

**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)

**May 27, 2020**

**Vol. XXXI No. 6**

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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**June Reflection**

*Acts 2:47 "[The Disciples] praise God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved."*

In light of the resurrection and in the glow of Jesus' world conquering act of breaking out of the grave, the disciples were left with a simple question, "now what?" I believe it is a question we find ourselves asking anytime we experience a spiritual high, or we as the church do something amazing we find ourselves asking, "Now what? What is our next move? Where do we go from here?"

For the disciples the answer to this question was not readily apparent, in fact all of the gospels, except for Mark, record some story of the disciples going back to their normal lives after the resurrection. Peter, James, and John all go back to be fishermen, Matthew probably went back to be a tax collector, and the rest just went to wonder around. We can understand this, after three years of following Jesus around, seeing him give sight to the blind, cast out demons, feed five thousand with five loaves of bread and two fish, and rise from the dead, I could understand wanting some normalcy in your life.

Luckily we as disciples have not been called to a normal life, praise God that we have been called to more than simply twiddling our thumbs. We have been called by the grace of God to present a picture of his kingdom here and now. Thank goodness that Peter's stint as a fisherman didn't last long. After encountering the risen Christ on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he heads back to Jerusalem. It is in that upper room in Jerusalem that the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter gives the first sermon of the church, and the church officially begins.

What I love about the verse that I selected for this month's reflection is once again the disciples find themselves at a "now what" moment. The Holy Spirit has flooded them, Peter has given that first sermon, and yet they aren't really sure how to proceed. They went from being a community of roughly 82 people to a community of 3082 people over night. It is hard to know what to do with a change that significant.

So the disciples do something countercultural, something I think we as the 21<sup>st</sup> century church could really take a lesson from, they devote themselves to prayer and showing God's goodness. It seems so simple, devote yourself to prayer and show God's goodness to the community and to the world. However, in the church as we are currently constructed today, we are good at one of those two things, not both and certainly not together.

The more I read Scripture, the more I have become convinced that prayer and action are inseparable. If we do things without first praying about them, we miss out on where God is calling us, for if we are not constantly praying, we are missing out on the greatest source of communication we have with God. By that same token though if prayer is separated from our actions, and we do not live like we pray, we are not showing God to the world.

I think in this season after Pentecost, what we call “ordinary time” in the life of the church the challenge for the church and the challenge for us as individuals is to become those who pray and show the goodness of God to all who we come into contact with. I think we would do well to take a page from these disciples, trusting that the “Now what?” question will be answered by God in due time, and the more we pray, and the more we show God’s goodness the more clear the vision becomes.

While we find ourselves in this moment of quarantine, a question that has been plaguing me is how do we open the church back up? I have read a bunch of articles, I have looked at what different churches are doing. Yet as I read through this Scripture again, what became clear to me was that I had neglected doing the most important thing, which is praying about it. I don’t mean that I had not been praying about it, but I have been devoting far more time to studying than I have been to praying. So as we are in this time of uncertainty, I want to encourage you to pray with me as I know many of you do, but take a little bit more time in this upcoming month, so that God will reveal to us a path forward. For we know that God hears our prayers and we know that God answers when we call on him.

Grace and Peace,  
Zack Christy

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Dear Church Members:

It is hard to believe that we have been unable to Worship together in person now for 11 weeks. Contributions through April have remained constant receiving \$115,678.89. Our expenses through the end of April are \$109,912.37 leaving us with an additional \$5,766.52 in our checking account for when we are able to begin back with full programs. We continue to be faithful stewards of our resources in the church and continue to look for ways to hold down expenses while maintaining a somewhat “normal” daily operation. We have been able to cover our operating costs because of your love and dedication to the church. We are very fortunate to have such faithful members!

During this time of uncertainty, we have continued to look for ways to help out in the community. Our Thursday evening meal for those for those in the community who are facing hunger and may not know where their next meal is coming from we have served more than 2,000 hotdogs. We appreciate the many volunteers who are making this ministry possible each Thursday.

Pastor Zack and other members have continued participating in a video worship service at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings. They have been remarkable in finding ways to keep us engaged with our church. Bo & Betsy Baity have been doing a Sunday School lesson on facebook for adults, and Andrew Harmon has been doing a Sunday School lesson for the children via “Zoom.” We expanded ways of going further into uncharted waters this past week with “Drive In” church.

Our Children are fortunate as they continue to get to see the weekly lessons on Facebook or our church website by Bess Thornburg each Wednesday as she continues to try to stay in touch with them.

We continue to face obstacles that we have never faced before. God has blessed us not only financially, but with members who genuinely care and love this community. Please continue to pray for Pastor Zack and our staff in these unusual times.

God Bless you, and I look forward to the day that we can worship in person together again.

