

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 27, 2021

Vol. XXXII No. 1

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.

February Reflection

1 Corinthians 12:27 *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

It is a powerful thing to be a part of a family isn't it? To be a part of a family means that someone always has your back. One of my dad's favorite stories from his youth was when his brother protected him from some boys who wanted to beat him up. My dad well deserved the beating he was going to get from these boys, but just as they were about to catch him, his brother showed up, and said, "No one beats him up except for me." What a blessing it is to be a part of a family.

Friends this past month has been one of the hardest of my life. From my mother being hospitalized and not sure if she would even make it out of the ICU, to having to put my first dog, Hershey down, it has felt at times like I was in a country song. Life can be like that though. I know I am not the first person who has ever gone through something like this, and I am confident that I won't be the last. I'm willing to bet that for each and every one of us, there have been times in life when we have burdens that seem to be almost too much to bear.

I am sure that we have all heard the old adage, "God doesn't give you more than you can bear," but at times it seems that God overestimates our own strength. There is inherent within life a very difficult truth: hard times come, there are moments when it seems you can't get on your feet, times when the storms of life rage and it feels as if you can't get your head above water. And if you have found yourself in a moment like this, you might ask yourself, "How can I get through this moment?"

I'll tell you what this past month has shown me; simply you can't do it alone. When life is perilous, when the journey is difficult, we can't make it on our own. We need the love and support of others, we need the comfort of a family, we need others to help us bear the burdens we hold. That's why I'm so thankful for the people of First Methodist Cherryville, that's why I am so thankful for you, because I will tell you, without your love, your support, and most importantly your prayers, I don't what I or my family would have done.

You may have noticed when someone joins the church I always tell them the same thing. "I've got good news for you and bad news, the good news is that our joys are now your joys. The bad news is our problems are now your problems." I always say it a bit tongue in cheek, but I have felt you lifting burdens for me. When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth they were struggling with many different things, too many to list in this reflection in fact, but there is one salient point that Paul wanted to drive home, "as the church you are in this together."

That's why I believe this image of the body of Christ works so well for how we understand our relationship to one another and our relationship that we share with the church. It is up to us, to look out for one another, it is up to us to become that family which prays with and prays for one another. If you have ever found yourself in a time like I have recently you know just how profound that prayer is.

Indeed we as First UMC Cherryville are the body of Christ, it is our job to be there for one another, to

have each other's backs, and to encourage one another in truth and in love. May we show Cherryville the transformative power of family, as we strive to walk closer with Christ and closer with one another.

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 February.

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.

Jan. 31 - Spaghetti noodles and cans of sauce

Feb. 7 - Instant potatoes

Feb. 14 - small boxes of cereal

Feb. 21 - canned fruit

Feb. 28 - canned soup

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee

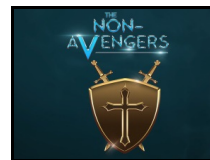


Please continue to join us for Adult Sunday School lessons taught and provided by Betsy Baity on facebook or our church website each Sunday morning. Her inspiring lessons have been a blessing to all and we appreciate her dedication to bring these lessons to our church family each week.



UMK's:

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



We are now studying the "Non-Avengers," Bible stories of forgiveness for the next 6 weeks. We will be studying Gods word and lessons through Bible "Super Heroes" that seek to non-avenge those around them.

Miss Bess will continue to have our Bible lessons at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday on our church Facebook page and church website. If you can't be with us in person, please remember to join in for our lesson each week.



We will have our UMK Valentines Party on February 10th at our regular time 6:00 p.m.. Join us for supper, Valentines fun and games and a special Valentines lesson time.



We will also celebrate and learn about Ash Wednesday on February 17th with a short devotion time for Ashes placed on foreheads and prayer time before our regular lesson down stairs.



Confirmation Class: Our FUMC 2021 Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, February 21st at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Any 6th graders and up are invited to participate and be a part of the class to **"Affirm"** your faith through a study of "God's Call, The World's Need and Your Purpose." This

class will prepare confirmands to join the church on Easter Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please let Bess or Pastor Zack know if you plan to be a part of this year's confirmation class.

