

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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OCTOBER 28, 2020

Vol. XXXI No. 11

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.

November Reflection

Psalm 9:1-2 "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of his wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."

I can't think of November and not think about thankfulness. The two just go hand and hand in my mind. About this time last year Teresa put on our church sign a question, one that has haunted me for the past year the question was: "What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?" The more I thought on that question the more I realized just how often I can journey through days without giving thanks.

"Now say thank you." This is a phrase that is common in the Christy house, Crystal and I want our kids to have proper manners, we want our children to be thankful and to express their thankfulness. But for some reason it feels like I have to remind my kids at least six hundred times to say thank you. Now I noticed at Trunk or Treat, Crystal and I are not alone in this struggle for thankfulness. Apparently it is universal to every family, for with every single child that passed, there was a parent asking the child, "Now what do you say?" And the child looking at the candy, would very, quietly say, "Thank you."

It resonated with me that perhaps thankfulness isn't something that comes naturally to us. Or at best is something that we lose relatively quickly. As I sat down to really think on this I began to wonder, what is it that steals our thankfulness?

Now for my money I believe that the greatest thief of thankfulness is entitlement. Which may seem a little simple but my friends entitlement can be sneaky and disastrous, I don't mean entitlement as in a child pitching a fit in the toy aisle. The way entitlement worms its way into our hearts is far more insidious. You don't even see it coming.

At a certain point we stop being thankful and we start expecting things to just be given to us. You would never thank your employer for a paycheck, because you worked for that it is what is due you. In the same way a child doesn't thank a parent for food, because that child understands the parent is the one who provides food. But how often do we stop to just give thanks for a job or for the creation that makes a meal possible?

When our heart is rooted in thankfulness, every single day is a new opportunity to view life as a gift. But when we feel we are entitled to everything each day can become a source of frustration, grief and malice. Thankfulness can make all the difference.

This year has put our thankfulness to the test. So many things that we took for granted have been ripped out of our hands from the small things like going out to eat a restaurant to the bigger things like education, health, and jobs. Our world has been flipped upside down.

King David is someone who knew what it was like to have his world turned upside down. David was a man who frequently found himself on the run from enemies, and yet even during times of struggle and

strife, David found ways to give thanks to God. Psalm 9 is a perfect example of this, David lays bare his struggles but even in the midst of a time of tribulation David finds ways to glorify God.

2020 has been a time of struggle for many of us. I know this year hasn't gone the way that a single one of us planned, but we still have so much to be thankful for. We have each other, we have the church, and most importantly of all we have God. Perhaps instead of looking for things that might be wrong, why not look at each day as a gift.

I promise you this; the more we approach life out of a sense of thankfulness and gratefulness, the more we will be able to shine the light of God in a world that is so often unthankful. Just as Jesus Christ told the disciples some two thousand years ago, our job is to be the light of the world. May you shine and may thankfulness be the oil that keeps you going.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in bookbags during the month of November.

We would not be able to do this ministry without the many volunteers who assist with the program. Your generous donations help this mission to be successful and are very much appreciated by those who receive the book bags.

- Nov. 1: Ravioli
- Nov. 8: Macaroni & cheese (boxes)
- Nov. 15: chicken noodle or tomato soup
- Nov. 22: green beans and corn
- Nov. 29: canned fruit or apple sauce

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee



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 and post at 7:00am. Her inspiring lessons have been a blessing to all and we appreciate her dedication to bring these lessons to our church family each week.



Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, Nov. 1. Don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday night.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, OCT. 25, 2020

Total Giving To Date \$267,602.68
Total Expenses to Date \$261,319.98
Over. \$6,282.70



UMKs:

All UMK's ages 3-5th grade are invited to be a part of the fun activities, bible lessons, singing and evening vespers each Wednesday night 6:00 pm to 7:30.

We are so excited to have UMK's back inside the church and in full swing! In order to stay safe we ask that you wear your mask to our meetings. Supper will be served each night at 6:00 pm and we are continuing to study **TOY STORY** "Toy Bible Stories" for the next 8 weeks. We will be studying God's word and lessons through our toys and playtime.

Miss Bess will continue to have our Bible lessons at 5:00 pm each Wednesday on our church Facebook page and website. 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. They are also meeting outside at the picnic shelter when weather permits. This has been a wonderful experience and you are invited to join in (even in your PJ's and bed head! LOL).

