



FAIR GROVE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

the church Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

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

A Letter of Farewell to Fair Grove Church:

"I thank you, members and friends of Fair Grove United Methodist Church for the love and support you have shown me (and Jean) while we have ministered among you ... I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I (we) leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here."

These are words, in part, of the liturgy in The United Methodist Book of Worship, "An Order of Farewell to a Pastor." While there is a bit more to the liturgy, this is the part that stands out to me as we make the transition in ministry. Jean and I consider each of you as friends. Although our getting to know one another on a personal level has been short-lived and at times contentious, we have made relationships of lasting import and influence. For that we are thankful.

As is the case in all relationships, forgiveness is a major part of loving and caring for the other. Your forgiveness of my shortcomings is a gift for which I am eternally grateful. In our short time together I have learned much, particularly about myself and my call to ministry. And I leave here better for the time and ministry we have shared together.

I am excited for Fair Grove Church as you position yourselves in a new manner of following Jesus. My deepest prayer for Fair Grove Church and her leadership is that God would reveal Godself in new and exciting, refreshing ways and direct the leadership to "think outside the box" to serve up the gospel in ways that make people want to be part of Fair Grove Church.

Each of you and the ministry of FGC will be a constant in my and Jean's prayer life.

The liturgy of farewell closes with a congregational prayer and I close our time together sharing it with you.

***Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting
to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories
and commend one another into your care
as we move in new directions.***

Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Grace and peace, tom+

A Message From Your Pastor:

We have just celebrated Mother's Day on May 14. We gave a gift bag to all the women at the worship service. Many bags were later given to sick or home bound ladies who could not attend the worship service. I have heard from those who delivered these bags that it was so good to reconnect with people they had not seen in a long time. My thanks to the worship committee that is chaired by Ashley Perdue for recognizing our ladies.

Ruth Bell Graham was an outstanding example of motherhood. She was married to Evangelist Billy Graham and together they had five children - three girls and two boys. She was quoted as saying in the May issue of Decision Magazine, "I think my greatest concern is for today's mothers because it is not easy rearing children in our world". She spent a lot of her time being a single parent because Billy traveled so much holding evangelistic crusades across the world. She was asked about Billy's absence one time when it came to taking care of the children. She responded by saying her husband was called by God to be an evangelist and she was called to be his wife and the mother of his children. She missed her husband when he left on his crusades, but accepted her role as a Christian wife and mother to support his in God's call.

On June 18 we will celebrate Father's Day. This is a day set aside to honor our fathers. Jesus called God His Heavenly "Abba" Father. In Mark 14:36-ESV we find these words "And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will but what you will." Some biblical scholars tell us the closest word we have in the English language for "Abba" is Daddy. I called my father "Daddy". In my case it was an affectionate term that grew more and more affectionate with the passing of time. My "Daddy" died on October 29, 2006. I still miss him. He served as Sunday Superintendent for Fair Grove United Methodist Church for around twenty years. My mother, Mary Louise Shore Blair, died July 26, 2004. Together they had 63 years of marriage. I still miss both of them. I was blessed to have

continued on next page . . .

Godly Christian parents. As I write this I cannot help but think of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 29. We are blessed to live in a country that values freedom. I pause to ask God's blessings on the United States of America. I am so thankful for those men and women who gave their lives so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. Please join me in praying for God to bless America again. Let us also not forget the one who gave his life's blood on the Cross of Calvary so we can be forgiven and have a home in Heaven forever. His name is Jesus Christ! Have a wonderful month of June, 2023. God loves you! And so do I. ~~Pastor Stephen



We will recognize our graduates this year during the morning worship service on Sunday, June 4. We will be honoring the following students as they matriculate:

From College:

- ◆ Ryan Grubb, Guilford Technical Community College with high honors and a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. After High School, Ryan graduated from Davidson County Community College and worked in water treatment for several years with Davidson Water. In 2020 Ryan decided to pursue a degree in Aviation Systems Technology. While attending Guilford Technical Community College he worked for Haeco America's at the Greensboro Airport and graduated on December 12, 2022 with highest honors. Ryan is currently living in Kinston, NC and employed with Aretex Aviation where he is a mechanic working on Cargo planes at Aire Mountain Cargo Corporation. His mother is Janice Grubb and his grandmother is Francis Frazier.
- ◆ Nicholas Clarke Speaks, Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. Nicholas is on the President's List with a 4.0 GPA. During college he worked as a Mathematics tutor and will continue to do so throughout this summer. Nicholas is an avid surfer who also plans to teach at a surfing school at Wrightsville Beach this summer. He plans to transfer to UNC Wilmington where he will study Finance. He is the grandson of Dale and Joan Everhart.

