

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

February 28, 2024

Vol. XXXV No. 3

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.

March Reflection

Genesis 17:1 "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty, walk before and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

In high school, I wanted to play football, but at six three and about 135 pounds soaking wet, football was not going to be my sport. The one day I attended the football summer practice the coaches wanted to end the practice with Oklahoma drills, and I got my bell rung in a way still to this day has not been replicated. After that first real good hit, I was out, but I still wanted to play sports, so I opted for soccer. Now it probably goes without saying, soccer in the mountains of Western North Carolina isn't a popular sport. But I really grew to love the game.

I think what hooked me more than anything was my coach, Dolphus Brown. Coach Brown, did not really know much about soccer, if you have ever seen Ted Lasso, he was remarkably similar to the main character. But what coach Brown understood was how to get the best out of each player. I will never forget, right before our first game my freshman year, coach Brown gave a speech to the team, that I probably heard him give more than 100 times in the course of four years. He said, "We aren't going to be the most talented team, look at us, most of you have never watched a soccer match before. We aren't going too win any style points, none of you are going to be drafted to play professional soccer. But if you will trust me, we will win a lot of games. If you will buy in, we will be the hardest working, best conditioned, and most mentally tough group of people to play the game."

Now the speech sounded good in theory, I made the commitment to be coached right then and there, I was ready to follow the man into war. What I didn't realize was just how much he meant that. Every single practice that followed over the next four years was hard, I don't recall a single practice that ever ended early, or even on time for that matter. I ran more miles than I could count, I was pushed further physically than I knew I could go. It was disparaging in the first year when we didn't win a single game. But the team for the most part stuck it out. My senior year, even though we were a small 2a school, we defeated the likes of Independence High School in Charlotte, TC Robinson in Asheville, and the reigning State Champion Cardinal Gibbions High in Raleigh, we finished the season ranked number four in the state.

I wouldn't have ever believed that we could get there during that first practice, after the first year of not winning a single game, I thought we were toast, but coach Brown had a vision, and all he asked was for the team to trust him in that.

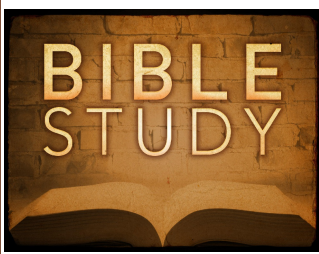
At ninety-nine Abraham was given an impossible calling from God, God said to Abraham, "I will make you exceedingly numerous." But here was Abraham at ninety-nine years old, with no child to his name. His wife Sarah was also in her nineties, how can two people in their nineties have a child? Abraham knew the promise seemed too good to be true. He knew that there was no way on earth he and his wife would have a child, much less an heir, but he also knew to trust God.

So, Abraham said yes to God. Now he didn't know what that yes entailed, he didn't know that he and his family would be uprooted, didn't know that he would put in dangerous situations, or that he and his wife would be separated in Egypt. He didn't have a clue that he and his brother would separate, or that Sarah would pass away while their son was still young. He didn't know, how could he have known? He didn't know that it would be many years before this promise was fulfilled, or that he would have a child with an Egyptian maid servant, he didn't know. But what Abraham did know was that he would be faithful to the calling that God gave him. And through that initial yes to God, we standing here today can count him as a father.

I bring up Abraham's story while we are still very much in the season of Lent because this season is a season in which we too are urged to say yes to God. It is a season in which we confront the sin that resides within our hearts, and we humbly admit that we cannot free ourselves from its grip through our own volition. The only hope we have is to fully trust God. To let go of the agency that we may have and to throw ourselves before the throne of God. We may not know each step of the journey that we are on, but we know the destination and that is full communion with God. I hope this year as we inch closer and closer to the cross that you would open your heart, your mind, and your ears for where God is leading you. That in the everyday occurrences of life, you might listen to the prompting of God and be drawn deeper into his ways. Knowing that saying yes to God isn't the easy path, but it is the only path that leads to life.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



Bible Study continues to meet each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the June Medlin Classroom. Our study is on the Book of Isaiah. If you would like to eat here at the church prior to Bible Study, please come at 6:00 p.m. and join our UMK's for a meal.



