

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
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July 1, 2020

Vol. XXXI No. 7

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.

July Reflection

Isaiah 11:1 "A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

One of the most formative classes I had throughout my entire educational career was a class called North Carolina Wildlife. I took this class when I was a junior in High School and it was taught by a man named Brian Bryson, and the effect that this class had upon me has lasted far longer than the time that I spent in the physical room. The goal of this class was to give students a unique appreciation for the environment that surrounds North Carolina, and honestly North Carolina has one of the most unique and diverse environments in the entire United States.

One of the parts of this class that I remember most vividly was the week that we learned how to identify trees. Mr. Bryson took the class out of the school and into Joyce Kilmer forest. In the forest we were given a test whereby each student was called to identify trees solely by the leaves. The more you identified correctly the better grade you got.

As we were leaving Joyce Kilmer forest, we came across a stump. This stump was once the home to a very large and powerful tree, but after many years the tree had died, and only the stump remained. However, coming up in the middle of this large stump was a little green sprout. Mr. Bryson made the class stop to look at the sprout as he exclaimed, "Do you see that, everything in the world is telling this tree to just die, but here is life sprouting out of it. This tree which was once dead is now alive again, and because of this little sprout there is a chance that this tree will be here long after we are gone."

The prophet Isaiah relays a word from God to the people of Israel during what would have been very dark times. The Israelites had been taken away by the Babylonians, the temple had been destroyed, day in and day out the people of Israel call out for God, they call out for justice, and yet all they can do is sit and wait. It would seem that all the dreams they had for their future, for their freedom have gone up in smoke. Yet, in the depth of despair that had gripped the nation, here Isaiah is relaying a word of hope to the people of Israel.

It would seem that they have been cut off, chopped down, with nothing remaining but the burning remains of Jerusalem. It is fair to say that at this time, Israel only exists as a stump, at least as far as the world can see. But God sees things differently, indeed God sees there is still life in that stump, there is still a sprout that will spring up. Babylon has chopped down the mighty oak that was once Jerusalem, but they could not destroy the roots that nourish the people of Israel. For from this oppressed people will come Jesus Christ, from this chopped down tree will come the Messiah.

As a people ordered under the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we know this story to be true. We know that God does indeed send a shoot up from the root of Jesse; we know that God brings new life out of death.

Brothers and sisters we also find ourselves in a time of some despair, it would seem that we have been chopped down, our church has been empty for almost twenty weeks! In this time of hardship, in this time of despair we are called to remember that the way God brings this new life into the world is through the most unexpected means. God does not simply plant a new tree, God sends up shoots of new life through the stump. As we journey deeper into a future that at best looks opaque right now, may we look for the places where God is bringing up new life. For we know in God's good time, even moments of despair can bring about celebration.

Grace and Peace,
Zack Christy

Dear Church Members:

When I began writing financial updates in the Newsletter, I never imaged that we would be out of church for 16 weeks. For the past 6 weeks we have had drive in church and those who attend are enjoying this experience, while others are still utilizing our live facebook Worship services or watching the service later from the church website. Bo & Betsy Baity continue doing a Sunday School lesson on facebook for adults, and Andrew Harmon continues to do a Sunday School lesson for the children via "Zoom." Our Children are fortunate as they continue to get to see the weekly lessons on Facebook or our church website by Bess Thornburg each Wednesday as she continues to try to stay in touch with them. We are very blessed to have such talented people to make all of this happen during these very unusual times.

Contributions through May have remained consistent receiving \$142,900.00 year to date. Our expenses year to date at the end of May were \$123,041.00 leaving an additional \$19,859 in our checking account for when we are able to begin back with full programs. The church staff and committee chairs continue to be faithful stewards of our resources in the church and continue to look for ways to hold down expenses while continuing to maintain a somewhat "normal" daily operation. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and faithful members of the church.

Many of you have heard about the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) and the church did apply and received government funds to help us continue with our payroll. Part of the reason that we have the additional \$19,859 in our checking account is that we were able to use \$14,779.74 of the loan toward our May payroll and employee benefits.

We have continued our Thursday evening meal for those in need in the community and this program is growing each week. We appreciate the many volunteers who are making this ministry possible each Thursday.

We still continue to face obstacles that we have never faced before. God continues to bless us not only financially, but with members who genuinely care and love this community. Please continue to pray for Pastor Zack and our staff in these unusual times.

God Bless you, and I look forward to the day that we can worship in person together again.

