

First United Methodist Church Cherryville, North Carolina

**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)

**NOVEMBER 29, 2023**

**Vol. XXXIV 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.

Mildred Young  
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

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December Reflection

Romans 14:17 *"For the Kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*

It is a busy time of the year, it seems that we are all going our own separate ways. All of us will, at sometime during this season, be busy cooking, cleaning, preparing our homes, and gathering gifts, as we embrace this Advent season. We can't escape it, and during this season we will have our feet planted firmly in two different worlds. On the one hand we will be immersed in a wonderful season in the church in which we prepare ourselves to receive the king of Kings, and lord of Lord's Jesus Christ. And on the other we will be participating in the rampant commercialism that the secular world has come to identify this Christmas season with.

It is tough for us to live as divided people. It will be hard for us to keep our focus on what this season means for us as a church if we are constantly looking at the Christmas advertisements. I believe Paul knows a thing or two about living as divided people. In his letter to the Romans Paul is addressing two radically different groups, the Jews and the Gentiles. Both think that they have the right interpretation of the work of Jesus Christ and both have their own understanding of what living like a Christian truly looks like.

The passage at the top of this reflection Romans 14:17 is addressing the unique challenge of bringing these two groups together. As we well know under the Jewish law eating certain animals and meats were strictly forbidden under certain purity laws. This meant for Gentiles eating meat that was sacrificed to god's and goddesses was forbidden. There was the belief that one could defile one's body by what one ate, however how each group perceived that danger was radically different.

What Paul offers us in these verses is a call to unity, he clearly states, that one is not made righteous, and one does not achieve salvation, simply by works, rather one is engrossed in the love of God solely through the Holy Spirit. This month amidst the busyness and chaos that surrounds the Advent season, I challenge you to take a few moments every day to center yourself in the promise of this season, that Jesus Christ came to us, in order that we may learn what it is to truly live and will come again. Take a few moments to think about the love, grace, and joy that you feel in the knowledge that you are known and loved by God.

While we may be forced to live in two different worlds this Advent season, we are not forced to forget the reason for the season, and that is we worship God who is faithful to his promises. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whosoever believed in him, would not perish, but have

everlasting life. It is worth taking a few moments each day to give thanks with a grateful heart to God for the one gift this season that we cannot give enough thanks for.

Grace and Peace,

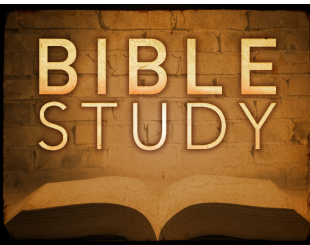
Zack Christy



We will have our annual **Christmas Eve Service of Lights** on Sunday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** during our 10:30 worship service is 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 the classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children at the end of worship. **REMINDER:** 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 and a Children's worship bulletin as you learn to remain in the sanctuary for worship. Please let Bess know if you are willing to help with children's church.



**Bible Study** continues to meet each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the June Medlin Classroom. Our study is on the Book of Isaiah. If you would like to

eat here at the church prior to Bible Study, please come at 6:00 p.m. and join our UMK's for a meal. **In December we will meet on December 6 and December 13. We will take a break beginning on December 20 and resume on January 10.**



### **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 December. **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.**

Dec. 3	Mikki Jane Emerson	Lydia Bradley
Dec. 10	Kenan Fowler	Sophia Williams
Dec. 17	Mallie Emerson	Bella Thornburg
Dec. 24	Grayce Pruitt	Landry Pruitt
Dec. 31	Amber Grace Brittan	Makayla Hicks



**YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE FIRST LIGHT DINNER ON DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL SPONSORED BY THE U.M.Y.F.**

**Cost is by donation only**



## DECEMBER NURSERY WORKERS

We now 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 December. 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.

December 3	Emilie Pope
December 10	Kristen Freeman
December 17	Sarah Fowler
December 24	Susan Beam
December 31	M'Shel Bowen



**UMYF:** U.M.Y.F. (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) is meeting regularly at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. every Sunday evening down stairs in the newly arranged youth room. We have

been planning for our winter activities. Our new Bible Study is **"THE STRANGEST THINGS"** for December and January. We gather in fellowship each week and of course play games, have our snack suppers, and make plans for the year. Some of those plans include:

- ◆ sponsoring the **"First Light"** dinner on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall
- ◆ Christmas shopping for needy families
- ◆ And of course our trip to the **"EDGE YOUTH CONFERENCE"** at Ridgecrest, NC on January 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Fund Raisers for a summer Mission activity or camps, possibly Carolina Cross Connection or Tekoa Missions camp.

All of this is TBD as we plan on Sundays! We need everyone's help, and everyone's attendance to get these activities going for our youth group! All 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to be a part of UMYF. And yes you can Invite!!!

