

First United Methodist Church Cherryville, North Carolina

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
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May 25, 2023

Vol. XXXIV No. 5

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.

June Reflection

Mark 4:39 "He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace be still.' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm."

Last Tuesday I sat in the parking lot of First Baptist, there were several youth who were being honored for their academic achievement and I couldn't wait to see them receive their awards. Y'all would have been so proud at how well First UMC was represented there. On the way to First Baptist, the sky had gotten dark. Right at the DK gas station, rain started hitting the windshield, so I was trying to be gallant, let Crystal, Eli, and Ella off right in front of the church, so that I could go park. Between dropping my family off and finding a parking spot, it was no longer drizzling, it was now a full force storm.

I sat in my truck, figuring that the rain would calm down soon, but quite the contrary, the rain picked up! Then came the hail, then came the wind, and for a moment I thought my truck just toppled over. I was looking at the railroad ditch, and trying to come up with a plan to get out of my truck and into the ditch, when the wind stopped, the hail died down, the rain became a drizzle again.

But the first street I walked out to looked quite different from the one I had just driven down. Power lines were down, trees had toppled over, there was a group of folks gathered at the front of the church who were taking in the devastation. It was an instant, a blip, the whole storm couldn't have lasted more than a few minutes, but that was more than enough time for destruction to be wrought on our little town.

As we drove home, the fingerprints of the storm were all over town, no power anywhere at all. Big oak trees thrown down as if they were children's toys, large limbs scattering the streets. When we arrived at the parsonage, the trampoline had flown into preacher Bill's yard, there were limbs down, but everything seemed to be in pretty good order. But those few moments sitting in a church parking lot was terrifying, my watch thought that I was working out I guess because my heart was beating so fast.

Mark tells us about a time that Jesus took his disciples in a boat. They were leaving the comfort of the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee and headed toward the Gentile side, a side that the Israelites were not particularly interested in going to. After all the Gentiles ate all kinds of meat, they worshiped idols, and there was a great deal of animosity between the two sides. As the boat slowly crossed the sea, Jesus did something truly unthinkable, Jesus went to sleep.

Being the Messiah has to be very taxing, and Jesus makes use of a little bit of downtime by dozing off. But it seems he picked the wrong time to go to sleep, because no sooner had he fallen into a nice deep sleep than a great big storm comes to the Sea of Galilee. That nice tranquil sea that the disciples had initially embarked on became a war-zone of wind and waves.

Now it is important to note that at least four of the disciples and possibly others were seasoned fishermen. They had battled storms before, but this storm was unlike anything they had encountered. The wind was too fierce, the waves were too strong, they were going to die, they were sure of it.

Would you believe with all the wind, all the commotion, and all the devastation, Jesus was still asleep. I don't know how tired you must be to be able to sleep through a storm like that, people pay big money to try and achieve sleep on that level. But when the disciples look over there he is snoozing away. And the disciples go to Jesus, shake him awake, and say, "Lord do you not care that we are perishing," Jesus says, "Oh you of little faith;" holds his hands to the sky and simply says, "Peace be still." The wind subsides, the waves quiet down, and the disciples are left wondering, "Who is this that even the wind and waves obey his voice."

Friends, I don't know much, I am after all just a big old redneck from Sylva, North Carolina, but this much I do know, Jesus continues to bring peace even in the midst of the storms. Because while the strength of the storm was great, the strength of our town was even better. In the clean up I saw our town stand together, I saw neighbors helping each other, and dare I say it, I even say peace on display. The scars from the storm will stick around for sometime, but eventually they will heal. Branches will be cleared, debris picked up, things that were broken will be replaced.

But the peace, a peace which comes directly from Jesus Christ, that peace will remain. I hope and pray that as we move into summer that you might feel a little bit of that peace, and that you might find some time to simply be still and marvel at the presence of God, just like those disciples in the boat. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



The backpack ministry is once again taking a break from shopping as we have received generous donations that will get us through to the end of this school year. We will start this program back up in the fall once school resumes. Thank you for all of your support toward this program.

Thank you,

The Backpack Ministry Committee



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 at 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 June. **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.**

June 4	Hunter Brafford	Riley Shuford
June 11	Mallie Emerson	Ayden Canipe
June 18	Landry Pruitt	Makayla Hicks
June 25	Bella Thornburg	Caroline Carswell



**Father's Day -
June 18, 2023.**

“A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.”



