

First United Methodist Church Cherryville, North Carolina

**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)

**JUNE 26, 2024**

**Vol. XXXV No. 7**

Rev. Zack Christy  
Pastor

Teresa Gardo  
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg  
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena  
Organist

Linda Barger  
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon  
Handbell Director

Cam Alfaro  
Audio Visual Tech.

Mildred Young  
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

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July Reflection

John 3:8 *"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Under the cover of darkness, Nicodemus comes to Jesus and he says, "I can tell that you are from God, you do these amazing signs and no one can do them apart from God." You will notice that it isn't exactly a question that Nicodemus gives to Jesus here, rather it is more of a statement. But don't let that fool you there is a question in this statement. Essentially what Nicodemus is asking Jesus is what does he have to do to get what Jesus has? What does he have to do to experience the kingdom of God?

Now I don't know what he was expecting Jesus to say, maybe he was expecting a straightforward answer, shows how little he knows about Jesus I reckon, but I know he wasn't expecting the reply that he got.

Because Jesus says, "I've got three things to say about that. Point one: you must be born from above to see the kingdom. Point two: you have got to get the spirit. Point three: the wind blows where it will."

That's Jesus though isn't it, you come to him with a straightforward question, something like "what do I have to do to get what you have," and Jesus answers by giving you a laundry list, of strange riddles and parables, talking about birth, spirit, and wind. Nicodemus comes in the darkness seeking light, and instead Jesus responds in his kind of roundabout way. Talking about new birth, poor Nicodemus is rightly confused.

Nicodemus says, "How? You aren't making sense!" Jesus says, "Well, it's like wind, you don't know from whence it comes. You don't know where it goes. You can't control it, predict it, or harness it. Getting into my kingdom is a lot like that, only more so because it is the work of the Holy Spirit."

Don't you find it interesting that when Nicodemus asks Jesus how a person can be born from above, Jesus responds by citing two of the most mysterious and unpredictable events in life, birth and wind? Nicodemus ask how, but you see that "how" fundamentally misses the point, if it were a matter how then it would be a matter of technique a method, it would have been something that we can crack something that we can co-opt. We could sell tickets to the kingdom if we could figure out the how.

How? How? Jesus asks Nicodemus, "are you familiar with grace?" Of course Nicodemus is, he is a leader in the synagogue, knows all about grace, probably even knows that good churchy definition of it, Grace is the unmerited, unwarranted, love of God poured out upon creation. Nicodemus knows about grace.

Jesus says, "Good let me tell you something, God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whomever believed in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." How do you get into the kingdom, grace, wind, spirit, birth, Nicodemus says, "I don't understand" Jesus says, "Now you are catching on. You must be born from above."

Is there a technique? An illustration we can follow? Six steps to see the kingdom, give us something. No Jesus says, "be born from above. The wind will blow where it will, the spirit will move where the spirit will move. And if you want to see it be born from above."

This summer has been hot. Not just a little hot, it has been scorching, sweltering even. At night Crystal and I will sit on the porch, eat a hot dog or two, maybe drink some lemonade, let the kids play out in the yard until they come back dripping sweat. As we watch the kids play, we will talk and often our conversations revolve around how hot it is. That is until the most amazing thing happens. A breeze will blow, and whatever we are talking about, we will just stop to enjoy the breeze. Even the kids will stop what they are doing in the yard, just to soak in the breeze.

Maybe you know what it is like to be in worship on a Sunday when your mind is elsewhere, and your heart is elsewhere as well. And then something happens, maybe it is a hymn, maybe it is a prayer, Scripture or a sermon, but something gets ahold of you and at the end of the service you leave feeling lighter, refreshed, renewed.

A man paid Jesus a midnight visit. Wanting to know how he could get into the kingdom of God. Jesus said be born from above. The Holy Spirit moves where it wants. Maybe just maybe during this summer season God is moving you, calling on you to be born from above. After all Jesus says don't get bogged down in the how's get caught up in the Spirit, may we as the people of God be moved.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is held during our 10:30 worship service 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 a classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children at the end of worship. A packet will be available outside the sanctuary in the Narthex for children 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders or older with pencils crayons and coloring pages and Children's Worship bulletin. Again... **volunteers are needed for Children's Church teachers and helpers.** 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 the month of July. **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.**

July 7	Sophia Williams	Grayce Pruitt
July 14	Riley Shuford	Alayna Ross
July 21	Amber Grace Brittain	Makayla Hicks
July 28	Mallie Emerson	Mikki Jane Emerson



## JULY NURSERY WORKERS

We are proud to offer an infant nursery, provided each Sunday morning, for our sweet babies

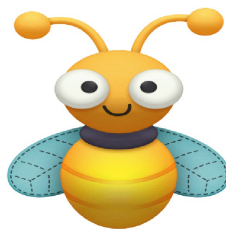
during the 10:30 worship service. Our nursery is located at the end of the hall and to your right just below the church office. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who have agreed to help in the Nursery. Below is the Nursery Workers list for July. You will receive a reminder card and text on your given Sunday. Please let Bess or Susan Beam know if you cannot be there on your Sunday.

