

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
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April 26, 2023

Vol. XXXIV No. 4

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena
Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Cam Alfaro
Audio Visual Tech.

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

May Reflection James 2:10

"For whoever keeps the whole law, but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

The book of James is particularly unique in Scripture, especially in the New Testament it is written more like Proverbs or Wisdom of Solomon. It fits into that unique category of *Wisdom Literature*. All that means is that it contains practical advice for everyday life. Here, in chapter 2 though we come across a most unusual thing. Whoever breaks the smallest part of the law is responsible for breaking all the law.

Now we don't know what prompted James to write this line in his letter. I have the feeling that it is some form of moral panic within the congregation. Perhaps even that in this congregation there is a decline in moral responsibility, a certain lawlessness being preached. Sometimes in a church when there is a loss of moral strength, a sort of panic sets in, folks say we have to stop this, and then become more legalistic.

James says whoever breaks one of the smallest laws, is guilty of breaking the whole law. You know what that sounds like to me, it sounds like zero tolerance. I tend to think context matters, I find most zero tolerance rules to be irresponsible. They put into the same category a little kindergartener who takes a plastic knife to school with a thug who carries around a switchblade. Both can be suspended for it, and administration will say, "A knife is a knife." But the little kindergartener is five, the knife is made out of plastic, the other is a thug who already has a record. Zero tolerance is the panic point you reach when you are unwilling to assume the responsibility of making moral and ethical distinctions between the greater and the lesser.

When I read this in James I think of that. I think of no distinction between big and little. Of course I can also see where James is coming from here. There does exist within us as people a desire to categorize our actions. To dismiss what we might consider trifling matters in lieu of what we might consider major things. In those distinctions there exists the temptation to only focus on the major things, and when we do that we miss out on the little things.

The danger for the gifted and strong is to sit at long tables and consider the big picture but never improve the community in which they live. The fact that millions in the world are starving is not a reason for me to spend my time pondering that, but never volunteering one hour to help feed the hungry in my community.

In the first century, things were falling apart in Rome. Caesar Augustus had brought it together having defeated Antony and Lepidus and Cleopatra. He had one great empire and he was probably the greatest Caesar of them all. Now his nephew Tiberius is ruling, but enemies are rising, armed forces to the east, the need to increase military personnel, meant greater taxes on everybody in the empire. Seventy million people

threatened. It's falling apart, dissension in Rome, hunger everywhere, fringe groups, and small countries within the empire having civil strife and revolutions. It was truly a terrible time.

And God looks it over to get the big picture and the next sound you hear is a baby in a little obscure town; a Jewish baby named Jesus, crying and squirming the way only newborns can in his mother's arms. This is what God is doing? Did God not see the big picture? What can that baby do? Good question. What can that baby do? And Jesus said years later, "I want all of you to understand that even a cup of cold water given to a child does not go unnoticed by God who smiles upon it."

God invites all of us to consider, the little, the seemingly insignificant, moments of life and find a way to bring the kingdom of God forward. While we might make distinctions between the major and minor, God calls us to examine each of the actions we undertake as a possible seed of the gospel.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



The backpack ministry is once again taking a break from shopping as we have received generous donations that will get us through to the end of this school year. We will start this program back up in the fall once school resumes. Thank you for all of your support toward this program.

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee



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

May. **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.**

May 7	Lydia Bradley	Sophia Williams
May 14	Will Fowler	Kenan Fowler
May 21	Zach Harmon	Seth Harmon
May 28	Amber Grace Brittain	Mallie Emerson



CHILDREN'S CHURCH during our 10:30 worship service is for all children **3yrs thru 3rd 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 4th-5th 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.



APRIL 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 past the church office. And **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who have agreed to help in the Nursery. Below is the Nursery workers list for May. 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.

May 7	Jenny Emerson
May 14	Kelly Brown
May 21	Kaci Beck
May 28	Julie Wallace



UMK's: Our Wednesday night UMK's will be winding down in the month of May. Our last meeting will be May 10th with a cookout and end of year party from 6 to 8:00 pm. Until then we will continue to meet in the fellowship hall each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 move in to sanctuary for object lessons, skits, singing and offering. Then from 7:00 to 7:25 we will have bible study and lesson time down stairs. Then outside (weather permitting) for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-old thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30pm. As weather allows for the upcoming Spring months, we will start gathering outside on the playground upon arrival and leave from there also.

