

**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)

**September 28, 2022**

**Vol. XXXIII No. 9**

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

Mildred Young  
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

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2 Timothy 2:9b *"But the word of God is not fettered."*

When I arrived at my first church, he was someone they warned me about. The chair of the PPRC said, "He is usually quiet, but be careful." People still talked about a Sunday in 1992 when the preacher mentioned Bill Clinton, how he stood up and walked out shaking his head. So for the first little bit I would preach with one eye on him, and one eye on my notes.

You can imagine my fear when one Sunday, having waited until everyone had shaken my hand he approached me, and gritting his teeth said, "I just don't see things your way preacher." I moved into my best non defense defensive mode, assuring him that my sermon was just one way of looking at the scripture, but there were plenty of other ways of looking at it, and I could very well be wrong.

"Don't you back off with me," he snapped. "I just said that your sermon shook me up. I didn't ask you to take it back. Stick by your guns if you are a real preacher." Then he said to me, in a very heavy tone, "Preacher, don't you ever forget that some days, the only thing saving me from complete despair is whatever word of God you happen to speak in the sermon. Don't you dare take it back."

In this epistle Paul writes to his younger colleague from a jail cell. He tells Timothy to "remember Jesus Christ as preacher in *my* gospel." Paul being in jail can't be with Timothy to guide him. Paul is in chains, picture him in the Roman Alcatraz, the man is bound hands, feet, head, the Romans have done everything they can to restrict his movement. But it turns out, you can chain the man, but you can't fetter the words, the Word. So Paul writes to Timothy encouraging him to, "do your best to present yourself to God...a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2:15)."

Father Tim was the episcopal priest in Canton, a man simply full of wisdom. He had served in the ministry so long, he was the embodiment of the grizzled veteran who had forgot more about ministry than us young preachers could ever hope to learn. Yet, he wasn't cynical or burnt out, he held such a hopeful vision for the future of the church.

I asked him about that one day. I said, "How can you be so hopeful, don't you see the Pew reports that come out, and the denominational reports decrying the decline in the church?" Father Tim laughed, he said, "I remember when they integrated the schools here in Canton. There was a meeting for the community to discuss it. It was billed to many of the white parents as a way to 'save our schools.' One by one angry speakers rose to speak about what could be done to keep, 'them out.' There were even calls for violence to protect 'ours' from 'theirs.' But there was an old half-broken Baptist preacher in town, who had baptized, married, or buried just about everyone at one point or another. He came late to the meeting, and stood in the back listening. After an hour or so of these tirades, he asked for the microphone. The crowd made a perfect lane

for this preacher, and he stood at the microphone, and in a voice that sounded far too clear for his small frame he said, "There is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, white nor black, for there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Go home and read your Bibles."

Father Tim said, "I'm hopeful because the word of God is just as potent today as it was the very first time God uttered 'Let there be light.'"

Paul says, "But the word of God is not fettered." While we as people might be constrained by all manners of things, the book on which we stand, the book on which we place our lives, is not. God's word continues to confront, challenge, and empower us as we seek to live the lives of disciples here and now. This month as we grow in both the love of God and the love of neighbor, may we be led by a deep desire to grow in the Word of God. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of October.



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. We can always use these items, but sometimes the list may change based on the supply of goods we have on hand.

Oct. 2	Beef Ramen Noodles
Oct. 9	Chicken Helper
Oct. 16	Canned corn
Oct. 23	Ravioli
Oct. 30	Instant potato packs

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee



### THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS

Thanks to all of our young people who have served as acolyte and crucifer this year! You guys have done a great job in preparing us for worship. Thanks for your willingness to serve during our worship services. Below is the schedule for October. If you cannot serve on your Sunday please let Bess know or switch with someone on the list.

