



the church Messenger

Fair Grove United Methodist Church
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

Growing our church from inside out and outside in; creating a Christian family of God.

Consider this ...

It's a beautiful morning out the window of my office. The sun is gentle among the trees and grass, and a soft wind is dancing a waltz with the barren limbs on the large oak that is the center of the frame that is the office window. The sacred ground that holds the saints who have gone before us completes the image that fills the window frame. It's a lovely morning and I am fortunate to have it as my muse for this writing.

By the time you read this our community of faith will have begun a conversation of discernment of the direction, God is leading us in this season of our church's life. Looking back, we will glean from our heritage the wisdom our founders relied upon to establish this community of faith, as we seek to establish a blueprint for the missional legacy we will leave behind. Thinking of what might be as we reimagine our place as the body of Christ in Thomasville. I recall a night some years back, spent with friends over a plate of spaghetti gathering nourishment for storytelling adventure through Appalachia with our guide John Wyatt.

John is a large man with a toothy smile, a gentle voice, and a kind word. He is a storyteller and a pastor (the two being variations on a theme), and he tells a story of a people who struggle, even today, to find meaning in life in a region of our country that seems to offer little hope and "resembles a third world country." John used that description as he tried to paint a picture for those of us who had not been to coal country in Eastern West Virginia. And you could see on his face and in his eyes the pain he felt for the people he desperately loves.

He sang songs of the region and people who gave texture to the man he has become. And he sought to bridge the gap between the disparate worlds they and we share. He was quick to tell us that, while Appalachian people shared the same worldly ethos as people from around the globe, that being the good and bad of our human condition, he wanted to concentrate on the good. And he told a story of a trip he and an uncle made to the local garbage disposal site – on purpose – not to dump their refuse but to rummage through the "stuff" others had tossed aside, looking for "diamonds in the rough," so to speak ... things that could be recycled, reused. This was something that he and his uncle did with regularity; not unlike the Saturday morning jaunts Jean and I used to make to the yard sales scattered throughout the city ... looking for that perfect something that had lost its beauty and usefulness for another.

John wove this story of looking for good in the seeming refuse to describe a trait among Appalachian mountain folk in that part of WV. He acknowledged many of the pictures the world sees of the coal mining region of America as being accurate ... refuse scattered along the roadside giving the sense that they just don't care. As he said, "these mountain folk are just that way." It's not that they don't care; there is a method in the "madness." Many folk put their cast-offs to the side of the road as a means of sharing with others something that might be useful. Not that everything one sees on the side of a mountain holler road is useful ... but John suggested that there is a sense of community even in the actions that you and I might regard as trifling or nasty.

Recalling this evening my memory is drawn back to the table and meal a friend and I shared with one of our own, Kenny. Kenny was a houseless man who lived on the church campus. Kenny came into the meeting because he knew he could find a meal ... he was a "little" disheveled (Southern understatement) from his time under the sun and stars, and he came with a burden that he rarely shares. As the three of us shared our spaghetti and talked among ourselves, Kenny reminded me of the uncle in my family who groaned when cleaning the meat off the bones of our family's weekend steaks ... Kenny's groan was a simple "this sure is good and feels good in my stomach." I don't really know what spurred the tears that started to flow down his cheeks, but as he cried and wiped the tears with his oversized, filthy sweater, he muttered something about "no one cared for him" except this church and especially a man named Jim.

John jarred me back into the moment as he offered a storyteller's version of the woman "of questionable reputation" who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them clean with her hair ... he reminded us that we are all children of

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Consider this continued . . .

God – we of questionable reputation, we of less questionable reputation, we who weep into the sleeves of a filthy rag of a garment, we who cry cleansing tears, we who place our refuse along the roadside, we who chide those who do such things, and we who dare to preach a gospel which proclaims that God receives us all as equals as we stand, in the now, before the foot of the cross of the Christ.

It was a sobering evening ... we laughed and joked; we ate well and had some really good orange sherbet and short-bread wafers ... and we heard the “Song of the Mountain Wind” blow through our gathering and if we were paying attention we were able to feel that wind as the wind of God’s Spirit.

As I sit here looking across the lawn, through the naked branches of the big oak and onto the sacred ground of our heritage, I am remembering John Wyatt and the gentle message of the Gospel of Christ that he shared with us through the lives of the people of Appalachia and how important it is that we who call Fair Grove home open the doors of our community of faith wider and wider to those who need to be loved and allowed to love ...

Just thinking ...

