

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468
firstmethodistcherryville.com

January 9, 2020

Vol. XXXI No. 1

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Nancy Catena
Pianist / Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

JANUARY REFLECTION

Revelation 21:5 *“And the one [God] who was seated on the throne said, ‘See I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”*

Welcome to 2020, we finally made it! The New Year is always a reason for celebration. For many of us it is welcomed as a chance to start fresh, a way to begin with a clean slate. Yet, we have to wonder why we wait for January 1st to begin the process of self-transformation. Many of us have made New Year’s resolutions, while statistics tell us that 95% of all resolutions fail within the first month, yet every year we talk about the things that we are going to do to improve our lives with the advent of the New Year.

The book of Revelation scares me. If I am being honest with you I haven’t spent a whole lot of time in the book, I don’t really know how to make heads or tails of the images that John witnesses, and truthfully my knowledge of Jewish apocalyptic literature is lacking. Yet, the overall message of Revelation is one of hope, one of love, and one of victory. The end of the story is God wins (sorry to spoil it for you).

In the passage for this New Year, John has witnessed many wild things, but it is this image of God sitting on a throne saying, “See I am making all things new,” which I believe will help guide us in this year. For God the creative process never stops! Now that is some good news.

God did not create the world and sit back put his feet up in a L-a-Z Boy and say, “I am done.” No God continues to create and recreate us in his Holy image, through the person and work of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of his Holy Spirit. We are blessed that we are not finished works; rather we are stones that are in constant need of being polished.

God doesn’t wait for the New Year to offer us change, he doesn’t wait for some big event to offer us love and grace, no God’s love and grace constantly surround us, and from the moment we experience salvation God is changing us. However, we as humans are always looking for that breakthrough, we are always looking for that one moment of intervention through which we can make a change. God offers us that change freely and openly at all times and in all places, all that is required of us is that we respond and accept this gift from God in faith.

Going into this New Year I hope that we will deepen our faith in every aspect. For just as God isn’t through with us, neither are we through with God. We will not come to church just to be present; we will come to church to encounter God in worship. We will not read Scripture simply because it is what we are supposed to do, we will read Scripture in order that we may hear God speak to us. We will not serve our neighbors because it is the right thing to do, we will serve our neighbors in order that we may be beacons of God’s love in the here and now.

There is a popular slogan that I have seen on all the advertisements for this New Year that states, “New Year, new you!” As First United Methodist Church it may be a new year, but every single day we are a new person, for every single day God says, “I am making you new!” I pray this New Year is full of hope and expectation for you, because I can’t wait to see what God does with us in 2020!

Pastor Zack

Welcome



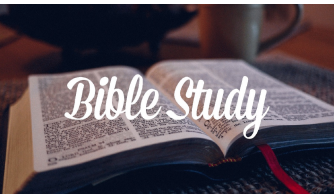
We are pleased to announce that Bess Thornburg will be joining our staff as our new Director of Christian Education. She will start her position on January 15, 2020.



Our UMK's meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at the church beginning at 5:30 for a meal followed by our weekly program of songs and lessons. **We will resume on January 15, 2020 at 5:30pm.**

YOUTH NEWS AND EVENTS

At 7:00am on Thursday mornings the youth will meet for their weekly **Prayer Breakfast** at 7:00am at Homefolks Café. All youth are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Following prayer breakfast, the adults will meet in the Church Parlor and have prayer time for our youth and the youth in the community.



Pastor Zack will start his Bible Study back on **Wednesday, January 29, 2020** at 6:30pm on the *Gospel of Mark* in the June Medlin classroom. A fellowship meal will be served at 6:00pm prior to the Bible Study.



The Prayer Warriors meet biweekly at 6:00 in the church Parlor. January meetings will be held on Thursday, January 9 and January 23. Contact Randy Baxter for more details.



