

Fair Grove Church

The Messenger Monthly Newsletter

December 2025

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

A Moment with Pastor Mark

Thanksgiving to God isn't just a polite "thanks" for when something good happens. Thanksgiving in the Bible means an outpouring of praise to God for who he is and what he has done. And we are not to be selective in what we thank God for. The Bible says that we are to offer thanksgiving for EVERYTHING! So when things are good, we thank Him. When things are bad, we thank Him. In **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, Paul instructs us to *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* And so, yes, even when we don't understand, we are to thank Him.

You see, God knows things that we don't. He simply asks us to trust Him. His omniscience proves that he has only the best for us because he knows the outcome of every possible circumstance in our lives. Nothing escapes God's all seeing, all knowing, all powerful eye! In the comic strip "Peanuts," Snoopy is getting dog food for his Thanksgiving Day dinner and he is aware that everyone else in the family is inside having turkey. Sounds a bit unfair, doesn't it. He meditates and talks to himself "How about that? Everyone is eating turkey today, but just because I'm a dog I get dog food. He trots away and positions himself on top of his doghouse and concludes, "Of course, it could have been worse, I could have been born a turkey."

Now I'm not saying that in every bad situation that we find ourselves in that we should look for a silver lining in everything. Because even though it's nice to think about, not everything bad has a silver lining. No, what I am saying is that no matter the circumstances, we are to thank God in everything. This does two things. First, it shows God where our heart is. Secondly, it gives us a chance to practice our faith. That is how our faith grows stronger. It must be exercised.

I challenge you this holiday season to begin thanking God for everything in your life, especially in the bad times. Once you adopt an attitude of thanksgiving, you will see God working and your faith WILL grow stronger.

Pastor Mark

What's Happening @FGC

- ♦ Dec 2 @8am - Sr. Breakfast at Sunrise - all are welcome!
- ♦ Dec 2 @11am & 7pm Bible Study Book of Revelation
- ♦ Dec 9 @6pm - UWF Christmas Dinner
- ♦ Dec 16 @11am & 7pm Bible Study Book of Revelation
- ♦ Dec 16 @11am - Susanna Wesley Meeting - FLC
- ♦ Dec 23 @11am & 7pm Bible Study Book of Revelation
- ♦ Dec 24 @6pm - Christmas Eve Service
- ♦ Dec 24 - 25 - Church Office is closed.
- ♦ Jan 1 - Church Office is closed.
- ♦ Jan 6 @8am - Sr. Breakfast at Sunrise - all are welcome!
- ♦ Jan 6 @11am & 7pm Bible Study Book of Revelation



ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** The Men's group of Fair Grove is looking for volunteers to help with some projects around the church. They're also reaching out to our senior members who have special needs like ramps or steps. We're looking for someone who would like to take charge of this endeavor so that we can take care of our church, our members, and our community. If interested, please contact the church office at fgcthomasville@gmail.com, with your contact information and available. Pastor Mark

* If you have announcements for the church sign, please email details to Angela Lyndon at asllal4321@gmail.com



Christmas Blessings

Missions at Fair Grove



"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV)

Jesus spoke of the strength of collective light. Fair Grove Church shines brightest when we all work together. Fair Grove has continued to feed the hungry throughout the year by gleaning each week. At Thanksgiving, you filled the altar with items for the Bobby Owen Food Drive! Let's step up our weekly gleaning in December to provide for all who especially hunger now.

Thank you for impacting the lives of children through the Nutrition on Weekends program! All 50 targeted children at Fair Grove School will be helped by Fair Grove Church. In addition, 5 more needs will be fulfilled in our local area.

Through "Gifts from the Heart," many children in our own community will be blessed on Christmas morning because of you. Fairgrove Family Resource Center will take our monetary gifts and turn \$125 into a bag of clothing, shoes, and a few toys. If you shop yourself, gift lists will need to be filled and delivered by December 9th. Our monetary gifts need to be received as soon as possible to allow time to shop. Our goal? To impact the lives of 50 children. We met and exceeded this goal last year. Contact Caroline Hill for a gift list and more information. As I write this article, there is a VERY long way to go, but Fair Grove Church and the Lord will provide!

Ongoing in the New Year: 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 Mark when a neighbor needs our immediate help.

At Christmastime, lights are aglow. They illuminate our church, town, and homes, but most importantly, our hearts. The Star of Bethlehem guides us to a stable, and we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord. May we at Fair Grove let the glorious light of His love shine through us!