***Also, Please note, there will be an important **Parent Meeting** for any confirmation students and their parents at 4:00 p.m. on February 14th in the church fellowship hall.



UMYF: United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6th thru 12th grade) is currently meeting together each Sunday night from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church downstairs in our new

Youth room. Please wear or at least bring your mask. We will be 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 our "GPS" a lesson in finding THE way and God's direction for our lives. Please plan to join us as we make plans for the future of our group. We are planning our **Youth 5th Sunday Outing for January 31st**. We are blessed to see God's work and presence in our lives! Beginning February 21st we will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. and joining the confirmation class. Then at 5:30 we will have our snack supper, games and planning until 6:00 p.m.



CAM FOOD PANTRY... The C.A.M. along with The Second Harvest food bank

give out will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church parking lot on March 29th, 1-2pm food unloading and 3-5 pm food distribution pick-up time and on April 15th, 1-2pm unloading and 3-5 pm distribution, and on May 11th, 8-9 am unloading, and 10am-12 noon distribution. Volunteers are needed from the community to help unload and distribute the food on the dates and times given. If you can help for any or all of these dates please let Bess Thornburg know at the church office. Each church will be asked to donate \$300.00 toward this project so any monetary donations will be accepted and appreciated. Also, if you are in need of food, or know someone who would benefit from this service please call Cherryville Area Ministries at 704-435-3816 to sign up for the food distribution from the food bank.



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Well, we're almost through the first month of 2021, and thankfully, we have had almost no sickness. Apparently all the sanitizing, cleaning and hand washing is working!

The children are growing in so many ways and our teachers are awesome! It is so exciting to see that the children have discovered that **LEARNING IS FUN!**

Early registration for the next school year begins on February 15 for FUMC members children, as well as current students and siblings. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested. If all children from the current three year class return we will have only two spaces open in the four year class. Any spaces not confirmed will be opened to the public on March 1.

THANK YOU again to all those who have been so supportive of our school. We couldn't do without your support and prayers.

Ms. Millie



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

J. P. AUSTELL

Bob & Caryl Austell (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

CLINE & MABLE BEAM

Celeste Weaver

DAVID BEAM, JR.

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

Jack & Judy Bingham

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

Debbie Gantt

Ronnie & Jill Puett

Danny & Teci Webb

E. L. BEAM

Ann Newton

HANK BRADLEY

Steve & Susan Beam

Tad Huffstetler

Vee & Melanie Thornburg

JENELL CALDWELL

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

BOB CARPENTER, JR

Jack & Judy Bingham

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

Sherman Brown

Debbie Gantt

Ray McSwain

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

JOANN CARPENTER

Helen Dellinger

NELL DAGGERHART

Bob & Caryl Austell (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

ANNE DELLINGER

Helen Dellinger

DEBORAH DEVENNY

Helen Dellinger

HELEN EATON

Jim Eaton

JACK EATON

Jim Eaton

CAROLE FIELDS

Helen Dellinger

MILES GANTT

Pam Anthony

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr.

Steve & Susan Beam

Jack & Judy Bingham

David Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Nancy Catena

Susan & Allen Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

Debbie Gantt

Ron & Janice Hovis

Eloise Mauney

Harold & Kim Mauney

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Ronnie & Jill Puett

Betty Jane Robinson

Vernon & Betty Smith

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

Jerry Thornburg

Danny & Teci Webb

Terry & Mildred Young

PEGGY GARDO

Helen Dellinger

TRENT GARDO

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

ELAINE GRIFFIN

Gail Jenkins

CRAIG HARRELSON

Anne Harrelson

DR. HENRY HARRELSON

Anne Harrelson

WADE HARRELSON

Clarice Harrelson

Curtis & Sherie Harrelson

STEVE HOLLAND

Mildred Young

PAM HOWELL

Joyce Baxter

Randy Baxter

JACK HUSS

Jack & Judy Bingham

T. L. & Miney Saine

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

HAROLD & MARGARET LONG

Barry & Wanda Dellinger

ED MAFFETT

Jack & Judy Bingham

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

JIMMY MCQUAIGE

Linda & John Dellinger

DAVID MOSS

Hazeline Moss (Backpack Ministry)