Prayer Chain: If you would like to be added to the prayer chain or have your name removed from the prayer chain, please contact the Church Office. **We will be putting out the new prayer chain at the end of January.**

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, DEC. 31, 2019

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Previous Total | \$303,924.47 |
| Total To Date | \$392,784.15 |
| Needs to Date | \$368,963.00 |
| Over | \$23,821.15 |

ATTENDANCE, DEC. 29, 2019

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Sunday School | 58 |
| Worship | 135 |

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Billy Alexander, Pam Anthony, Ben Ballard, Mike Burgess, Joanne Carpenter, Janet Carter, Deborah DeVenny, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Peggy Gardo, Ruth Gaston, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Bill, Terry and Tim Moss and their families, Sue Nolen, Ed & Nancy Pierce, Karleen Price, Joe & Frances Putnam, Dartha Stroupe, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

E. L. Beam, Lisa Hastings, Teresa Henley, Dan Jonas, Danny Jonas, Jeff Schrum, Rita Stroupe, Forrest Watkins, 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

JANUARY USHERS

Steve Beam, Darin Webb, Keith Kiser, Dick Ledford, Ben Blackburn



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

CARROLL NED BEAM

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Mayhew

DIANA BEAM

Bruce & Chris Barrett

J. L. & LOLA BEAM

Bob & Caryl Austell

SONNY BEAM

Larry & Juanita Gunnell

BETTY BLACKWELDER

Ben & Libby Ballard

Mrs. Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

W. CONE CARPENTER, JR.

Helen Dellinger (Backpack Ministry)

MAXINE DAVES

Bruce & Chris Barrett

ROBERT LEE "BOB" DELLINGER

Helen Dellinger (Backpack Ministry)

STEVE FALLS

Helen Dellinger (Backpack Ministry)

KATHERINE GOINS

Helen Dellinger (Backpack Ministry)

SCOTT HAMM

Linda McQuaige

MAE WARLICK & CRAIG HARRELSON

Anne Harrelson

DR. HENRY C. HARRELSON

Anne Harrelson

LOIS HUSS

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministries)

JACK JENKINS

Gail Jenkins & Family (Backpack Ministry)

HAROLD & MARGARET LONG

Barry & Wanda Dellinger

DON LYLES

Bob & Caryl Austell

Jack & Judy Bingham

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

Ron & Janice Hovis

DAVID CONN MOSS

Hazeline Moss (Youth Missions)

RONALD MOSS

Hazeline Moss (Youth Missions)

DOT NEWTON

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

JERRY PAYNE

Matt & Lori Gibson

ANGELITA PAYSEUR

Shirley Fisher

DEBBIE PAYSEUR

Shirley Fisher

ANGIE SMITH

Bruce & Chris Barrett

BENNY TATE

Linda McQuaige

C.V. THORNBURG

Helen Dellinger (Backpack Ministry)

ALICE KILBY WACASTER

Helen Dellinger (Backpack Ministry)

ROBERT WILLIS, SR.

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

Ronnie & Jill Puett

+++++

IN HONOR

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

PAM ANTHONY

Libby Ballard

BOB AUSTELL

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class

BOB & CARYL AUSTELL

Jim & Becky Beam (Backpack Ministry)

BEN BALLARD

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class

JIM & BECKY BEAM

Bob & Caryl Austell (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

STEVE & SUSAN BEAM

Libby Ballard

LYNN BOWEN

Libby Ballard

BLAKE BOWEN

Steve & Lynn Bowen

GRIER BOWEN

Steve & Lynn Bowen

MIKE BURGESS

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class

NANCY CATENA

Jack & Judy Bingham

VERA EAKER

Libby Ballard

Gail Beam

JIM EATON

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class

CHESNEY GIBSON

Matt & Lori Gibson

ANDREW & CHRYSTAL HARMON

Gary, Deb & Kristen Husen

MICKEY PAYSEUR & CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

Shirley Fisher

JACK STEPHENSON

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class

MARY ETTA STEPHENSON

Ray & Laura Homesley

Shirley Smith (Sudan Missions)

GARY THORNBURG

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class

+++++

A NOTE OF



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the prayers,
cards, visits and for being such
a wonderful church family.

Sue Nolen

A NOTE OF



My sincere thanks to all of you
for your prayers cards and
visits during my 2 month stay
in the hospital as a result of a
fall in my home, plus some
serious complications in the
hospital. I'm looking forward
to attending church after some special oxygen
equipment arrives.

Love to all,
Jim Eaton

P.S. Please don't fall.