JUNE NURSERY WORKERS

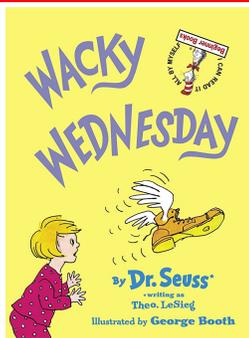
We now offer an infant nursery, provided each Sunday morning, for our sweet babies during the 10:30 worship service. Our nursery is located at the end of the hall and to your right just past the church office. And **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who have agreed to help in the Nursery. Below is the Nursery workers list for June. 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.

June 4	Melanie Thornburg
June 11	Linda Brittain
June 18	Emily Winter
June 25	Teci Webb



LOOKING FORWARD TO VBS

Our Vacation Bible School will be combined with several area churches this year to hold a community VBS. The dates are August 9th thru August 13th. The events will be held in the evenings at the First Presbyterian Church. This is something different for all of us and is expected to be a wonderful experience for everybody! The VBS theme this year is a Holy Land adventure in **BABYLON, Daniels's Courage in Captivity**. There will be a biblical city of Babylon, characters of Babylon, a market place, tribe time, tents, food, crafts, costumes, music, for children of all ages to explore God's word come to life! Plan now to be a part of **VBS BABYLON**.



“WILD & WACKY WEDNESDAYS”

W.W.W. We will have “Wild Wacky Wednesday’s again this summer! Beginning June 21, we will gather each Wednesday for a fun-filled

excursion to area places for playtime, devotions and exploring God’s world! All rising 1st graders thru rising 6th graders are invited to join in the action! If your child is a rising Kindergartener or under school age and wants to participate they are welcome to come along BUT a parent or adult must accompany them (this is mainly due to car seat restrains and the young age of the child). We will meet at the church parking lot to embark on our adventures! Please watch your mail box for a parent letter and more details. Below is our schedule for each Wednesday in June...

June 21: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **WEST LINCOLN PARK AND SPLASH PAD**

We will visit the fun water park splash pad then play on the playground and have a picnic together before returning home.

June 28: 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **“LET’S ROLL” @ KATE’S SKATING RINK**

We will adventure to Kate’s Skating in Gastonia. We will experience a fun afternoon learning to skate and spinning our wheels! We will have lunch at the skate track before we come home!

July 5: 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

POODLE NOODLE * POOL PARTY!

The Wild Wacky Wednesday group will meet at the Anthony resort and pool for an afternoon of “Fun in the SON!” We will have lunch, treats, swimming games and splash contests and prizes.

This is the plan for the first couple of weeks, but keep in mind, plans are always subject to change. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to call Bess at 704-435-6732 / 704-836-6803.



UMYF: Our regular UMYF meetings on Sunday night have ended for the summer. We have had a great year together eating, studying God’s word, and of course playing hide and go seek, sardines’ style and other wacky games with our UMYF - “FUMCY” characters! Our group is growing and we can’t wait to get together again!

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 will be having **Mission Possible Days** this summer to help out local elderly and needy residents in our area to do yard work and offer a general helping hand. We are also working to spruce up our own area and church! We will have a Lock-in/Lockout night to raise awareness to homelessness and those less fortunate in our community. Watch your “FUMCY” for more details. YOU WERE AWESOME!!!

We are also planning a trip to another **Hickory Crawdad’s** baseball game in July, as well as another pool party and movie night so we can stay in touch and be together during the summer months, and don’t forget **VBS/BABYLON**, August 9 thru 13. We need your help!

A future plan is in the works to go back to our “Happy Place” **Tekoa Foothills!!!**

Plans are incomplete for the fall as we tie down dates. Watch your FUMCY for more details! Please be at UMYF to get involved in these activities!! UMYF is for all middle and high school youths and friends!!

We will be meeting at least once a month during the summer and for special projects and outings!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES CLASS OF 2023

We want to congratulate our High School and College Graduates for 2023. FUMC Cherryville is very proud of you!

WILLIAM JUSTICE FOWLER

Class of 2023 Cherryville High School

JACE BRITTAIN

Jace graduated May 6, 2023 from Maryville College in Maryville, TN where he played football and graduated with a BS degree in Business Analytics.

Jace is engaged to be married and plans to work for Denso Mfg. as a business planning specialist.

ANNA BURLESON

Daughter of Brent and Kathy Burleson

Anna graduated May 7, 2023 from Appalachian State University with her Masters of Science degree in Speech Language Pathology and will be working beginning in June as a speech language pathologist at a skilled nursing facility in Lincolnton.

CHAPEL MOSS

Son of Tim and Samantha Moss

Chapel graduated from Appalachian State University on May 13, 2023 with a BSBA degree in Business Administration/Marketing and a concentration in sales.

He is currently seeking an entry level sales position.