See you at the place of Love and Hope and Belonging,

tom+



Ways to Share Love through Missions

- **Join the InAsMuch Club.** For \$1 per month or \$12 a year, you can help people who need help paying for urgent needs, like power, water or shelter. “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”
- **Purchase a \$5 or \$10 gift card to a close by, local fast food restaurant, or a grocery/gas card.** These will be given by Pastor Tom when someone needs our immediate help in our own community.
- **Provide needed items for those seeking refuge from abuse at the Davidson County Women’s Shelter.** Let’s pray for God’s presence and strength for these women and children and share His love by giving much-needed items. A collection box will be placed at the side entrance of the church. Suggested items are listed below:

Paper products: Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Paper Napkins, Paper Plates, Unscented Baby Wipes, Sizes 2-5 Baby Diapers, Feminine Products

Plastic Products: Quart & Gallon Freezer Bags, Plastic Wrap, 16 oz. Plastic Cups, 13 Gallon Trash Bags

Toiletries: Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant

Thanks so much to all who gave so generously to the Nutrition on Weekends Backpack Program and Gifts from the Heart! Fair Grove’s goal to feed 50 on the weekends and provide clothing and shoes for 50 children at Christmas was fulfilled!



The family of Bobby Reece want to thank everyone for the prayers and to let you know that Bobby passed away on February 1, 2022. The family asks if you would like to donate in Bobby’s memory to Should anyone wish to donate, please do so to St. Judes Children’s hospital. If you would like to send your condolences, please mail them to Scott Reece, 102 Briarwood Dr., Mebane, NC 27302.

2021 YEAR END FINANCIAL REVIEW

YTD SS Attendance AVG	30
YTD Worship Attendance AVG	71
YTD Budget Offering	\$223,726.30
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$ 4,302.43

Need more tithing envelopes for 2022?

If you are in need of a new box of tithing envelopes, please let us know by email, fgumc@northstate.net, or call the church office, 336-475-2598. If you leave a voice mail, after office hours, an audio file of your message will be sent to the church’s email for follow-up.

Fair Grove United Methodist Church
138 Fairgrove Church Rd., Thomasville, NC 27360

Tithes and Offering

Name: _____

Amount: _____

For: GENERAL FUND



The Father's Storehouse
Ministries

Mini Update Jan 2022

Happy New Year Everyone! God has blessed us with the privilege to keep reaching those in need, and sharing the love of God!

We are thankful for each of you, and your faithfulness to Gods house! It is through your financial support, as well as your giving of household goods, and clothing, that we remain a place of refuge in time of need!

We are seeing more homeless than ever moms and kids, elderly ... it is so troubling! The shelters are either full, or no room for a family. Thankfully we have had tents, blankets, coats and other supplies to help. We would appreciate any "Mr. Heater" that anyone may not be using, as well as the large suitcase of a set that has wheels, and extendable handle. These are so helpful when sending supplies with someone walking.

Please remember any appliance is appreciated Washer, dryer, stove, refrigerator, microwave, toaster etc. We are currently trying to find appliances for an elderly lady who is being forced to move because of increased rent that she can't afford. She has found a place but there are no appliances, and she has very limited income. Please reach out to us if you have anything.

Reminder: If you are on face book please " like" and share the Fathers Storehouse page so we can help meet as many needs as possible.

Invitation: New volunteer orientation is Monday Jan 31, March 14 9am
Come serve the Lord with us!

Thank you for ALL you do, and your continued faithfulness!

We Love you Lord!!

The Father's Storehouse Team

336-475-4357

609 National Highway, Thomasville, NC 27360





In addition to The Father's Storehouse, we wanted to remind everyone of the other local agencies that Fair Grove UMC lends its support to through our Missions Committee and donations.



COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRY

10 W. Guilford Street
 Thomasville, NC 27360
 336-476-1842
www.ccmtville.org

Food Pantry HOURS: 8:30am-12:30pm (M, Tu, Th, F), 11:30am-3:30pm (W)
 Financial Assistance: Help is available for rent, utilities and deposits to those that qualify.
 Meals of Grace: Up to 3 evenings meals are served out of our kitchen each week. We try to have meals on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights. Currently all meals are take out only and serving begins at 6:00pm. Meals are served and prepared by volunteer groups.



www.mowthomasville.org
Meals on Wheels of Thomasville, Inc.
thomasvillemow@gmail.com

For over 32 years, Meals On Wheels of Thomasville has been helping to nourish our community by delivering hot and well balanced meals everyday, five days per week, to our neighbors that are in need. Last year alone, Meals On Wheels of Thomasville

delivered over 25,000 meals to our Thomasville neighbors. Ninety eight cents of every dollar received went towards the purchase of these meals. All work is done by our dedicated and tireless individual and corporate volunteers, who give their time and talents to serve our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please call (336) 476-3158 and speak with Cathy Byrd or send her an e-mail at thomasvillemow@gmail.com.



fairgrovefamily@fgfrc.org



FAIRGROVE FAMILY
 — RESOURCE CENTER —
 Building a Better Future One Family at a Time
 (336) 472-7217

www.fgfrc.org



- Food Pantry
- Parenting Wisely
- Incredible Years
- Circle of Parents
- Circle of Friends
- Nutrition on Weekends
- FGFRC Life Skills Program
- Emergency Financial Assistance

Food Pantry Hours & Emergency Financial Assistance:
 Mon - Thurs: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Fri: Closed

Don't forget to bring your Gleaning to church on Sundays. If you need to bring them during the week, please call the office and let us know.