Oct. 2	Alayna Ross	Zach Harmon
Oct. 9	Mallie Emerson	Amber Grace Brittain
Oct. 16	Grayce Pruitt	Landry Pruitt
Oct. 23	Kenan Fowler	Will Fowler
Oct. 30	Sophia Williams	Lydia Bradley



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



## Our Sunday School classes

continue to meet! We offer classes for everyone! We have:

### CHILDREN'S CLASSES:

- ◆ Nursery, 0-2yr olds
- ◆ Toddler Class, 2-4 yr. olds
- ◆ Younger Elementary, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- ◆ Older Elementary, 3-5<sup>th</sup> grades
- ◆ Youth class, 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades

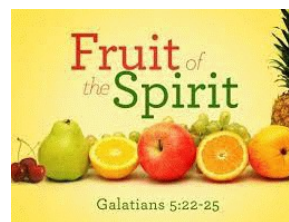
### ADULT CLASSES UPSTAIRS:

- ◆ Romans 12 class, Young adults
- ◆ Etheleen Dover Class, young to middle age adults
- ◆ June Medlin Class, middle age and senior adults
- ◆ Men's Bible Class, any age men of the church
- ◆ Discovery Class meets downstairs, any age adults.

You are invited to be a part of any one of these assemblies. **THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!** Thanks to all of you who have so graciously volunteered to teach and lead our classes, but volunteers are still needed.



**UMK's** Our UMKs are going strong!!! All 3yr olds thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join in the activities on Wednesday evenings. We will meet on the playground at 6:00 p.m. (weather permitting) and move into the fellowship hall for supper and our assembly time in the sanctuary and then break into our classes. UMKs will be over at 7:30 p.m. each night. You can pick-up your children up at the side door or the playground (as long as the weather is good).



We are still working on our lessons on **Fruit of the Spirit!** Based on Galatians 5:22-23. Each Wednesday we will look at each **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**

Oct. 5	Kindness	2 Samuel 9
Oct. 12	Goodness	Mark 2:1-12
Oct. 19	Faithfulness	1 Samuel 24
Oct. 26	Gentleness	Matthew 11:25-30
Nov. 2	Self Control	Daniel 1:1-17

### UMK Supper Schedule for October:

Oct. 5	Chicken pot pie, fruit, cookies Pam Anthony, Angie and Wesley Anthony
Oct. 12	Tacos with trimmings, chips, brownies Renee Allen and M'Shel Bowen
Oct. 19	Chicken nuggets, mac-n-cheese, fruit Steven and Bonnie Gunnell, Juanita Gunnell
Oct. 26	Ham sliders, chips, apple sauce, dessert Ethan & Kaci Beck, Melanie & Vee Thornburg

\*If you are willing to prepare a meal or help with UMKs please contact Miss Bess.



**UMYF:** Regular UMYF meetings are happening at the church, downstairs in the youth room at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30. We got our volleyball net up and can play a little wacky volleyball and we have a great time playing hide and go seek!! We are planning for the year's activities with our UMYF - "FUMCY" characters! We are continuing to work on our Bible Scavenger Hunt lessons, games and crafts. Our group is growing and we welcome all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders!

Looking ahead we discussed a possible lock-in, which was planned for September 30, BUT we had to postpone due to covid illness!! Sorry guys!! ☹ We will reschedule!! Hopefully we can go to the very scary Corn Maze again this year and we are still planning to attend Summitt Youth retreat in Asheville, NC the weekend of October 21 thru 23. This will be a youth weekend with other youth groups sponsored by the WNCC United Methodist Church.

**All those who are planning to go will need to have your \$35.00 deposit in by our October 2 UMYF meeting.** Our **Mission Possible** opportunity for the group will be to participate and help and volunteer for Trunk or Treat on October 30 and help get the Samaritans Purse shoe boxes ready to fill and be turned in and fill toiletry bags for the blessing box. UMYF is for all middle and high school youths. Please read and follow your FUMCY text for more details.

