

### ***A Message From Your Pastor:***

As we come to the last holiday of summer which is Labor Day on September 4 we are reminded of the importance of work. The Book of Ecclesiastes says it well in Chapter 3 verses 9-14 "What does the worker gain from his toil? I have the burden God has laid on men. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him."

Work is a gift from God that gives meaning to life. The Apostle Paul also spoke of work when he said,

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10) James also spoke of work when he said "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." (James 2:26) We receive a great blessing from God when we do the work God has given to us to do. So when we do the work may we recognize the blessing that comes with it in Christ Jesus. Enjoy the Labor Day holiday.

God loves you and so do I.

-Pastor Stephen

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



This stain glass window shows Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Now I know the devil is not mentioned being at the Mount of Olives. But I can imagine what he would be saying to Jesus. I can hear him saying, "Jesus, why would you die for these humans? Look at your own disciples, they are asleep. They cannot even stay awake for an hour. Jesus, I know you can see the future. Do you see people being any different in the future. You know, I, the devil, can dampen their enthusiasm in their spiritual life. I can lessen their interest in your Holy Word. You know I can tempt them to become so apathetic, they sleep in then hear your word on Sunday. They will never truly serve you as Lord. Jesus, they are not worthy of your life."

Sadly, in our hearts, we know the devil would be telling the truth. Except for brief moments in history, most of humanity has been apathetic. Most of humanity has only been interested in Jesus when He serves their own interests and needs. The devil has an easy time changing our priorities from the joy of worship to social causes. He has had an easy time replacing our enthusiasm for God's word with the enthusiasm of social works. We put sports over worship, loyalty to friends, teachers, family over the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We put social morality over Christian morality. The devil is correct. We as a species really are not worthy of the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross.

Praise God that Jesus believed we were worth saving from our sins. Praise God that Jesus not only redeemed us from our sin by dying on the cross, but also gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live a new life worthy of God. Should we dishonor the giver of such a gift with an apathetic faith?

It is time for us as a church to wake up. Let's attend church, sing His praise, study His Word and grow in His Love. Jesus is worthy of our complete devotion.

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**Don't forget to write down these important dates:**

- ♦ Sept 5 @ 8 am - Senior Breakfast at Sunrise Grill
- ♦ Sept 7 @10 am - Prayer Shawl will meet in the Church Parlor
- ♦ Sept 7 @7pm - There will be a Church in the sanctuary for the final vote on disaffiliation. The disaffiliation resolution must be approved by 2/3rds of the professing members in attendance.
- ♦ Sept 9 - No Zumba Class
- ♦ Sept 17 @11 am—Homecoming Sunday
- ♦ Sept 19 @11 am - Susanna Wesley meeting in the FLC.



## Missions at Fair

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16



Thank you for showing the love of Christ toward children in Armenia through AGAPE Christmas Shoeboxes. While extreme poverty and hardship rack their lives, your heartfelt gifts will be so appreciated. What a blessing we have been given, the opportunity to share the light of His love! Let us continue to lift up prayers of hope for this war torn country.

Our love also shines here at home. Statistics show the risk for food insecurity for children in Davidson County is 1 in 5. We are given another opportunity to help innocent children through the Nutrition on Weekends Backpack Program, provided through the Fairgrove Family Resource Center. We strive to fulfill every targeted need at Fair Grove Elementary School. The FFRC packs each bag, and the child is assured of nutritious food all weekend. If you are able and feel led, sponsorship for a school year is \$250. A donation in any amount is wonderful! For example, \$35 will provide for an entire month. It is our prayer that together, we will feed all 50 children in need at Fair Grove School for the weekends. The donation form is in this newsletter, as well as available at each entrance of the church.

Please remember our ongoing projects:

- \* \$5 to \$10 grocery, gas, or fast food cards that are given by our office to those in most extreme need.
- \* A weekly non-perishable or a can of food. Most needed at this time: Breakfast food, Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned Fruit

### **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. **\$250** 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 **\$250** at this time.
- o I would like to sponsor a child with a pledge to give the **\$250** 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.



# Fair Grove United Methodist Church

138 Fairgrove Church Road

Thomasville, NC 27360

[www.fairgrovechurch.org](http://www.fairgrovechurch.org)

Phone: (336) 475-2598

Email: [fgumc@northstate.net](mailto:fgumc@northstate.net); [fgumcthomasville@gmail.com](mailto:fgumcthomasville@gmail.com)

Rev. Stephen Blair, Pastor

August 24, 2023

Dear Friends,

As part of our church family, we want to issue you a special invitation to attend our Homecoming Service this year. Our Homecoming will be observed on Sunday, September 17th with the inside worship service beginning at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon in our Family Life Center immediately after the worship service.

Rhita Newcomb will be our speaker. She attends Pine Grove UMC in Winston-Salem, NC. Rhita is a certified lay speaker for the Yadkin Valley District and is currently serving as District President of the United Women in Faith (formerly UMW). During the worship service, we will remember in love and faith the following persons who have entered the church triumphant since last year's Homecoming:

Chuck Rivers	November 12, 2022
Jane Westmoreland	December 27, 2022
Margaret Cline	December 30, 2022
Blanche Evelyn Fritts	January 10, 2023
Richard Hancock	January 19, 2023
Jo Ann Everhart	January 26, 2023
Tom Scott	June 15, 2023
Sheree Jones	August 20, 2023

If you would like to make a special gift to the church, please make your check payable to Fair Grove UMC and note on the memo line where you want your gift to be used. In addition to our General Fund, special funds include Agape, Capital Improvement, Backpack Ministry, Missions, and Community Ministry.

We look forward to seeing you on this special day. Your presence will add to the joy of our time together.

Yours in Christ,

Ashley Perdue, Chairperson  
Worship Ministries

Stephen Blair, Pastor



## Our Historic Cemetery Chapter 2. . .

As we continue to explore and learn the history of our cemetery, another very interesting memorial marker is "Johnnie Smith the Englishman." There is no birth or death date on the stone. He is buried in the family plot of Captain Milton L. Jones. Captain Jones was the builder and owner of Thomasville and Glen Anna Railway (Later HPT&D). The railway ran from Thomasville to Cid and Denton to open up a large area rich in agricultural, timber and mineral resources. When he was just 12 years old, Jones worked in area mines for 50 cents a day. He had no education, but later amassed a fortune dealing in timber lands and mining. This information came from an article in the Lexington Dispatch, February 1906. The entire article can be found on the Findagrave.com website in the memorial for Captain Jones and his family. Captain Jones was a close ancestor of present Fair Grove church members, Susan Jones McCurry, Lynette Scott, and Cinde Ingram. Susan told me that "Johnnie Smith the Englishman" had worked for Captain Jones (her great-grandfather) and requested to be buried at his feet. While we don't know the specifics about Johnnie Smith the Englishman, we are assured that God knows all the details, and that their earthly bodies rest in our cemetery until that glorious day when Christ returns. Blessings, Mark



### Sonshine Ministry Team

A new ministry team is forming at Fair Grove. The purpose of this team is to make contact with our homebound members. We hope to shine the love of Jesus to these members and let them know that they are not forgotten. This may be done through a card, a phone call or a visit. If you would be interested in joining this ministry team, please contact Jane Gibbs.



United  
Women  
in Faith

Five of our women attended the Yadkin Valley UWF District Annual Celebration in Kernersville. We felt very proud to be part of this group of women. The theme of the event was, "We Have a Story to Tell." Rev. Mark Barden delivered an inspiring message.

*We believe love in action can change the world.*



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 WORSIP 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

Lane Family  
Randy Welch Family  
Michael Scott Family  
Steve Avre  
Lynn Driggers  
Kevin Mauldin  
Mark Black  
Greg Carpenter  
Becky Saville  
Cristall McCaskill  
Carol Sena  
Troy Segers  
Kay Lawrence  
Sarah Lambe  
Terri Carpenter  
David Smith  
Keith Overcash,  
Kathryn Swaim;  
Drew Newby  
Margaret McCaskill  
Mary  
Sara and Clyde Bailey  
Nancy Kearns  
Karen Davis

Jimmy, Mark & Judy's Black friend, in need of permanent housing  
Susan Jester /Tom Kearns's Granddaughter  
Connie Yarborough  
Bill Lopp  
Tom Sink & his caregiver, Sandra  
Betty Richie  
Sheree Jones  
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



3 Eric Beber  
3 Juanita Welborn  
4 Alan Dorsett  
5 Toni Nicholson  
7 Aurelia Hampton  
9 Helen Perdue  
11 Roy Tucker  
13 Haley Kennedy  
14 Matthew Barringer  
14 Christopher Barringer  
15 Phil Gibbs  
15 Emily Hill  
15 Austin Hill  
16 Margaret McCaskill  
18 Carol Hepler

19 Dick Davis  
20 Christall McCaskill  
22 Brent Blair  
23 Paden Hall  
24 Marvine Myers  
26 Mark Everhart  
26 Sandra Workman  
28 Scott McCaskill  
28 Cathi Smith  
29 Emma Whitman



7 Rocky & Debbie Brooks  
7 Todd & Darla Gallimore  
21 Tony & Deborah Brooks  
26 David & Gale Smith



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

Non Profit

Organization

US Postage Paid

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

# We Thank God For YOU



## STEWARDSHIP *A Way of Life*

### FOR PERIOD JANUARY - AUGUST 27, 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

August: 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](mailto:fgumc@northstate.net)

Interim Pastor Stephen Blair Email: [sfuller23@spectrum.net](mailto:sfuller23@spectrum.net)