdoor worship services while following CDC, state and local guidelines, including handwashing, wearing masks, and observing physical distancing rules.



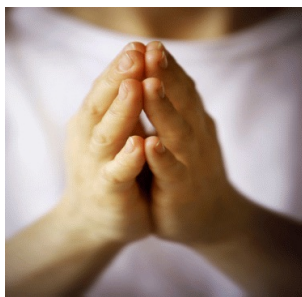
**UMKs:** All UMK's ages 3 year old -5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to a **"Ho-Down Cowboy/Cowgirl Cookout"** on Wednesday evening, September 16<sup>th</sup>, outside at the picnic

shelter and fire pit. We will have a hot dog supper, s'mores, fun activities, bible lesson and evening vespers. Feel free to wear your jeans, cowboy hat, boots, bandanas, and COVID protective masks. Since UMKs are not meeting on a regular basis at this time due to the COVID19 virus, we hope to do a few special meetings until we can all be together for our classes again. We miss you so much at FUMC on Wednesday nights. In order to stay safe we will not meet until later in the year. So, until things get going again, we will still have our Bible lessons at 5:00 pm each Wednesday on our church Facebook page and website with Miss Bess. Please remember to join in for a lesson each week. We are also doing our "Zoom" Children's Sunday School class with Andrew and Chrystal Harmon at 9:45 am each Sunday morning. This has been a wonderful experience and you are invited to join in (even in your PJ's and bed head! LOL).



**UMYF:** United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders) will meet together for a "Sub Supper" on Sunday night September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm down stairs at the church in our new

Youth room. We already have a project to do in fixing up our new Youth space. Please wear your mask. Hopefully when the COVID19 situation is under control we can hold regular weekly meetings. Until then we will meet together on September 20<sup>th</sup> to talk, plan and study God's word and His will for our group. You will hear more about this program of Bible study and activities and fun in the "SON" as we make plans for our Youth Group! UMYF will be for middle and high school youth ages 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders.



## Thursday Morning Prayer

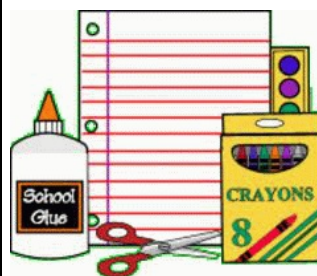
**Breakfast:** The Thursday morning prayer breakfast is continuing each Thursday morning at 7:00 am at Homefolks Café. Everyone is welcome! Especially students and parents and grandparents are invited to attend to share a good healthy breakfast before school and food for the soul as you go about your 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.



## ATTENTION ALL C O L L E G E

### STUDENTS and/or Parents:

We want to stay in touch with you!! Please let us know your current college address as soon as possible. Some of you are studying from home, some virtually and some at your college campus. We needed your information. Please call Bess at 704-435-6732 or email your College information to [Bessfumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bessfumc@bellsouth.net) as soon as you can. We would like to have your school, full mailing address, e-mail address, major and scholastic year. Thanks! Our prayers are with you as you pursue your plans and future careers.



## THANK YOU FROM THE ONE BODY ONE MISSION COMMUNITY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The One Body One Mission School Supply Drive was a success this year because of your generous donations! Many area children in our community were given book bags full of supplies thanks to your gifts to this cause through C.A.M.



### Feeding the Community

**Cherryville Area Ministries and Second Harvest** will sponsor a food bank/food drive for anyone in the community that is in need of food. The Food bank will take place September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon at the St John's Lutheran Church parking lot on the Dixie Street side. Volunteers from all

around our community will be needed to help with this project. If you would like to volunteer and help with this food drive please let Bess know or call 704-435-9264. Helpers are needed to sort, bag, and hand out food as families drive by.



