



the church Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

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

A Message From Your Pastor:

Our Lay Leader, William Dills has requested to share a message with us in our August Newsletter. . .

Hard Church Pew

Psalm 136:1

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 19:14

but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

I am sixty-nine years old. I know many of my friends around my age can relate to what I'm talking about. Many of you can remember being in church before the days of air conditioning and padded pews. Maybe you felt like me during those hot days of sitting on the hard pews as child with a paper fan which did little for the heat and listening to the preacher preach. It seemed like he always preached on hell and salvation during the hottest days of the summer. I don't know about you, but I sat there hoping that not too many people would go to alter after so the service would end so I could go home.

It is not that I didn't like church. I just didn't feel a need to hear about suffering, guilt and death. Like most children, I would rather sing songs of joy and love like, Jesus loves me. I, like most children, would rather pray "God is Great, God is Good; Let us thank Him for our food. By His hands we all are fed, Give us Lord our Daily Bread." Like most children, I didn't give much thought to dying, sin, suffering or death.

While I believe you can relate with me as a child, I also believe most my age can also relate with me as an adult. As an older adult we know that life has a lot of pain and suffering. Very few have not experienced the heartbreak of love. Most of us had dreams of careers which in many cases did not pan out. Many of us had family problems that pushed us almost to the breaking point. By now almost all of us have buried parents, brothers, sisters and in some case spouses and children.

I don't need to tell you that life is full of suffering and pain.

I don't need to tell you that we as Christians live in a world full of hurt.

I don't know about you, but I have struggled with the question, if God is a God of absolute goodness why is there so much suffering and misery in life. I don't know the answer and I don't need the answer. I realize as I got older that a if God is a god of absolute goodness then he is a God who can absolutely be trusted to do what is best for humanity and for me. I have discovered that God can transforms our suffering in the long run to something of unspeakable comfort.

C.S. Lewis writes in Mere Christianity, "Of course, I quite agree that the Christian religion is, in the long run a thing of unspeakable comfort. But it does not begin in comfort; it begins in the dismay I have been describing, and it is no use at all trying to go on that comfort without first going through that dismay."

C.S. Lewis reminds me I cannot know the depth of God's comfort love without understanding the depth of God's suffering on the cross. For it was Christ's suffering on the cross that brought us the Holy Spirit, the source of God's comforting love. This miracle of God's comforting love started with me as a young child sitting on a hard wooden pew hearing a sermon I did not appreciate.

May we as God's people (the Church) seek to be of comfort to those who are hurting. God loves you and so do I.

~Pastor Stephen



Don't forget to write down these important dates:

- ◆ Aug 1 @ 8 am - Senior Breakfast at Sunrise Grill
- ◆ Aug 3 @ 10 am - Prayer Shawl will meet in the Church Parlor
- ◆ Aug 15 @ 11 am - Susanna Wesley meeting in the FLC.



Dear church family, We wanted to take a moment to thank you for the love offering that was collected and gifted to us in recognition of Tom's retirement. Each of you and the ministry of FGC will be a constant in our prayer life. Grace, peace, and blessings ~ Jean and tom+ Jolly

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world



Let's continue this month, Fair Grove, with AGAPE Christmas Shoeboxes! Your monetary donations and the boxes you put together will be cherished. These Armenian children in need live in an impoverished region that receives no outside help, except from the Western and North Carolina Conferences of the UMC. Most have never had a toy, unless it's from us, and are thrilled to receive their box full of items. Forms are still available at the church entrances if you would like to shop. If you prefer, write a check to FGUMC with AGAPE on the memo line. Someone will shop for you or your donation will be used for the requested shipping fee. Please deliver your box by August 20th and place beneath our AGAPE Christmas tree.

When August ends and children in our own community go back to school, we will begin our drive for the Nutrition on Weekends Backpack Program. Through Fairgrove Family Resource Center, we hope to provide for every targeted child experiencing hunger at Fair Grove Elementary. FGFRC packs each backpack. The child takes it home each Friday, a promise of nutritious food all weekend. If you are able and feel led, please sponsor a child. A donation in any amount is wonderful! \$230 will eliminate weekend hunger the entire school year.