UMK Lesson Schedule for May:

Honesty

“An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips”

Proverbs 24;26

May 3 HONESTY The Real Me
Genesis 12:10-20

May 10 HONESTY The Hard Truth
1 Kings 22: 1-28

UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE FOR MAY:

May 3 chicken minis, mac and cheese, bananas, cookies
Pam Anthony, Wes and Angie Anthony

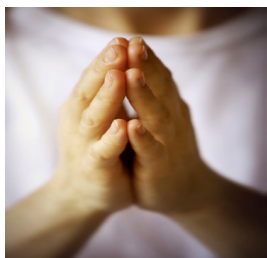
May 10 cookout with hot dogs, beans, chips, ice cream
Supper volunteers

*****OUR END OF YEAR CELEBRATION WILL BE MAY 10TH, from 6:00-8:00 P.M.*****

We will have a cookout, devotion/lesson and bubble fun!! Please wear your bathing suit and cover up and bring a towel. We will recognize all of our UMK teachers and leaders!



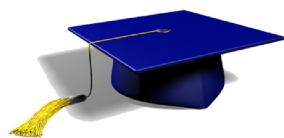
Happy Mother's Day to the woman who showed me how powerful a mother's love can be.



Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast is at 7:00 a.m. at Homefolks Café. Everyone is welcome! Especially students and parents and grandparents are invited to share a good healthy breakfast before school and food for the soul as you go about your day. A devotion and prayer time is offered for all those that wish to begin their day in fellowship and prayer with other Christians in the community. Miss Bess will drive our church van and will take any middle school and/or high school students that need a ride to school. The prayer breakfast will not meet after May 18th.

BUT watch out for the BUMPS!!! LOL 😊



ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Graduation Day is approaching fast! We would like to honor our graduating High School Seniors at our 2023 graduate breakfast and worship service. Graduation Sunday will be May 21st. We will have a graduate breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. You and your family are invited to join in the celebration. Also, please bring your cap and gown that Sunday so you can be recognized at the 10:30 worship service with a gift and scholarship presentations will be made.

All College graduates will be recognized and honored with a gift also at the 10:30 worship service. Please meet in the Narthex at 10:15 and wear your cap and gown. If you have not already given your college graduate information to Bess, please call the office ASAP so we can have your information.

Congratulations!



UMYF: Regular UMYF meetings are “a-happening” at the church, downstairs in the youth room at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 each Sunday night. We

have a great time together eating, studying God’s word, and of course playing hide and go seek, sardines’ style and other wacky games our UMYF - “FUMCY” characters! Our group is growing and we welcome all 6th thru 12th graders!

We have many activities and **Mission Possible** opportunities for the group in the coming months. We are still trying to keep stocking the blessing box with food and with toiletries. We have put up some and are still planning to do some more decorating, bulletin boards and a closet clean out night! Thanks to our youth who worked to help hide eggs and to help the little ones on April 8th at the Easter Egg Hunt and to clean up afterwards. **YOU WERE AWESOME!!!**

We are also planning a trip to **The Hickory Crawdad’s** baseball game and Christian Concert on Saturday, May 6th. We will leave from the church at 3:30 p.m.. The concert group is “Social Club Misfits” sponsored by 106.9 FM - The Light. The cost is \$15.00 per person plus food and snacks you want at the game. You may invite a friend to go with us! Your money and our guest list are due April 30th!!

A future plan is in the works to go back to our “Happy Place” Tekoa Foothills!!! Plans are incomplete as we tie down dates. And, to do a Mission Summer Camp. Watch your FUMCY for more details! Please be at UMYF to get involved in these activities!! UMYF is for all middle and high school youths and friends!!

We will not meet May 7th (our Crawdads game is our meeting) or May 14th (Mother’s Day). Please spend time with your mother and family. Our last UMYF meeting for this year is May 21st. We will plan a special outing and pool party to celebrate our year.

We will be meeting at last once a month during the summer and for special projects and outings!



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

Wow! Here comes the month of May and the final few weeks of this school year! Time seems to have flown faster than usual.

We will have fifteen students graduating and moving onto kindergarten. We recently took those students to visit Cherryville Elementary School and meet the kindergarten teachers. We were so proud of them for their excellent behavior and they looked so good in their purple Kingdom Kids shirts!

All of our students will be visiting KidSenses Childrens Interactive Museum in Rutherfordton on May 16. This is always a really fun day for them.

