

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468
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SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 10

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.

Trinity Smith
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

October Reflection

Faith in the Face of Fear

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love."

It is hard to encounter the month of October and not seriously consider the role that fear can play in our lives. Fear is something we all know well. It takes many forms: the sudden jolt of panic when the phone rings late at night, the quiet unease that lingers after a troubling diagnosis, the stress of not knowing how the bills will be paid, the worry for our children and grandchildren as they navigate a complicated world. Fear is part of the human experience, and no amount of wishful thinking makes it disappear. But Scripture teaches us again and again that fear does not have to have the final word.

The Bible is filled with stories of people who faced overwhelming fear and yet chose to trust God. Think of Moses standing before the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army pressing from behind. Fear would have said, "It's over." Faith said, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." Think of David, a shepherd boy facing down Goliath with nothing but a sling and a few stones. Fear would have kept him in the back ranks. Faith led him to run toward the giant, declaring, "The battle is the Lord's." Think of Mary, a young woman told she would bear the Son of God. Fear could have silenced her. Faith led her to say, "Let it be with me according to your word."

We may not face seas to part, giants to defeat, or angelic visitations, but we do face fears just as real: health concerns, financial stress, uncertain futures, family struggles, the state of our world. In those moments, the temptation is to let fear take over, to listen to its voice that says, *You're alone. You're powerless. There's no hope.* Yet faith invites us to hear a different voice—the voice of the Lord who says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10).

Having faith in the face of fear doesn't mean we never feel afraid. It doesn't mean we ignore danger or deny reality. Even Jesus, on the night before His crucifixion, prayed in deep anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. What faith does mean is that we refuse to let fear define us or dictate our decisions. Faith means trusting that God is greater than the threats we face. Faith means remembering that the tomb is empty, that Christ is risen, and that no darkness can overcome His light.

Practically speaking, how do we cultivate this kind of faith when fear presses in?

First, we remember God's promises. Fear thrives on forgetfulness—it wants us to forget who God is and what God has done. That's why Scripture so often calls us to remember. "The Lord is my light and my

salvation—whom shall I fear?” (Psalm 27:1). Writing down or memorizing verses like this gives us truth to cling to when fear’s voice gets loud.

Second, we pray. Fear isolates, convincing us that we’re alone. Prayer draws us back into God’s presence, reminding us that we never walk alone. Sometimes all we can pray is, “Lord, help me.” That is enough. Prayer shifts our focus from the size of our problems to the greatness of our God.

Third, we lean on the community of faith. One of the gifts of the church is that we don’t face our fears in isolation. We are surrounded by brothers and sisters who can encourage us, pray for us, and sometimes even carry us when our own faith feels weak. When we gather for worship, when we study Scripture together, when we serve side by side, we are reminded that God’s Spirit is at work among us.

Finally, we act in faith, even when we still feel afraid. Courage is not the absence of fear—it is moving forward in trust despite our fear. Each small step of faith strengthens us for the next one. Over time, we discover that fear loses its grip as faith grows deeper roots.

Church, the good news is that fear does not have the final say. The cross looked like defeat, but it became the doorway to victory. The disciples hid in fear behind locked doors, but the risen Christ came and stood among them, saying, “Peace be with you.” That same peace is offered to us today.

So whatever fears you are carrying—whether spoken aloud or silently held in your heart—hear this word: you are not alone. God is with you. Christ has gone before you. The Spirit surrounds you. Faith does not erase fear, but it transforms it, reminding us that no matter what comes, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May we be a people who face our fears not with despair, but with faith—trusting the One who holds us fast, who leads us through, and who promises us a future filled with hope.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

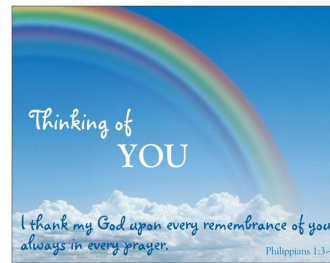


It is time to start stocking up on items for The Backpack Ministry as the new school year has started. We are in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of October.

Thank you to all who assist with this program. Your generous donations help this mission to be successful and are very much appreciated by those who receive the book bags. We can always use these items, but sometimes the list may change based on the supply of goods we have on hand.