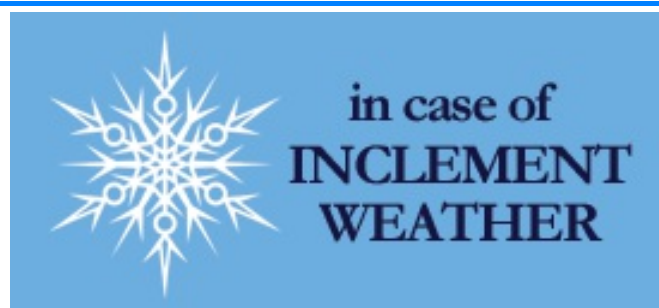


2020 CHURCH COMMITTEE CHAIRS

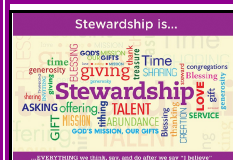
Lay Leader Bess Thornburg
 Church Council Gary Freeman
 Trustees Committee
 Danny Webb, Keith Kiser, Scott Jones
 Kevin Moths, Randy Baxter, Caryl Austell
 Bruce Barrett, Dick Ledford, Chad Thornburg
 Finance Committee Ben Blackburn
 Pastor Parish Committee Susan Beam
 Education Committee Angela Jones
 Missions & Outreach Ken Bowen
 Backpack Ministry M'Shel Bowen
 Parsonage Committee Dwight Stroupe
 Evangelism Committee Randy Baxter
 Worship Committee Judy Bingham
 Preschool Board of Directors Chrystal Harmon
 Prayer Shawl Committee
 Betty Smith & Carol Metzger
 Kitchen/Homecoming/Fall Festival Committee
 Reid & Doris Huss

**All Committee Chairs should hold a committee
meeting by early February.**

**A complete listing of all committee
members will be mailed in the next couple
of weeks.**



In case of inclement weather / dangerous road conditions, First UMC **WILL ONLY HOLD THE 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE** (Pastor Joe will be here to lead the service). Please realize that the church parking lot / sidewalks could still have ice or snow on them. Do not attempt to attend if you deem that travel to the church is unsafe. We will advertise any changes to our regular worship schedule on WBTV, channel 3 or WSOC TV, channel 9 as well as on the church website www.firstmethodistcherryville.com.



Stewardship update: We are off to a great start with our 2020 pledge campaign and a special thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge card. **We have received 64 cards totaling \$213,024.00.** If you have not turned in your pledge card and wish to do so, please place it in the offering plate.



Preliminary Financial reports for 2019 indicate the following:

- ◆ 2019 Giving \$392,784.15
- ◆ 2019 Expenses \$342,060.82
- ◆ Surplus \$ 50,723.33

Thank you for all of your contributions that support our many ministries!

January Birthdays

3 Margaret Webb
4 Haley Alexander
4 Pat Yount
5 Anna Burleson
5 Bess Thornburg
6 Jalie Creech
6 Steven Spangler
7 Kristen Husen
7 Jim Maxey
8 Shafer Rupard
8 Clay Thornburg
11 Jack Bingham
12 Robin Norwood
13 Ilene Dellinger
14 Tad Huffstetler
15 Kenan Fowler
16 Bob Elmore
17 Bill Sneed
17 Melanie Thornburg
22 Lindsey Cartee Hetrick
22 Frankie Dellinger
22 Keith Gardo
23 Annie Norwood Downer
23 Gunnar Shedd
24 Roy Pursley
25 Jim Beam
25 Eric King
25 Margaret Starling
26 Charlie Smith
27 Tabor Elmore
28 Joanne Carpenter
29 Megan Emerson
29 David Huss
30 Blaze Dedmon
31 Cameryn Bell
31 Michael Catena
31 Ed Pierce



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



Janet Carter
Carolina Care
111 Harrilson Rd.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, January 5

8:45am - Early Worship
9:45am - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
4:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Monday, January 6

11:30am - Lola Allran Circle
6:00pm - Aunt Pearl Circle

Wednesday, January 8

6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 9

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
8:00am - Prayer in Parlor
6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet

Sunday, January 12

8:45am - Early Worship
9:45am - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
4:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Tuesday, January 14

2:00pm - Prayer Shawl Committee meeting
7:00pm - Trustees meeting

Wednesday, January 15

5:30pm - UMK's
6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 16

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's
8:00am - Prayer in Parlor

Sunday, January 19

8:45am - Early Worship
9:45am - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
5:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Monday, January 20

Church office closed

Wednesday, January 22

6:30pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 23

6:00pm - Prayer Warriors meet

Sunday, January 26

8:45am - Early Worship
9:45am - Sunday School
11:00 - Worship
4:00pm - 4th - 6th grades meet

Wednesday January 29

5:30pm - UMK's
6:00pm - Fellowship Meal
6:30pm - Adult Bible Study
6:30pm - Chancel Choir