\*\*\*\*\*THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED, HELPED AND SUPPORTED OUR COFFEE BAR! **What a great success!** \*\*\*\*\* YOU ROCK!!!!\*\*\*\*\*

**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!!!

### December Schedule:

- Dec. 3: First Light Dinner - meet at 5:00p.m. in the fellowship hall
- Dec. 10: Shop for families - meet at 5:30p.m. at the church
- Dec. 17: Christmas party, gifts and fill the blessing box! Meet at 6:00p.m.



## Prayer Breakfast

We are meeting at Homefolks Café at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday morning to feed our tummies, our souls and our hearts with friendships, devotions and prayer time before school. Everyone of all ages is invited to join the prayer breakfast group! Our church van will be there to provide a ride to school for anyone who needs it. **BUT Buckle UP!** There may be a **BUMP** in the road!!!

\*\*\*\*\*Please note\*\*\*\*\* **Prayer breakfast will not meet December 21, 28, or January 4. We will resume after the holidays on January 11.**



Our Wednesday night United Methodist Kids, better known as UMKs, is going strong! All 3 yr. olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join in and be a part of our UMK program. We will meet for supper at 6:00 p.m., then at 6:30 p.m., move into the sanctuary for our singing and assembly time. From 6:55 to 7:25 we will do our lesson/class time 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 regular meetings will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Our lessons coming up in December will begin a new study for the Christmas Season called **“Chosen Too.”** This will lead us to be **Chosen** to Love, Lead, Find and Follow. **“Chosen Too”** is also the title and theme for our Christmas presentation this year which will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Please note all those with speaking parts are asked to come early and meet in the Sanctuary at 5:30 each Wednesday.

UMKs will not meet on December 27 or January 3, as we take time off for Christmas break. But we will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone seems to love our Wednesday nights of fun and learning together about God’s love! As always leaders, helpers and supper providers are needed. Let Bess know if you are willing to help!

## UMK DECEMBER LESSON SCHEDULE

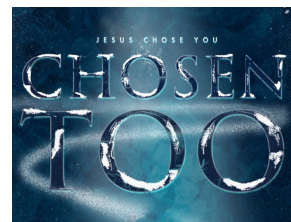
### “CHOSEN TOO” / Jesus Chose YOU!

December 6	Chosen To Find
December 13	Chosen To Follow
December 20	Christmas Party
December 27	No Meeting / Christmas Break

### UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE DECEMBER:

December 6	Subs, chips, lemon cookies TBA
December 13	Hot Dogs, chips, cookies Stephanie Walker, Bruce and Chris Barrett
December 20	Pizza / Christmas Party
December 27	No meeting / Christmas Holiday

\*\*\*\*\* All those with speaking parts in the “Chosen Too” Christmas Play are asked to be at the church each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary so we can practice and run lines. \*\*\*\*\*



Our UMK Christmas Play **“CHOSSEN TOO”** will be presented Sunday morning December 17<sup>th</sup> at our 10:30 worship service. Come experience the host of singing, dancing snowflakes, songs and scripture to celebrate all the ways God has given us Joy and Chosen us for the arrival of Our Savior Jesus. This will be a morning of joyful worship and a playful presentation of the story of Jesus birth.



## fit fab fun bunch

The Fit Fab Fun Bunch will meet for a Christmas dinner at Captains Cap Seafood Restaurant on Tuesday night, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00p.m. The fun bus will leave from the church parking lot at 4:00p.m. You can meet us there or get on board the Christmas express bus at 4:00p.m. Come join the group for an evening of fun and fellowship and take a break and relax during the holiday “hub bub” to be with friends and share Christmas tales and stories. Our meal will be “Dutch treat” of course ordering from the menu as you chose. Please let Bess know if you plan to attend.



## KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

October and November have been busy months for us. There has been so much excitement for the children. We visited Cherryville Fire Department and Linebergers Pumpkin Patch, took part in Trunk or Treat and marched in the Little Monsters Parade as well as learning about the first Thanksgiving. This is in addition to all of our normal learning during our school days!

We are already practicing for our Christmas program which will be held in our church sanctuary on Tuesday, December 19, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend; you will leave filled with the true spirit of Christmas!

For many years we have used the nativity backdrop which was created by our very own Gary Freeman — it is beautiful and adds so much to our program.

Ms. Millie



## Breakfast

On **Saturday, December 30**, 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.



**2024 Offering Envelopes** are now available for pick up on a table in the narthex. They are in alphabetical order, please help us keep them in this order.