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Oct. 5 | Ravioli |
| Oct. 12 | Canned peaches |
| Oct. 19 | Creamy Peanut butter (plastic jar) |
| Oct. 26 | Mac & Cheese |

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee



"GREETING CARD OUTREACH"

Sunday, October 12

We will have cards available for signing on Sunday, October 12 to send to our church family or members of our church who are sick, or home bound, or who may be struggling. Also, there are many friends in our community who need some love. In an effort to reach out to others, there will be various cards available for you to sign for our shut-ins or members of our church or community on the second Sunday of each month. These cards will be set up on a table in the narthex for you to drop by and sign. The next "Greeting Card Sunday" will be Sunday, October 12.

Breakfast

On **Saturday, September 27**, 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 3rd 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 4th-5th 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.



BIBLE STUDY will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the June Medlin Classroom.



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 **OCTOBER 2025.**

Acolytes and Crucifers will resume wearing robes. This has been very well received by both our congregation and the young people. **ALSO PLEASE BE IN THE NARTHEX BY 10:15 am 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

Oct. 5	Lawson Walls	Allie Anthony
Oct. 12	Emma Pruitt	Caroline Carswell
Oct. 19	Riley Shuford	Grayce Pruitt
Oct. 26	Zach Harmon	Seth Harmon

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



OCTOBER 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 **October**. 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.

Oct. 5	Susan Carswell
Oct. 12	Crystal Christy
Oct. 19	Elizabeth Shuford
Oct. 26	Kristen Freeman

UMK "PUMPKIN PRAYERS" FOR OCTOBER



Our Wednesday night United Methods Kids, better known as UMKs, are going strong on Wednesday nights. All 3 yr olds thru 5th graders are invited to be a part of our UMK program. We meet each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Supper is served each night from 6:00 to 6:30 and then we will move into the sanctuary for our singing, skits and assembly time. From 6:55 to 7:25 we will do our lesson/class time/crafts and games together and gather at 7:25 - 7:30 in the Sanctuary or playground (weather permitting) for our prayer time and vespers. Parents can pick-up your children at 7:30 p.m. at the side entrance or on the playground if weather permits.

Our lessons coming up in October will be **"PUMPKIN PRAYERS!"** **"Do not be anxious about anything. But in every situation, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4-6"**

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Oct. 1 | Get Connected | Matt 6:11
Daniel 6:3-10 |
| Oct. 8 | Lose the Gunk | Matt 6:12
Matt 18:21-33 |
| Oct. 15 | Joyful Noise | Matt 6:9-10
Palms 100:4-5 |
| Oct. 22 | Light in the Darkness | Matt 6:13
John 8:12 |
| Oct. 29 | TRUNK OR TREAT | |

UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2025

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 1 | Corn Dogs, tater tots, dessert
Susan & Will Carswell |
| Oct. 8 | Pizza, Chips & Cookies
FUMC |
| Oct. 15 | Taco night!!!
M'Shel Bowen & Renee Allen |
| Oct. 22 | Turkey & Cheese subs, chips & cookies
Dawn Whitworth, & Emily &
Chris Parris |
| Oct. 29 | Hot Dogs / Trunk or Treat |



Wednesday, October 29, 2025

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Everyone is invited to come eat a Hot dog, visit decorated trunks and enjoy Halloween costumes, games, treats and candy.

All parents and adults are encouraged to have your trunks and candy ready by 5:00 p.m. at church parking area near the picnic shelter! ***without trunks there is no TRUNK OR TREAT!!!***

****We need pop-up tents for Trunk or Treat. If anyone has a tent we can use, please contact Bess.**



Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast has resumed every Thursday morning before school at 7:00 a.m. Start your day off with a time of fellowship and prayer together with other students, parents, grandparents and friends of all ages. Our prayer breakfast is such a blessing to all who attend. It's a great start to our school day, work day or anyway! We are meeting at Homefolks Café at 7:00 a.m. 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.



UMYF NEWS...

