

**THE MESSENGER**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**601 NORTH PINK STREET**  
**CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021**  
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[firstmethodistcherryville.com](http://firstmethodistcherryville.com)

**May 26, 2021**

**Vol. XXXII No. 5**

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.

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***Job 27:3 "As long as my breath is in me, the spirit of God is in my nostrils."***

I have an apple watch and every so often it vibrates and tells me to breathe. I admit more often than not, this notification drives me crazy. I think to myself I know how to breathe, I don't need some watch telling me to breathe, I have been doing it for 31 years. But the other day, I was outside trying to chase down my kids, and my watch buzzed me telling me to breathe.

I don't know why but I looked around and I tried to soak in everything that was happening. Eli and Ella were trying to chase the dogs down to get them to give back a ball. The dog was excited because it had a ball, Crystal was outside soaking up the sunshine, and it was one of those perfect little moments in life. We don't get those moments that often, life is hectic and busy, there is always more to do, too many things to do and not enough sunlight.

And there were plenty of things that I could have been worrying about that evening, I could have been worrying about an upcoming meeting, I could have been worrying about this bill or that bill, I could have been worried about any number of things. But in that moment, all I was worried about was breathing and being present.

Over this past year I'm not sure how often I have taken time to breathe. Ever since March 2020, the pandemic has stolen my peace of mind, as I'm sure it has for many of you. It is hard to soak up those precious moments when you are living in such uncertainty. In fact I dare say, it is even harder to find time to simply breathe.

Job knew what that was like, the story of Job is one of the more perplexing in Scripture. At the beginning of it we are introduced to Job, a man who appears to have the perfect life, he has been successful in everything he sets his mind to. Satan comes to God one day and says, "Job only likes you because you have given him all these cool things," God says, "No Job will be faithful no matter what." Satan says, "Let me have a crack at him," and just like that everything that Job had goes up in smoke.

His family ripped away, his fortune evaporated, his house demolished, and then as if to add insult to injury his health compromised. Everything safe in his life that could be taken from Job was, and yet remarkably Job remains faithful to God. It is in the midst of his struggles that some "friends" come to visit him, in the depth of his depression these friends try to get Job to figure out what he did to make God so angry with him.

Job remains faithful to God, even though he has every reason to turn his back on God. Even with boils covering his body, even trying to get his head around the depth of his despair, Job refuses to turn away from

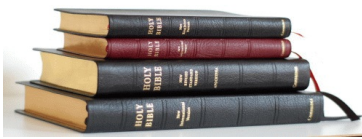
his Creator. In fact Job even takes moments to simply breathe and to recognize that even the breath he has is a tangible sign of the grace of God.

Maybe we all need that reminder to simply breathe, to take in our surroundings, and to celebrate God's abiding grace. It's funny what you notice when you take a moment to simply be present. So this month as we begin to weather the heat, take a few moments each day and simply breathe.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMED ON MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>!!!! YAY!!!!

After a LONG break during COVID restrictions our Sunday School Classes are meeting again! On May 23<sup>rd</sup> our Sunday School Classes began their small group studies for all ages. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.. We offer classes for everyone! We will have our children's classes: Nursery, 0-2yr olds; Toddler Class, 2-4 yr. olds; Younger Elementary, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades; Older Elementary, 3-5<sup>th</sup> grades; Youth class, 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades; and of course our adult classes upstairs: Romans 12 class, Young adults; Etheleen Dover Class, young to middle age adults; June Medlin Class, middle age and senior adults; Men's Bible Class, any age men of the church; Discovery Class meets downstairs, any age adults. You are invited to be a part of any one of these assemblies.

**Thanks to all of you who have so graciously volunteered to teach and lead our classes.** Teachers and helpers are still being lined up for these classes and groups and adjustments may be made especially in the children's age groups as class size and location is determined, but how wonderful to be able to gather again in our classes for Bible study, Christian fellowship, group bonding and prayer time!

## LOOKING AHEAD:



is coming. V.B.S. will be held August 1 thru 5!!! Make plans now to attend! We will have an opening day **"PEP RALLY"** on Sunday afternoon August 1st for everyone of all ages. Then the children will move to their classes for all kids 2years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Also, we will need volunteers for every aspect of V.B.S. so **PLEASE** let Bess know if you will be able to help with this year's V.B.S. Victory is COMING!!!!

B I N G O				
14	24	44	53	68
7	28	31	54	73
2	26	★	51	67
3	22	39	57	75
9	20	37	50	71

## FAMILY FUN BINGO NIGHT!!!

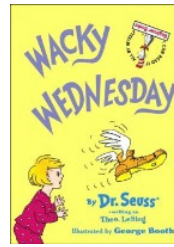
Sponsored by the UMYF!



**UMK's:** It is hard to believe that another school year has passed and May 26<sup>th</sup> was our last UMK meeting for this school year! We celebrated with an "end of year/last day of school" celebration and cookout and games night! UMK's will begin again on Wednesdays in the fall on September 8<sup>th</sup>. During the summer we will have our **"Wild Whacky Wednesday"** outings!