RONALD MOSS

Hazeline Moss (Children's Ministries)

JACK & SUE NOLEN

Celeste Weaver

SUE NOLEN

Helen Dellinger

NANCY PIERCE

Helen Dellinger

JOE & FRANCES PUTNAM

Helen Dellinger

JACK SCISM

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

MARY ANN SPENCER

Bob & Caryl Austell (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

MAE WARLICK

Anne Harrelson

KATHERINE WIEGEL

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

CONNIE WISE

Gail Jenkins
Ronnie & Jill Puett
Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

AUGUSTA OVERTON WORTHINGTON

Gail & Jeff Jenkins & Chelsi & Rob Thomas



IN HONOR

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

BOB AUSTELL

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class (Backpack Ministry)

BEN BALLARD

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class (Backpack Ministry)

J. L. BEAM MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Ben Ballard (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

JIM & BECKY BEAM

Bob & Caryl Austell (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

MIKE BURGESS

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class (Backpack Ministry)

CATHERINE CARPENTER

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

ERIC CARPENTER

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

SANDRA CARPENTER

Gail & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

SCOTT CARPENTER

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

SHANNON CARPENTER

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

JANET CARTER

Wayne & Belinda Watts (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

CHURCH STAFF

Jim Eaton

VERA EAKER

Wayne & Belinda Watts (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

JIM EATON

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class (Backpack Ministry)

MALLIE EMERSON

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

MEGAN EMERSON

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

MIKKI JANE EMERSON

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

SETH FREEMAN

(CHS Teacher of the Year)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

PALMER HUFFSTETLER

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

JUNE MEDLIN CLASS

Libby Ballard (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

SYLVIA NORTON

Gail & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

ELI PAYSEUR

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

ELIZABETH PAYSEUR

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

WADE PAYSEUR

Mickey Payseur (Endowment Fund)

CHRIS SNEED

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

JACK STEPHENSON

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class (Backpack Ministry)

GARY THORNBURG

J. L. Beam Men's Bible Class (Backpack Ministry)

MILDRED YOUNG

Darin & Emily Webb (Backpack Ministry)



Happy 2021! As the new year continues to unfold, we seek God's blessings to infuse our lives, our families, and our church with the Armour of God to protect us through His Word, His Promises, and His Grace. Thank you for your faithful loyalty to our Church and to our Choir! Our Choir is ready and willing to come together in unity and in love to praise God in Worship and Song. Now, as we are given pastoral guidance and direction, our mission is to follow as we should. We keep in mind that our mission is to prepare hearts and minds for worship. We seek to uplift those who are suffering, grieving, healing, with our Song.

In describing the *Methodist Hymn*, "**Lord Of The Dance**," I told you on our January 20 "**Lessons From The Chancel**" ...

"Jesus is The Lord Of The Dance ...and the Dance is a metaphor for 'Life.' "

In my own life, Jesus is my Strength and my Song.

Psalm 118:14 says, "**The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my Salvation.**"

As we "*Walk With God*" each day of this new year, let us "**Live the Faith We Sing.**" My friend, **Amy Kilby** once told me, her father, **John Kilby**, (*a dedicated Chancel Choir member*) called our *Methodist Hymnal* "**The Singing Bible.**" I just love that!

Thank you **Jill, Debbie, Pam, Rhonda, Janice, Donna and Tom** for singing during **Advent!** **Bo, Teresa**, thank you for the *Choir* slide show honoring the *Choir* throughout **Advent!** Didn't **Dennis Bradley** sing a beautiful solo, "*How Great Thou Art*" on *January 7 to start off our new year!*

The *Praise band* will alternate Sunday services with the *Choir* throughout *this winter and spring until June.*

The 2021 series of "**Lessons From The Chancel**" continues each Wednesday evening on our church website and church Facebook page at 6:30 p.m. This is the time we normally would come together for *Choir Rehearsal* in the *Choir Room* before the Covid restrictions prohibited group gatherings to sing.