Merry Christmas! Janice Griffin



2025 "Gifts from the Heart" - Mission Opportunity

Through your donations and Fairgrove Family Resource Center, we can give children in need a wonderful Christmas morning. If you'd like to shop yourself, a form with the child's clothing and shoe sizes, as well as a few "wish list items" will be provided. Your bags of gifts will be delivered by missions or you to the resource center to be given to the parents who will wrap the gifts. You may choose to shop for a child on your own and spend the \$125. If you prefer, monetary donations in any amount may be given. Designate "Gifts from the Heart" on the memo line of a check or on your envelope. The mission team hopes Fair

Grove will be able to "adopt" 50 children. Donations will be used for purchasing so we need to send those in as soon as possible. See or contact Caroline Hill with questions or if you would like a shopping list.

_____ I would like to sponsor _____ child/children at a cost of \$125 per child.

_____ I would like to give a donation of _____ toward the purchase of a child's gifts.

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

In honor/memory of _____

Your name: _____

Make check payable to Fair Grove Church ("Gifts from the Heart" on the memo line)





Our staff at Fair Grove has led us through a wonderful year of worship and service. We would like to show our appreciation by giving them a Christmas Love Offering.

If you would like to donate, write checks to **Fair Grove Church and on the memo line write "Christmas Love Offering"**. You may either mail your donations to the church or place in the offering plate on a Sunday.

Deadline for all donations is Sunday, December 14.

The total love offering will be divided evenly among our staff: Mark Helms, Pastor; Susan McCurry, Choir Director/Organist; Carolyn Lane, Pianist; Sharon Sink, Custodian; Jane Evans, Administrative Assistant, Lea Cooper Children/Youth Director.

Thank you.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



Please join Fair Grove Church, Bethel Global Methodist and Central Wesleyan for the presentation of the 2025 Christmas Cantata
The TRUE SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS and the CHRIST CHILD
Presenting on
Sunday, December 21 @ 6:00 pm
at Central Wesleyan Church
300 Hinkle St., Thomasville, NC

Imagine it's Sunday, December 21, 2025, and starting around 5:30 pm, many believers and church families arrive for the 6:00 pm program. They come wondering what to expect for this year's Christmas Cantata. They walk into the spacious sanctuary and notice the beautiful Christmas Trees, candles and décor filling the space with the warmth of Christmas. They are excited as they know three church choirs, three church youth groups, narrators and musicians are combining to present this year's cantata.

What else do they notice? There is a handbell table set up and adorned with 17 handbells. Over by the grand piano, they spot a clarinet, set up and ready for someone to play. They whisper to each other that they have heard rumors that kings, shepherds, angels and even Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus will be present.

As everyone is seated, they realize their own stress of the busy holiday season begins to melt away in this peaceful setting. They wonder if when they leave this sanctuary, will they be more in the Christmas Spirit? But wait, which Christmas Spirit will that be? The one of vague goodwill and tame niceness that most people have this time of year or will it be the untamed Spirit of Christmas ... the Holy Spirit ... the true Spirit? The Spirit without which there would be no reason for the season.

After the presentation of **The TRUE SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS and the CHRIST CHILD**, please join all in the beautifully decorated Family Life Center for refreshments and fellowship. It is also rumored that Santa Claus will be there for children of all ages!



Fundraiser Choir Chairs January 2026



Purchase a Choir Chair in Honor or in Memory of a Past or Present Choir Member!!!
Cost per chair \$60.00

Name: _____

Number of chairs: _____

Chair in Honor of: _____

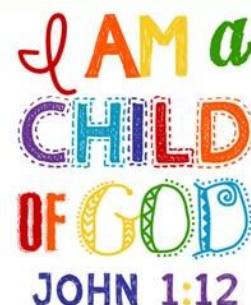
Chair in Memory of: _____

Please do not feel obligated to purchase a chair, if you would like to give a donation instead, that is more than perfect. If you have any questions, please speak with Andy Lyndon.

Thank you for all you do for Fair Grove Church! We truly appreciate it!



Our Nursery is located across from the old Kids Own Worship classroom and is staffed each Sunday by 10:30am. Babies and toddlers are well cared for while parents enjoy the worship service. Toddlers are chaperoned to Kids Own Worship and participate in the lesson.



We Need You!

Would you like to be a servant volunteer in the Fair Grove Church nursery?

We currently have two regular attendees of nursery age, and we always welcome additional little ones. We are seeking servant volunteers for the Worship time.

Servant Volunteers would need to be in the nursery by 10:30 a.m. and remain there throughout the entire service. Toddlers are chaperoned or picked up by a youth volunteer shortly after the beginning of the 11 a.m. service and taken to Kids Own Worship to participate in the lesson for the remainder of the Worship time. It is important, however, that servant volunteers remain in the nursery for the entire service as parents and children may arrive late or need to bring a child into the nursery at any time during the Worship service. Caring for children during this time is an important ministry of our church.

If you would be interested in serving in the nursery one Sunday during the Worship Service, please contact Ann Hall, bhgolf6377@yahoo.com or (336) 475-9269.

By working together, we can help our church provide this much-needed ministry. Thank you. Ann Hall



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 FGC is offering Kids Own Worship!



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. Please note that KOW does not meet on Communion Sundays. The children will remain in the worship service to participate in the Lord's Supper. There are worship packets located under the pew at the piano and in the balcony that children may use during the service. Please return the packets at the end of the service.

Kids Own Worship will now meet in the youth room permanently. The room has been updated to accommodate both children and youth. Meeting there will allow easier access to the outside area and playground plus use of the smart TV to incorporate into lessons. There is a full kitchen plus bathrooms available as well.

Attention All Women of Fair Grove Church:

Make plans to attend our annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center. This event is a covered dish dinner with a short program. Our program this year is: "A Christmas Candle-light Drama" and it promises to put you in the Christmas/Advent spirit. All women are invited and please bring a friend.



Beginning in January 2026, our women's group will no longer be affiliated with the United Women in Faith. A vote was taken on October 5th and the majority of our women voted to leave the United Women in Faith. Our women will become an independent women's group; serving our God, our church and our community. Please be in prayer for our women during this time of change and transition.



United
Women
in Faith

*Peace
on Earth
goodwill towards
man* Luke 2:14

Fair Grove Church has a strong & faithful team of prayer warriors.

If you have a prayer request, you may submit it one of two ways:

Email: fgcthomasvillencprayerchain@gmail.com

Or by text message: 336.870.6693

Requests will be sent to our prayer warriors on a daily basis via the email address above. A cumulative Prayer Request List will be sent via email every Friday.

If you would like to be added to the Prayer Warrior Email List, contact Jane Baity one of the two ways mentioned above.



EVERYONE
IS
Welcome!

Please note that there is an open invitation to any and all who would like to pray over the Sunday service at 10:30am in the Prayer Room. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Mark.



Jenna & Nathan Young
Lynette Scott
Kary Blaylock
Kent Vernon
Judy Pierce
Brenda Martinez
Judy Fleming
Paw Lenh-(pronounced Pow Len)
Richard Griffin & Janice (wife/caregiver)
PEACE in America
Victims of Natural Disasters
Discernment for God's Calls on individuals to serve at Fair Grove in 2026

Cathy Hepler
Jerry Murdock
Gary Chittum
Juanita Welborn
Kalinda Holbrook

"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 Jodi Perry	24 Jane G. Osborne
3 Joan Everhart	24 David Workman
3 Eddie Jones	24 Roxanna Worley
3 Sydney Jones	26 Cynthia McCorquodale
4 Margaret Snider	26 Phillip Wood
7 Sallie Hepler	28 Christian Key
8 Kim Johnson	28 Kyle Workman
8 Patricia Baker	29 Noah Fritts
12 Rie Taylor	29 Darren Workman
13 Matthew Snider	29 Michael Inscoe, Jr.
14 David Smith	30 Eric Callicutt
15 Betty Easley	31 Holly Thomas
16 Kelby Lomax	31 Jeffery Blair
17 Ethan Fry	
17 Keith Overcash	
19 Natalie Nameth	
21 Jo Swaim	
21 Amanda Johnson	
24 Christopher Craver	

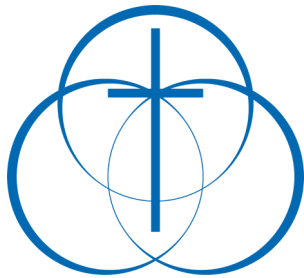


Let's
Celebrate

Happy
Anniversary



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



Fair Grove Church

138 Fairgrove Church Road, Thomasville, NC 27360
www.fairgrovechurch.org Phone: (336) 475-2598
Email: fgcthasville@gmail.com
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 16

YTD SS Attendance AVG	21
YTD Worship Attendance AVG	107
YTD Budget Offering	\$ 205,321.01
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$ 4,463.50
Needed each week to make budget	\$ 4,624.65

GLEANNING

November: 258 Year-to-date: 4274

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?

Or add your birthday or anniversary?

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

Office Email: fgcthasville@gmail.com

Office Phone: (336) 475-2598

Pastor: Mark Helms

Minister's Office Phone: (336) 475-3191

Email: helmsmark39@yahoo.com

Make sure to check out our website: www.fairgrovechurch.org
and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fairgrovechurch/