

# the Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia, NC

## 2022 MINISTRY THEME: VISION

Throughout 2022, we will be discerning God's long term vision for Myers Memorial UMC. Our ministry theme for the year is 'vision' based on Proverbs 29:18a from the Common English Bible translation, "When there is no vision, the people get out of control".

*A vision is a mental image of a possible or desirable future.*

As demonstrated by scripture, a vision is often heard from God, seen by individuals and then put into action (Numbers 24:1-4). We are excited to dare to dream God's vision for our church.

At the Leadership Summit in January, your church leadership reflected in committee groups on this theme and started visioning for the future within their committees.

This work has now provided a starting point for the next part of

work for the Transformation Journey. You'll remember they worked in 2021 on naming for us values held by Myers Memorial UMC and created a Mission statement that was adopted by Church Council. During February, our sermon series will explore the key words of our mission statement, which are our values.

Other things to keep in mind when considering a vision: long term dream/aspiration of what could be/preferred future; it's ambitious and hypothetically possible; it's often visual; it does not have to come to fruition; and it can certainly grow, change or develop over time.

I invite your continued prayers for this process.



Pastor Sally

Pastor Sally

## THE MISSION OF MMUMC

*The Mission of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church is to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves and serves one another and the world.*

## Upcoming CHURCH EVENTS

Worship on Sundays  
9a and 11a

Onsite and Live-streamed via  
Facebook, YouTube & Church  
Website

- Feb 6: UM Men, 8a, CFC
- Feb 6: Communion, 9a & 11a
- Feb. 6: Youth to Discovery Place
- Feb. 6: Children's Choirs Resume
- Feb 13: Mitey Ladies, 12:30p
- Feb. 13: Youth & Children's Super Bowl Party, 12p-1p
- Feb 17: 60+ Fellowship, 11:30a
- Feb. 19: McCullen Baby Shower, 2-4p, CFC
- Feb. 20: Family Movie Night, 6p
- Feb. 20: Church Council, 6:30p
- Feb. 23: The Bible Year Facilitator Orientation, 6:30p
- Feb. 27: The Bible Year Kick Off

### ONGOING

- Sundays: Worship at 9a & 11a, Sunday School Classes, Bible Studies, Youth & InXbetween, Children's Music & Arts
- Mondays: Boy Scouts, NA, NarAnon
- Tuesdays: Grief Share & Divorce Care; AlAnon, Girl Scouts
- Wednesdays: Morning Bible Study, Hand Bells & Choir
- Thursdays: Soul Purpose
- Fridays: Morning Prayer

## COMMUNION ON FEBRUARY 6

The Sacrament of Communion will be offered on February 6 during the 9a and 11a worship services. As you enter the sanctuary, please pick up a small bag of prepared elements. We will partake in the pews during the service. We continue to maintain safe health protocols for partaking in the bread and juice, yet we celebrate having communion together in the Sanctuary. Communion is open to all **persons, regardless of age, for this is the Lord's table, not ours.** If you are unable to participate and would like to receive the consecrated (blessed) elements, please contact the church office and we will make arrangements for you to share in the body of Christ.

## CELEBRATE BABY MCCULLEN

You are invited to celebrate Matt & Jeanna McCullen at a Baby Shower on Saturday, February 19 from 2p to 4p in the CFC. You can find Baby McCullen's registry at [tiny.cc/McCullen](https://tiny.cc/McCullen) (website address is case specific). Please RSVP to Debbie Brown [dbbbrwn1@gmail.com](mailto:dbbbrwn1@gmail.com) or 704-515-9578.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

Sunday, February 6 at 8:30a in the CFC. Gather for coffee and sausage biscuits, devotion and fellowship on the first Sunday of each month.

