



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

**APRIL 30, 2025**

**Vol. XXXVI No. 5**

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.

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***May Reflection***

***Revelation 21:5 "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See I am making all things new.'"***

Back in the spring of 2019 Eli had just turned three Ella was still an infant, and Crystal and I took the kids to Dollywood, and we had the best family day. Eli couldn't do a lot but oh he loved those rides. Ella couldn't ride rides, but she loved riding the train, and looking at Dolly's sparkling dresses. As we drove back to our home in Canton we talked about how that was absolutely the best family day we had ever had.

In light of that we made the wise financial decision to buy season tickets to Dollywood because we were going to go every Saturday for the rest of the year, this was about one week before I received a call from my DS that I would be moved to Cherryville. All the sudden those season tickets didn't seem like such a good idea, we decided we needed to make the most of them. That spring break we stayed at the Dollywood hotel, and every day we went to the park. Eli really wanted to ride a roller coaster, and there was only one that he could so on the last day I took him on that roller coaster.

I was certain this was going to be a core memory for him, father/son roller coaster ride, gotta be up there with catching your first fish and learning to shave. As soon as they put the lap bar over him his eyes got wide, as we started to climb a great big drop Eli looked at me and said, "I want to get out!!! I don't like this!!! Why would you do this to me!!!" Then we hit the drop and he dug his nails so far into my arm, I am fairly certain I still have the scars. As we got off and Crystal and Ella greeted us, Eli ran tears in his eyes to his mama and said, "Don't let me go with daddy again, he tried to kill me!!!" Which is not the best thing to have your three year old scream in a crowded amusement park.

Later that day after he got calmed down some, I asked him what he thought about roller coasters, and he said, "I kind of liked it for a minute, I'm glad I did it, and I liked it a lot when it was over." I asked him if he would do it again, he said, "maybe when I get old...like 7."

Contrary to his prediction he has rode many roller coasters, before and after the old age of 7. A few days ago when I asked him about the experience he said, "I like the end, I don't like each twist, turn, or drop, but I like the feeling I get at the end." Over these past few weeks, I have been thinking it is important we know where we are trying to go.

The book of Revelation contains some of the most cryptic language and most fanciful imagery in the entire Bible. It has been used to try to forecast the events of the end times, as well as to call hopeless Christians to fortitude and endurance. It's lectionary placement in the season of Easter is notable, as it draws us to another contemporary application of this book: as a guide to experiencing resurrected life.

John's vision allows us to see the world, the church and the Christian life in the way that God envisions it: not for how it is but for how it can be. And each week, through the power of the one who makes all things new, we are called to make those possibilities a resurrection reality.

So in this season after Easter we are going to do something a little bit different. Between now and Pentecost at First UMC we are going to do a sermon series on the book of Revelation. Each week we will look at different passages from Revelation in order to hear how we can embrace resurrection and practice it in our lives here and now.

On May 4 we will look at Rev 1:4-8 and we will see how Revelation calls us to hope and endurance for today. On May 11 we will celebrate Mother's Day and welcome our confirmands into membership in our church. On May 18 we will look at Rev 5:11-14 and we will see that through worship we embody and enact eternity. On May 25 Rev 7:9-17 will give of an ideal picture of the church that we can work to become today. On June 1 we will use Rev 21:10, 22-22:5 to hear the wonderful good news that Heaven is not just a hope for tomorrow; it is a promise to be claimed now. On June 8 we will celebrate the birthday of the church through Pentecost in which we are reminded that the Holy Spirit empowers us to live out the resurrection today.

