

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
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March 24, 2021

Vol. XXXII No. 3

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.

April Reflection

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

November 8th 2015 and June 24th 2018 are two of the proudest days of my life. On those days, my children, Elijah and Ella, were baptized. Those were special days; both my father and grandfather played a part in their baptisms. And it is somewhat hard to express just what those moments meant to me. On both those days my children were wiggling babies, didn't want any water on their heads, cried for the whole time they were shown around the church, yet the moment of their baptisms were so profound, so holy, it's hard to find words to describe it. I just couldn't stop beaming.

Now each year on November 8th and June 24th, my kids are given the opportunity to remember their baptisms. What we do is we light a candle, typically let the kids buy a cupcake and we talk about what it means that they were baptized. We read through the letters that people sent them on their baptism date, and they lead the remembrance of baptism, complete with them making the sign of the cross on everyone's head including the dog. Every year as we sit and we talk about that day, I hear the echo of words that were spoken at their baptisms, as many folks came hugged and loved on those little babies and said, "welcome to the family."

Welcome to the family! What a blessing it is, to be a part of a family. To be a part of a family, means that you always have someone there for you, you always have someone who has got your back. It means that there are folks who you know if you called them would drop everything to come help you. In the family of God it is baptism that initiates us into this new relationship that invites us to be a part of the family.

It is an amazing thing to get to be a part of the family of God. I have been blessed to have grown up in churches throughout the entirety of my life. The family of God has loved me, the family of God has reprimanded me, and yet through it all the family of God has nurtured me.

I love what Paul says to the Corinthian church, remember this is a church that has more problems than it does people. Paul says "You are the body of Christ, and even though you have many members, you are one body." In other words Paul says to the church, "You are family, so yeah you might fuss and you might fight, but at the end of the day when your back is against the wall, know that you will always have your family with you." This is what it means to be a part of the church, the ecclesia, the body of Christ, it means that we are family, and we are to be there for one another.

I know if you have been a part of this church for a while you know what it means to be a part of the family. You have known that you could open up the directory and call for help whenever you needed it. You have been that person for someone else, someone has called you in a moment of crisis and you have been there to offer help.

Coming up on April 4th and April 18th our family is going to get a little bit bigger. On April 4th we will have some of the finest young adults you have ever met join our church family after completing confirmation. On April 18th we will have a New Member Sunday, in which anyone who wishes to join our church is invited to do so. As of writing this, we will have ten new members joining, so if you would like to become officially part of the family of First UMC, we would love to have you. Our mission here is simple. We strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We aim to be the body of Christ that welcomes all, and we want you to know that we want you to be a part of our family.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy

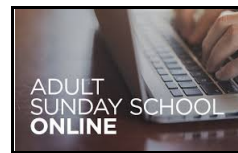


The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in bookbags during the month of April.

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.

- Mar. 28 - chicken or tuna helper
- Apr. 4 - canned fruit
- Apr. 11 - tomato soup
- Apr. 18 - ravioli
- Apr. 25 - canned fruit

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.



EASTER EGG HUNT: SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD

10:00 a.m.

All children up to 5th grade are invited to meet together for our EASTER EGG HUNT! We will have fun time of egg hunting, Easter games and crafts, lesson time and refreshments beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 3rd. We will gather in the church fellowship hall first and venture outside weather permitting. Please bring your Easter basket and wear your mask.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to all those who have donated eggs and candy and prizes for the egg hunt and have volunteered to help! We have over 500 eggs!!



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

Beginning March 24th we began our 4 Easter lessons:



JELLY BEANS -The colors of Easter: Using colors of Jelly Beans to learn the Easter Story. We will continue with the Jelly Bean Lessons thru April 21st. Then on April 28th we will move to

“Curious”: Exploring questions about Jesus and his life. We will continue UMKs until May 26th.

***NOTE: No UMKs on April 7th due to Easter Break**

We will celebrate Palm Sunday, March 28th, by waving Palms and singing during 10:30 a.m. worship service and Easter by having a fun Easter Egg Hunt on April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. and resurrection worship April 4th at our 10:30 worship service by placing flowers on the cross.

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.

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 6th thru 12th grade) will begin meeting together at our regular time again beginning April 11th, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., each Sunday night at the church downstairs in our new Youth room. We will begin a new lesson series for the next 6 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. 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 has helped fill Easter Eggs and have been collecting toiletries and filling bags for the outside “Miles Gantt Memorial Blessing Box”. Thanks guys what a wonderful job!



Confirmation Class: Our FUMC 2021 Confirmation classes will wrap up their Affirmed Studies this Sunday, March 28th. Our confirmands will join the church on Easter Sunday, April 4th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. This year's confirmands are:

Lydia Bradley
Amber Grace Brittain
Ayden Canipe
Mallie Emerson
Kenan Fowler
Landry Pruitt
Bella Thornburg
Sophia Williams



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 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!

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Billy Alexander, Bob Austell, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Pat Eaker, Vera Eaker, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, the family of Nell Griggs, Larry Gunnell, Palmer Huffstetler, Ken Mayhew, Aura Ann McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Pat McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Terry Moss, 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, Martha Beam, Marty Beam, Jayme Christy, Dennis "Cotton" & Pam Crowder, Lisa Eaker, Dianne Heavner, Susan Heavner, A. J. & Teresa Henley, Jason Hollifield, Scott Kale, Steve Moss, James Richardson, 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



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

It is hard to believe that we have only April and May left in this school year! Time seems to have flown. We are so filled with thankfulness that we were able to have this school year while so many children across the country have not been able to do so. Thank you FUMC for all your efforts in making this year possible for Kingdom Kids!