## SAVE THE DATE

Camp Tekoa Church Wide Retreat in Hendersonville, NC. Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1. This is a great time for the entire church to retreat to the beautiful Camp Tekoa! **All the details are coming soon but you'll want to contact Connie now to start reserving space!** Do friends or families want to share a cabin? Want to stay far away from a known snore-er? Tell Connie today at [dce@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:dce@myersmemorialumc.com) or 704-864-3222 ext. 105.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

All members of the Church Council are to attend on Sunday, February 20 at 6:30p in the CFC.

## FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Free Covid-19 Testing (rapid & PCR) is available for anyone 12 months of age or older every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9a to 12p and 1p-5pm at First UMC Gastonia. Please stay in your vehicle and follow the signs, a nurse will assist you. This is a partnership between Gaston County Health Department and the Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT

By collecting and recycling old eyeglasses and sunglasses, we can help adults and children in developing countries to enjoy an improved quality of life. Many will experience corrected vision for the first time, allowing them to read, attend school and gain employment. All types are glasses for adults and children are being collected. Drop boxes are located in the Sanctuary Narthex and the Church office. If you are unable to leave your home, please call the church office, 704-864-3222, and someone will contact you for a porch pick up.

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

You are invited to provide flowers for worship on Sunday mornings. Flowers can be provided in memory or in honor of a loved one, a celebration in your life or simply to adorn the space with fresh flowers. The cost for one large floral arrangement is \$50 and typically there is space for 2-3 arrangements in the sanctuary and Narthex. Acknowledgements will be on the screens during worship and after worship, you are invited to take them home with you. To order flowers, you may visit [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship), the link is at the bottom of the page, or call Heather in the church office (704-864-3222).

# THE BIBLE YEAR

## A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days

You are invited to participate in The Bible Year at Myers Memorial UMC. From Genesis to Revelation, from Ash Wednesday 2022 to Lent 2023, we are going to read the Bible together.

### The Bible Year...

- ...encourages us to read the Bible *together*.
- ...encourages us to read the Bible in its *entirety*.
- ...reminds us to take the Bible *seriously*, without having to take all of it literally.
- ...helps us read the Bible *hopefully*.
- ...helps us read the Bible *regularly*.



THE  
BIBLE  
YEAR  
A Journey Through Scripture  
in 365 Days

MAGREY E. DEVEGA

### Resources for the Journey

A Bible, or access to one online via an app or even google. In worship and in the leader's guide, The NRSV, New Revised Standard Version will be primarily used in worship and in the facilitator's guide. If you do not have a Bible available to you, please let one someone know and we'll make sure you do!

The Reading Plan For 365 days we will each be reading the same scripture. It's usually 2-3 chapters depending on their length.

Attend Weekly Worship Each Sunday through February 2023 will reflect a passage of scripture from the weekly readings. Worship is on Sundays at 9a and 11a in person (301 S. New Hope Rd, Gastonia) or via Facebook, YouTube, church website.

The Daily Devotional Journal is an optional yet valuable portion of this study with summaries and overviews of what we are reading. The Devotional Journal offers daily reflections by the author as well as space to make notes on your reflections. The cost is \$25 if purchased through the church, yet please do not let the cost hinder you from using this resource. You may buy your own copy of the book from your favorite online retailer or purchase one in the church office for \$25.

Watch Weekly Videos that contain insightful teaching from a team of gifted preachers and writers. Videos are available to you for no cost through a free Amplify Media membership. Visit <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify> and XJFVBY. You will need to create a free account and please use our account code. You'll also find a wealth of other resources on Amplify.

Participate in a Small Group This will be where you can share insights and questions with each other in a community of mutual respect and care. Countless participants recommend this as a core component to this journey. Small groups can be an existing Sunday School class, a group of neighbors, friends or coworkers - whoever is willing to get together to discuss the readings! An effort to provide small groups in a number of locations, times and ways is underway. If you are willing to facilitate or co-facilitate a group, please indicate this on the participant survey. A list of small groups will be available to you the week of February 21.