**A Very Special Thank You** to those who worked so hard to make this year's UMK nights a fabulous time for all of our young children. Many of you have served, bought and provided suppers, taught classes, lead music, provided power point pictures, played games, helped set up and clean up each and every week! And most of all, to the parents of our group who saw to it that their kids were a part of a special Christian group of youngsters! We have had a great, but somewhat different year (no thanks to COVID-19!) that could not have happened without everyone's help and energy!



**Summer of 2021!! "Wild Wacky Wednesdays" for all rising K-5<sup>th</sup> graders.** Fun activities each Wednesday! We will begin our "Wild Whacky Wednesday" summer fun days on June 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church each Wednesday morning to ride the van, bus or cars. We will be going places around the area for fun, exploring, and devotions and seeing God's hand in our world! Please note that any child under the age of 6 should be accompanied by a parent or adult. Our schedule for June is:

- June 9 9:30 a.m. we will leave the church for "Our Town" visits to Fire Dept., Police Dept., Water plant, Historical Museum, C. Grier Beam Truck Museum and Heritage Park.
- June 16 Splash pad and picnic in Lincolnton
- June 23 Pool Party at the Harmon's Resort and Pool
- June 30 Schiele Museum and Planetarium

Of course anything can change but this is the plan for now. **Parents: you will receive more details in the mail soon along with permission slips and information.** Please don't hesitate to call Bess at the church if you have any questions or concerns!



**UMYF:** United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders) met for our last regular meeting of the school year on May 23<sup>rd</sup>! We brain stormed ideas and made plans for the upcoming summer.

**\*\*\*\* No UMYF May 30<sup>th</sup>!!!\*\*\*\***

However, we will meet at least once a month during the summer. We will plan to meet on the last Sunday of each month at the church at 6:00 p.m. and also do some fun nights and mission projects and activities during the summer months. Please watch our group text **"FUMCY"** group link for information! **Our next regular meeting will be June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** will begin again during our 10:30 Worship service for all children **3yrs thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>.** 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> grades with pencils crayons and coloring pages. 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 to all of our young people you have served as acolyte and crucifer last month! You guys have done a great job in preparing us for worship. A new schedule was sent out to cover Sunday's through August 29. Thanks for your willingness to serve during our worship services. Below is the schedule for June. If you cannot serve on your Sunday please let Bess know or switch with someone on the list.

- June 6 Alayna Ross and Zachary Harmon
- June 13 Landry Pruitt and Mallie Emerson
- June 20 Ayden Canipe and Sophia Williams
- June 27 Bella Thornburg and Amber Grace Brittain



**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 **June 14<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers are asked to be there at 9 a.m. for unloading and 10 a.m.-12 noon the distribution will begin. Volunteers are needed from the community to help unload and distribute the food. *If you can help with this community project please let Bess Thornburg know at the church office.* Transportation expenses have been paid for this last give out of the season. 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. We have several people who have signed up to help! **Thanks to all that have volunteered to represent our church for this project and offered donations to help with expenses!**



The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable goods for our backpack ministry during the month of June. We will continue to deliver bookbags to the homes of some of the children we serve throughout the

school year.

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.

- June 6 - Canned fruit
- June 13 - Green Beans
- June 20 - Corn
- June 27 - Canned spaghetti sauce & noodles

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee

**BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
SUPPLY  
DRIVE**



**ONE BODY  
ONE MISSION  
SCHOOL  
SUPPLY DRIVE**

**will be on August 7** from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at St John's Lutheran Church this year. Again we will be gathering school supplies and much needed materials for back to school backpack distribution for our community. **If you would like to register to receive supplies please call 704-435-9264 between the dates of June 1 thru July 16. MORE INFO TO COME!!!**







Mr. Jim Eaton  
139 Cricket Creek Road  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Sunday, May 30**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
No Youth

**Monday, May 31**

Church Office Closed

**Tuesday, June 1**

7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting

**Sunday, June 6**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Wednesday, June 9**

9:30am - UMK's "WWW" "Our Town" visits

**Sunday, June 13**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Wednesday, June 16**

UMK's "WWW" to Splash Pad in Lincolnton

**Sunday, June 20**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship

**Wednesday, June 23**

UMK's "WWW" pool party

**Sunday, June 27**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
6:00pm - Youth

**Wednesday, June 30**

UMK's "WWW" to Schiele Museum

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, MAY 23, 2021**

Total Giving To Date . . . . . \$140,120.98  
Needs to Date . . . . . \$160,290.48

**PRAYER LIST (Members)**

Billy Alexander, Bob Austell, Bo Baity & Family, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Guy & Pat Eaker, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Larry Gunnell, Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler, Ken Mayhew, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Pat McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Karleen Price, Rev. Harry Queen, Chris Sneed, Amanda Sorenson, Gary Thornburg, Melanie Thornburg & Family, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

**PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)**

Elena Azzrita, Brenda Beam, Ed Beam, Martha Beam, Marty Beam, Gwenneth Blackwelder, Jayme Christy, Lisa Eaker, Dianne Heavner, Susan Heavner, A. J. & Teresa Henley, Jason Hollifield, Scott Kale, Shelley Smith, Beverly Hamrick Stiles, 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