In response to Stephen's sermon, let's step up the gleaning this summer for those who would hunger without our donations. Thanks to those who are able to bring at least one canned good per Sunday.

FGUMC 2023 - N.O.W. Backpack - Mission Opportunity



Fairgrove Family Resource Center provides nutritious food for children to take home in a backpack over the weekends to four area schools, including Fair Grove Elementary. Our own church has sought to alleviate hunger through this program, by providing backpacks for years, meeting the need of every single targeted child at Fair Grove School. We prayerfully hope to meet and exceed that goal. \$230 will feed a child every weekend for the entire school year. Any dollar amount is appreciated!

- o I would like to sponsor a child and donate \$230 at this time.
- o I would like to sponsor a child with a pledge to give the \$230 total by Dec. 2023.
- o I would like to give a general donation in the following amount to help: _____

Is this Nutrition on Weekends Backpack given in honor or memory of someone?

Your Name, S.S. Class, or Group _____

Make check payable to Fair Grove UMC. On the memo line, write **BACKPACK**. Please include this form with your gift or pledge.



ARE YOU TIRED OF JUST GETTING BY?
IF YOU ARE ASKING YOURSELF
"HOW CAN I GET AHEAD?"



DC CONNECT, INC. PRESENTS

**GETTING AHEAD
IN A JUST-GETTIN'-BY WORLD**
16 WEEK WORKSHOP
1 NIGHT A WEEK
Be part of a small group "Kitchen Table" Workshop (6-12 participants)



You will receive:

- FREE MEALS BEFORE EACH CLASS
- A GIFT CARD FOR EACH SESSION YOU ATTEND
- FREE CHILDCARE
- A MENTOR WHEN YOU GRADUATE WHO WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST YOU AS YOU BUILD YOUR RESOURCES TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.



In this program you will:

- WORK AS A TEAM TO DESCRIBE WHAT POVERTY IS LIKE IN THE COMMUNITY.
- INVESTIGATE ECONOMIC CLASS DIFFERENCES
- IDENTIFY THE CAUSES OF POVERTY
- LEARN HOW TO TRANSITION TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY
- LEARN HOW TO NAVIGATE THE WORLDS OF WORK AND SCHOOL
- GAIN SKILLS TO IDENTIFY AND BUILD RESOURCES
- PREPARE A PLAN FOR A BETTER FUTURE
- LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING YOUR SOCIAL RESOURCES
- RECEIVE A RENEWED SENSE OF HOPE



LOCATION: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
310 S MAIN ST LEXINGTON NC 27292
CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 8, 2023
EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
DINNER 5PM-6PM
CLASSES 6PM-8PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RECEIVE AN APPLICATION,

336-243-3222

**CONTACT
MIRIAM MATIAS**

MIRIAMM@MEDICALMINISTRIES.ORG

Our Historic Cemetery Chapter 1.

The cemetery of our beloved Fair Grove Methodist church is rich with history. The large flat marker shown in one of the photos in this article is called a "Cenotaph." A cenotaph is a memorial to the deceased, but they are not buried in the location of the monument. It is inscribed: "In Memory of Perry A. Black, 34594086, Co.F 13th Medical Branch, Son of O.T. & Jennie Lee Black, Born May 23, 1921. Missing In Flight Over Himalaya(n) Mountains At Mount Everest, India. In Route To Burma Pass, May 27, 1945." PFC Black gave the ultimate sacrifice his country, our country. The other photo shows a bronze plaque placed at a stone designating that the person whose earthly remains rests there is "The Wife of A Revolutionary War Soldier." 1776-1783. It was placed there by the Guilford Battle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Greensboro, NC. Unfortunately, we can't presently read the inscription on her stone. We have treated it and hopefully will be able to see the name in about a month if it is not too badly worn away. Everyone interred in our cemetery was once a living, breathing, walking person. Some have passed from the earth many, many years ago. Many have no earthly family left but our cemetery allows us to remember them, honor them, or say a prayer in their memory. The Cemetery Committee will have more interesting history of the Saints in our cemetery in the months to come!