Facilitators Training, February 21, 6:30p, CFC

Bible Year Kick Off for All Participants:  
Sunday, February 28, 10a in the CFC

[WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG/THE-BIBLE-YEAR](http://WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG/THE-BIBLE-YEAR)

## 60+ FELLOWSHIP

This monthly fellowship group is open to all who wish to participate and find them in this age range! **If you've ever met the folks that gather** - they're super young at heart! Each month they gather for fellowship at a location around town. This February join them at *Venecia Italian and Greek Restaurant* (306 E. Garrison Blvd.) at 11:30 am on the third Thursday of February, February 17. Contact Katrina Stroupe (704-824-9417) if you plan to attend so adequate space can be reserved! Invite a friend!

## TECHNOLOGY HELP

Can you work the remote for your TV? Then you **can do this!** Your help is needed in "The Box" on Sunday mornings. Each worship service requires 3 volunteers to make the service happen! Stop by the box next Sunday and tell them you want to know more - someone will show you around and you can decide where you feel the most comfortable serving.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

*GriefShare* and *DivorceCare* continue to meet weekly. *GriefShare* meets in the Narthex on Tuesdays at 10a. *DivorceCare* meets via zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30p. New sessions of each group will begin on Tuesday, March 1. If you or someone you know would like to know more about these support groups please contact Connie Elzey at 704-864-3222 ext. 105 or [dce@myersmemorialumc.com](mailto:dce@myersmemorialumc.com)

## WALK TO JERUSALEM

The Myers Health Cabinet invites you to "Walk to Jerusalem". This 10-week fitness and spiritual wellness program is designed to increase the physical, spiritual and emotional health of participants. Officially the program runs from Sunday, January 30 - April 9, 2022 yet you can do this any time! This imaginary trip from Gastonia to Jerusalem is 6,250 miles, and will be accomplished by individuals/families within the church collectively logging their miles each week. Miles can be accumulated by walking, jogging, exercise classes, playing outside with your children, cleaning your house, or any form of physical activity that is enjoyable to you. Spiritual miles can be accumulated by daily prayer, reading a spiritual book, volunteer work, etc. It is important to prepare your heart and soul, as well as your body, during this journey. More information can be found on the Health Cabinet webpage, [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/health-cabinet](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/health-cabinet) or in booklets in the Church Narthex.

## NURTURE & CHILDREN

The Nurture/Children Work Area will meet on Sunday, February 27 immediately following the 11a worship service. Committee Members are Jerri Lynn & Gary Boggess, Jaclyn Tant (Co-Chairs); April Proctor, Becky Garner, Paige Falls, Chris McCullen, Ally Cagle, Doug & Hope Brown, Penny Hurst, Paige Horn, Judy Thiele, Judy Seay, and Justine Snyder.

## HAVE YOU MET HELEN?



Helen Dix

Helen Dix is our church organist. Helen is a gifted musician who accompanies worship on the organ and piano. We are grateful for Helen's presence and the music she creates! If you haven't met her, please enjoy the postlude (music after the service) on a Sunday morning then stop by the organ bench to introduce yourself! Helen has been on staff for about 3 and a half years. When not being rehearsing, Helen enjoys cross-stitching. Helen's sister is Judy Thiele and probably called her 'Cibby' when they were children.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday Morning, women gather in the Asbury Room for Bible Study. On February 2, the starting time is shifting to 10am. Women of all ages are invited to participate. Please contact Debbie Brown with any questions (dbbbrwn1@gmail.com or 704-515-9578).

## SUMMER ADVENTURES IN MISSION

Check out [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth), for all the details related to this summer's mission adventures for some of the younger servants at Myers, including the opportunities for adults to attend as chaperones (and doing all the fun stuff too) or to sponsor a youth on one of these formative adventures!