From High School:

- ◆ Matthew Christopher Barzdins, Eastern Alamance High School, Mebane, NC. His mother is Pamela Blair Barzdins. He is the grandson of Libby and Stephen Blair.
- ◆ Kaleigh Buckalew, Patrick Henry High School in Virginia. She is attending Baker University in Kansas on an Athletic Scholarship for Bowling and will study Drama Production. Her parents are Bryan and Jessica Buckalew and her grandfather is Ira Buckalew.
- ◆ Audrey Rose Childress, Mooresville High School, Mooresville NC. She will attend North Carolina State University. She is the granddaughter of Joy and Roy Tucker.
- ◆ Ella Claire Goins - Mooresville High School, Mooresville, NC. She will attend East Carolina University. She is the granddaughter of Joy and Roy Tucker.
- ◆ Lexie Nameth, East Davidson High School. Lexi has received a scholarship to Appalachian State University. Her mother is Kristi Nameth and her grandmother is Judy Pierce.
- ◆ Katherine (Katie) Stuart Speaks, John T. Hoggard High School in Wilmington. Katie is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Since the 7th grade, Katie has been a member of the National Charity League whose members are committed to community service in the Wilmington area. She will be attending NC State University where she plans to study Marketing with the intent of becoming an attorney. She is the granddaughter of Dale and Joan Everhart.
- ◆ Connor C. Waters, Eastern Alamance High School. His parents are Christopher and Susan Waters. He is attending Auburn University, College of Agriculture in the fall.

Congratulations to all of our graduates. May your paths always be truly blessed.

Don't forget to write down these important dates:

- ◆ June 1 @ 10am - Prayer Shawl will meet in the Church Parlor
- ◆ June 4 - Family Day in the Park for Kids and Youth
- ◆ June 6 @ 8am - Senior Breakfast at Sunrise Grill
- ◆ June 9 @ 10am - Planning meeting - Home Bound Visitation team - FLC
- ◆ June 10 - Father's Day
- ◆ June 20 @ 11am - Susanna Wesley Circle will meet in the FLC



MISSIONS FOCUS

The Father's Storehouse Ministries

609 National Hwy, Thomasville, NC 27360 (336) 475-4357

This local missions ministry is one Fair Grove supports quarterly.

The Father's Storehouse was established in 2007 by the Ward Family. They realized that there was a need and a "Mission Field" right here in our local communities. They established The Father's Storehouse as a Mission Church 501c3, non profit, to bridge the gap, and meet the needs of families living in poverty. It is truly a labor of love, staffed by 100% volunteers, with no salaries drawn. They state that "Thousands of families have been helped through The Father's Storehouse, we have an awesome God who is faithful to supply His house, and meet the needs! Christian people with a heart for missions come together as the hands and feet of Christ, and make The Father's Storehouse an awesome ministry that impacts the needs of the community in a Big way!! Favor of God is obvious on this house! Ten years of meeting needs, with no income, but God's on time provision!! Now THAT is something to be thankful for!! Thank you LORD!! We look towards the future with Faith in God, and Faith in the goodness of His people....."

The volunteers at The Father's Storehouse have their hearts set on showing people the Love of Jesus through meeting basic needs at urgent times in their lives. They work hard to encourage guest speakers as they recognize that in good and bad times in life we can all use encouragement. They are happy to offer wonderful guest speakers as part of their program who give us all something to smile about! They are also dedicated to stepping up their efforts in addressing hunger. Their program offers provide food boxes with fresh, frozen and shelf stable items as well as lunch. They also includes clothing, shoes, house ware items, Linens, Cleaning supplies, hygiene items as well as haircuts. In addition, they provide many special services during back to school, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Take a moment to learn more about the Father's Storehouse, their programs and events at their website www.thefathersstorehouse.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FathersStorehouseMinistries.

May Update from The Father's Storehouse 2023

- ◆ First and foremost we are celebrating 11 decisions for Christ during April programs. Yeah God!!! The Lord said to go into the world and share the Gospel. We know you are glad to be a part of what God is doing!
- ◆ We are working hard raising funds for the homeless shelter. Individuals, if you will please donate towards that project we will surely appreciate it! Churches, if you will please consider having a special offering for the homeless project that would be a great help. Remember we are in the mission field, and do not get to pass the offering plate except to you! Thank you in advance!
- ◆ We are working diligently on getting a homeless shelter in place before winter. If you have not received the information on the homeless shelter project please email us and let us know at TheFathersStore@aol.com. You can also learn more about the project at <https://www.thefathersstorehouse.com/single-post/the-homeless-project>.
- ◆ We had a wonderful Day of Blessing event with several hundred in attendance. Thank you to everyone who donated time, and goods to the wonderful day of blessing the community. One lady in attendance with her kids said it was so nice not to have to tell her kids "No" since everything was free they could just enjoy the blessing from you guys!!
- ◆ Please consider being a regular monthly donor to The Father's Storehouse, even though everyone is a volunteer. It takes funds to make this mission outreach possible. We appreciate your faithfulness so much!
- ◆ Remember our programs in prayer that hearts and lives will be touched and needs will be met! We are seeing so many urgent situations, and are so thankful to have the resources to be able to help so many!

Thank you for changing lives and being a light to those in need!!

It is through your monthly support that we are able to meet so many needs, "Thank you" all for being missionaries with us!