Our graduation program will be held in the church sanctuary on Tuesday evening, May 23, at 7:00 p.m. Children from all classes will be a part of this program.

As always, we truly have appreciated your support during this school year!

Ms. Millie

Breakfast

On **Saturday, May 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.



THE **FIT FAB FUN BUNCH** IS A GROUP FOR ANYONE 60 OR OLDER. We had a great time on our outing of "**Dinner and a Movie**" to see "**HIS ONLY SON.**"

Please watch for more details and information as future plans are

made. Come join the **FUN!!!** This group will keep you spiritually **FIT** with devotions, offer **FAB** outings and we are always **FUN!!!** We now have a great theme song: "We're having the time of our lives,"

LOL ☺. Join us for fellowship and just plain laughter together. You do not want to miss out on being a part of this bunch of mature adults as we experience life, love and friendships together.



The Cherryville Area Ministries and the Second Harvest Food Bank will sponsor a **Mobile Food Pantry** on Monday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the St.

John's Lutheran Church Dixie Street parking lot. Volunteers are needed to distribute the food and to unpack the trucks and food boxes and need to be there by 9:00 a.m. If you can help please let Bess Thornburg know at the church office.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, APRIL 23, 2023

Total Giving To Date \$122,553.82

Needs to Date \$134,972.35

MAY USHERS:

Seth Freeman, Allen Fraley, Chesley Walls,
Tommy Allen, Justin Winter



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

JOE ALEXANDER
Richard & Martha Cornwell

BLANCHE BOIES
Richard & Martha Cornwell

CONE CARPENTER
Ed Pierce

DIANE CHILDERS
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)

CATHERINE MAYHEW DAY
Ken & Darlene Mayhew

DAVID FARNSWORTH
Steve & Susan Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Janice Hovis
Bill & Quita Moss (Church bldg. maint./renov. fund)
Mr. & Mrs. Vee Thornburg
Danny & Teci Webb

SHIRLEY FISHER
Janice Hovis

JUANITA GILREATH
Richard & Martha Cornwell

BILL HOUSER
Richard & Martha Cornwell

RON HOVIS
Ed Pierce

SENATOR DAVID HOYLE
Jack & Judy Bingham
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Janice Hovis
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)

RITA LORREY
Sandra Carpenter
Janice Hovis

DAVID MOSS
Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)

RONALD MOSS
Hazeline Moss (Youth Fund)

CHRIS SNEED
Bill Sneed (Church building maint/renov. fund)

BILL WATERS
Janice Hovis
Jimmy & Robin Wilent
+++++

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

SANDRA CARPENTER
Gail B. Beam & Ephriam, Jr.
(Church bldg maint/renov. fund)

SYLVIA NORTON
Gail B. Beam & Ephriam, Jr.
(Church bldg maint/renov. fund)

BESS THORNBURG
Steve & Susan Beam
+++++

PRAYER LIST (Members)
Betsy Baity, Linda Barger, Chad Bingham, Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Sandy Dismukes, Jim Eaton, Bob Faires, Ruth Gaston, Ken Mayhew, Larry & Barbara McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Rev. Harry Queen, Phyllis Thornburg, Belinda Watts, Dawn Whitworth & Family, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)
Katie Bowen, Don Childers, Whitney Ledford, Essel Pennington, Dave Plake, Vicky Clawson Porter, Carolyn Summer, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:
#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson, Jessica Lovell.
Church Member

May Birthdays

1 Samantha Moss
 2 Amber Brafford
 4 Susan Beam
 6 Renee Allen
 7 Betty Dellinger
 8 Harper Beck
 8 Paige Sigmon
 9 Audie McGinnis
 13 Greyson Haynes
 13 Pam Huffstetler
 13 Bertha Maxey
 13 Landis Moss
 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



Bob Faires
 804 Crescent Drive
 Cherryville, NC 28021

Sunday, April 30

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Tuesday, May 2

7:00pm - Scholarship Committee meeting

Wednesday, May 3

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, May 4

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

Saturday, May 6

4:00pm - Youth to Hickory to Crawdads game and Concert

Sunday, May 7

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Monday, May 8

7:00pm - Education Committee meeting

Tuesday, May 9

6:30pm - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, May 10

6:00pm - UMK's last meeting (Cook out)

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, May 11

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

Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day)

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Wednesday, May 17

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, May 18

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

Sunday, May 21

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Tuesday, May 23

7:00pm - Preschool graduation program

Saturday, May 27

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

Sunday, May 28

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

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