Tekoa Foothills Mission Week

*rising 6th-8th graders June 5-11 Cost \$350*

Hinton Rural Life Mission Week

*rising 8th-12th graders June 26-30 Cost \$300*

Wilderness Trail

*rising 7th-12th graders July 19-24 Cost \$300*

Mission Mania Day Camp

*Rising 4th-8th graders August 1-4 Cost \$100*

## CREATED BY GOD

*Saturday, March 26, from 1pm to 5 pm*

Conversations with children can be difficult at times, especially on the topic of human sexuality. Created by God offers a healthy Biblical and Christian perspective on human sexuality, values and relationships. This event is open to all 4th, 5th & 6th graders and parents. This event is not exclusive to Myers members, invite others to join in the conversation. Please visit [myersmemorialumc.org/youth](http://myersmemorialumc.org/youth) for more details or contact Tresca McSwain or Connie Elzey.

Church Office Hours  
Mondays - Thursdays 8:30a to 4p  
*Closed on Fridays,*

## CHILDREN'S MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

*Tony Sane, Director of Music,  
tony@myersmemorialumc.com*



Tony

Preschool through 4th graders are invited for an hour of music, crafts and other fun worship arts activities each Sunday evening. We'll move, make music and praise God with our whole selves! Typically we meet from 5:30-6:30p on the 3rd floor of the education building. But pay attention to February!

*February 6:* 5:30p to 6:30p, enter the back door of the education building and go up the stairs to the third floor.

*February 13:* Super Bowl Party, 12p to 1p. We'll gather on the playground for an outside pizza party if the weather is nice followed by a brief rehearsal.

*February 20:* Family Movie Night, 6pm - 7:30pm, in the Gathering Garden. It's a good bet you'll be singing along for this movie!

*February 27:* 5:30p to 6:30p, enter the back door of the education building and go up the stairs to the third floor.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children (preschool - 4th grades) gather in the CFC at 10 for a brief time of music and movement before heading to their age level classes with some of the most amazing teachers! Children return to the CFC for pick up at 10:40a

February 2022

Feb. 6: Four Friends *Luke 5:17-26*

Feb. 13: Ten Men Healed *Luke 17:11-19*

Feb 20: The Good Samaritan *Luke 10:35-37*

Feb. 27: The Lost Sheep & Coin *Luke 15:1-10*

WE LOVE BECAUSE  
GOD FIRST LOVED US

## MYERS YOUTH & INXBETWEEN SUNDAY MORNINGS

Meet Downstairs each Sunday morning at 10am for Sunday School! InXbetweens (5th & 6th graders) meet in the classroom while the Youth (7th-12th graders, meet in the Lounge. If you have questions about any of the ministries with the 5th-12th graders at Myers Memorial UMC, please contact Tresca McSwain, director of Youth & Young Adults (thmcswain@gmail.com, 704-477-7447)



## LEARNING TO USE MY BIBLE

"Learning to Use My Bible" is a fun series for 5th-7th graders on Sunday Mornings in February and March. Meet with Kelly & Marty Brown at 10am in the InXbetween room off the Youth Lounge downstairs. Students will gain Bible literacy as they grow more comfortable with using their Bible - the perfect skills as we begin The Bible Year in March!

## YOUTH GROUP

*February 6, 10:45a - 4:30p, off campus*

*Mind Matters* Exhibit at Discovery Place

Make sure to attend 9a worship before Sunday School! We depart at 10:45a and head to Charlotte! Pack a bagged lunch and bring snack for the ride home. Once we get to Charlotte, we'll picnic together before heading into Discovery Place for the *Mind Matters* exhibition which explores the stigma of mental illness with hands-on activities and multimedia experiences and the science behind our feelings.

## MYERS INXBETWEEN

*February 6, 5:30p-6:30p, Youth Lounge*

*Tekoa Takes Over Myers*

Get a taste of camp as Tekoa Foothills staff take over our evening for a taste of Summer mission camp and answer our questions! Rumor has it they may bring a few fun activities with them...like ax throwing!?!?

## YOUTH & INXBETWEENS

*February 13, 12p to 1p, Big Playground*

Competition is the name of the game this weekend! It's not only Super Bowl Sunday but it's time for the Winter Olympics! Games begin at 12p with a quick pizza lunch followed by team games of Olympic proportions! If there is inclement weather, our plans will need to be determined.

