

**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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**April 28, 2021**

**Vol. XXXII No. 4**

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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**May Reflection**

Romans 5:1-5 *“Therefore since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our **hope** of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces **hope**, and **hope** does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”*

I must confess to you that this Scripture is one of the Scriptures that I have consistently been drawn back too in my life. It is one of my favorite pieces of Scripture to preach on, one of my favorites to begin my mornings with, one of my favorites to be thinking on. What amazes me about Scripture is how each time you come to it, what you take from it can be different. At some points in my life I have read this Scripture and it has made me feel very uplifted, other times it has frustrated me. I reckon that is somewhat the paradox of hope.

As we well know this is Paul’s great discourse on hope, and what amazes me about these five verses, is how much theology Paul is able to pack into only two sentences. Every word is of value, so often in life we use our words carelessly, we throw them away. Here in Romans chapter 5 you can feel that Paul put extraordinary weight on each word, you can almost feel the tip of the pen rip into the paper as he inscribes each thought.

Of course when you come to a subject as precarious as hope, perhaps more weight should be put on each word. Hope is a fickle thing, it can be alive and so vibrant in our lives at one moment and completely dashed the next. Hope can make you feel like you are on the top of the world, but when your hope is ripped away, you might find yourself with nowhere left to turn.

Paul needs to spend some time thinking through what he is going to say about hope. He is writing to a community in distress, church life is falling apart while he is in jail, and there isn’t a thing he can do about it. So he writes this letter to the Romans, a large and weighty letter, but buried in this letter, is his thoughts on hope. Notice how Paul gets to hope, he doesn’t just start with it, make no mistake hope isn’t simply something that is given, hope is earned. Paul says that hope is derived from suffering, endurance, and character.

I will admit, I wish Paul would have just said, “Don’t be so down. You know you always have hope.” Because at least then hope remains a bit abstracted from us. The word isn’t defined, and when a word isn’t

defined you can slap it on any old thing you want. But when a word is defined, once we know where we get our hope, all those other flimsy definitions just don't seem to do the trick.

Paul says it is a costly hope that we have, a hope that cannot be attained without sufferings, without endurance in those sufferings, without a character that has been shaped and formed by the pain and dejection that we will all know in some form or another throughout life. Paul says, once you have moved through these then, and only then, will you know hope.


Oh friends' hope can be such a fickle thing, at times it is tough to find. You might be tempted to settle for the cheap hope that our world offers, but that is the kind of hope that comes quickly and leaves easily. There is nothing real about it, and after it is gone, you are left feeling worse than you were before.

Now my friends we have hope; a real deep and abiding hope through Jesus Christ, but the hard truth is, we cannot know this hope, we cannot receive this gift without knowing suffering, without knowing what it is like to endure, without having our character built up through this present life. Even though life seems hard and overwhelming, and while the bright spots may be hard to identify, I want you to claim your hope, a hope that has been endowed to you through the Holy Spirit. A hope that will always lead you through the rough patches, because our hope does not come from within, our hope is found in God!

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

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The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in bookbags during the month of May.

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.

May 2 - corn  
May 9 - chicken helper  
May 16 - vienna sausage  
May 23 - 16 oz. jar creamy peanut butter  
May 30 - 20 oz. plastic jar grape jelly

Thank you,  
The Backpack Ministry Committee

# LOOKING AHEAD

 **is coming. VBS this Summer!!!**  
Teachers and volunteers are needed.  
See Bess Thornburg.

 **is coming Summer of 2021!!**  
“Wacky Wild Wednesdays” for all K-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Fun activities each Wednesday!

**BINGO**

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!

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

After a LONG break during COVID restrictions our Sunday School Classes will meet again! May 23<sup>rd</sup> we will begin our Sunday School Classes for all ages. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 am. 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> grade; 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. 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. How wonderful it is to be able to gather again in our classes for Bible study, Christian fellowship, group bonding and prayer time!



**UMK's:** All UMK's ages 3 yrs-5th graders are invited to be a part of the fun activities, bible lessons, singing and evening vespers each Wednesday night 6:00 pm to 7:30. In order to stay safe we ask that you wear your mask to our meetings. Supper will be served each night at 6:00 pm.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> we began our 4 **CURIOUS?** Lessons:




**CURIOUS?** is a children's series answering common questions and exploring questions about Jesus and his life. We will continue UMKs until May 26th. On May 26th we will have our end of the year party and cookout with games and "last day of school" celebration.

Miss Bess will continue to have our Bible lessons at 5:00 pm 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.