July 7	Melanie Thornburg
July 14	Renee Allen
July 21	Robin Norwood
July 28	Emily Winter

# Breakfast

On **Saturday, July 27**, 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. We hold this event the last Saturday of every month.

## Camp Firelight VBS



Our Vacation Bible School will be July 21-July 25. Our theme is **Camp Firelight!**

**Camp Firelight will open on Sunday night July 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM with a Hot Dog Supper for everyone. All church members are invited to the opening meal and opening ceremonies of our Camp. We will eat and then meet in the Sanctuary for an assembly time and Camp Firelight gathering!**

Following the assembly the children ages 2yr - 5<sup>th</sup> grade will go to their camping groups and adventures and the adults can be dismissed. (Except of course those helping with VBS).

Camp doors open each night, Monday thru Thursday at 5:30 and close with vespers at 8:00 pm each evening. Our camp call-out is "**Whenever I'm afraid I put my trust in You**" - Psalms 56:3.

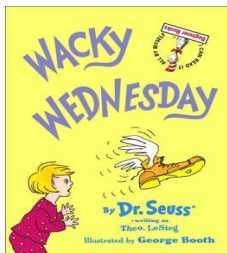
- Session 1: Trust God to Go With Us!
- Session 2: Trust God to Lead the Way!
- Session 3: Trust God to Share Wisdom!
- Session 4: Trust God to Bring Peace!
- Session 5: Trust God to Spark Joy!

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR "LUMEN" THE LIGHTENING BUG! He's waiting and watching for you!!**

Children ages 2 thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to come along to Camp Firelight! You can pre-register your child at the table in the narthex on Sunday mornings or at the door on July 21. The pre-registration will help to know how many and ages of our children attending.

\*\*\* Thanks to all those who have volunteered. We still need volunteers for music, snacks and food, teachers, craft helpers, decorators, camp leaders, and recreation leaders. Please let Bess know if you are willing to help in any way.

**TENTS:** We need tents and old Christmas trees and any camping stuff you may have! If you can offer camping tents or small "pup" tents or any camping tools for VBS please contact Bess.



## WILD & WACKY WEDNESDAYS 2024

### HELLO PARENTS AND W.W.W. PARTNERS.

We will have “Wild Wacky Wednesday” again this summer! Beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> 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 restraints and the young age of the child). We will meet at the church parking lot to embark on our adventures! Below is our schedule and details for each Wednesday in June, July and August.

#### OUR SCHEULE FOR JULY IS BELOW:

★ **July 3<sup>rd</sup>: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

#### **Pool Noodle Pool Party**

We will celebrate a “Pre 4<sup>th</sup> of July” day in the “SON” at Pam Anthony’s pool at 1101 Ranbar Street, Cherryville. We will have a pizza lunch, drinks, snacks and of course ice cream! Come and bring your pool noodle, swimmies, towel, sun screen, goggles and wear your favorite bathing suit for the fun and games in the water. No charge for this outing. See ya there!

★ **July 10<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

#### **HOT WHEELS SK8TERZ**

**\*\*\* note time change \*\*\***

We will venture out on the skating rink floor at Kate’s skating in Gastonia. Wear your knee pads and helmets if you have them. We will also have lunch there and play in their play palace. You can rent skates there and an assistance “walker” skate mate. The cost will be \$20.00 per person including lunch.

★ **July 17<sup>th</sup>: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

#### **REEL TIME MOVIE DAY**

WWW group will go to the movies. We will see “Garfield” or “Despicable Me 4”. Movie time is 12:00 noon at AMC movies in Shelby, N.C. We should get home around 2:30. Cost is \$7.00 per child 2 – 12 yrs. and \$9.00 for adults plus any snacks or drinks, etc. The details are still not posted for the kid’s summer movie but Miss Bess will let everyone know as time gets closer.

July 24<sup>th</sup>: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **Camp Firelight VBS**

This is our week of Vacation Bible School so we will meet at the church at 5:30 pm for our night of VBS Camp fun! We will have snacks, bible study, games and vespers at our Camp Firelight. Camp closes at 8:00 pm. Camp Call-out is Psalms 56:3 - “Whenever I’m afraid I put my trust in you.”

★ **July 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

### *Bowling for 3 Strikes*

**\*\*\* note time change \*\*\***

Our group will again hit the lanes for a morning of Bowling at George Pappa’s Lanes in Gastonia. The cost will be \$10.00 per person and will include 2 games of bowling and a snack. It also includes shoes if you need them, however, you can wear **your tennis shoes** or athletic shoes but **NO BOOTS OR CROCKS OR SANDLES/FLIP FLOPS!** You may want some extra money for drinks and extra snacks.

★ **August 7: 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

### **WWW Western Wild Wild West Play Day**

at “West Winds Park” and Pic-Nic Shelter at the West Lincoln Library. First our group will go fishing at a local private pond fishing hole. Then we will play on the playground at WWP, do games and have a “wild horse roundup”. Everyone will need to bring your own fishing rod, a Pic-Nic “sack” lunch to eat and the drinks will be provided. Wear your cowboy/girl boots, western hats, jeans or jean shorts (“daisy dukes”) and prepare for a morning of fun!