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY FOR

DRIVE IN WORSHIP

10:30AM


PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CARS
SOUND WILL COME THROUGH RADIO
TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 90.5 FM.



SERVICE WILL ALSO STREAM ON FACEBOOK

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHERRYVILLE

We will continue with drive in Worship until we are able to safely join together in the Sanctuary again. We are still observing our Bishop's recommendations regarding COVID-19 and corporate Worship.



Latest update from our Bishop for Worship & Ministry During COVID-19


6/25/2020

As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the midst of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain committed to our Biblical mandate to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and our Wesleyan call to "do no harm." In doing so, we seek ways to engage faithfully in worship, study, and ministry while ensuring the health and safety of our members and communities. We do not recommend returning to indoor worship at this time. Continue hosting online, drive-in, or outdoor worship services while following CDC, state and local guidelines, including handwashing, wearing masks, and observing physical distancing rules.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLINE

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 at 9:45 a.m. Her inspiring lessons have been a blessing to all and we appreciate her dedication to bring these lessons to our church family each week.



UMKs are not meeting at this time due to the COVID19 virus. We miss you so much at FUMC on Wednesday nights. In order to stay safe we will not meet again until later in the year. So, until things get going again, we will still have our Bible lessons at 5:00 pm each Wednesday on our church Facebook page and website with Miss Bess. Please remember to join in for a lesson each week. We are also doing our "Zoom" Children's Sunday School class with Andrew Harmon at 9:45 am each Sunday morning. This has been a wonderful experience and you are invited to join in (even in your PJ's and bed head! LOL).



UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship will start back in the fall when hopefully the COVID19 situation is under control. We may have a few special activities during the summer if regulations allow. You will hear more about this program of Bible study and activities and fun in the "SON" as we make plans for our Youth Group! UMYF will be for middle and high school youths ages 6th thru 12th graders. We will meet on Sunday nights at 6 pm down stairs in the youth room for a snack, study and activities. Make plans now to be a part of our group!

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Billy Alexander, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Van Dellinger & family, Deborah DeVenny, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Keith Gardo, Ruth Gaston, Sherie Harrelson, Ken Mayhew, Bertha Maxey, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Sue Nolen, Karleen Price, Joe Putnam, Chris Sneed, Gary Thornburg, Ron Walls, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

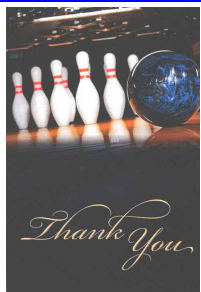
PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Marty Beam, Betty Dellinger, Cindy Gales Rhett Guest, Lisa Hastings, Brandon Heavner, Teresa Henley, Kenneth Moffitt, Katie Pruitt, Sherri Schrum & family, Beverly Hamrick Stiles, Loren Tidick, Angela Wurster, Martha Jane Zeitler, and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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

#Church Member, *Stationed in the Middle East



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your kindness, generosity and love during this difficult time. Everything is greatly appreciated. Please keep me in your prayers.

Love,
Sherri Schrum

VBS - POOL PARTY:



The **VIRTUAL** dates are July 12-16th via your computer! We were anticipating being able to celebrate a VBS at the church but due to Covid19 restrictions that is not possible this year. So we will meet together via **Zoom** or computer lessons at 5 p.m. each day, Sunday thru Thursday. This will be a different but fun time for all 3yr olds - 5th graders as we experience making a splash with Jesus. VBS packets will be made available to you so you can experience the fun of learning what a difference Jesus can make in your lives when we dive in with HIM.



Then on July 19th at 3:00 pm we will gather for a Real Pool Party to wrap up all we have learned at our virtual VBS at the home of Andrew and Chrystal Harmon for fun and games and bible lessons and feed our souls and tummies. Wear your bathing suit and if you have a pool noodle, floaties, float ring or water wings please bring them and your towel. We will make every effort to keep everyone safe and healthy at this gathering and if you have a mask you can wear it.



Congratulations to our College Graduates 2020

Our college graduates were mentioned by name on June 7th this year at our outdoor worship service. We want everyone to know that we are proud of you and your accomplishments.

Dr. Tom Dellinger, son of Van and Ilene Dellinger, graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry with a Doctor of Optometry. Tom plans to practice at Cherryville Eye Care in Cherryville.

Landis Moss, daughter of Tim and Samantha Moss, graduated from East Carolina University with a degree in Nursing. Landis plans to work in Cardiac Nursing at Novant Health in Charlotte N.C.