U.M.Y.F. (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets every Sunday night from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm down stairs in the youth room. All 6th thru 12th graders is invited to come and join our Youth Group. **YOU ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND THE GROUP NEEDS YOU TO MAKE OUR FUTURE PLANS!!!**

We will be planning to have various special activities and continue our **“MISSION POSSIBLE”** activities throughout the year. Just some up coming plans in the making will be to help with Truck or Treat on October 29th, Operation Christmas Child in December, decorating and serving at the “Hanging of the Greens” family night, sponsoring an Angel Tree, volunteering at a soup Kitchen or “Least of These, of course our annual trip to “The Edge Conference”. Our fun nights will be once a month hopefully, with 5th quarter activities after the home football games, Movie night, Lock-In fun, and a night at the dinner theater, for starters.

Our lessons will be Youth Ministry lesson from Sean McDowell **“Am I Happy?” The Search for Something More...** 4 lessons on relationships, accomplishments, appearances and circumstances.

Watch your FUMCY News Flash text for details!! 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!!!



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

September has been a busy month. We celebrated grandparents day with each class making something special using hand prints.

- We celebrated National Play-Doh day playing with lots of play-doh and cookie cutters.
- Mrs Traci the librarian from the Cherryville library came to read to us and brought us some crafts. The children were very excited.

We look forward to an exciting October that will be filled with fun activities:

- ★ Oct. 3rd our 3 and 4yr class will walk to the Fire dept at 9:10.
- ★ Oct 6th Fire Dept. will bring a truck for the 2's at 9:30.
- ★ Oct 8th we will be going to Lineberger's Pumpkin Patch at 9:00.
- ★ Oct 10th celebrate Pastor Zack (Pator Appreciation)
- ★ Oct 16th early dismissal 11:00
- ★ Oct 17th No School
- ★ Oct 29th Trunk-or-Treat 5-8
- ★ Oct 31st Monster March Uptown 10:00

Mrs. Trinity Smith



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee encourages our members and friends to express their personal appreciation for the work and leadership of our pastor. Whether it is by spoken or written words, your encouragement for the effort of Pastor Zack Christy will be genuinely appreciated.

Palmer Huffstetler, PPRC Chair

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: SEPT. 21, 2025

Received to Date \$237,018.92
Needs to Date \$318,995.56

OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD:

Church Building Renovations \$8,070.00
Endowment Fund \$1,030.00
Backpack Ministry \$1,020.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$2,382.93
Playground Fund \$24,659.99
Youth Missions \$900.00

OCTOBER USHERS:

Vee Thornburg, Bruce Barrett, Ethan Beck,
Ben Blackburn, Clay Thornburg

We're excited to share that you can now make your contributions online—quickly, securely, and from any device. Simply scan the QR code below or visit our website to get started. You can give by using a credit card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or a bank draft. You also have the option to set up recurring giving, so your support can continue automatically on a schedule that works for you. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First United Methodist Church Cherryville.



After many hours of planning and years of fund raising, we have almost completed our playground upgrades. Our Playground Selection Committee along with the Trustees originally anticipated the cost of the upgrades to be around \$80,000.00. After the work began, these 2 committees saved the church almost \$10,000 by doing some of the manual labor themselves and we are so thankful for this savings. The total cost for the upgrades is anticipated to be \$70,394.22. Over the past 2½ years we have received contributions for this project totaling \$58,442.89 which means we still need \$11,951.33 to pay for the total projects that are planned. The UMK's, Youth, Preschool and scouts are enjoying the improvements that are already in place. Please remember this fund when making memorials or special gifts to the church.





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

NICK BOWEN

Ruth Gaston
Gail Jenkins & Family
Darlene Mayhew
Ronnie & Jill Puett

ALAN CANNON

Steve & Lynn Bowen
Eastern Star Chapter 156
Darlene Mayhew
Kathy Pilkington
Betty Jane Robinson
Mike & Becky Ross
T. L. & Miney Saine

ROGER COKER

Gail Jenkins & Jeff Jenkins (Mildred Young
Preschool scholarship)
Chelsi & Rob Thomas (Mildred Young
Preschool scholarship)

RACHEL DIXON

Linda Kale Barger

BOB FREEMAN

Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)

TRENT GARDO

Harold & Kim Mauney (Playground Fund)