This is the plan for now, but keep in mind, plans and times are always subject to change. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to call Bess 704-435-6732 / 704-836-6803 or 704-435-5185.

Of course, parents and adults are always welcome and needed to go along. Let Bess know if you can accompany our group on any of these activities.



**UMYF:** (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) ended up our regular Sunday evening meetings for the summer.

We will have various special activities and continue our **“MISSION POSSIBLE”** activities throughout the summer. We worked at the Cherryville area Ministries, helping with the Second Harvest Food Bank, June 3<sup>rd</sup>! Thank you, Amber Grace Brittain!! We will be working at CAM, decorating and helping with our Vacation Bible school “Camp Firelight” July 21-25 and our Hickory Crawdads game and concert on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our UMYF will participate and help at Cherryville Area Ministries on Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 8 am at Homefolks for a prayer breakfast and then go over to CAM to help unload, sort, price and give out food and needs at the store. We will finish up around noon.

The Hickory Crawdads game is July 27<sup>th</sup>. We will leave from the church at 4:00 p.m. and return around 10:00 Ish.... The cost is \$13.00 per person for the game and the Christian Concert following the game. You will need extra cash for food and drinks etc.

Watch your FUMCY News flash text for details!!

All 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders is invited to be a part of UMYF. And **yes**, you can Invite!!!

**\*\*\*\*\*Also.... PLEA FOR HELP!** Youth helpers and counselors are needed for the coming year! If you are a parent or a friend of our young folks, please prayerfully consider volunteering to help on Sunday evenings with our fun, energetic group of Christian young people and UMYF members! We need you!!!

## FFF FIT FAB FUN BUNCH



The Fit Fab Fun Bunch will go on a mountain adventure to Blowing Rock, N.C. on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The fun bus will leave from the church at 9:00 a.m. We will have a shopping spree at The Blowing Rock Tanger outlets then ride into the Village of Blowing Rock for more Main Street shopping and browsing or just sitting and enjoying the mountain air. We have a lunch reservation at 1:00 p.m. at the Town Tavern then we can go for ice cream, see the rock if you want to and head back home... FIT from walking, FULL from lunch, looking FABULOUS with our new bought treasures and of course always FUN with each other!

The cost is only what you eat and want to buy!

Please let Bess know if you want to go on this fun day out on a mountain adventure.





## July Birthdays

1	Brian Emerson
2	Sheri Sneed
3	Macie Beam
3	Taylor Paputseanos
6	Jason Ledford
7	Jace Brittain
7	Linda Mauney
9	Betsy Baity
9	Paitlyn Yount
10	Teresa Gardo
10	Deb Husen
12	Kaci Beck
12	Tyler Buff
12	Gail Jenkins
12	Teci Webb
13	Blair Moss
14	Bobbi Conner
14	Zach Harmon
15	Alayna Ross
15	Michael Wright
16	Kristina Houser Haynes
16	Darin Webb
19	Jay Allen
20	Josh Skibo
20	Betsy Sneed
21	Richard Cornwell
22	Lydia Bradley
22	Cheryl Dobson
22	Kathy Kiser
23	Keith DeVenny
25	Alice Blackburn
25	Kennedy Dellinger
27	Kelvin Brittain
27	Kristi Buff
28	Amanda Sorenson
29	Michael Baity
30	Valerie Wallace



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





Mr. Bob Faires  
The Blake at Edgewater Assisted Living  
1099 Edgewater Corporate Pkwy  
Indian Land, SC 29707

**Sunday, June 30**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Wednesday, July 3**

11:00am - WWW meet at the home of  
Pam Anthony for a pool party

**Thursday - Friday, July 4 - 5**

Church Office closed

**Sunday, July 7**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Tuesday, July 9**

9:00am - FFF Bunch to Blowing Rock

**Wednesday, July 10**

10:00am - WWW to Kate's skating rink  
6:30pm - Bible Study

**Sunday, July 14**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Wednesday, July 17**

11:30am - WWW to movies in Shelby

**Sunday, July 21**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
5:00pm - Vacation Bible School opening ceremony

**Monday, July 22**

5:30 - 8:00pm - VBS

**Tuesday, July 23**

5:30 - 8:00pm - VBS

**Wednesday, July 24**

5:30 - 8:00pm - VBS

**Thursday, July 25**

5:30 - 8:00pm - VBS

**Saturday, July 27**

7:30am - 10:30am - Community wide breakfast  
buffet  
4:00 pm - UMYF to Hickory Crawdads game

**Sunday, July 28**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Wednesday, July 31**

9:30am - WWW going bowling in Gastonia

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, JUNE 23, 2024**

Total Giving To Date . . . . . \$172,039.69  
Needs to Date . . . . . \$206,112.50

**OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD 2024**

Church Building/Renovations. . . . . \$4,215.00  
Endowment Fund . . . . . \$2,280.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund . . . . . \$3,064.25  
Playground Fund . . . . . \$1,985.00  
Youth Missions . . . . . \$1,391.83

**JULY USHERS:**

Chad Thornburg, Ed Pierce, Todd Sorenson,  
Andrew Harmon, Steve Beam