

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
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MARCH 25, 2026

Vol. XXXVII No. 4

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

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Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena
Organist

Cam Alfaro
Audio Visual Tech.

Trinity Smith
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

April Reflection

Romans 6:3:4 "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into his death, so that, just as Christ, was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in a newness of life."

There is something about spring that feels like a quiet kind of miracle. After months of cold, gray skies and bare branches, the earth begins to stir again. Buds appear where there was once only emptiness. Color returns to landscapes that seemed lifeless. The air softens. The days stretch longer. And almost without our noticing, hope begins to rise again.

For Christians, it is no coincidence that we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus during this season.

Spring does not cause the resurrection, of course—but it does help us see it. It gives us a language for understanding what God has done in Christ. It reminds us that what appears dead is not always gone. It teaches us that life can emerge from places we had given up on. It shows us, year after year, that God is in the business of renewal.

The resurrection is not simply a one-time event that happened long ago. It is the very heartbeat of our faith. When we proclaim that Christ is risen, we are not only speaking about Easter morning—we are declaring something about the nature of God and the future of the world. We are proclaiming that death does not have the final word. We are confessing that God's power is made perfect not in avoiding suffering, but in transforming it.

Spring echoes that truth in every blooming flower and budding tree.

Think about what has to happen for spring to arrive. Seeds must be buried in the ground. Trees must endure the long dormancy of winter. The earth itself must pass through a kind of death before it can awaken again. And yet, beneath the surface, something is always at work. Life is quietly preparing to return.

Isn't that what resurrection looks like?

So often, we want resurrection without the waiting. We want new life without the burial, transformation without the struggle, Easter without Good Friday. But the rhythm of both Scripture and creation tells a different story. God's new life often comes through places of loss, uncertainty, and even despair.

This is good news for us, because it means that no part of our lives is beyond God's reach.

Perhaps you have known a winter season in your own life. Maybe it has come in the form of grief, as you mourn the loss of someone you love. Maybe it has come through illness, or anxiety, or the quiet

weariness that settles into the soul after a long season of difficulty. Maybe it has come in the life of our church, as we navigate change, uncertainty, and the shifting landscape of our community.

Spring does not ignore these realities—but it refuses to let them have the final word.

The resurrection of Jesus is God’s great “nevertheless” spoken into the world. Nevertheless, love is stronger than hate. Nevertheless, life is stronger than death. Nevertheless, hope is stronger than despair.

And just as surely as the tomb was empty on that first Easter morning, the signs of new life are all around us now.

You can see it in the laughter of children playing outside again after the long winter. You can hear it in the songs of birds returning at dawn. You can feel it in the warmth of the sun on your face after weeks of cold. These are not just pleasant seasonal changes—they are reminders. They are small witnesses to a larger truth: God is still at work, bringing life where we least expect it.

As a church, spring invites us to participate in that work.

What would it look like for us to be people of resurrection in this season? Perhaps it means extending grace where there has been hurt. Perhaps it means reaching out to someone who has been forgotten or overlooked. Perhaps it means trusting that God is not finished with us yet—that even in moments when we feel uncertain or discouraged, new life is still possible.

Resurrection people are not those who have everything figured out. They are those who dare to believe that God is still making all things new.

This spring, as we celebrate Easter and watch the world come alive again, may we open our eyes to the ways God is bringing resurrection into our own lives. May we have the courage to trust in that promise, even when we cannot yet see its fullness. And may we become signs of that new life for others—offering hope, joy, and love in a world that so desperately needs it.

Because the truth at the heart of our faith is this: the same God who raised Jesus from the dead is still at work today.

And just like spring after a long winter, resurrection is coming—again and again—right where we are.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



We will adorn the Easter Cross again this year with flowers on Easter Sunday, April 5, 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.



Each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. we offer coffee and doughnuts before Sunday School for a time of gathering.



The Cherryville Ministerial Association has planned for the **Holy Week services to be held March 30 - April 3, 2026.** These services are held daily at First Presbyterian Church. Service times are 12:05-12:35. There will be a luncheon to follow each day.

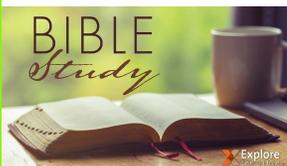
We will host a **Community Maundy Thursday service**, on April 2, at 7:00 p.m. here at First United Methodist Church along with St. John's Lutheran church and the First Presbyterian church.

On Good Friday, April 3, a Cross Walk will be held immediately following lunch. Please meet in front of the Presbyterian church at 1:15. We will follow a route to the City Memorial Cemetery with scheduled stops along the way.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held on **Sunday, April 5, at 7:00 a.m.** at the City Memorial Cemetery. In case of rain, the service will be held here at FUMC.



BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Zack will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the June Medlin Classroom.



A new Bible Study will be meeting every other Thursday at the home of Phyllis Thornburg at 10:00 a.m. **Our next meetings will be on Thursday, April 9 and April 23.** We hope that you will be able to join us for this study.



"GREETING CARD OUTREACH"

Sunday, April 12

We will have cards available for signing on Sunday, April 12 to send to our church family or members of our church who are sick, or home bound, or who may be struggling. Also, there are many friends in our community who need some love. In an effort to reach out to others, there will be various cards available for you to sign for our shut-ins or members of our church or community on the second Sunday of each month. These cards will be set up on a table in the narthex for you to drop by and sign.



The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags 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.

- Apr. 5 Peanut butter
- Apr. 12 canned peaches
- Apr. 19 canned chicken
- Apr. 26 chicken helper

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee



Our cereal collection will carry on each month as we continue to partner with St. John's Lutheran Church God's Work Our Hands Outreach Ministry. The collection box will be in the narthex. Our goal is to collect 100 boxes each month. Watch for sales especially at Food Lion.



The missions and evangelism committees are hosting a blanket drive. The goal is to get blankets that will then be given to the police and firemen as they encounter those who need warmth. When you are out shopping if you see a blanket, please pick it up, as it will help keep someone warm during these cold months. If you have any questions please reach out to Crystal Thornburg and Susan Fraley.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH is held during our 10:30 worship service for all children **3yrs thru 3rd grade**. 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 4th-5th graders or older with pencils crayons and coloring pages and Children's Worship bulletin. 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 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 **APRIL 2026**. **Acolytes and Crucifers will resume wearing robes.** This has been very well received by both our congregation and the young people. ****Boys are asked to please wear long pants under your robe on your week to assist in worship and nice shoes!!!** **ALSO PLEASE BE IN THE NARTHEX BY 10:15 am TO GET READY!**

****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. ****

	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>CRUCIFER</u>
Apr. 5	Meg Emerson	Hadley Webb
Apr. 12	Alli Anthony	Lawson Walls
Apr. 19	Mallie Emerson	Mikki Jane Emerson
Apr. 26	Zach Harmon	Seth Harmon

*****NOTE TO ACOLYTES***PLEASE WEAR YOUR ROBE WHEN YOU GO BACK TO EXTINGUISH THE CANDLES AT THE END OF THE SERVICE.**



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!!

We are planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th, to be held here at the church.

WE NEED EGGS - PLEASE !!!

The pre filled plastic eggs work great for our children or even the empty plastic eggs will do and we can fill them with candy and surprises.

Our SS classes and FUMC Church members are always so generous to help provide candy and eggs and that is always appreciated!!

THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING!!!!



APRIL NURSERY WORKERS

We are proud to 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 **April**. 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.

Apr. 5	Chrystal Harmon
Apr. 12	Caitlin Beam
Apr. 19	Kaci Beck
Apr. 26	Jayce Buff

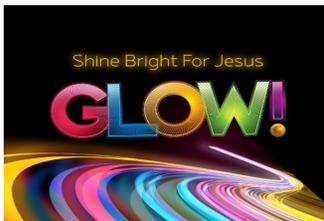


UMK's

Our Wednesday night UMK's are going strong for the spring 2026 session. We are meeting in the fellowship hall each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm for our supper and at 6:30 move into the 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 back outside for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-olds thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30pm. For the spring months we will meet on the playground and leave from there also (weather permitting). Our lesson activity on April 1st will be a special Easter Journey: "Stations to the Cross." This will be a journey to the cross for kids based on 6 stations...



- Station 1: Palm Sunday
- Station 2: The Last Supper
- Station 3: Jesus Praying in the Garden
- Station 4: Jesus Betrayed and Arrested
- Station 5: Jesus Crucified
- Station 6: Rolled /Away Stone and Empty Tomb



Then beginning April 15, our lesson will be GLOW for Jesus!

- Apr. 8 No meeting due to Easter Break
- Apr. 15 The Light of the World
John 1:1-15, John 8:12-19
- Apr. 22 Shine Your Light Matthew 5:13-16
- Apr. 29 Living Water John 4: 1-4
- May 6 Burning Bright Acts 2:1-12

UMK Supper Schedule for April

- Apr. 1 Subs, chip and easter cookies
- Apr. 8 No meeting - Easter break
- Apr. 15 Spaghetti, bread and dessert
Roy & Robin Norwood
- Apr. 22 Chicken nuggets, tots, cookies
Derek & Erica Barrett
- Apr. 29 TBA need volunteers
- May 6 Hot dogs, chip & s'mores
End of the year cookout and festivities