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

**DANA BALLARD**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**GWYNNETH BLACKWELDER**

Gail Beam & Ephriam Beam, Jr.  
Steve & Lynn Bowen  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Janice Hovis  
T. L. & Miney Saine

**BUTCH BOYD**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**KATHY BROOME**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

**MARY LOIS BROWN**

Mac & Jewel Brawley (Church renovation fund)  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**MARTY COSTNER**

Bruce & Chris Barrett (church renovation fund)  
Ben & Robin Blackburn

**TOMMY CROCKER**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**JOYCE DELLINGER**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

**HELENA EAKER**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**JIM EATON**

Curtis Harrelson  
Janice Hovis

**BETTY GATES**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown

**PAUL JAECKSCH**

Ben & Robin Blackburn

**CARL LEATHERMAN**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

**HAROLD MAUNEY, SR.**

Harold & Kim Maaney

**DAVID C. MOSS**

Hazeline Moss

**KAY MOSS**

Ben & Robin Blackburn  
Ronnie & Jill Puett  
Phyllis Thornburg

**RONALD MOSS**

Hazeline Moss

**MARY POSTON**

Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown  
Juanita Gunnell

**RONNIE RAMSEY**

Chris & Bobbi Ballard  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)  
Curtis Harrelson  
Clarice Harrelson  
Ronnie & Jill Puett  
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

**ANNIE SHORT**

Clarice Harrelson

**BARBARA STROUPE**

Bruce & Chris Barrett  
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)  
Juanita Gunnell





## December Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Allen
- 2 Kacee Buff
- 3 Zaylee Morris
- 5 Steve Beam
- 5 Robert Smith
- 6 Reid Huss
- 6 Riley Shuford
- 9 Karley Powell
- 10 Fin Beam
- 10 Violet Wallace
- 11 Pierston Elliott
- 11 Tracy Lyles
- 11 Mary Beth Wyatt
- 12 John Warlick
- 15 Stacey Bradley
- 15 Jennifer Mauney Cushman
- 15 Quita Moss
- 17 Gary Freeman
- 18 Dean Starling
- 19 Kelly Brown
- 19 Bryan Flynn
- 20 Carolyn Abernathy
- 20 Scott Aldridge
- 21 Palmer Huffstetler
- 23 Angela Jones
- 24 Rob Elmore
- 25 Harold Mauney, Jr.
- 26 Sara Baity
- 26 Chad Bingham
- 26 Dwight Stroupe
- 27 Sophie Williams
- 28 Jimmy McGinnis
- 29 Will Fowler
- 29 Emily Whitworth Parris
- 30 Carroll Sneed
- 30 Kyle Wilent
- 31 Angie Anthony

*Margaret Webb*  
**Memorial Concert**

**RICK WEBB FAMILY**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
601 N. Pink Street | Cherryville, NC  
DECEMBER 8 | 7:00PM

featuring  
*Guilford*

The poster features a black background with a photograph of the Rick Webb family (a woman, a man, and two children) in formal attire. Below the family photo is a circular inset image of a man and a woman in a field, with the word 'Guilford' written in cursive over it. A snowflake icon is visible in the bottom left corner of the poster.

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





Mr. Ken Mayhew  
507 Spring St.  
Cherryville, NC 28021

**Sunday, December 3**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata rehearsal  
5:00pm - Youth  
6:00pm - First Light Dinner

**Wednesday, December 6**

6:00pm - UMK's  
6:30pm - Bible Study

**Thursday, December 7**

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

**Friday, December 8**

7:00pm - Margaret Webb Memorial Concert  
presented by Rick Webb & Family  
Cost will be by donations and love offering

**Sunday, December 10**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata rehearsal  
5:30pm - UMYF

**Tuesday, December 12**

4:00pm - FFF Bunch departs to Captains Cap

**Wednesday, December 13**

6:00pm - UMK's  
6:30pm - Bible Study

**Thursday, December 14**

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

**Sunday, December 17**

9:30am - Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship  
4:00pm - Christmas Cantata rehearsal  
6:00pm - UMYF

**Tuesday, December 19**

7:00pm - Preschool Christmas Program

**Wednesday, December 20**

6:00pm - UMK's

**Friday, December 22**

Church Office Closed

**Sunday, December 24**

10:30am - Worship  
6:00pm - Candlelight Service

**Monday, December 25**

Church Office Closed

**Tuesday, December 26**

Church Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 27**

No UMK  
No Bible Study

**Thursday, December 28**

No Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday, December 30**

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

**Sunday, December 31**

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

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, NOV. 26, 2023**

Total Giving To Date ..... \$353,727.52  
Needs to Date ..... \$381,098.40

**DECEMBER USHERS:**

Gary Freeman, Danny Webb, Reid Huss, Guy Eaker,  
Vee Thornburg.



**FROM THE CHURCH STAFF:** We would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a most blessed Christmas and the happiest of New Year's.