

the Messenger

Now Quarterly Newsletter of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia, NC

WELCOME, REV. DR. MIKE SLAUGHTER

On Sunday, September 18, we welcome Mike Slaughter to Myers Memorial UMC as he preaches and teaches in worship.

You may recognize this name as the author of many small group studies as well as the long time pastor of Ginghamburg UMC. Having 'retired' from full time ministry at Ginghamburg, Mike has retired part time to the mountains of WNC and continues to be a leader in our denomination.



Mike Slaughter

As we continue to move through the Transformation Journey, Mike has served as a mentor to Pastor Sally and a prayer partner to Myers Memorial UMC. While in town, Mike will also meet with church leadership to use his "gift of irritation" to equip ministry leaders to maximize our mission so that we may fully deploy the mission of Jesus into the world. All leaders are asked to mark Saturday, September 17 from 10a-3p on your calendars.

Following Mike's time at Myers Memorial UMC, Pastor Sally will be offering a time for small group 'vision visits' similar to when she was first appointed at Myers. These will be in-home visits with small groups of members for conversation about the vision of Myers Memorial UMC later in the fall.

When there is no vision, the people get out of control. Proverbs 29:18a ceb

TRINITY MEMORIES CAFÉ TO RE-OPEN SEPT. 14 ~ 11A

We are so excited of the reopening of the Trinity Memories Café at Myers Memorial UMC on September 14 from 11a to 1p. The Trinity Memories Café is a social gathering for individuals living with dementia and their care partners. It will be a safe and welcoming place for guests whose dementia is due to any underlying condition, and at any stage of the disease progression.

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Upcoming CHURCH EVENTS

Worship on Sundays

9a and 11a

On-site and Live-streamed via
Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

August 1-4: Mission Mania

August 4: Blood Drive, 3p-7p

August 14: Christian Edu. Sunday

August 31: Choir Karaoke, 6p-8p

Sept. 5: Church Office Closed

Sept. 7: Handbells Resume

Sept. 11: 9a, First Responders

Recognition, 5:30p Children's

Wonder begins

Sept. 12: Interfaith Dialogue, 6:30p

Sept 14: Memories Café, 11a-1p

Sept. 17: Leadership Meeting, 10a-1p

Sept. 18: Mike Slaughter preaching

Oct. 1: Choir Retreat

Oct. 2: Pumpkin Sunday

Oct. 8: Walk for Wellness, 9a-12p

Oct. 12: Memories Café, 11a-1p

Oct. 15: Winter Newsletter Deadline

Oct. 30: Trunk o' Treats

ONGOING

Bible Year Small Groups

SUN: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School

for all ages, 10a, Praise Team, 4:30p,

Youth & Children, 5:30p

1st SUN: UMM, Communion

2nd SUN: Mitey Ladies, 12p

MON: Naranon, 6p

TUES: GriefShare, 10a, AIAnon, 11a,

DivorceCare, 6:30p

WED: Music Rehearsals

THURS: Narcotics Anonymous

2nd WED: Trinity Memories Café, 11a

FRI: Men's Prayer Group, 7:15a

FALL SERMON SERIES

Join us in Worship each Sunday as we continue through a year in the Bible. We worship at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary and via live stream. We have entered into the second third of the Bible and are nearing the New Testament! *Psalm 119:105*

August: *The Wise Life*, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

September: *Hope for Hard Times*, Isaiah & Jeremiah

October: *Faith When it Counts* (The Prophets) and *The Jesus Story* (New Testament)

TRUSTEES INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

Myers Memorial UMC Trustees received a donation of \$150,000 from a community partner. The donor is so impressed by the ministry we provide to our community and were excited to help us accomplish our dreams through this gift. We are so very blessed by their generosity and give thanks to the donor who wishes to remain unnamed. This gift was given to assist with exterior projects that have been on the Trustees wish list and long range dreams. The first use of this money will be to paint the exterior of our building which is expected to begin mid-August. Be on the lookout this fall for other exterior projects which will enhance our church property or in the words of our donor, “help our church sparkle.” We hope you will join us in giving God thanks for this donation!

LET'S SING...

Is there a hymn or song you love that you haven't heard in church for a while? Maybe a Christmas/ Advent song you hope we'll sing this year? Perhaps a song you hope the choir or praise team will learn? Let us know! We want to incorporate beloved hymns and songs into our worship together! You email our co-interim Directors of Music, Logan McGuire and Laura Beatty at music@myersmemorialumc.com or visit <https://bit.ly/mmumcrequest> to make your requests.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Coffee Fellowship is available in the Narthex each Sunday morning at 9:40a, following our 9a worship service and prior to our 10am Sunday School. As you exit worship and enter for Sunday School, please stop by the narthex, greet one another and meet someone new! Special Thanks to Tanya Lunsford for coordinating this opportunity! Tanya does need others to assist and rotate with her for set up and clean up. We heard your desire to revive our Coffee Fellowship time and so we need your help in making it happen! Please reach out to Tanya and volunteer to assist her. You may reach her at tlmartintm@gmail.com or speak with her in the Narthex on Sunday!