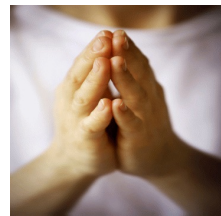
BIG THANK YOU!!!!!

Thank you to all you helped with the TRUNK OR TREAT!!!! It was a fun night for church members and our community neighbors! Thanks to everyone who cooked food and helped prepare hot dogs, dressed up and decorated trunks, brought candy, made wonderful Christian themed treat bags, helped set up and give out at least 200 hot dogs suppers. Despite the wind and wet everyone had a great time and left with plenty of treats!! **THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY!!!!**



UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6th thru 12th grade) is currently meeting together each Sunday night from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at the church downstairs in our new Youth

room. We already have a project to do in fixing up our new Youth space. Please wear or at least bring your mask. We have been having a snack supper, planning activities and projects, playing games and studying God's word and His will for our group. Our lessons are from "COMBOS" a lesson in "a combination to the game of life" for youth age participants. October's lessons will be "TAKING OUT THE TRASH:!" Please plan to join us as we make plans for our Youth Group! We are planning a youth night lock-in for Friday November 13th, a youth retreat in January, and a fifth Sunday outing. Each young person has also started a personal prayer journal. WE are blessed to see God's work and presence in our lives!



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.



UMYF LOCK-IN 12HR FUN NIGHT!!!

All UMYF members ages 6th – 12th grades are invited to a fun night Lock-in!! Yes! Lock-in night is finally here! Doors will be locked on Friday, November 13th, from 8 pm to 8 am here at First United Methodist Church. “OOOOO”...Friday the 13th... You will be locked in for a night of games, movies, snacks, devotional moments, vespers, a service project time and breakfast! Please bring your pillow and sleeping bag even if not for sleeping! Bring your favorite snack and a drink, wear your mask and we will provide plenty hand sanitizer, gloves etc.



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Although things are very different at Kingdom Kids this year, the children have adjusted, they are learning and they have formed friendships that are such a joy to see. I am so proud of our teachers for making this a “happy place” for the children.

We regret missing our trip to Lineberger’s Pumpkin Patch and marching in the Little Spooks Parade, but are looking forward to Trunk or Treat here at the church. Hopefully, before long this pandemic will be a part of our past and we can plan other trips.

We are saying “Good-by” to one of our long-time teachers. Mrs. Kim Stout has decided to retire. She will be missed.

Ms. Millie



UMKs and UMYF will sponsor a Samaritan’s Purse Shoe Box Collection again this year! We will have

shoe boxes available for kids and families that wish to fill a shoe box this year. Plan to make this a family project to help kids all over the world. The collection day will be November 22nd at the very latest!!! Choose age, boy or girl.



Labels will be provided and there is a cost of \$9.00 per box this year. Gift ideas are small toys, school supplies, crayons, hygiene

items, stuffed animals, socks, sunglasses, jewelry and picture books. Please DO NOT include, war related items, liquid or lotion items, aerosol cans, glass items, seeds, medicine or vitamins or food. More information will be available.

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Judy Bingham, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Sherie Harrelson, Ken Mayhew, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Karleen Price, Rev. Harry Queen, Chris Sneed, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Don Alexander, Martha Beam, Hank Bradley, Thomas Dellinger, Jacob Dickerson, Doris Finger, Miles Gantt, Bernice Harris, Teresa Henley, Terry Laughlin, John Miller, Kevin McQuaid, Steve Moss, Sandra Taylor Mossman, Margaret Sigmon, Olivia Sutton and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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

#Church Member,



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

AVA ANTHONY

Rhonda Wehunt

NED COSTNER

Jack & Judy Bingham

DEBORAH DEVENNY

Robert & Debra Carter
Tad Huffstetler
Janice Metcalf

HUGH HUDSON

Gail Jenkins (Backpack Ministry)
Jeff Jenkins (Backpack Ministry)
Rob & Chelsi Thomas (Backpack Ministry)

FANNIE BELLE LEDFORD

Rhonda Wehunt (Backpack Ministry)

BETTY NEILL

Jack & Judy Bingham

SUE NOLEN

Billy & Linda Alexander

JOE BILL PUTNAM

Billy & Linda Alexander

HILDA PYATT

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

LECY QUINN

Jack & Judy Bingham

J. T. SMITH

Rhonda Wehunt

MAG STROUPE

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

GERALD QUINN

Pam Anthony
Ben & Libby Ballard
Gail Beam
Steve & Susan Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham
Chad & Michelle Bingham
Nancy Catena
Debbie Gantt (Kingdom Kids Preschool)
Clarice Harrelson
Ron & Janice Hovis
Eloise Mauney
Ray McSwain
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