Teresa Gardo  
Administrative Assistant

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY FOR

## DRIVE IN WORSHIP

10:30AM

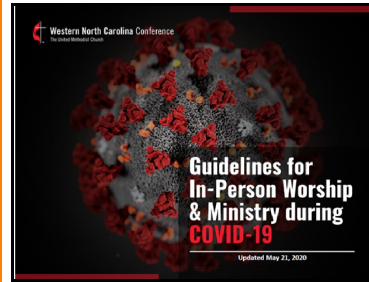
PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CARS  
SOUND WILL COME THROUGH RADIO  
TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 90.5 FM.



SERVICE WILL ALSO STREAM ON  
FACEBOOK

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHERRYVILLE

We will continue with drive in Worship 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.



## Phase Two Guidelines for In-Person Worship & Ministry During COVID-19

May 21, 2020

As the state of North Carolina prepares to enter Phase Two, the Cabinet has updated our Conference Guidelines for In-Person Worship and Ministry During COVID-19. **These will be effective Saturday May 23, 2020 and will remain in effect until at least June 30, 2020.** In alignment and compliance with public health guidance, governmental mandates, and our scriptural and Wesleyan call to "love others" and "do no harm," these guidelines are to be followed by churches in the Western North Carolina Conference.



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.



## VBS-VICTORY A PEP RALLY WITH GOD!!!

Plans are being made for this year's **VBS Celebration**. The dates are July 12-16<sup>th</sup>, here at the church from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. We are anticipating being able to celebrate a Victory in God both inside and outside the church. This will be a fun time for all ages 3yr olds - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. As we experience Victory in courage, obedience, faith and unity and Grace of Jesus Christ. We need your help. If you are interested and willing to help please let Bess know ASAP! We need teachers, recreation games coordinator, concession stand (snack) helpers, music leaders, technical support, crafts helpers, and general volunteers. Please help make this years VBS a success. Be in our prayer for our VBS and planning during these uncertain times.



UMKs are not meeting at this time due to the COVID19 virus. We miss you so much at FUMC on Wednesday nights. In order to stay safe we will not meet again until later in the year. So, until things get going again, we will **continue to 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. Hopefully by summer we can plan to have our Wonderful Whacky Wednesday days of fun. We are also doing our **“Zoom” Children’s Sunday School class with Andrew 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 will start back in the fall when hopefully the COVID19 situation is under control. We may have a few special activities during the summer if regulations allow. 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 youths ages 6th thru 12th graders. We will meet on Sunday nights at 6 pm down stairs in the youth room for a snack, study and activities. Make plans now to be a part of our group!



**Congratulations to our 2020 High School Graduates!** Great job guys! Your church is proud of you and we want to honor and support your success on Sunday June 7th at our 10:30 drive in worship service here at FUMC. Please plan to be at the church with your cap and gown at 9 am that day for breakfast and a celebration in the fellowship hall (be it on a small scale!). We will also present scholarships that day to our deserving seniors. Our 2020 High School graduates are:

**Pierston Kate Elliott  
Brent Carter Walls**

**Attention all College Graduates:** Congratulations to our College Graduates Class of 2020. Wow! You have finally made it! Your church stands with you and wants to celebrate with you as you move forward into your life goals. **We need to know who you are!**

If you are a College Graduate Class of 2020, please contact the church office, Bess or Teresa, and let us know what School you are graduating from and your degree information. Way to GO! We will also recognize you by name on June 7th.



A giving portal is now available to submit tithes and offerings to any United Methodist Church within the Western North Carolina Conference.

To give to a church, a donor would go to the following website: <https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

Follow the prompts to identify the church, along with the amount of the donation. Please see more details on the front page of our website.

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

Billy Alexander, Gail Beam and Family, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Van Dellinger & family, Deborah DeVenny, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Sherie Harrelson, Janice Hovis, Ken Mayhew, Bertha Maxey, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Kevin Moths, Sue Nolen, Ed Pierce & family, Karleen Price, Joe Putnam, Chris Sneed, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

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

Marty Beam, Betty Dellinger, Rhett Guest, Lisa Hastings, Brandon Heavner, Teresa Henley, Katie Pruitt, Jeff Schrum, Beverly Hamrick Stiles, Loren Tidick, 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



### **Our Christian Sympathy**

is extended Carol Metzger and Mary Geiger following the death of their brother, Harvey Geiger of Ohio, on April 20; and to Gail Beam and family following the death of her husband, E. L. Beam, on May 4; and to Dr. Van Dellinger and family following the death of his mother, Anne Dellinger, on May 21,



Thank you for all of the cards, visits, prayers and phone calls during my recent surgeries. It is wonderful to have such a loving and caring church family.