Daniel Owens, son of Dave and Pam Owens, graduated from UNC Pembroke with an MBA concentration in financial services. Daniel is working as a financial advisor for Raymond James Financial Services.

Molly Whitworth, daughter of Doug and Dawn Whitworth, graduated from Lenoir Rhyne University and received her masters of Science & Occupational Therapy. Molly plans to work in out-patient pediatrics.



*Congratulations
on your new life together!*

Congratulations to the following couples who were married on June 20:

Tracy & Julie Hovis Lyles

Chesley & Crystal Walker Walls





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

BARBARA "BABS" BEAM

Gail Beam
Larry & Juanita Gunnell
Bill & Quita Moss

E. L. BEAM

Steve & Susan Beam
Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)
Larry & Juanita Gunnell
Clarice Harrelson
Curtis & Sherie Harrelson
Ron & Janice Hovis
Gail Jenkins
Scott & Angela Jones (Backpack Ministry)
Bill & Quita Moss
Betty Jane Robinson
Shirley Smith
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Danny & Teci Webb

J. L. BEAM, JR.

Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)

W. BLAINE & GEORGIE BEAM

Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)

RANDELL CALDWELL

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

W. CONE CARPENTER, JR.

Class of 1955 of CHS
Libba Carpenter Wells

CAROLE FIELDS

Brian Fields
Ron & Janice Hovis
Gail Jenkins
Bill & Quita Moss
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

ANNE DELLINGER

Lola Allran Circle
Pam Anthony
Ben & Libby Ballard
Gail Beam
Gary & Mary Beam
Steve & Susan Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)
Dianne Dixon
Bob Faires
Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)
Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)
Larry & Juanita Gunnell
Jim Holland
Dr. Ann Hoscheit & Mr. Joe Davis
Ron & Janice Hovis
Gail Jenkins
Eloise Mauney
Linda Mauney
Ray P. McSwain
Lydia Neal
Harry & Goldie Queen
Shirley Smith
Vernon & Betty Smith
Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Danny & Teci Webb
Rhonda Wehunt (Thursday Meal Ministry)

PEGGY GARDO

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)
Harry & Goldie Queen

HARVEY GEIGER

Nancy Catena
Eloise Mauney
Vernon & Betty Smith (Thursday Meal Ministry)

PETE HEAVNER

Jack & Judy Bingham (Backpack Ministry)
Ron & Janice Hovis
Gail Jenkins
Bill & Quita Moss
Margaret Webb
Rhonda Wehunt (Thursday Meal Ministry)

ANNE LAWSON-HINES

Nancy Catena

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
- 10 Karleen Gaskins Price
- 12 Kaci Thornburg Beck
- 12 Tyler Buff
- 12 Gail Jenkins
- 12 Teci Webb
- 13 Blair Moss
- 14 Bobbi Conner
- 14 Zach Harmon
- 15 Michael Wright
- 16 Kristina Houser Haynes
- 16 Darin Webb
- 19 Jay Allen
- 19 Brian Gardo
- 20 Josh Skibo
- 20 Betsy Sneed
- 21 Richard Cornwell
- 22 Lydia Bradley
- 22 Cheryl Dobson
- 22 Kathy Kiser
- 23 Keith DeVenny
- 25 Kennedy Dellinger
- 27 Kelvin Brittain
- 27 Kristi Buff
- 27 Nell Griggs
- 28 Amanda Sorenson
- 29 Michael Baity
- 31 Shayne Turner



When we learn more from our Bishop about when can resume normal operations, we will let you know. There is no calendar of events included in this newsletter.

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

One Body One Mission

Community School Supply Drive

Do not forget to call and register your child(ren) for a backpack filled with school supplies to be prepared for the 2020- 2021 school year.



To Register

Call: St. John's Lutheran Church, Cherryville

Phone: 704-435-9264

Date: June 1st – August 1st

We understand the pandemic is causing many families to adjust their living situations. However, we would still like to help prepare students for the upcoming school year no matter how the 2020 -2021 school year begins.

Even though the 2020- 2021 school year may have many changes, we ask that if you think your child will need school supplies, please register them at the number above.

Information for distribution day:

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 107 W. Academy St. Cherryville

Time: 10am – 12pm

Date: Saturday, August 15th

✚ WE WILL NEED SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS BY AUGUST 1 AT THE CHURCH. CONTACT BESS THORNBURG FOR MORE INFORMATION.