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.



Spring Forward

March 10, 2024 • Set your clock ahead!



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 March. **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.**

March 3	Lydia Bradley	Sophia Williams
March 10	Riley Shuford	Hunter Brafford
March 17	Mallie Emerson	Mikki Jane Emerson
March 24	Seth Harmon	Zach Harmon
March 31	Caroline Carswell	Grayce Pruitt



MARCH 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 March. 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.

March 3	Kristen Freeman
March 10	Teci Webb
March 17	Bobbi Balard
March 24	Julie Wallace
March 31	Chrystal Harmon



Our Wednesday night UMK's are going strong for our 2024 Spring session. We've been getting **SLIMED!!** Our last Slime lesson will be March 6 and then we will begin our new group of lessons **"AWESOME EASTER!"**. We are meeting in the fellowship hall, or outside as the weather warms up, each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 move in to sanctuary for object lessons, skits, singing and offering. Then from 7:00 to 7:25 we will have bible study and lesson time down stairs. Then back up to the sanctuary or outside for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-old thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30p.m.

UMKs and all children will process in on Palm Sunday during our worship service waving palms in celebration and setting the stage for our Easter Cantata. Please plan to meet together in the upstairs Children's Sunday School class right after Sunday School to get lined up and get your palms ready.

UMKs will **NOT meet April 3rd** due to Easter Break.

UMK MARCH 2024 LESSON SCHEDULE

"SLIMED!..CONTINUED"

March 6 A slimy Masterpiece

"Awesome Easter" He is Risen

March 13	Incredible Obedience
March 20	Unbelievable Commitment
March 27	Amazing Love

UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE MARCH:

March 6	Chrystal and Andrew Harmon Breakfast for supper
March 13	Soul Sisters group Hot dogs, chips, dessert
March 20	June Medlin Class Chicken pie, mac-n-cheese, dessert
March 27	TBA

***** Our UMK Supper Schedule is subject to change*****

Thanks to all those who prepare and provide our suppers during the year. We always need more volunteers to help with our suppers. If you are willing to help or to provide a supper one Wednesday night, please contact Bess Thornburg.



EASTER EGG HUNT CELEBRATION

This year's Easter Egg Hunt and celebration will be Saturday morning, March 30 at 10:00 a.m. here at the church. We will begin our Easter festivities in the fellowship hall with breakfast provided by the "Breakfast Club."

Then we will do crafts, Easter story time and games fun. The egg hunt will then move outside for the Easter Egg Hunt and Golden Egg challenge. All children up to 5th grade are invited to join in the "eggs-citement." Please bring your easter basket and be ready to fill it with eggs and prizes. We should be finished around 11:30. **Pray for no rain that day!!**



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

This school year is rushing by; we have only three months left! We will have 18 graduates in May, and already have 39 students committed for the upcoming school year. **Don't forget to register if you have a child who could benefit from our school.**

In March we will be celebrating "Read Across America" in remembrance of Dr. Seuss. This week always includes many fun and exciting experiences. We will also have spring pictures taken and will learn about the true meaning of Easter, while enjoying the fun aspects of the holiday as well.

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful teachers who are committed to teaching and loving the children. The support we receive from Pastor Zack and the church staff is very much appreciated. I feel blessed to be able to work with all these very special people.

Ms. Millie

Breakfast

On **Saturday, March 30**, 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.



Prayer Breakfast

Our prayer breakfast is such a blessing to all who attend. It's a great start to our school day, work day or anyday! We are meeting at Homefolks Café at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday morning to feed our tummies, our souls and our hearts with friendships, devotions and prayer time before school. Everyone of all ages and all denominations are invited to join the prayer breakfast group! Our church van will be there to provide a ride to school for anyone who needs it. **BUT Buckle UP!** There may be a **BUMP** in the road!!!