ELOISE MAUNEY

Darlene Mayhew

KEN MAYHEW

Ruth Gaston

ANN WALKER

Linda K. Barger
Ben & Robin Blackburn (Playground Fund)
Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Gail Jenkins (Mildred Young Preschool Scholarship)
Phyllis Thornburg

LINDA WHITWORTH

Linda Kale Barger
Steve & Susan Beam
Johnny, Kelly & Nick Brown (Backpack Ministry)
David Carpenter (Playground Fund)
Sandra Carpenter (Playground Fund)
Nancy Catena
Joe Dismukes
Etheleen Dover SS Class (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Debbie Gantt (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Bill & Quita Moss
Sylvia Norton (Playground Fund)
T. L. & Miney Saine
Phyllis Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

RAYNELL WINGARD

Gail Jenkins & Jeff Jenkins (Mildred Young
Preschool scholarship)
Chelsi & Rob Thomas (Mildred Young
Preschool scholarship)

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IN HONOR

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

DARIN & BROOKE ALDRIDGE

Linda Kale Barger

MICHAEL BEAM

Happy Birthday

Ruth Gaston

NANCY CATENA

Ruth Gaston

VIVIE WINTER

Linda Kale Barger

+

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Linda Alexander, Kent Ballard, Michael Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Matt Brafford, Mac & Jewel Brawley, Mike Burgess, Deanna Daggerhart, Ruth Gaston, Doris Huss, Reid Huss, Samantha Moss, Roy Norwood, Dave Owens, Rev. Harry Queen, Vernon & Betty Smith, Todd Sorenson, Jim Tate, Leslie Thornburg, Phyllis Thornburg, Ron Walls, Wayne & Belinda Watts, Doug Whitworth and family, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Kim Alexander, Mary Crocker, Becky Estes, Riley Huffman, Steve Kale, Susan Moss, Keys Pendleton, Jennifer Pruitt, Rick Webb, Matt Williams, Becky Wood, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson,

*Hunter Haire, *Jessica Lovell, Paxton York.

Church Member, *Deployed

October Birthdays

- 1 Eddie Eaker
- 1 Tim Pruitt
- 2 Stan Allen
- 3 Baylor Gunnell
- 4 Patience Foster
- 4 Kevin Moths
- 4 Lory Paputseanos
- 4 Michael Ross
- 5 Bo Baity
- 5 Brent Gardo
- 6 Betty Smith
- 6 Emily Webb
- 7 Ben Huffstetler
- 9 Emily Kirby
- 10 Marley Hudson
- 10 Shawn McQuaige
- 11 Will Skibo
- 12 Holly Bell
- 12 George Conner
- 13 Tracy Gardo
- 14 Chesley Walls
- 15 Donnie Bell
- 15 Ryan Davis
- 15 Curtis Harrelson
- 16 Mike Burgess
- 17 Bobbi Ballard
- 17 Taylor Costner
- 18 Tom Dellinger
- 19 Ava Thornburg
- 23 Archie Mitchell
- 23 Kirk Thornburg
- 24 Dave Owens
- 25 Erika King
- 27 Amy Dellinger
- 28 Addie Fier
- 29 David Carpenter
- 30 Juanita Gunnell
- 30 Brody Thornburg
- 31 Jill Puett



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of the cards and well wishes that I have received. It is a true blessing to have such a caring and wonderful church family. I love you all and I miss seeing you.

Mary Etta Stephenson

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



***OCTOBER HOMEBOUND
MEMBER TO SEND A CARD***

**Mr. Ned Heavner
2428 Startown Rd.
Lincolnton, NC 28092**

Sunday, September 28

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Tuesday, September 30

6:00pm - Special Events Committee meeting

7:00pm - Education Committee meeting

Wednesday, October 1

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, October 2

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

6:00pm - Pastor Parish Relations Committee meeting

Sunday, October 5

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, October 8

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, October 9

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

Friday, October 10

Budget requests due from committee chairs
to church office

Sunday, October 12

"GREETING CARD OUTREACH"

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Monday, October 13

Federal Holiday

Wednesday, October 15

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, October 16

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

Sunday, October 19

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, October 22

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, October 23

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

Saturday, October 25

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

Sunday, October 26

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, October 29

5:00pm - UMK's - Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 30

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

Sunday, November 2

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth