

# Fair Grove Church

The Messenger Monthly Newsletter

December 2023

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

## A Message From Your Pastor:

I love Christmas. We celebrate the coming of Christ to our world in December with Advent. The first Sunday in Advent this year is December 3. But Christmas is not just a date on the calendar. It is not a day to glorify selfishness and materialism. Christmas is the celebration of the event that set Heaven to singing, an event that gave the stars of the night sky a new brilliance. John 10:10 tells us "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." Christmas tells us that at a specific time and at a specific place, a specific person was born.

That person was the Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus said in Luke 19:10 "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." That is the message of that first Christmas. With the birth of Jesus came a glorious hope of salvation for the whole world. The Prophet said in Isaiah 7:14 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." The message of Christmas is that "God is with us." I declare to you at Fair Grove Church God is with us. God loves you and so do I. -Pastor Stephen

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

- ◆ Dec 5 @ 8am - Senior Breakfast at Sunrise Grill, everyone is invited
- ◆ Dec 5 @ 6pm - UWF covered dish Christmas Dinner
- ◆ Dec 6 @ 5:30pm - SPRC Meeting in the FLC
- ◆ Dec 17 @ 11am - Christmas Cantata "JESUS Makes Christmas a Holy Day"
- ◆ Dec 20 - Jan 2, 2024 - The Church Office will be closed.
- ◆ Jan 2, 2024 @ 8am - Senior Breakfast at Sunrise Grill, everyone is invited



## 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.

## December SCHEDULE

- \* FRIDAY, DEC. 1 - Journey to Bethlehem Trolley Ride (For those who made reservations with Jane) 6:40 pm meeting time at: JTB parking lot, 222 Mt. Zion Church Rd. (across road from Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church)
- \* SUNDAY, DEC. 3 - KOW as usual AFTER ANTHEM, Kids/youth will play drums during anthem as choir sings "Little Drummer Boy" AFTER KOW: Parents will help pick out costumes (sizes) for cantata in KOW classroom
- \* SUNDAY, DEC. 10 - KOW as usual
- \* SUNDAY, DEC. 17 - NO regular KOW, Kids/youth will portray Nativity Scene as part of Christmas Cantata, AFTER CANTATA: Christmas Lunch in Youth, Room for kids/youth/family (pizza/salad)
- \* SUNDAY, DEC. 24 - NO KOW



MERRY CHRISTMAS to our staff and parish from the Staff/Parish Committee!

What a blessed year it has been to serve our Lord as a church family. As a show of appreciation, we will be collecting a Christmas Love Offering to divide evenly among our paid staff: Stephen Blair, minister; Jane Evans, administrative assistant; Susan McCurry, music director; Carolyn Lane and Marcia Dills, accompanists; and Sharon Sink, custodian. If you would like to make a contribution, please do so.

The last day to contribute will be Sunday, December 17. **Make checks to Fair Grove Church and put "Christmas Love Offering" on memo line.** FYI...we will be honoring Stephen in January on a special Pastor Appreciation Sunday! If you have any questions, contact Jane Baity. Thank you.

Jane Baity, SPRC Chairperson, Fair Grove Church, "I love you, Lord!" Psalm 18:1

# Christmas BLESSINGS through Missions at Fair Grove

What a blessing it is to be able to help people in our own community! We can provide for children in need to have gifts of clothing, shoes, and a few wish list items on Christmas morning. For a \$120 donation, the items will be purchased for you. A few Fair Grove folks are in the process of taking lists and purchased items themselves. The bags of gifts need to be brought to the church by December 5th to meet the deadline. If you'd like to give any amount toward the gifts, a donation to our church may be made with "Gifts from the Heart" on the memo line. Monetary gifts are needed as soon as possible. Approximately 35 "gifts" through donations and shoppers are being promised at this time.

We have a goal to provide at least 50 Nutrition on Weekends Backpacks for children by December 31st. Every gift you give will go toward the \$250 cost for the school year. 47 backpacks are promised thus far! Special thanks to the United Women in Faith and Lucy Girls for going above and beyond as we struggle to meet the needs of every child at Fair Grove Elementary School, as well as so many church members!

Please continue bringing five and \$10 gift cards to local fast food restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations. These are given when someone stops by the church office in emergency need of assistance. The United Women in Faith are asking that these be given as our special missions project at our Christmas General meeting December 5th.