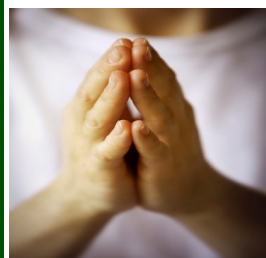


**Trunk or Treat!!!** Our annual **TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN FUN NIGHT** will be October 30 in the church parking lot. We will have decorated trunks, games, candy, treats, hot dogs, and fun costumes for everyone to enjoy! The festivities will begin 5:00 pm and last until 7:00 pm. Please make your plans now to decorate your trunk and get your dress-up costume on for the little monsters to enjoy at your church!! **Remember without trunks there is no trunk or treat!**



## **ATTENTION ALL COLLEGE 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 your addresses have changed and 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.



## **Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast**

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast will continue every Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Homefolk's Café **EXCEPT FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 WE WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL** (everyone will bring their breakfast and eat here). 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. Please NOTE: Miss Bess will drive our church van and will take any middle school students that need a ride to school.



**BUT watch out for the BUMPS!!! LOL ☺**





**THE FIT FAB FUN BUNCH** IS A GROUP FOR ANYONE 60 OR OLDER. Our next outing will be a **FABULOUS** evening with the **GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA** in Hickory, N.C. on Friday, October 28. We will depart

the church at 1:30 p.m. on the **"Fun Bus."** The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. at the Drendal Auditorium. Come with us and reflect and remember with big band songs like "Moonlight Serenade," "Little Brown Jug," "In the Mood," "At Last" and many others. The cost is \$48.00 per ticket. There are limited seats so please let Bess know and sign-up ASAP! And of course, we will stop to get FIT eating out on the way home. Please watch for more details! We now have a Facebook page called Fit Fab Fun Bunch so you can keep up with happenings and scenes from our latest adventures? Join the group if you are not already on FB. Stay tuned for further information and future plans...

This group will keep you spiritually **FIT** with devotions and planning for **FAB** outings and activities of the group, and we are always **FUN!!** We now have a great theme song for the group thanks to Pam Anthony, "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!**

# Breakfast

On **Saturday, October 29**, 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.



## THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY MEAL

Cherryville Area Ministries, Community Churches and Food Lion will be getting together again this year to host the annual Thanksgiving Community meal. There will be a hot Thanksgiving meal

served with all the fixings and dessert. More details will follow soon.



## Christmas Assistance Program

Cherryville Area Ministries is preparing for its annual Christmas Assistance Program. Each year we take applications from families in need who may not be able to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. We collect the following information from the parents/guardians of the children; clothing, shoe sizes along with a few gift items they may like. We shop for the kids and give the gifts to the parents the week before Christmas. We welcome any monetary contribution to this program as well as anyone who would like to sponsor a family and/or purchase the gifts for the family themselves. If you would like to sponsor a family, please contact Barbara at 704-435-3816 or by email at [cherryvilleministry@gmail.com](mailto:cherryvilleministry@gmail.com) from Nov. 14 – Dec. 2 for more details on how sponsoring works.

*Due to confidentiality, we do not disclose names of the children, parents or the addresses of the applicants. Only the sizes, gender, and toy desires are released.*

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## IN HONOR

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

### DENNIS BRADLEY

Chancel Choir members (Chancel Choir fund)

### VERA EAKER

*Happy 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday*

Linda Barger

Steve & Susan Beam

### PAUL TAYLOR

Bob & Caryl Austell

+++++



## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Happy fall to all from Kingdom Kids! We now have 42 precious little ones in school; they are full of energy and having fun while learning.

It is such a joy to see all the smiles; to hear the laughter and the singing; to get all the hugs; just to see the children being children — carefree and happy! What a blessing when so much around us can cause us to forget to count our blessings.

We so appreciate Pastor Zack leading chapel for us on Wednesday mornings. The children look forward to this time with him. Also, once a month Ms. Traci from the public library comes to read and interact with the children which is always a fun time.

During October we will have fall photos taken; will participate in Trunk or Treat; and will march down Main Street in the Little Monster Parade. We are making plans to visit Lineberger's Pumpkin Patch and to visit the Fire Department.