Our Chancel Choir is presenting a series on the history and stories of our Methodist Hymns and how they came to

be written for our Methodist Hymnal. John, Samuel, and Charles Wesley, brothers and leaders in the Methodist movement of the 1700's, are some of those featured in the "Story Behind The Song." These will be pre-recorded by Bo Baity and can be seen on our FUMC Facebook Live page and on our FUMC Cherryville church website. These will broadcast within Pastor Zack's Sunday Sermon at 10:30 am and a different one will be broadcast on Wednesday evening during our normal Choir Rehearsal time.

We also have a Choir Page on Facebook Messenger where we can get necessary choir news and other information from each other.

We are following our Pastor Zack and the Bishop's guidelines of safety regarding Covid-19.

We thank you for your prayers. We thank Pastor Zack, Teresa, and Bo for all they do to lend their talents to support the Chancel Choir.

Your Choir Director,  
Linda Kale Barger



## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Wow! God is good! It is unbelievable that things have gone so well for the first week of school in these very different circumstances. Our teachers have done an awesome job getting everything ready. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated teachers that I want to list their names to recognize them for all their hard work.

We have two 2 year classes: Ms. Kim Stout and Ms. Sandy Nytko lead one and Ms. Emily Webb and Ms. Kara Morehouse lead the other. Our 3 year class is led by Ms. Haley Craft and Ms. Jaclyn Sours, and our 4 year class is led by Ms. Trinity Smith and Ms. Lisa McBride. Assistants/substitutes are Ms. Amber Barnes and Ms. Melody Bridges.

We want to thank Ms. Bess, Ms. Teresa, and Pastor Zack for all their support. We could not have gotten ready without them!

Our enrollment is low this year with only 49 students, but energy is high! The children have acclimated well, they are singing, laughing, and learning.

Continue to pray for our program as we go forward!

Ms. Millie





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

**SELENA ALEXANDER**

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

**E. L. BEAM**

Anita Stroue, Tonya, Mike & Kayla Throckmorton

**SAM BEAM**

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
Ron & Janice Hovis

**RODNEY BRIDGES**

Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
Debbie Gantt  
Rhonda Wehunt (Thursday Meal Ministry)

**DIANNE BROWN**

Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)  
Bob Faires  
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

**NED COSTNER**

Gail V. Jenkins

**ANNE DELLINGER**

Morris & Jacque McGinnis

**GERT FISHER**

Joe & Sandy Dismukes  
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

**PETE HEAVNER**

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

**DON LYLES**

Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)

**DEBORAH DEVENNY**

Billy & Linda Alexander  
Pam Anthony  
Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
Ben & Robin Blackburn  
Ed & Beverly Campbell  
Deanna Daggerhart  
Joe & Sandy Dismukes  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
Millard Gibson  
Andrew & Chrystal Harmon  
Ron & Janice Hovis  
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)  
Mike & Barbara Jones  
Mike & Becky Ross (Thursday Meal Ministry)  
Anita Stroue, Tonya, Mike & Kayla Throckmorton  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Rhonda Wehunt (Thursday Meal Ministry)

**SUE NOLEN**

Lola Allran Circle  
Pam Anthony  
Ben & Libby Ballard  
Joyce Baxter  
Ken & M'Shel Bowen  
Steve & Lynn Bowen (Thursday Meal Ministry)  
Faye Boyles  
Ed & Beverly Campbell  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Deanna Daggerhart  
Bob Faires  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
Ron & Janice Hovis  
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)  
Gail V. Jenkins  
Laboratory UMC  
Eloise Mauney  
Harold & Kim Mauney  
Ken & Darlene Mayhew  
Morris & Jacque McGinnis  
Ms. Millie Propst  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Vee & Melanie Thornburg  
Rhonda Wehunt (Thursday Meal Ministry)  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wood  
Melinda Yount