INTERFAITH TRIALOGUE

What is an Interfaith Trialogue Dialogue? Interfaith dialog refers to positive and relational interaction between people of different religious traditions. Since 2022 this has been accomplished at monthly meetings amongst forty-plus individuals of the Jewish, Islamic and Christian faith. Myers Memorial UMC will be the next gathering of the Trialogue on September 12th at 6:30p in the CFC. At these meetings, these persons come together and share The Torah, The Koran, and the Bible and you are invited to join in as we all learn a little bit about the a representative from each faith community. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Joan Martin at joancmartin2@gmail.com.

MITEY LADIES

Mitey Ladies is a fellowship group for widows and other women who have lost a significant other. We gather on the Second Sunday of Each month following the 11a worship for lunch at Jackson's Cafeteria. If you would like more information, please reach out to Debbie Brown, 704-516-9578 or dbbbrwn1@gmail.com.

WALK FOR WELLNESS ~ OCTOBER 8

Mark your calendar to participate in the 7th Annual Walk for Wellness in memory of Rev. Henry A. Justice hosted this year at Myers! The event is a health fair and fitness event that is raising money in support of Cancer Services of Gaston County, which provides resources and support to local persons and families living with caners, free of chart. The event is free to **participate and you're invited to come out and enjoy the many wellness opportunities available to you in our community and enjoy the fresh fall air!**

Would you like to be a sponsor or business participant? Would you be interested in forming a team of friends, family, or coworkers and raise money for the event? How about just coming and **checking it out? We'd love to have you complete the online interest form!**

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/walk

The event will run from 9a to 12p with a 9:30a Kick Off and a Survivors Ceremony at 11a. There will be fitness demonstrations throughout the day, a food truck, vendors, **music and don't forget the Pumpkin Patch!**



How many laps around the church can you achieve? Want to walk beyond the church property? Go for it! please be cautious of the traffic surrounding the church. Want to walk remotely and contribute funds for the event! **We'd love that too! ALL proceeds collected will go directly to Cancer Services.**

Sponsors Currently Include: Myers Memorial UMC, Cancer Services, Optimum Results Fitness, Novant Health, Blumenthal, Gaston Eye, MARC, NSSC, Hannon Orthodontics, Thako and more to come!

AN EVENING OF WONDER

PreK and Elementary Children are invited to participate each Sunday Evening in a time of Wonder using all our gifts using our voice, instruments, dancing, praising and loving God! Adult volunteers are being sought to plan and implementing this new ministry in partnership with our music directors Laura Beatty and Logan McGuire. Please share your willingness with Heather (heather@myersmemorialumc.com) in the church office

We kick off on Sunday, September 11 and will meet on the 3rd floor of the Education Building from 5:30p to 6:30p. Your mailboxes and email-boxes will have lots more information as the date approaches!

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.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Great things are in store for the Middle and High School Youth at Myers! We invite you to remain connected to the church as we head back to school! Parents and other adults, most of them are going to need a ride so make this a priority! We tend to meet in various locations as the summer months allow **and then we'll make a shift to the school year ~ so please make sure you're on the Youth email list!** This is the best way to get all the details! Contact the church office to be added to the list (heather@myersmemorialumc.com) if you are not receiving the emails.

AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS

August 1-4: Mission Mania (4th—8th Grades)
August 5-6: Sr. High Youth Lock-In
August 7: Kayaking (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)
August 14: Back to School Pool Parties! (*Jeremiah 29:11*)
August 21: A New Start (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
August 28: Family Game Night (*Joshua 24:15*)



Myers Memorial UMC claims three area schools as 'ours'. Sherwood Elementary, Grier Middle School and Warlick Academy. These schools are identified as low-income/high need schools meaning the students often need extra support to succeed. One way for students and teachers to achieve success is by having the needed supplies for learning! While digital learning is popular - school is not all on computers! Students & teachers at our schools need these supplies! Shop this list or shop online via this Amazon link (tiny.cc/MMUMCschool) to have items delivered.