Dartha Stroupe



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

**BARBARA "BABS" BEAM**

Billy & Linda Alexander  
Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Pat McGinnis  
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

**E. L. BEAM**

Billy & Linda Alexander  
Pam Anthony  
Ben & Libby Ballard  
Chad & Michelle Bingham  
Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Ken, M'Shel, Mitchell & Meredith Bowen  
Steve & Lynn Bowen  
Stacey & Jennifer Bradley  
Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)  
Nancy & Michael Catena  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Deanna Daggerhart  
Joe & Sandy Dismukes  
Bob Faires  
Debbie Gantt  
Brent & Teresa Gardo  
Andrew & Chrystal Harmon  
Eloise Mauney  
Pat McGinnis  
Larry & Barbara McGinnis  
Ray P. McSwain  
Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)  
T. L. & Miney Saine  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
Vee & Melanie Thornburg  
Margaret Webb (Backpack Ministry)  
Rhonda Wehunt (Nursery Renovations)  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wood

**ANNE DELLINGER**

Nancy Catena  
Brent, Teresa & Tracy Gardo  
Harold & Kim Mauney  
T. L. & Miney Saine  
Bill & Chris Sneed  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
Margaret Webb

**CAROLE FIELDS**

Billy & Linda Alexander  
Pam Anthony  
Bob & Caryl Austell  
Ben & Libby Ballard  
Joyce Baxter  
Gail B. Beam  
Nancy Catena  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Deanna Daggerhart  
Andrew & Chrystal Harmon  
Eloise Mauney  
Pat McGinnis  
Ray P. McSwain  
Betty Jane Robinson  
Shirley Smith  
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

**PEGGY GARD0**

Shirley Smith

**HARVEY GEIGER**

Deanna Daggerhart  
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson  
Rhonda Wehunt (Nursery Renovations)

**WILLIE HEAVNER**

Aura Ann McGinnis

**ANNE LAWSON-HINES**

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
Rhonda Wehunt (Nursery Renovations)

**MARSHA HOLLIFIELD**

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Brent & Teresa Gardo

**FANNIE BELLE LEDFORD**

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)

Virginia Sigmon

Billy & Linda Alexander  
Bob & Caryl Austell  
Ben & Libby Ballard  
Joyce Baxter  
J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class  
Steve & Susan Beam (Backpack Ministry)  
Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)  
Ken, M'Shel, Mitchell & Meredith Bowen  
Nancy Catena  
Richard & Martha Cornwell  
Deanna Daggerhart  
Joe & Sandy Dismukes  
Debbie Gantt  
Andrew & Chrystal Harmon  
Pat McGinnis  
June Medlin Sunday School class  
Ernie & Betty Parker  
Shirley Smith  
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson  
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)  
Vee & Melanie Thornburg  
Chris & Payne Wallace

## Eloise Mauney

Bob & Caryl Austell  
Ben & Libby Ballard  
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)  
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg  
Rhonda Wehunt (Nursery Renovations)

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

## Chad, Crystal &amp; Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)

[illegible]

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

## Chad & Crystal Thornburg (Thursday Meal Ministry)

Leslie Thornburg (Thursday Meal Ministry)

## Andrew &amp; Crystal Harmon

Leslie Thornburg (Thursday Meal Ministry)

Sid Stroupe (Thursday Meal Ministry)

## Chad, Crystal &amp; Leslie Thornburg (Thur. Meal Ministry)

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## June Birthdays

2 Caleb Ballard  
3 Mike Canipe  
6 Ben Blackburn  
6 Debbie Gantt  
7 Eloise Mauney  
7 Rhonda Wehunt  
8 Casey Sigmon  
10 Abby Burleson  
11 Jake Dellinger  
12 June Gaston  
12 Natalie Allen McNeely  
15 Phyllis Thornburg  
16 Dustin Mauney  
16 Eric Starling  
17 Zack Christy  
17 Lewis Costner  
17 Ruth Gaston  
17 Larry McGinnis  
18 Tim Moss  
18 Joe Putnam  
21 Ryan Thornburg  
22 Meredith Bowen  
22 Logan Hendrick  
22 Scott Sigmon  
23 Gregory Kirby, Jr.  
23 Aura Ann McGinnis  
24 Tessley Moss  
24 Shirley Smith  
24 Jessica Thornburg  
25 Keith Kiser  
26 Lilah Spangler  
27 Kade Thornburg  
29 Raegan Nowowiecki



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.

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



# One Body One Mission

## Community School Supply Drive

Do not forget to call and register your child(ren) for a backpack filled with school supplies to be prepared for the 2020- 2021 school year.



### To Register

Call: St. John's Lutheran Church, Cherryville

Phone: 704-435-9264

Date: June 1<sup>st</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>

We understand the pandemic is causing many families to adjust their living situations. However, we would still like to help prepare students for the upcoming school year no matter how the 2020 -2021 school year begins.

Even though the 2020- 2021 school year may have many changes, we ask that if you think your child will need school supplies, please register them at the number above.

### Information for distribution day:

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 107 W. Academy St. Cherryville

Time: 10am – 12pm

Date: Saturday, August 15th

✚ We will let you know the process on how we will be distributing the backpack at a later date.