All items go to support the food pantry at Fairgrove Family Resource Center.

As always thank you for your continued support and faithfulness to Fair Grove Missions.





1) The Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church is hosting a spring retreat April 1-3rd. It is located at Camp Hanes in King, NC. The weekend will have worship, spiritual development, tons of camp activities (rock walls, zip lines, and more!), bonfires and more. It will be a fun filled weekend full of faith development! We will need at least 5 youth to sign up for the trip in order to be able to attend. In saying that, please email Christina if your student is interested. If your student has a

friend that they would like to attend please let her know this info as well. The last day to let Christina know if your student would like to attend is Sunday, February 13th.

2) February 3 will begin the new Bible study being led by Pastor Tom. All youth are invited to join everything Thursday evening. There is a book with reading material that the youth ministry will provide. Christina's family will be joining and would love it if you would too! If transportation is needed please let her know.

3) We will begin a meal sign up sheet for Sunday youth meetings! If your family would like to provide a meal for one of our Sunday meetings please email Christina for more details.

Prayer List

Katie Harris
 Logan Bunn
 Peggy Harvey's family
 Jeremy Lee
 Bobby Reese's family
 Marvine Myers
 Morning & Bill Lopp
 Darlene Mercer
 Craig Gallimore
 Alan Neely
 Alan Dorsett
 Sonny Russell
 Nan Day
 Sharon Sink
 Doug Everhart
 Margaret Cline
 Janie Sechrist
 Madeline Hodge
 David Lambeth
 Tom Scott and wife/caregiver Lynette

Our homeless friend and neighbor Jimmy
 Carolyn Lane's father-in-law
 Evelyn Parks, 1 year old
 Riley Honeycutt, 10 year old girl
 3 year old Lynix Nichols and family
 Lawrence & Dot Russell
 Susan Jester
 Anne Jones
 Connie Harris
 Bobby Swaim
 Kevin Dodd
 Michael Emerick
 Karen Spaul
 Jean Widder
 Chad Blevins
 Evon Hughes
 Nina Leonard
 Kay Jenkins

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

1 John 5:14

Darlene Mercer
 Debbie Mayer-Matthews
 Teresa Rhodes
 Fidel Goodnight
 Joe Bales III
 Leslie Rierson
 Kendall Conner
 Lucero Prieto
 Regan Sink/ SMA patients
 Lisa Foster
 Scarlett Merand, age 2



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Serenity Owens | 28 Delores Rosebrock |
| 2 Amanda Inscoe | 29 Esther Barnard |
| 6 Conrad Worley | 30 Jeffrey Lee |
| 7 Ann Lloyd | |
| 8 Patricia Kennedy | |
| 10 Janice Grubb | |
| 10 Charles Lyndon | |
| 10 Lexie Nameth | |
| 12 Frances Coggins | |
| 12 Joan Hinkle Robertson | |
| 12 Mary Workman | |
| 14 Caroline Baldwin | |
| 14 Linda Lambeth | |
| 15 Virginia Walker | |
| 15 Donnie Blair | |
| 17 Todd Gallimore | |
| 19 Lara Bodenhammer | |
| 20 Emily McCurry | |
| 22 Donna Miller | |
| 22 Eric Johnson | |
| 23 Michael Barringer | |
| 27 Deborah Brooks | |
| 27 Oliver Fritts | |
| 27 Jane Westmoreland | |

Dear Friend,

I hope all is well with you, and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.

3 John 1:2



- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1 Jimmy & Laurie Lucas |
| 11 Ronnie & Annette Boone |
| 29 Kent & Mindy Vernon |



Fair Grove United Methodist Church

138 Fairgrove Church Road, Thomasville, NC 27360

www.fairgrovechurch.org

Phone: (336) 475-2598 Email: fgumc@northstate.net

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am—1:00pm

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

We Thank God For

YOU



STEWARDSHIP A Way of Life

FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1 - 30, 2022

YTD SS Attendance AVG		8
YTD Worship Attendance AVG		38
YTD Budget Offering	\$	18,415.00
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$	3,683.00
Needed each week to make budget	\$	5,105.07

GLEANNING

JANUARY: 81 Year-to-date: 81

Non-perishable food items donated to Fairgrove Family
Resource Center

If your contact information has changed,
don't forget to let us know!



Have you...

...moved? ...changed your email address?

...changed your phone number?

Or, would you like to be added to our email list to receive the
weekly announcement email?

If so, please call us or send us an email with your updated
information!

Phone: (336) 475-2598

Office Email: fgumc@northstate.net

Pastor Tom Jolly Email: tjolly@wnccumc.net