UMYF: (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on Sunday nights at 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm down stairs in the newly arranged youth room down stairs. This group is for all 6th thru 12th graders. We have been planning for our spring activities. We gather in fellowship each week and of course play games, have our snack suppers, devotions and make plans for the year. Our lessons coming up will be on “Awesome Easter”. The UMYF will not meet March 31st in hopes that everyone can have a great time enjoying Easter Sunday with their family.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

A Night of Worship with Music & A Message

Featuring Testimonies from
Tanner Muse
Los Angeles Chargers
 &
Nick Muse
Minnesota Vikings

Pizza and Autographs available following event.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

6:00PM

Sponsored by Lincoln Charter FCA and Shady Grove Baptist Church. (704) 435-9605

Lincoln Charter HS Gymnasium
 113 Eagle Nest Drive, Lincolnton, NC. 28021

Scan for more info. Please RSVP to help with count for food.

Our UMYF group will attend **the High School Youth** night on March 16th at Lincoln Charter High School Gym starting at 6:00 p.m. This will be a fun and exciting night of worship with music, food, fellowship and special testimonies from two professional NFL football players **Tanner Muse of the Los Angeles Chargers** and **Nick Muse of the Minnesota Vikings**. We will leave from the church at 5:00 p.m. on the bus. Tim Pruitt will be our driver. Please plan to attend this great night. You don't want to miss it!



Also, our ever-popular **LOCK-IN** plans are in the works for Friday night March 22 until March 23 sunrise and breakfast. The hours of our lock in will be 8:00 pm March 22 until 8 am March 23. Watch your mail for specifics and permission slips etc.

Our church mission project for March is to pack more toiletry bags for the blessing box and also to help prepare eggs and decorations and games for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th.

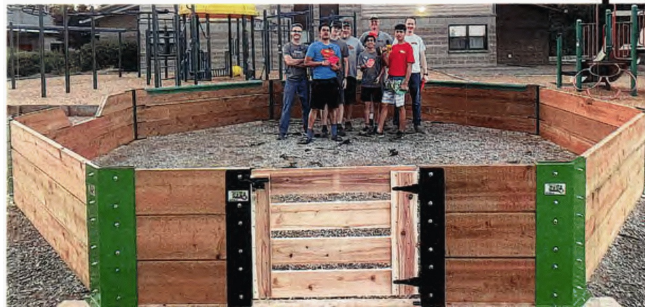
We have held several fund raisers for a summer Mission activity or camps, possibly Carolina Cross Connection or Tekoa Missions camp. All of this is TBD as we plan on Sundays! We need everyone's help and every one's attendance to get these activities going for our youth group! All 6th thru 12th graders 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!!!



My name is Zachary Harmon, a current Life Scout from Troop 78 in Cherryville, NC. I am writing to request your support for my Eagle Scout project. I have undertaken a project that will have a lasting impact on our community and provide a new means of Fellowship among the children and youth at First United Methodist Church Cherryville. For my Eagle Scout project, I have chosen to build a Gaga Ball Pit at First United Methodist Church Cherryville. The project aims to help expand the playground by adding a new activity for the children, youth, and other members of the community that use the playground. Through this project, I am committed to making a positive difference as well as providing another way for young people to stay active, play outside, and develop friendships through playing a fun game. To bring this project to life, I need your help to achieve my goal of building a Gaga Pit. The

Gaga Pit will cost approximately \$3,500. Your donation, no matter the amount, will directly contribute to the successful completion of my Eagle Scout project. The funds will be utilized to cover expenses such as wood, metal brackets, and flooring material. Additionally, any surplus funds received will be utilized to add to the project by providing seating around the Gaga Pit. I kindly request your consideration of a donation to support my Eagle Scout project. Your contribution will not only serve as an investment in my personal growth and development but also contribute to the betterment of our community. If you are willing, you can donate in the following ways: *sending a check to the church made payable to **Troop 78 with Zachary's Eagle Scout project in the memo line*** or sending a **Venmo** donation to **@Andrew-Harmon-62536**. Thank you for your time and consideration. Your support will have a lasting impact not only on my journey to becoming an Eagle Scout but also on the lives of those in our community. Together, we can create a fun and exciting new playground game for the children and youth.