We love and appreciate you all,
The Father's Storehouse Volunteers



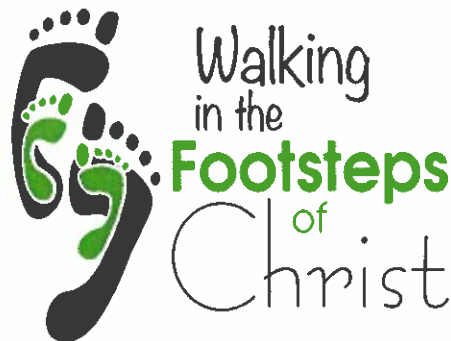
For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
Psalm 71:5 ESV



Kids Own Worship

Don't forget to spread the word that Fair Grove is offering
Kids Own Worship time!

All children, Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to participate in a special KIDS OWN WORSHIP just for them during the 11am hour. This will include a lesson with hands-on activities. Children will meet in the downstairs classroom directly beneath the sanctuary. Supervision will begin at 10:50am. For questions, contact Jane Baity.



{MISSIONS} at Fair Grove

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

Thank you for your continued gleaning for the poor each Sunday. Through the Fairgrove Family Resource Center, many with financial difficulties will not go hungry.

We will begin our AGAPE Christmas Shoeboxes next month, as soon as updated forms from the conference are available. Our focus on the Davidson County Women's Shelter will wrap up this month. As we pray for women and children who escape from violence, assault and strife, let's bring items requested by the shelter. Look for a donation box in the church side entry. While you're there, check out the beautiful new Missions Bulletin Board. It will highlight and provide information on the mission projects at Fair Grove.

Items Requested at this Time: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Non-bleach Cleaning Supplies, 13 Gallon or Heavy Duty Large Trash Bags, Laundry Detergent (Liquid or Pods)

Prayer List

Wade & Carolyn Lane Family
 Vivian Howard & her family
 Jess Hollifield family
 Tom & Lynette Scott
 Clyde Bailey
 Cam Trotter
 Gary Trotter
 Dawn Trotter
 Scotty Miller
 Mike Workman
 Keith Overcash
 Sharon Keever's friend Joyce
 Robin Chester
 Keever's son
 Nancy Kearns
 Susan Kearns Jester
 Connie Yarborough
 Arnold Fuller
 Scotty Miller
 Mark Black
 Bill Lopp

Jimmy, Mark & Judy's Black friend, in need of permanent housing
 Alice Colwell
 Ronnie Boone
 Steve Avre
 Tom Sink & his caregiver, Sandra
 Bettie Richie
 Carol Hepler
 Stephen Blair
 Kathy Shoe & Rick Wilson
 Jane & Bob Baity
 Ira Buckalew
 Robert Charles Kleintank III
 Michael Emerick & wife Nancy
 Brenda Lane
 Ed & Eva Smith
 Aubrey Lawson
 Roger Burkhart
 Jennifer Kinley
 Margaret McCaskill
 Craig Gallimore

Karen Davis
 Joy Wray Tucker
 Candi Williams
 Tommy Shoemaker
 Sandra Workman
 Roy McMahan
 Heather Hardiser
 Elsiohn Stewart
 David and Linda Lambeth
 Rusty Welch
 Dot Russell

"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



Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 James Lomax | 19 Jacob Gilbert |
| 5 Susan McCurry | 20 Lucas Mayer |
| 5 Gary Trotter | 22 Abbey Parrish |
| 6 Jerry Lee | 22 Abby Thompson |
| 9 Christy Swaim | 23 Dakota Johnson |
| 10 Tim Fuller | 24 John Everhart |
| 10 Benny Huskins | 24 Carrie Ann Fulbright |
| 12 Elliot Everhart | 24 Diane Overcash |
| 13 Rick Moser | 25 Rickey Wray |
| 13 Kristi Nameth | 26 Stanley Frazier |
| 14 Dale Everhart | 26 Stephen Sink |
| 14 Gene McCurry | 27 Steve Cline |
| 14 Lauren Overcash | 28 Ron Moore |
| 15 Evelyn Gallimore | 30 Cathy Bebbber |
| 18 John Perry | |
| 19 Caleb Everhart | |



HAPPY anniversary

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 6 Brian & Sara Barringer |
| 6 Bob & Elizabeth Bowser |
| 12 Mike & Wanda Faircloth |
| 14 Ron & Janet Boles |
| 16 Jesse & Tamara Gilbert |
| 18 Jack & Betty Callicutt |
| 19 Eric & Kim Johnson |
| 19 David & Linda Lambeth |
| 20 Steve & Betty Easley |
| 25 Michael & Toni Jones |
| 27 Mark & Marvine Myers |



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 - MAY 21, 2023

YTD SS Attendance AVG	17
YTD Worship Attendance AVG	82
YTD Budget Offering	\$ 70,453.70
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$ 3,354.94
Needed each week to make budget	\$ 5,105.07

GLEANNING

May: 215 Year-to-date: 1268

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

Interim Pastor Stephen Blair Email: stpsblair@northstate.net