March was a busy month - we celebrated Dr. Seuss week and St. Patrick's Day, as well as a number of birthdays. We received our graduation caps and gowns (so exciting)! The children have really enjoyed finally being back on the playground.

We will be having spring and graduation photos taken soon. We will be learning about the true meaning of Easter, and will enjoy Easter parties and egg hunts.

There will be even more emphasis during April and May to assure that all students are prepared for the next step in their school journey.

We truly appreciate all the support and encouragement we have received from so many people.

Ms. Millie



We will adorn the Easter Cross again this year with flowers on Easter Sunday, April 4th prior to Worship.

As you enter the church for Worship, the cross will be located in the Narthex for placing your flowers. We will also have time at the end

of the service to place flowers if the cross is moved to the front of the church when you arrive.



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

AVA ANTHONY

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

DAVID BEAM, JR.

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

LINDA B. BEAM

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

PAT BEAM

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

Danny & Teci Webb

BETTY BLACKBURN

Nancy Catena (Endowment Fund)

Etheleen Dover Class

Bill & Quita Moss

Bill & Chris Sneed

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Danny & Teci Webb

JOE BILL CRAIG

CHS Class of '49

ADAM CROWDER

Ben & Libby Ballard (Backpack Ministry)

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)

Debbie Gantt

Gaill Jenkins (Backpack Ministry)

Sylvia Norton (Backpack Ministry)

Rhonda Wehunt

LEROY EDWARDS

Bill & Chris Sneed

MILES GANTT

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

NELL GRIGGS

Pam Anthony

Ben & Libby Ballard (Backpack Ministry)

Joyce Baxter

Ben & Robin Blackburn

Billy & Barbara Crews (Confirmation Class)

Joe & Sandy Dismukes

Debbie Gantt

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

Ron & Janice Hovis

Ray P. McSwain

Bill & Quita Moss

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg

Rhonda Wehunt (Backpack Ministry)

JACK HENLEY

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

JONATHAN HENLEY

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

Gail & Jeff Jenkins (Backpack Ministry)

Bill & Chris Sneed

Rob & Chelsi Thomas (Backpack Ministry)

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

JUDGE ROBERT KIRBY

Albert Furr

HomeTrust Bank, Cherryville - Board of Directors & Employees

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

JUDGE ROBERT & JUNE KIRBY

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

C D LEDFORD

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

SANDRA TAYLOR MOSSMAN

Joe & Sandy Dismukes

Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

Rhonda Wehunt

DAVID QUALLS

Vee & Melanie Thornburg



-- CONTINUED --

JOHNNY WASHBURN

Rhonda Wehunt

TERRY YOUNT

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr. (Backpack Ministry)
Chad, Crystal & Leslie Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)



IN HONOR

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

BOB AUSTELL

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

M'SHEL BOWEN

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

MITCHELL BOWEN

(Happy Birthday)

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

SANDRA CARPENTER

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

JANET CARTER

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

NANCY CATENA

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

LARRY GUNNELL

Gary & Phyllis Thornburg

ELOISE MAUNEY

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

IN HONOR

-- CONTINUED --

LINDA MAUNEY

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

SYLVIA NORTON

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

KARLEEN PRICE

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

HARRY & GOLDIE QUEEN

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

BUTCH SNEED

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

LACEY SPANGLER

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

JERRY THORNBURG

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)

VEE THORNBURG

(Happy Birthday)

Jack & Mary Etta Stephenson

MARGARET WEBB

Ruth Gaston (Backpack Ministry)



STEWARDSHIP REPORT, MARCH 21, 2021

Total Giving To Date \$82,134.98

Needs to Date \$91,594.56

April Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Catena
- 2 Mallie Emerson
- 2 Terry Young
- 3 Gail Beam
- 3 Elizabeth Austell Shuford
- 3 Vernon Smith
- 4 Molly Whitworth Carpenter
- 7 Carol Metzger
- 7 Emily Grace Nytko
- 9 Billy Alexander
- 10 Jody Fowler
- 10 Linda McQuaige Dellinger
- 11 Nick Brown
- 12 Molly Wright
- 14 Linda Kale Barger
- 14 Suzanne Day
- 15 Colton Ballard
- 16 Mitchell Bowen
- 18 David Baity
- 18 Ephie Beam
- 18 Mary Etta Stephenson
- 19 Todd Sorenson
- 20 Mary Wiles
- 21 Wesley Anthony
- 21 Linda Brittain
- 21 Chrystal Harmon
- 22 Dawn Moss
- 22 Holly Skibo
- 23 Travis Dellinger
- 23 Susan Fraley
- 25 John Dimiceli
- 25 Eddie Ledford
- 27 Grayson Cushman
- 27 Dartha Stroupe
- 28 Tricia Beall
- 28 Sam Dellinger
- 29 Scott Beam
- 29 Madison Moss
- 30 Seth Harmon



Rita Black Lorrey
Lincolnton Rehab.
1410 East Gaston St.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday, March 28

Sunday School (on Facebook)
10:30am - Worship in Sanctuary
4:00pm - Confirmation Class
5:30pm - Youth

Wednesday, March 31

6:00pm - UMK's

Saturday, April 3

10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday

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

Monday, April 5

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 7

UMK's will not meet

Sunday, April 11

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

Wednesday, April 14

6:00pm - UMK's

Sunday, April 18 (Membership Sunday)

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

Wednesday, April 21

6:00pm - UMK's

Sunday, April 25

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

Wednesday, April 28

6:00pm - UMK's

Sunday, May 2

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

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