EMILY GRACE NYTKO

Daughter of Sandy Holland Nytko and Jeffery Nytko, niece of Genea Moss and granddaughter of Mildred and Terry Young

Emily graduated on May 12, 2023 from Western Carolina University with a Master's degree in Elementary Education.

She is currently employed as a kindergarten teacher in Jackson County and is engaged to be married to Gage Beam.



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

My heart is full as I write this. Today is the last day of this school year. We had our graduation program last night; therefore, fifteen of our students will be leaving today to move onto kindergarten. We will definitely miss those boys and girls, but we are confident that they have been prepared to move forward and to future success.

All of our classes participated in the program last night and they did an excellent job! We are so proud of every one of them. The church was full!

We do appreciate all the support we have received from our church and ask that you pray for our staff and all the students.

We have a number of returning students for next year and have already reserved places for quite a few new students. There are limited spaces left. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested they need to contact me as soon as possible.

Ms. Millie

Breakfast

On **Saturday, June 24**, 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.



THE **FIT FAB FUN BUNCH** IS A GROUP FOR ANYONE 60 OR OLDER. Are you a picker?? NO - not that kind of Picker!? I'm talking about a blast from the past, antique loving, bargain hunting, "American Picker" or just a nostalgic browser strolling down Memory Lane! "One man's junk is another man's treasure" as they say! We will go local antiquing in Gastonia at Gaston Pickers and "U-Neek Antiques" and anywhere else if you feel like it! Join the group on Thursday, June 8th at 2:00 p.m. to board the fun bus for an afternoon ride through Gaston County to the store of **FAB** treasures! Then we will go to eat at Captain's Cap! (We have to remain physically **FIT** you know). Come join the **FUN!!!** 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.



The Cherryville Area Ministries and the Second Harvest Food Bank will sponsor a **Mobile Food Pantry** on Monday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m. in the St. John's Lutheran Church Dixie Street parking lot. Volunteers are needed to distribute the food and to unpack the trucks and food boxes and need to be there by 9:00 a.m. If you can help please let Bess Thornburg know at the church office.

**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**



ONE BODY ONE MISSION SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE will be on **August 12** from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at First Wesleyan Church of

Cherryville this year. Again we will be gathering school supplies and much needed materials for back to school backpack distribution for our community.

If you would like to register to receive supplies, please call St. John's Lutheran Church, Cherryville at 704-435-9264 between the dates of June 1 thru August 1. We will need volunteers to be prayer partners, people to help give out supplies and hair stylists. If you can help on August 12, please let Bess know. **MORE INFO TO COME about the supplies we need to collect.**



Those wishing to donate to the **Crisis Pregnancy Center** may pick up a baby bottle in the Narthex. Baby bottles should be turned in (with coins or money enclosed in the bottle) to the church office by Sunday, June 18.



WNCC Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska is June 15-18. Delegates from FUMC include Bess Thornburg, Ann Johnson and Pastor Zack.

June Birthdays

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



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

THANK YOU
TEAM
YOU ALL ARE
AWESOME

A **BIG** thank you to everyone who helped in leading our UMK program this year and to all of those who provided suppers and helped in the kitchen. We had a wonderful year and we couldn't have done it without God's love and your help!



Deanna Daggerhart
2038 Lincolnton Hwy.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, May 28

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Monday, May 29

Church Office closed

Tuesday, May 30

6:30pm - Trustees meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, May 31

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, June 1

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, June 4

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Monday, June 5

10:00 - Second Harvest Food Bank

Tuesday, June 6

6:00pm - Called Church Council meeting

Thursday, June 8

2:00pm - FFF Bunch to Gastonia

Sunday, June 11

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Thursday, June 15

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday - Sunday, June 15 - 18

Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska

Sunday, June 18

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Wednesday, June 21

9:30am - WWW to West Lincoln Park and Splash Pad

Saturday, June 24

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

Sunday, June 25

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Wednesday, June 28

10:30am - WWW - to Kate's Skating Rink in Gastonia

Thursday, June 29

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, July 2

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Betsy Baity, Linda Barger, Michael Beam, Chad Bingham, Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Bobbi Conner & family, Deanna Daggerhart, Sandy Dismukes, Jim Eaton, Bob Faires, Ruth Gaston, Doris Huss, Ken Mayhew, Larry & Barbara McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Rev. Harry Queen, Phyllis Thornburg, Belinda Watts, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Katie Bowen, Don Childers, Whitney Ledford, Essel Pennington, Dave Plake, Vicky Clawson Porter, Carolyn Summer, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson, Jessica Lovell.

Church Member