**UMKs need your help!!** Our UMK Suppers are provided and served each week by volunteers, parents and even grandparents who support our children. ***A BIG THANK YOU*** to all those who help with this each Wednesday! **If you would like to provide a supper for our UMK's we could use your help! Just contact Bess Thornburg at the church office if you feel led to cook, serve and receive a blessing from feeding the excited hungry young folks attending UMKs.**



**UMYF:** United Methodist Youth Fellowship (all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade) began meeting together at our regular time on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, each Sunday night at the church downstairs in our new Youth room. We will continue our lesson series for the next few weeks

**“Divergent Faith”:**  applying our faith every day and having a faith that survives at all costs. We will be exploring Bible stories and Bible people who set an example for us through their confident faith during times of assurance about what we cannot see. “Dauntless (Brave), Candor (the honest), Erudite (Intelligent), Amity (Peace), Abnegation (selflessness) are the factions of faith we are pursuing. 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. Please plan to join us as we make plans for the future of our group. We are blessed to see God’s work and presence in our lives!

Our UMYF/Confirmation group enjoyed a “Wet and Wild” weekend at **Tekoa Foothills**, formerly Camp Loy White, the weekend of April 23-25<sup>th</sup>. Despite the wet weather, our latest “VAN ADVENTURE” as the kids call it, took us where we enjoyed a campfire, "Trinity S’mores", roasted wieners for our hot dogs, a hike to the giant bamboo garden, canoeing and paddle boats/"bumper boats" and group building activities, games and the “Ga Ga Pit”. We experienced the movie Divergent and learned the 5 factions of faith that we have been studying on Sunday nights. This Sunday night will be Awards night for the Retreat Adventure!!! Be there for your special award!

We want to say a special thank you to Mrs. Crystal Thornburg for going with us on the trip and for helping to cook, dry clothes, keep the peace ☺, and serve as our trip photographer! Thank you Crystal for all you did for us. We loved having you there!

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



**GRADUATE SUNDAY IS MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>!**

Congratulations to our 2021 Graduates. We will honor our high School graduate *Harlee Savannah Austin* and present Scholarships at the 10:30 worship service on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We also honor her with a graduate breakfast at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

We congratulate and will honor *Emily Grace Nytko Mitchell Beam Bowen, Nickolas John Brown, Macie Gates Beam and Anna Kathryn Burluson* on their college graduation on that Sunday also.

**\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*\*** Any college graduates... please notify the church office if you are graduating from college. We need your School, graduation date, degree and future plans. THANKS!!



**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 May 11<sup>th</sup>, 8am-9 am unloading, and 10am-12 noon distribution. 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. Each church is being asked to donate \$300.00 for transportation expenses. Our church, thru the missions committee, has made our \$300.00 donation. 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!**



## **KINGDOM KIDS KORNER**

It's hard to believe that we are in the final few weeks of this school year! What an amazing year we are having, even with all the restrictions and changes. We have awesome students, great teachers, super-supportive families and alot of support from FUMC. We are blessed!

Our four year class for the next school year is filled; we have a limited number of openings for the two and three year classes.

The graduation program for our children who will be heading to kindergarten is scheduled for May 20. We have sixteen well- prepared children who will be graduating. We will, of course, follow all Covid restrictions for this program.

Our last day of school will be on Wednesday, May 26. We congratulate our graduates - we will miss them! We are already planning and looking forward to the next school year. We will see our returning students in August, along with a number of new students.

Ms. Millie



## **THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS**

Thanks to all of our young people who have served as acolyte and crucifer this year! You guys have done a great job in preparing us for worship. A new schedule has been sent out for the next 4 months. Thanks for your willingness to serve during our worship services. Below is the schedule for May. If you cannot serve on your Sunday please let Bess know or switch with someone on the list.

- May 2     Mallie Emerson and Alayna Ross
- May 9     Ayden Canipe and Landry Pruitt
- May 16    Sophia Williams and Bella Thornburg
- May 23    Amber Grace Brittain and Lydia Bradley
- May 30    Kenan and Will Fowler



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

**BETTY BLACKBURN**

Steve & Susan Beam  
 Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
 Clarice Harrelson

**MIKE BLACKWOOD**

Ronnie & Jill Puett

**FRED BROWN**

Bruce & Chris Barrett

**ADAM CROWDER**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
 Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)  
 Steve & Susan Beam  
 Jack & Judy Bingham (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
 Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)  
 Nancy Catena  
 Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)  
 Clarice Harrelson  
 Ron & Janice Hovis  
 Hazeline Moss  
 Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
 Danny & Teci Webb  
 Margaret Webb