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Children, InXbetweens, Youth

*February 20, 6p to 7:30p, Gathering Garden*

The whole family is invited to for a Family Movie Night on this holiday weekend. If the weather is nice, we will crank up the fire pit and cozy up in the gathering garden. If it's too cold or yucky weather, we'll move inside. Bring blankets, chairs, and your favorite movie snack for the family!

## YOUTH & INXBETWEENS

*February 27, 5:30p to 6:30p, Youth Lounge*

It's Mardi Gras! That means it's a party night! Did you know Mardi Gras started as a celebration before the spiritual journey of Lent began? We're diving into the fun and the faith of this crazy celebration!

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH: MENTAL HEALTH, MIND MATTERS & ME

How can we recognize when life gets too much? Where can we go when we need to talk? What do you do if a friend needs to listen? Gather on Sunday evenings with experts in the field as well as your friends and church family to explore this wonderful mind of yours! There will be separate programming for the Youth and InXbetweens.

# Myers by the Numbers

as of 1/25/22	Dec. 24		Dec. 26		Jan. 2		Jan. 9		Jan. 16	Jan. 23
Offering			\$14,948		\$9,668		\$11,110		\$5,905	\$7,570
In-Person Attendance	5p 229	11p 39	9am 11	11am 60	9am 27	11am 64	9am 34	11am 84	Snow Day	11am 95
Facebook Engagements (comments, likes, shares)	11	7	9	8	9	13	14	14	9	6
Estimated People Reached via Facebook	400	450	489	280	379	651	531	293	546	471
YouTube Views	38	24	20	19	32	21	30	42	64	48

[WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG/GIVE](http://WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG/GIVE)

## 3 THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

*Traci Smith, author*

Walk into any store in the US in the month of February and you're bound to find a display designed to remind you how you can show your sweetheart your love and affection via chocolates, stuffed animals, flowers, or cards. As soon as the Christmas decorations are packed up, it seems that Valentine's Day is "next up" in the seasonal aisle. While the over-commercialization of the holiday can be irritating, Valentine's Day can be a great time to reflect on love. Here are three simple thoughts about God's Love for you to think about this month.

- There are many different types of love in the Bible, and different Greek words to express it. The highest and holiest form of love is *agape* love. Agape love is perfect, and sacrificial. Agape love is more than just mere sentiment. Agape love is shown through *action*. Something to try: write the word *agape* on a paper heart and put it somewhere you'll see it as a reminder to practice and share God's love with all.
- The Bible tells us that God and love are inseparable. The book of 1 John, chapter 4, verse 16 says this *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. (NRSV)*. God and love are the same. If we feel love, we feel God and

if we feel God, we feel love. If you're having trouble discerning whether something is from God or not, ask yourself if it feels loving or not. Something to try: Try to memorize this verse. It's short and easy to remember. Try saying it every morning when you wake up and every evening when you go to sleep.

- The famous "love passage" in the Bible is 1 Corinthians chapter 13. It begins "Love is patient. Love is kind." Though it is often read at weddings, it's a passage less about romantic love and more about the holy and pure *agape* love we mentioned earlier. It's a beautiful passage to think about and to practice. Something to try: Write down all of the qualities of love, in addition to patience and kindness. Put your list somewhere you can see it to remind you of God's love.

*Happy Valentine's Day, Friends! God loves you! Have fun as you consider ways to share God's love today and every day.*



*Myers Memorial  
United Methodist Church*

301 S. New Hope Road Gastonia, NC 28054  
704-864-3222

[www.MyersMemorialUMC.org](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
[ChurchOffice@MyersMemorialUMC.com](mailto:ChurchOffice@MyersMemorialUMC.com)

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*beginning March 2, 2022*

# **THE BIBLE YEAR**

*A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days*

[www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/the-bible-year](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/the-bible-year)