****NOTE: UMK SUPPER MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE...If anyone would like to volunteer to prepare and serve UMK Suppers please let Bess know! Thanks to all those who have so willingly served and provided supper during the year!!**



EASTER EGG HUNT AND CELEBRATION

This year's Easter Egg Hunt and celebration will be Saturday Morning, April 4th, at 10:00 a.m. here at the church. We will begin our Easter festivities in the fellowship hall with refreshments. Then we will do crafts, Easter story time and games fun. The egg hunt will then move outside for the Easter Egg Hunt and Golden Egg challenge. All children up to 5th grade are invited to join in the "eggs-citement". Please bring your easter basket and be ready to fill it with eggs and prizes. We should be finished around 11:30. **Pray for no rain that day!!**





Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast normally meets every Thursday morning before school at 7 a.m. But please note that we will **not meet Thursday April 9th** due to Easter Break. We will resume April 16th.

Come start your day off with a time of fellowship and prayer together with other students, parents, grandparents and friends of all ages. Our prayer breakfast is such a blessing to all who attend. It's a great start to our school day, work day or anyday! We are meeting at Homefolks Café at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings to feed our tummies, our souls and our hearts with friendships, devotions and prayer time before school. Everyone of all ages and all denominations are invited to join the prayer breakfast group! Our church van or Miss Bess will be there to provide a ride to school for anyone who needs it.



KINGDOM KIDS KORNER

We are already heading into April, that leaves us only two months of school left! This year has been full of so many amazing things. I am so proud of how well the children sang this past Sunday, and the amazing turn out. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

April has a lot going on. On April 2nd we ask that all of our children wear blue for Autism Awareness!

We will celebrate the Easter holiday and Spring Break with No School April 3rd - April 10th. The children will return to school on April 13th. I pray they and their families enjoy the break celebrating The True Meaning of Easter.

On April 21st our four year old class will be riding the bus to the Elementary school for National Kindergarten Day. This will only be for the Four year old class. Parents will NOT be attending, the school will have a separate time for parents and students. We will leave preschool at 9:00 and should be back by 10:15.

On April 30th the four year old class will have Cap and Gown photos. Mrs. Felicia Bowman will be doing these. We will also be taking class photos that day.

We have Chapel every Wednesday with Pastor Zack, and we have Mrs. Traci from the Public library the third Friday of the month. We have been so blessed to have them serve our children.

I am so proud of these children and how far they have progressed this year, and can't wait to see what the month holds for us.

- April 2nd - Wear Blue for Autism Awareness
- April 3rd -10th: NO SCHOOL
- April 17th - Librarian Mrs. Traci
- April 21st - Field trip for 4yr class to Elementary School
- April 30th - Cap and gown pictures for 4 yr class and Class pictures for all classes.

Trinity Smith



Hello my UMYF Friends.... U.M.Y.F. (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets on Sunday nights at 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm down stairs. I have really missed some of you lately! Our group is for all 6th thru 12th graders. We have been planning for our spring activities. We gather in fellowship each week and of course play games, have our snack suppers, devotions and work on projects and make plans for the year. You are welcome to invite a friend to join our group.

Our lessons and devotions for the next several weeks will still be based on Kyle Idleman's **"NOT A FAN."** We will look closely at Jesus's invitation to follow Him. Not just as an interested "fan" or enthusiastic admirer but a completely committed follower of Christ. We will work with DVD stories and examples and daily scriptures.

We will again be working on filling the food box and doing toiletries and participating in the blanket drive and a Lock-In possibly in the spring. We are working on getting everything ready for the Easter Egg hunt and helping to hide eggs on April 4th. We are planning a summer retreat for June 12-16th. Also, we are working on some new fund raisers in the future. We need your help to plan and your in-pu for our activities!

fff fit fab fun bunch



DO YA WANNA SEE ELVIS AGAIN!

Well, you're in luck because on Saturday evening, May 16th the FFF bunch will travel to Newton Performing Arts Center in Newton, NC to experience the Elvis tribute by Stephen Freeman. Stephen is from NC and has presented shows all over the southeast including cruise ships as an Elvis tribute performer. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. doors open at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$40.00 per ticket for the one night, once in a lifetime show. We will leave from the church at 4:00 p.m.

VERY IMPORTANT-TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST!! SO PLEASE LET BESS KNOW ASAP IF YOU WANT TO GO SO SHE CAN GET YOUR TICKET AND GET YOUR SEAT!!

AND of course we will eat on the way to enjoy the show!! You don't want to miss this fun night of dinner and a live show! Anyone 60 and older is invited to be a part of this energetic bunch of Senior adults.