FFF FIT FAB FUN BUNCH



The Fit Fab Fun Bunch will witness "SAMSON - The Last Judge" on Saturday, April 27th at 12 noon at the Narrowway Theater in Fort Mill South Carolina. This is one of our favorite places to visit and if you have ever been you know why! We will leave from the church at 10:15 a.m. aboard the fun bus and arrive in time for lunch and the show. The tickets are \$43.00 per person. We will have lunch at the theater and stop for a snack on the way home. Please let Bess know ASAP if you plan to go with our fun fantastic group to experience the biblical story come to life!

March Birthdays

1	Ella Christy
1	Clarice Harrelson
1	Alex Smith
2	Janice Metcalf
5	Spencer Blackburn
5	Landon Hudson
5	Kay Moths
5	Eric Stroupe
6	Michael Moss
7	Crystal Christy
8	Robin Blackburn
8	Stephanie Elmore
8	Vee Thornburg
10	Brent Burleson
11	Leah Griffin O'Connor
11	Lacey Spangler
13	Deanna Daggerhart
14	Joe Dismukes
14	Steven Gunnell
14	Doris Huss
16	Mildred Young
17	Brent Goforth
17	Chapel Moss
17	Caleb Narron
19	Michael Smith
20	Jewel Brawley
20	Steve Buff
20	David Hovis
21	Chuck Dellinger
22	Amy Tallent
24	Barbara Crews
26	Heidi Cash
26	Brooks Gunnell
26	Carla Eaker Truluck
29	Ryan Costner
29	Van Dellinger
29	Grayce Pruitt

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



PRAYER LIST (Members)

Linda Alexander, Bo & Betsy Baity, Michael Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Linda Brittain, Mike Burgess, Deanna Daggerhart, Bob Faires, Ruth Gaston, Curtis Harrelson, John Hines, Reid Huss, Ken Mayhew, Barbara McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Dave Plake, Rev. Harry Queen, Vernon & Betty Smith, Ron Walls, Wayne & Belinda Watts, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

John Crocker, Mary Crocker, Whitney Ledford, Marion Neal, Vicky Clawson Porter, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Iris Walls, Joe Wise, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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



Mrs. Barbara McGinnis
907 Vista Dr.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, March 3

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
4:00pm - Cantata rehearsal
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, March 6

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

Thursday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 10 (Daylight Savings Time Begins)

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
4:00pm - Cantata rehearsal
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, March 13

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

Thursday, March 14

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

Saturday, March 16

5:00pm - Youth depart to High School Youth night
at Lincoln Charter High School Gym

Sunday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 20

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

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22 - Saturday, March 23

Youth lock in

Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday)

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

Monday, March 25

12:00pm Holy Week Service at
First Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, March 26

12:00pm Holy Week Service at
First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, March 27

12:00pm Holy Week Service at
First Presbyterian Church

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, March 28

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

12:00pm Holy Week Service at
First Presbyterian Church

Friday, March 29

12:00pm Holy Week Service at
First Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 30

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

10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31 (Easter)

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

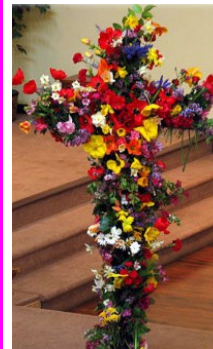
STEWARDSHIP REPORT, FEB. 25

Total Giving To Date \$56,442.11

Needs to Date \$65,956.00

MARCH USHERS:

Johnny Brown, Ethan Beck, Ken Bowen,
Stacey Bradley, Chuck Dellinger



We will adorn the Easter Cross again this year with flowers on Easter Sunday, March 31, prior to Worship. As you enter the church for Worship, the cross will be located in the Narthex for placing your flowers. We will also have time at the end of the service to place flowers if the cross is moved to the front of the church when you arrive.