How blessed we are to have dedicated teachers and supportive families, as well as the support of our church members. We truly appreciate the flowers in honor of Kingdom Kids from Pastor Zack and his family.

Ms. Millie



### Dear Zack & FUMC members:

Janice & I want to thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent illness. They are greatly appreciated and heart felt. We love our church family and miss being with you, but hope to be back soon. Please continue to pray for me and Janice.

Love,

Ron & Janice

Please remember, God loves you and so do  
Janice and I.



**Dear FUMC church members:** Our family has been touched by all of the memorials for our Mother, Helen Dellinger. We greatly appreciated all of the

memorial gifts and cards. Please continue to remember our family in your prayers.

Benetta Dunning & Cynthia Swisher  
Daughters of Helen Dellinger

## October Birthdays

1	Eddie Eaker
1	Tim Pruitt
2	Stan Allen
2	Brooklynn McNeely
3	Baylor Gunnell
4	Patience Foster
4	Kevin Moths
4	Lory Paputseanos
4	Michael Ross
5	Bo Baity
5	Brent Gardo
6	Betty Smith
6	Emily Webb
7	Sarah Fowler
7	Ben Huffstetler
9	Emily Kirby
10	Marley Hudson
10	Shawn McQuaige
11	Will Skibo
12	Holly Bell
12	George Conner
12	Ron Hovis
13	Tracy Gardo
14	Chesley Walls
15	Donnie Bell
15	Ryan Davis
15	Curtis Harrelson
16	Mike Burgess
17	Bobbi Ballard
17	Taylor Costner
18	Tom Dellinger
19	Ava Thornburg
21	Norah Harden
21	Ray McSwain
23	Archie Mitchell
23	Kirk Thornburg
24	Bob Faires
24	Dave Owens
25	Erika King
27	Amy Dellinger
28	Addie Fier
29	David Carpenter
30	Juanita Gunnell
30	Brody Thornburg
31	Jill Puett



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





Rita Black Lorrey  
Lincolnton Rehab  
1410 East Gaston St.  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

### **Sunday, October 2**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

### **Wednesday, October 5**

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

### **Thursday, October 6**

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast in fellowship hall as  
Homefolk's is closed this week.

### **Sunday, October 9**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

### **Monday, October 10**

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday, October 11**

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal  
6:30pm - Trustees meeting

### **Wednesday, October 12**

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

### **Thursday, October 13**

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

### **Sunday, October 16**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

### **Wednesday, October 19**

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

### **Thursday, October 20**

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

### **Friday - Sunday, October 21 - 23**

Youth "Summitt" retreat

### **Sunday, October 23**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
No Youth meeting

### **Tuesday, October 25**

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal  
6:30pm - Trustees meeting

### **Wednesday, October 26**

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

### **Thursday, October 27**

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

### **Friday, October 28**

1:30pm - FFF Bunch leaves for Hickory

### **Saturday, October 29**

7:30am-10:30am - Community Wide Breakfast Buffet

### **Sunday, October 30**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
5:30pm - Trunk or Treat

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT, SEPT. 25**

Total Giving To Date . . . . . \$270,709.20

Needs to Date . . . . . \$310,846.38

### **OCTOBER USHERS**

Vee Thornburg, Jody Fowler, Ethan Beck, Ben  
Blackburn, Clay Thornburg.

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

Billy Alexander, Bob & Caryl Austell, Betsy Baity,  
Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna  
Daggerhart, Sandy Dismukes, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton,  
Ruth Gaston, Ron Hovis, Ken Mayhew, Larry  
McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Becky Phillips, Rev. Harry  
Queen, Ryan Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all  
our homebound and nursing home members.

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

Courtney Bradley, Shirley Fisher, Lisa Gantt,  
Whitney Ledford, Jim Maxey, Vicky Clawson Porter,  
Mike Ross, Larry & Carolyn Summer, Shayne  
Turner, Rick Walker, Greg Yount and our loved ones  
in the military.

### **LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:**

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

# Church Member