Remember, today is the oldest you've ever been and the youngest you'll ever be again! So, enjoy yourself today!!!!

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Linda Alexander, Michael Beam, Steve Bowen, Dennis Bradley, Mac & Jewel Brawley, Mike Burgess, Deanna Daggerhart, Ruth Gaston, Reid Huss, Archie Mitchell, Dave Owens, Vernon & Betty Smith, Amanda Sorenson, Todd Sorenson, Ron Walls, Wayne & Belinda Watts, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Calvary Road Ministries (David & Renee Crane), Will Carswell & family, Linda Causey, Jeff Costner, Danny Eaker, Becky Estes, A. J. Henley, Jennifer Pruitt, Rick Webb, and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Caleb Dickerson, *Hunter Haire, *Jessica Lovell, Paxton York.
Church Member, *Deployed

APRIL USHERS:

Danny Webb, Steve Beam, Bruce Barrett, Darin Webb, Tim Moss

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: MARCH 22, 2026

Received to Date \$76,744.90
Needs to date. \$105,849.84

OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED YTD:

Church Building Renovations \$2,360.00
Endowment Fund \$50.00
Backpack Ministry \$515.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$1,006.00
Playground Fund \$9,770.00
Youth Missions \$40.00
Young Preschool Scholarship \$305.00

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 Emily Grace Nytko Beam
- 7 Carol Metzger
- 10 Linda McQuaige Dellinger
- 11 Nick Brown
- 12 Molly Wright
- 14 Linda Kale Barger
- 14 Suzanne Day
- 14 Mike Wallace
- 15 Colton Ballard
- 16 Mitchell Bowen
- 18 David Baity
- 18 Ephie Beam
- 18 Mary Etta Stephenson
- 19 Todd Sorenson
- 20 Mabry Freeman
- 20 Mary Wiles
- 21 Wesley Anthony
- 21 Linda Brittain
- 21 Chrystal Harmon
- 22 Dawn Moss
- 22 Holly Skibo
- 23 Travis Dellinger
- 23 Susan Fraley
- 24 Teresa Hopper
- 25 John Dimiceli
- 25 Eddie Ledford
- 27 Grayson Cushman
- 27 Dartha Stroupe
- 28 Tricia Beall
- 28 Sam Dellinger
- 29 Scott Beam
- 29 Madison Moss Dellinger
- 29 Dylan Freeman
- 30 Seth Harmon



PLACE: First United Methodist Church
601 N. Pink Street, Cherryville, NC 28021

DATE: April 25, 2026 (Saturday)

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

HEART2HEARTMIN.COM

Heart 2 Heart will be performing here at First United Methodist Church on **Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** Please mark your calendar and plan to come join us hear this local band perform. Cost will be a love offering.

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



**APRIL HOMEBOUND
MEMBER TO SEND A CARD**

Mrs. Suzanne Day
315 Fisher Rd.
Cherryville, NC 28021

Saturday, March 28

7:30am-10:00am - Community wide breakfast buffet

Sunday, March 29

9:00am - Coffee & Doughnuts - time of gathering

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Monday, March 30

12:005m - Holy Week Services at First Presbyterian

Tuesday, March 31

12:05pm - Holy Week Services at First Presbyterian

Wednesday, April 1

12:05pm - Holy Week Services at First Presbyterian

6:00pm - UMK's - Stations to the Cross

Thursday, April 2

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

12:05pm - Holy Week Services at First Presbyterian

7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Service @ FUMC

Friday, April 3

12:50pm - Holy Week Services at First Presbyterian

1:15pm - Cross Walk

Saturday, April 4

10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5

7:00am - Community Sunrise Service at City
Memorial Cemetery

9:00am - Coffee & Doughnuts - time of gathering

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

Monday, April 6

Church office closed

Wednesday, April 8

No UMK's

No Bible Study

Thursday, April 9

10:00am - Bible Study at the home
of Phyllis Thornburg

Sunday, April 12

"GREETING CARD OUTREACH"

9:00am - Coffee & Doughnuts - time of gathering

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Tuesday, April 14

6:30pm - Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, April 15

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, April 16

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

Sunday, April 19

9:00am - Coffee & Doughnuts - time of gathering

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, April 22

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, April 23

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

10:00am - Bible Study at the home
of Phyllis Thornburg

Saturday, April 25

7:30am-10:00am - Community wide breakfast buffet

6:00pm - Heart2Heart concert at FUMC

Sunday, April 26

9:00am - Coffee & Doughnuts - time of gathering

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, April 29

6:00pm - UMK's

6:30pm - Bible Study

Thursday, April 30

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

Sunday, May 3

9:00am - Coffee & Doughnuts - time of gathering

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship

6:00pm - Baccalaureate Service at FUMC