Thank you for your weekly gleaning of one non-perishable or canned food item each week. Last month's Bobby Owen food drive filled the altar with your gifts of food. In December, let's make a special effort to raise our gleaning numbers for 2023.



## 2023 "Gifts from the Heart"

I would like to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ child/children at a cost of \$120 per child.

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give a donation (any amount) toward the purchase of a child's gifts.

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If this gift is given in honor or memory of someone, please indicate below:

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to the church ("Gifts from the Heart" on the memo line) Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate or delivered to the office.



# FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE at Christmas

ALL ladies of Fair Grove are invited to celebrate the season with the United Women in Faith at their annual Christmas dinner.

Join us on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 pm for dinner and a short program.

Bring a covered dish item to share. We hope to see you there!

You do not have to be a UWF member to attend this event! Come and bring a friend!

We would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all that supported our soup and bake sale! It was very successful. Because of your generosity, we will be able to support many local missions and other missions of the United Women of Faith.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

~Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas to all!!

## Prayer List

Steve (Chip) Madeiros family  
Caleb Dunlin  
Daune Biggins  
Jean Emory  
Jimmy Holliday  
Beverly  
Grant Lyndon  
Hill family  
Brenda Davis  
Smith Ward's nephew Isaiah  
The Hawleys 29 year old son  
Lynn Driggers  
Greg Carpenter  
Tom Sink & caregiver, Sandra  
Betty Richey  
Carolyn Lane  
Cristall McCaskill  
Carol Sena  
Terri Carpenter  
Kathryn Swaim  
Drew Newby  
Margaret McCaskill

Jimmy, Mark & Judy's Black friend, in need of permanent housing  
Mary  
Sara and Clyde Bailey  
Susan Kearns Jester  
Connie Yarborough  
Carol Hepler  
Kathy Shoe & Rick Wilson  
Ira Buckalew  
Robert Charles Kleintank 3rd  
Michael Emerick & wife Nancy  
Brenda Lane  
Ed & Eva Smith  
Aubrey Lawson  
Jennifer Kinley  
Craig Gallimore  
Joy Wray Tucker  
Candi Williams  
Tommy Shoemaker  
Sandra Workman  
Roy McMahon  
Heather Hardister  
David and Linda Lambeth

Dot Russell  
Bobby Swaim  
Evelyn Parks  
Riley Honeycutt  
Kendall Conner  
Ophelia Timmons  
Tommie Robert  
Deb Lawson Brooks  
Karen Davis  
Alice Workman  
Robin Parker  
Rob Nelson  
Denise Barker  
Dennis Harrison  
Johnny Odom  
Chad Blevins  
Susan Jester  
Teresa Rhodes  
Leslie Rierson  
Lucy Hayes

Bryce Hunt



*"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



2 Jodi Perry  
3 Joan Everhart  
3 Eddie Jones  
3 Sydney Jones  
4 Margaret Snider  
7 Sallie Hepler  
8 Kim Johnson  
8 Patricia Baker  
12 Rie Taylor  
13 Matthew Snider  
14 David Smith  
15 Betty Easley

16 Kelby Lomax  
17 Ethan Fry  
17 Keith Overcash  
19 Natalie Nameth  
21 Jo Swaim  
21 Amanda Johnson  
24 Christopher Craver  
24 Jane G. Osborne  
24 David Workman  
24 Roxanna Worley  
26 Phillip Wood  
28 Christian Key

28 Kyle Workman  
29 Noah Fritts  
29 Darren Workman  
29 Michael Inscoe, Jr.  
30 Craig Gallimore  
30 Eric Callicutt  
31 Holly Thomas  
31 Jeffery Blair



1 Mark & Marian Workman  
10 Darrell & Patricia Kennedy  
14 Jared & Carolyn Fritts  
15 Arnold & Shirley Fuller  
27 Richard & Janice Griffin





# Fair Grove Church

138 Fairgrove Church Road, Thomasville, NC 27360

www.fairgrovechurch.org Phone: (336) 475-2598

Email: fgumc@northstate.net; fgumcthomasville@gmail.com

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 - NOVEMBER, 2023

YTD SS Attendance AVG	16
YTD Worship Attendance AVG	79
YTD Budget Offering	\$ 184,147.20
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$ 3,836.40
Needed each week to make budget	\$ 5,105.07

#### GLEANNING

November: 637 Year-to-date: 3417

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

fgumcthomasville@gmail.com

Interim Pastor Stephen Blair Email: slfuller23@spectrum.net