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IN HONOR

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

ETHAN BECK

Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg

MIKE BURGESS *(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

JON & MOLLY CARPENTER

Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg

KIM EAKER

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

PAT EAKER *(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

JILL PUETT *(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

BETTY SMITH *(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

LESLIE THORNBURG *(Happy 35th Birthday)*

Rhonda Wehunt (Backpack Ministry)

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November Birthdays

- 2 Mikki Jane Emerson
- 2 Allen Fraley
- 3 Elli Warlick
- 4 Ella Shuford
- 4 Henry Shuford
- 5 Ken Bowen
- 5 Daniel Owens
- 5 Eli Payseur
- 5 Lizzy Payseur
- 5 Wade Payseur
- 6 Kelsie Costner
- 6 Emma Pruitt
- 8 Kim Mauney
- 8 Leslie Thornburg
- 9 Helen Dellinger
- 10 Joyce Baxter
- 11 Pam Anthony
- 12 Pat McGinnis
- 13 Ethan Beck
- 14 Debbie Sorenson
- 15 Judy Bingham
- 15 Becky Phillips
- 16 Richard Mauney, Jr.
- 18 Jamey Wyatt
- 20 Alan Dellinger
- 21 Dick Metzger
- 21 Crystal Thornburg
- 23 Connor Bradley
- 23 Guy Eaker
- 23 Lori Gibson
- 24 Preston Elliott
- 25 Kirsten Leffingwell
- 26 Natalie Beam
- 26 Justin Thornburg
- 27 Emily Blackburn
- 27 Frank Harmon
- 27 Jason Huss
- 28 Anna Dellinger
- 29 Karen Freeman
- 29 Sherie Harrelson
- 29 Mary Ann Huffstetler
- 30 Kara Morehouse



Our Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 15, at 5:00pm by Zoom. There are several forms that must be completed 10 days prior to our Charge Conference and submitted to the District Office.

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

CHANCEL CHOIR

Greetings from the
Chancel Choir,

Tom Allen, tenor, sang
"A Mighty Fortress Is

Our God" beautifully on Sunday, October 25, to musically support **Pastor Zack's** sermon! Many of you expressed your gratitude to him for sharing his gift of song with our church family! Thank you, **Tom Allen!** Thank you, **Bo Baity**, for video-recording the rehearsal!

Our Chancel Choir family continues to "step up" during the rules of Covid Caution which challenge us and attempt to silence our praise.

So you can fully appreciate the efforts of our Choir during this phase of restrictions for in-Sanctuary worship, please understand that the Choir must observe the following: masks still must be worn inside near others, *no full choir singing, no more than 4 singers in the choir at one time, no congregational hymn singing, no hymnal or sheet music can be used, no microphones can be shared, no singing in front of or behind another, and spacing must be 6 feet apart in one line.* This is quite a daunting task.

Also, during our normal choir rehearsal time on Wednesdays our Choir presents "**Lessons From The Chancel**" about the history and stories of our *Methodist hymns* and how they came to be written. Choir members sing a hymn to demonstrate, and the "*Story Behind The Song*" is told by Linda. **Bo Baity** records the sessions and places them on our church website and church Facebook page.

We have had very nice compliments about this new ministry. It was even said that ..."*It is one of the best ministries that our church offers.*"

As we enter the All-Saints/ Thanksgiving/ Advent/ Christmas season, may we be free of this virus in order to worship and praise our Maker. I thank God for His healing hand on those who have suffered the Covid-19 infection.

I thank God for our Choir and for you, our church family. God Bless You.

Your Choir Director,
Linda Kale Barger



Mrs. Margaret Webb
400 Kings Drive
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, November 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday School (on Facebook)

9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, November 4

6:00pm - UMK's

Thursday, November 5

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's

Sunday, November 8

Sunday School (on Facebook)

9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

6:00pm - Youth

Friday, November 13

8:00pm - Youth Lock In (ends 8:00am on Saturday)

Sunday, November 5

Sunday School (on Facebook)

9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

5:00pm - Charge Conference via Zoom

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, November 18

6:00pm - UMK's

Thursday, November 19

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's

Sunday, November 22

Sunday School (on Facebook)

9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, November 25

6:00pm - UMK's

Thursday - Friday (November 26 -27)

Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 29

Sunday School (on Facebook)

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

6:00pm - Youth