I have ordered new music in anticipation of our eventual return to normal rehearsals and worship services when the world pandemic has ceased to become a crisis.

Thank you for your encouragement and support for our music ministry direction in 2021. Remember those who are in isolation. Let your life be a balm to others. We don't know what load they carry.

Continue to remember in prayer **Pastor Zack's** family. Also remember our *Choir* family members who have dealt with Covid and are still healing. All of you have friends and loved ones who have been touched in 2020 by the

Covid-19 virus and by other enemies that try to rob the Christian of his strength. May 2021 bring renewed health, happiness, and peace.

"The Lord is my Strength, and my Song." Psalm 118:14.

Your Choir Director,
Linda Kale Barger

February Birthdays

- 1 Sam Smith
- 2 Amber Grace Brittain
- 2 Hayden Rupard
- 5 Paige Yount
- 5 Jennifer Wilent
- 6 Martha Allen
- 6 Freida Clawson
- 6 Kathy Panton
- 6 James Putnam
- 9 Andrew Hartman
- 11 Dennis Bradley
- 11 Hunter Brafford
- 12 Johnny Brown
- 14 Maria Pruitt
- 14 Bobby Putnam
- 16 Caryl Austell
- 16 Will Elmore
- 18 Cindy Dellinger Swisher
- 19 Ben Ballard
- 20 Kay Bumgarner
- 20 Terry Moss
- 21 Aiden Sneed
- 22 Lauren Carnes
- 22 Martha Cornwell
- 22 Bennetta Dellinger Dunning
- 22 Rita McGinnis
- 23 Rita Lorrey
- 23 Chad Thornburg
- 24 Shaina Anderson
- 24 Lynne Collins
- 24 Aidan Harmon
- 24 Haley Wilent
- 26 T. L. Saine
- 27 MeKenzie Drum
- 27 Morgan Morrow
- 27 Katie Walls
- 28 Kathy Craft
- 28 Zack Fraley
- 29 Barbara McGinnis
- 29 David Smith



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



Mrs. Karleen Price
409 South Elm St.
Cherryville, NC 28021

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, DEC. 31, 2020

Total Giving To Date \$375,456.83
Total Expenses to Date \$324,048.78
Under. \$51,408.05

Sunday, January 31

Sunday School (on Facebook)
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary
TBA - Youth

Tuesday, February 2

7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, February 3

6:00pm - UMK's

Sunday, February 7

Sunday School (on Facebook)
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary
6:00pm - Youth

Tuesday, February 9

7:00pm - Church Council meeting

Wednesday, February 10

6:00pm - UMK's Valentine's Party

Sunday, February 14

Sunday School (on Facebook)
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary
4:00pm - Parent & Confirmation Student meeting
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, February 17

6:00pm - UMK's
7:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 21

Sunday School (on Facebook)
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary
4:00pm - Confirmation Class/Youth

Wednesday, February 24

6:00pm - UMK's

Sunday, February 28

Sunday School (on Facebook)
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary
4:00pm - Confirmation Class/Youth

Stewardship is...
Stewardship update: We continue to received pledge cards for 2021 and a special thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge card. We have received 62 cards totaling \$223,148.00. If you have not turned in your pledge card and wish to do so, please turn it into the church office by December 31.

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Bob Austell, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Pat Eaker, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Nell Griggs, Ken Mayhew, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Terry Pearson, Karleen Price, Rev. Harry Queen, Betty Jane Robinson, Chris Sneed, Amanda Sorenson, Gary Thornburg, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Brenda Beam, Jayme Christy, Lisa Eaker, Randy Heafner, A. J. & Teresa Henley, Johnathan Henley, Steve Moss, David Qualls, James Richardson, Stephanie Willis, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

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

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 17 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Social distance and masks will be required..