Pam Anthony  
 Bob Barnhill, III  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barnhill, Jr.  
 Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
 Todd & Lonnia Beam  
 Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
 Ken & M'Shel Bowen  
 Steve & Lynn Bowen (Thursday Meal Ministry)  
 Dominic & Amanda Brodeur  
 Butler & Stowe  
 Nancy Catena  
 Joe & Sandy Dismukes  
 Bob Faires  
 Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
 Debbie Gantt  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Blake Graerber  
 D. H. Griffin Companies  
 Ron & Janice Hovis  
 Senator David & Linda Hoyle  
 Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)  
 Gail V. Jenkins  
 Bill & Lucy Jones  
 John & Alanna Linden  
 Harold & Kim Mauney  
 Eloise Mauney  
 Jim & Lynn McCallie  
 NCF Carolinas  
 Steve & Charlene Preston  
 T. L. & Miney Saine  
 Bill & Chris Sneed  
 Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson  
 Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
 Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
 Vee & Melanie Thornburg  
 Rhonda Wehunt (Thursday Meal Ministry)  
 Mary Browne West  
 John H. Williams, Jr.

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)  
Curtis & Sherie Harrelson  
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

T. L. &amp; Miney Saine

[illegible]

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

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

✦ ✦

### **PRAYER LIST (Members)**

Bob Austell, Judy Bingham, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Julie Dellinger, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Sherie Harrelson, John Hines, Ken Mayhew, Bertha Maxey, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Karleen Price, The family of Joe Putnam, Chris Sneed, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

### **PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)**

Don Alexander, Martha Beam Wanda Bruce, Cindy Gales, Miles Gantt, Rhett Guest, Lisa Hastings, Teresa Henley, Dan Jonas, Melissa Beam Kale, Terry Laughlin, Kenneth Moffitt, Beverly Hamrick Stiles, Angela Wurster, Martha Jane Zeitler, 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



### **Dear Church Family:**

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, phone calls and gift as I celebrated my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'm so blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. May God Bless each one of you.

Love,  
Vera Eaker



The family of Deborah DeVenny would like to thank you very much for the cards, calls, prayers and kind expression of sympathy shown following her passing.

Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and of great comfort to our family.

### **Thank You**

You have truly been a gift in my life.  
I don't know how I could ever thank you  
for all that you do.



Words cannot express my appreciation for the kindness you have shown me during the 2 ½ years I have been at Carolina Care.

I am truly grateful for the prayers, gifts, cards and errands you have run for me.

I ask God's blessings upon our church family and I ask for your prayers for those in the nursing homes and their care givers.

Janet Carter



## September Birthdays

- 1 Hattie Beck
- 2 Leland Gaskins
- 2 John Hines
- 3 Crystal Essary
- 3 Amber Sneed
- 4 Ann Harmon
- 5 Anice Lawing
- 5 Teesie Smith
- 5 Billy Warlick
- 6 Hadley Webb
- 7 Jeff Jenkins
- 7 Belinda Watts
- 8 Carol Falls
- 8 Ada Smith
- 10 Camille Freeman Harden
- 10 Seth Freeman
- 10 Evelyn Southards
- 10 Jimmy Wilent
- 11 Roy Norwood
- 12 Kevin Gardo
- 12 Danny Smith
- 14 Julie Dellinger
- 14 Andrea Leffingwell
- 15 Gary Husen
- 15 Jack Rupard
- 15 Kent Shaw
- 15 Gary Thornburg
- 15 Robin Wilent
- 16 Jessica Lovell
- 16 Gabrielle Shedd
- 17 Amy Kilby
- 17 Dick Ledford
- 18 Easton Webb
- 20 Pam Owens
- 20 Chelsi Jenkins Thomas
- 21 Julie Hovis Lyles
- 21 Earlene Williams
- 22 Lynn Bowen
- 22 Shane Stroupe
- 25 Mary Geiger
- 25 Brent Walls
- 26 Cooper Sain
- 27 Ken Mayhew
- 27 Alex Morehouse
- 28 Randy Baxter
- 28 Ryan Sorenson
- 29 Michael Beam
- 30 Trent Thornburg



When we learn more from our Bishop about when can resume normal operations, we will let you know. There is no calendar of events included in this newsletter.