I encourage you in these upcoming weeks to do a very un-Methodist thing and add the practice of reading through the book of Revelation over these next six weeks. I know that can seem to be a very daunting task, as the book of Revelation contains vivid and fearful imagery. But once you begin to understand the apocalyptic prose, what emerges is a profound promise of God's presence in the midst of a turbulent and chaotic world, and the assurance that no matter how pronounced and insidious the presence of evil and sin are in the world, the work of God through Jesus Christ is superior, the same Holy Spirit which resides in each Christian is more powerful than everything else in the world. It is indeed news worth sharing and worth our reflection as we enter into a new season of church life. I look forward to taking this journey with you, and I look forward to what God is going to do with us here at First United Methodist.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



## **Rev. Zack Christy Reappointed For 2025-2026**



On behalf of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC), I am delighted to announce that Reverend Zack Christy will be returning to First United Methodist Church, Cherryville to serve for the year beginning July 1, 2025.

In the good news letter received on April 17, District Superintendent David H. Christy said, "We believe this will continue to be a good appointment for both your pastor and your church."

Quote from Zack "On behalf of my family I can confidently say we are tickled pink to be reappointed to First UMC Cherryville. I cannot express to you what a supreme joy it is to serve God alongside the saints who make up First UMC. I am excited to see the new things that God is going to do with us in this upcoming year, and I can't wait to get to be a part of it with you."

Last Fall, at the request of the Western NC Methodist Conference, the PPRC provided an extensive evaluation of Pastor Christy's leadership at FUMC since his initial appointment in 2018. The committee enthusiastically recommended his reappointment for another year.

Superintendent Christy, in making the appointment, noted that the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church requires that every pastor be appointed for one year at a time.

Please join me in giving a hearty welcome to Zack, Crystal, Eli, and Ella for their returning to us as members of our church family.

Palmer E. Huffstetler, Chairperson  
Pastor Parish Relations Committee

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## Breakfast

On **Saturday, May 31**, 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. **We hold this event the last Saturday of every month.**



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is held during our 10:30 worship service for all children **3yrs thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**. The children will leave from the sanctuary worship service following the children's sermon and go to a classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children at the end of worship. A packet will be available outside the sanctuary in the Narthex for children 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders or older with pencils crayons and coloring pages and Children's Worship bulletin. Again... **volunteers are needed for Children's Church teachers and helpers.** Please let Bess know if you are willing to help with children's church.



## 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 May. As you may have noticed the Acolytes and Crucifers are wearing robes now. This has been very well received by both our congregation and the young people. **Boys are asked to please wear long pants under your robe on your week to assist in worship and nice shoes!!! ALSO PLEASE BE IN THE NARTHEX BY 10:15 A.M. TO GET READY! \*\*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.\*\***

### ACOLYTE

### CRUCIFER

May 4	Mallie Emerson	Hunter Brafford
May 11	Amber Grace Brittain	Artimus Shuford
May 18	Caroline Carswell	Lawson Walls
May 25	Lydia Bradley	Ava Thornburg

**\*\*\*NOTE TO ACOLYTES\*\*\* PLEASE WEAR YOUR ROBE WHEN YOU GO BACK TO EXTINGUISH THE CANDLES AT THE END OF THE SERVICE.**



## MAY 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 **May**. 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.

May 4 Jenny Emerson  
May 11 Susan Carswell  
May 18 Kelly Brown  
May 25 Emily Webb



**The Special Events Committee** have made plans for a **"Summer Kick off"** with Homemade Ice Cream and "Yard games" including corn hole, volley ball, and other games as well as fishing (so bring your fishing rods) for **Sunday**

**afternoon, June 8**, from 4:00 - 6:00 at Sunbeam Farm.



As the school year is coming to a close, we are going to take a break from shopping for backpack items. Your generous donations have helped to make this a very successful mission this year and have been very much appreciated by all those who received the book bags.

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!!!

**"BE A HOMERUN HITTER IN YOUR CHURCH ATTENDANCE"**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RAFFLE AND DRAWING!**



This Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> the Education committee will sponsor a Sunday School and Church Attendance Raffle! This is not your ordinary raffle! You didn't have to buy a ticket; you have earned one. Every time you attended a church function you earned a ticket. Your name went into the ticket box and now it's time for the 4 Grand Prize drawings. The prizes will be given away this coming Sunday between SS and worship at our **FIELD OF DREAMS** coffee and doughnut inning stretch promptly at 10:15. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!!** You have been a "home run hitter" for God and your church with your attendance in April and now "Let the field be joyful and all that is in it." Ps 96:12. Your ticket may win it!!! Be sure to meet with us in the fellowship hall for the inning stretch!



## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Our Mother's will be recognized and honored on May, 11, Mother's Day during our 10:30 Worship Service.





### UMYF NEWS...

U.M.Y.F. (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) met this past Sunday night for our final UMYF Sunday night meeting. We will take a break from Sunday nights until school starts back in August. However, we will still meet at least once a month for special outings, activities, missions and gatherings.

We will end up our year and have our May outing this Sunday, May 4th immediately following our worship service at 11:30 am and board the van to experience the movie "King of Kings". The cost is \$10.00 person for the movie and then what ever you want to eat at Zaxby's for lunch or popcorn for the movies. Please invite your friends to come along. You will need a hand written permission slip from your parents.

We will have various special activities throughout the summer including our Hickory Crawdads game, movie night, pool party, "rock a thon"/lock-in, mission weekend, box city camp out and helping with various church activities such as the ice cream social and VBS.

Watch your FUMCY News flash text for details!!

**\*\*\*\*\*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!!!



### Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast will resume this Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> and wrap up for the year on May 15th. 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 am on Thursday mornings 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.



### ATTENTION ALL 2025 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Graduation Day is approaching fast! We would like to honor our graduating College students for 2025 during our 10:30 worship service on Sunday May 18th. Please meet in the fellowship hall at 10:15 am and prepare to march in to our worship service. Also, please provide Bess with your degree information, and if possible, provide a picture and bring your cap and gown that Sunday. You will be recognized with a gift. We are proud of you!!!!

Congratulations!

- Note: to our knowledge we have no High School graduates this year on our records. If this is not correct, please let the church office know asap!!!!



## UNITED METHODIST KIDS / UMKs

It's hard to believe that our regular UMK Wednesday night meetings have come to a close for this year. On April 30<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our end of the year hot dog supper and fun night with a water wars game and playing together in the "Son."

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all those that made this year at UMKs a wonderful time of learning the scriptures and God's love and plans for us as well as singing praises and filling our tummies each night. **Thank You** to Debbie Gantt and Juanita Gunnell and Bobbi Ballard who served as our kitchen helpers and servers each Wednesday night and to all those who prepared and provided meals. Also, special thanks to Crystal Christy, Amy Shedd, and Brian Emerson for teaching and leading classes throughout the UMK year. Our music and songs were led by Brian Emerson and huge thank you to Cam and Krystal Alfaro for being our audio visual and sound techs each meeting. Our youth helpers were Amber Grace Brittain, Caroline Carswell, and Mallie Emerson. We could not have had such a fun and gratifying year without all of these folks and other volunteers!

Our Summer activities will continue with **"WILD WACKY WEDNESDAYS"** beginning in June. More about that will be announced at a later date and our VBS will be held the week of July 27-31 here at our church.



## Our FUMC 2025 Confirmation Classes

began on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. We will meet each Sunday during Sunday School in the Discovery classroom downstairs. This class will prepare confirmands to join the church on Sunday, May 11, (Mother's Day) during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

### SCHEDULE FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS:

May 4 - 9:30 a.m.

May 11 - 9:30 a.m.

May 11 - 10:30 a.m. confirmands join church during worship service

## FFF: FIT FAB FUN BUNCH

### FFF BUNCH MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Trust me you do not want to miss this!!!!

The Fit Fab Fun Bunch will have a blast laughing and learning as we enjoy the new hilarious production of **"Ain't Got No Men!"** The Fun Bus will leave at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> for the 12-noon lunch and show at the Narrowway Theater in Fort Mill, South Carolina. The tickets are \$53.00 each and I have reserved 12 tickets for now. We can get more if needed.

We should be home around 3:30 ish. PLEASE LET BESS KNOW ASAP IF YOU PLAN TO GO.



## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

This school year seems to have passed extremely quickly! We have only a few weeks left! How is this possible??

On Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, twenty-one precious children will graduate to move on to kindergarten! All forty-nine of our students are practicing to be a part of our graduation program which will take place in our sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on that night. Some of the graduates have been with us since the two year class, while others have joined us along the way. We are proud of all of them and feel that we have helped to equip them for their future.

Most of the students from our two and three year classes will be returning for the next school year. We have also signed up a number of new students already. At this time we have 43 children who are planning to be with Kingdom Kids, which means there are limited openings.

I personally want to thank each one of you who has supported this program in any way throughout the years. It has been a blessing in my life and in the life of many of the families of our community. The first children I had are now juniors in college. Some still contact me and their families tell me how much our program has meant to them. FUMC rocks!!!

Ms. Millie

## May Birthdays

1	Samantha Moss
2	Amber Brafford
4	Susan Beam
6	Renee Allen
7	Wrenley Buff
7	Betty Dellinger
8	Harper Beck
8	Paige Sigmon
9	Audie McGinnis
13	Greyson Haynes
13	Pam Huffstetler
13	Bertha Maxey
13	Landis Moss
16	Dawn Whitworth
19	Michelle Bingham
19	Jennifer Bradley
20	Lance Hudson
20	Rozzie Norwood
20	Bayne Phillips
20	Kevin Thornburg
21	Nate Thornburg
22	M'Shel Bowen
22	Wayne Watts
24	Andrew Harmon
24	Lucas Smith
24	Ben Sneed
25	Eddie Pursley
25	Robert Sneed
25	Kim Young
27	Hayden Morehouse
28	Genea Moss
28	Hazeline Moss
30	Kent Ballard
30	Chelsea Thornburg

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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT: APRIL 27, 2025

Received to Date . . . . . \$106,766.27  
Needs to Date . . . . . \$142,708.54

## OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD:

Church Building Renovations . . . . . \$3,530.00  
Endowment Fund . . . . . \$755.00  
Backpack Ministry . . . . . \$350.00  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund . . . . . \$835.00  
Playground Fund . . . . . \$8,928.50  
Youth Missions . . . . . \$450.00



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

**BONNY ALEXANDER**

Jack & Judy Bingham  
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg

**MARGARET BEAM**

Linda Kale Barger  
Jack & Judy Bingham

**RICHARD BOWMAN**

Wayne & Belinda Watts (Playground Fund)

**ERIC CARPENTER**

Betty Jane Robinson  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**ELIZABETH DOTY**

Jack & Judy Bingham

**BOB FAIRES**

Joyce Baxter (Playground Fund)  
Mac & Jewel Brawley (Playground Fund)  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**GAYE FEIGL**

Steve & Lynn Bowen

**LARRY HANNON**

Linda Kale Barger

**CHARLIE HARMON**

Jack & Judy Bingham  
Mac & Jewel Brawley (Playground Fund)  
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**JACK & ALMA KALE**

Linda Kale Barger

**ELOISE MAUNEY**

Janice Metcalf Hammond  
Mac & Jewel Brawley (Playground Fund)

**SCOTT MAUNEY**

Jack & Judy Bingham  
Steve & Lynn Bowen  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)  
Debbie Gantt (Playground Fund)  
Gail V. Jenkins  
Wayne & Belinda Watts (Playground Fund)  
Danny & Teci Webb

**RAY MCSWAIN**

Joyce Baxter (Playground Fund)  
Clarice Harrelson  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Wayne & Belinda Watts (Playground Fund)

**JACK MOSS**

Linda Kale Barger  
Jack & Judy Bingham  
Ben & Robin Blackburn  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)  
Nancy Catena  
Debbie Gantt (Playground Fund)  
Juanita Gunnell  
Ronnie & Jill Puett  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
Wayne & Belinda Watts (Playground Fund)

**JEFF PEELER**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

**LARRY & SABRA THORNBURG**

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Endowment Fund)

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