**LEROY EDWARDS**

Jack & Judy Bingham (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
 Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

**JACK HENLEY**

Jack & Judy Bingham (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

**JONATHAN HENLEY**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

**ROY METCALF**

Ron & Janice Hovis

**NELL GRIGGS**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
 Martha Beam  
 Steve & Susan Beam  
 Jack & Judy Bingham (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
 Ken & M'Shel Bowen (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
 Mac & Jewel Brawley  
 Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)  
 Stephen Bryant  
 Brenda Carpenter  
 Nancy Catena (Endowment Fund)  
 Alan & Cathy Cloninger  
 Richard & Martha Cornwell  
 Deanna Daggerhart (Backpack Ministry)  
 Chuck & Julie Dellinger & family  
 Florida Academy of Family Physicians  
 Shirley Hamrick & Beverly Stiles  
 Clarice Harrelson  
 Mary Hensley  
 Eloise Mauney  
 Linda Mauney  
 Ken & Darlene Mayhew  
 Lucretia McCulley  
 Hazeline Moss  
 Shirley Smith  
 Vernon & Betty Smith  
 Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson  
 Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)  
 Renee Blanton Walker  
 Danny & Teci Webb  
 Margaret Webb

**SANDRA TAYLOR MOSSMAN**

Jack & Judy Bingham (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)  
 Allen & Susan Fraley (Backpack Ministry)

**NANCY PIERCE**

Ed Pierce (Backpack Ministry)

**ROBERT SHOOK**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
 Debbie Gantt

**JOHNNY WASHBURN**

Ronnie & Jill Puett  
 Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)



**IN HONOR**

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

**BILLY & LINDA ALEXANDER**

Tommy & Renee Allen

**BILLY ALEXANDER**

*(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

**BO BAITY**

Ken & M'Shel Bowen (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

**LINDA BARGER**

*(Happy Birthday)*

T. L. & Miney Saine

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**STEVE BEAM**

Ken & M'Shel Bowen (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

**LYDIA BRADLEY**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**AMBER GRACE BRITTAIN**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**AYDEN CANIPE**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**SANDRA CARPENTER**

Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

**STEPHANIE BARRETT CARSWELL & STACEY WALKER**

*(Marriage)*

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**NANCY CATENA**

*(Happy Birthday)*

T. L. & Miney Saine

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

**MALLIE EMERSON**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**KENAN FOWLER**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**SUSAN FRALEY**

*(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

**DICK & CAROL METZGER**

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

**SYLVIA NORTON**

Gail Beam & Ephriam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)

**PRAISE BAND**

Bill & Quita Moss

**LANDRY PRUITT**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**MICHAEL, MELANIE, ALAYNA & JACOB ROSS**

Mike & Becky Ross (UMK Wednesday Programs)

**VERNON SMITH**

*(Happy Birthday)*

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

**BELLA THORNBURG**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**BESS THORNBURG**

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**SOPHIA WILLIAMS**

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)



## May Birthdays

1	Samantha Moss
2	Amber Brafford
4	Susan Beam
6	Renee Allen
7	Betty Dellinger
8	Paige Sigmon
9	Audie McGinnis
13	Greyson Haynes
13	Pam Huffstetler
13	Bertha Maxey
13	Landis Moss
13	Robert Turner
14	Jim Eaton
16	Dawn Whitworth
19	Michelle Bingham
19	Jennifer Bradley
20	Lance Hudson
20	Rozzie Norwood
20	Bayne Phillips
20	Kevin Thornburg
21	Jerry Hudson
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.





Vera Eaker  
Carolina Care Health & Rehab.  
111 Harrilson Rd.  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Sunday, May 2**

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
6:00pm - Youth

**Monday, May 3**

10:00am - UMW Executive Committee meeting  
7:00pm - Education Committee meeting

**Tuesday, May 4**

7:00pm - Finance Committee meeting

**Wednesday, May 5**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, May 9**

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary  
6:00pm - Youth

**Wednesday, May 12**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, May 16**

10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

**Wednesday, May 19**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Sunday, May 23**

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

**Wednesday, May 26**

6:00pm - UMK's cookout celebration

**Sunday, May 30**

9:30am - Sunday School in person  
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, APRIL 25, 2021**

Total Giving To Date ..... \$115,705.98  
Needs to Date ..... \$129,758.96

**PRAYER LIST (Members)**

Billy Alexander, Bob Austell, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, 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, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

**PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)**

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, 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