Love & Blessings, Mark



Please don't forget to bring your Gleaning to church on Sundays. If you need to bring items during the week, please call the office and let us know. All items we receive go to support the food pantry at Fairgrove Family Resource Center.

Also, if you want to help those who may stop by the church in need of a tank of gas, a meal or just a little extra help to purchase groceries, etc., please donate gift cards. You can place them in the offering plate on Sunday, give them to Janice Griffin or Pastor Stephen. You just never know what difference one gift card might make in a person's life. As always thank you for your continued support and faithfulness to Fair Grove Missions.





Kids Own Worship



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

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.

Prayer List

Tom Scott Family
Elsiohn Steward Family
Priscilla Everhart
Carolyn Lane
Cristall McCaskill
Carol Sena
Troy Segers
Kay Lawrence
Janey Osborne
Sarah Lambe
Terri Carpenter
David Smith
Keith Overcash,
Kathryn Swaim;
Drew Newby
Margaret McCaskill
Mary; Dawn Stafford
Sara and Clyde Bailey
Mike Workman
Robin Chester
Nancy Kearns
Karen Davis

Jimmy, Mark & Judy's Black friend, in need of permanent housing
Susan Jester /Tom Kearn's Granddaughter
Connie Yarborough
Bill Lopp
Steve Avre
Tom Sink & his caregiver, Sandra
Bettie Richie
Carol Hepler
Stephen Blair
Kathy Shoe & Rick Wilson
Ira Buckalew
Robert Charles Kleintank 3rd
Michael Emerick & wife Nancy
Brenda Lane
Eva Smith
Ed Smith
Aubrey Lawson
Roger Burkhart
Jennifer Kinley
Craig Gallimore
Leslie Rierson
Lucy Hayes

Joy Wray Tucker
Candi Williams
Tommy Shoemaker
Sandra Workman
Roy McMahan
Heather Hardister
David and Linda Lambeth
Rusty Welch
Dot Russell
Bobby Swaim
Evelyn Parks
Riley Honeycutt
Kendall Conner
Robin Parker
Rob Nelson
Denise Barker
Dennis Harrison
Johnny Odom
Chad Blevins
Teresa Rhodes



"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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Savannah Johnson | 18 Richie Barker |
| 5 Brooks Miller | 19 Toni Jones |
| 6 Wanda Faircloth | 19 Ethan Moore |
| 8 Steve Sink | 20 Susan Boston |
| 10 Eli Everhart | 23 Bobbi Rivers |
| 11 Amy Cantrill | 27 Kenneth Lambeth |
| 12 Debbie Lambeth Brooks | 27 Allison Barnette |
| 12 Cody Tilley | 29 Jordan Rothrock |
| 14 Frank Ingram | 30 Libby Blair |
| 15 Cheryl Lee | 30 Charles Kennedy, Jr. |
| 15 Lynette Scott | 30 Jean Young |
| 16 Collin Lee | 31 Mark Black |
| 18 Austin Lee | 31 Lauren Miller |
| 18 Jennifer Sweitzer | |



Happy Anniversary

- | |
|----------------------------|
| 15 Mike & Millie Inscoe |
| 15 Pete & Gloria Updegrove |
| 21 Thomas & Amy Petley |
| 24 Hollis & Jane Blair |
| 25 Kenneth & Sallie Hepler |
| 28 Jerry & Dianne Lee |
| 30 Tim & Penny Bell |



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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Organization

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

We Thank God For

YOU



STEWARDSHIP A way of Life

FOR PERIOD JANUARY - JULY 23, 2023

YTD SS Attendance AVG	17
YTD Worship Attendance AVG	79
YTD Budget Offering	\$ 107,298.70
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$ 3,576.62
Needed each week to make budget	\$ 5,105.07

GLEANNING

July: 234 Year-to-date: 1845

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