Glue Sticks
Plastic Pocket Folders
Pencil Pouches (not boxes)
Wired Earbuds
Over the Ear Earphones
Tissues
Hand Sanitizer
Highlighters
Spiral Notebooks
Graph Paper
Composition Notebooks
(wide rule paper)
Ballpoint Pens (blue & black)
Expo markers
Ticonderoga Pencils
Crayola Crayons
Crayola Markers

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, August 14 we highlight one of our most valued ministries: the ministry of Christian Education which seeks to cultivate a Christ-centered community through theologically sound and relevant Bible Studies, Sunday School classes and other small groups for all ages. During both worship services we will present children with Bibles, offer a blessing of our Sunday School and Small Group leaders and Blessing Backpacks for all ages as a new school year begins. We will also pray for our community schools, administrators and students alike!

HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

On September 11 during the 9a Worship Service, area first responders have been invited so that we may honor them. You are invited to pray over the patches of local units that will be on the altar rail and stop by the memorial/honor display located outside. **We will be providing "Breakfast to Go" bags following the service in the Narthex.** We are looking for 75 handwritten notes of gratitude for their work to include in these bags. Please bring all notes to the church by Sunday, September 4. If you would like to **contribute to the "Breakfast to Go" Bags, we wish to pack them** with water, apple/orange juice bottles, and fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges) and a sweet breakfast treat. Please contact Tanya Lunsford to offer these donations and make arrangements or if you wish to assist in this occasion, please call or text Tanya Lunsford, 704-678-7122 or email her at tlmartintm@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Myers Memorial UMC is home to a number of support groups. If you or if you know of someone that could benefit from these support group, please reach out to the church office (704-864-3222) and we will ensure you are connected.

- Naranon, Mondays, 6:30, Asbury Class/Zoom
- Grief Share, Tuesdays at 10a, Parlor
- DivorceCare, Tuesdays at 6:30p, Zoom
- Alanon, Tuesdays at 11a, Asbury Class
- NA, Thursdays at 7p, Youth Lounge

TRUNK OR TREATS ~ OCTOBER 30

Mark your calendar and join in some church family fun on October 30th! The competition is fierce for the best themed trunk or group of trunks! Grab your small group and design a theme as we park and hand out treats to community children!

CHOIR KARAOKE KICK OFF

It's the Fall Kick Off for the Music Ministry at Myers Memorial UMC! Interested in Adult Choirs? Handbells? Praise Team? Come for this fun and informational gathering with fun, food, fellowship and karaoke! Wednesday, August 31 from 6p to 8p in the CFC. Please email Laura or Logan at music@myersmemorialumc.com with your RSVP or questions!

MYERS MEMORIAL UMC 60+

The third Thursday of each month for fellowship and an opportunity to get to know Myers Members and friends! This group is designed for all those 60 years and older.

- Thursday, August 18: Lunch at Georgio's (202 Market St. Cramerton), 12:30p.
- Thursday, September 15: Exploring our Beautiful town with Keep Gastonia Beautiful, 12:30p
- Thursday, October 20: Lunch at Two Chicks Sandwiches and Scoops (102 S. Main St. Belmont), 12:30p

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just as our youth and adults continue on their Bible Year journey, our children are on a journey in Sunday school each week! This fall they will explore 1st & 2nd Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Jeremiah, Daniel and Jonah!

Parents & Grandparents, please help our children get to Sunday School each week! We have outstanding teachers that are so dedicated to Christian education as they prepare, care and are committed to your children. Extra thanks to *Annie Oliver, Kathleen Sharp, Judy Seay, Judy Thiele, Brinkley Rhodes, Jaclyn Tant, Justine Snyder and Gary & Jerri Lynn Boggess!* All children gather in Room 103 before heading off to their classrooms with their teachers. Children will return to this room by 10:40a.

SUNDAY AM: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL Meet Downstairs each Sunday morning at 10am for Sunday School! Middle School meets in the classroom off the Youth Lounge while the High School Youth meet in the Lounge. We're digging working our way through the Bible and discovering how relevant it is in our lives!

The logo for Trinity Memories Café is enclosed in a purple rounded rectangle. The word "Trinity" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. "Memories" is written in a large, elegant, purple cursive script. "Café" is also in a purple cursive script, slightly smaller than "Memories".

2ND WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14
date has changed since the printing of the Newsletter

TRINITY MEMORIES CAFÉ *continued*

Care partners can include spouses, children, friends, and professional caregivers. The Trinity Memories Café will provide meals, snacks and other activities such as music, creative arts, stories, and entertainment. It will be a place where people can be themselves without stigma or worrying about what others are thinking.

We are excited for this ministry to reopen and operate every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the CFC! There is a place for you to volunteer as well! Do you have gifts in these areas? Cooking, Serving, Cleaning Up, Decorations & Set up, providing entertainment (games, crafts, other activities); taking photos and videos; Singing or playing music; work to establish a support group; help with communication and publicity; work with Alzheimer's Association for Educational Events. One of our greatest desires is to design a worship service for Alzheimer's patients and family. For more information contact Mark Hanna (markeddeck@gmail.com) or Susan Robinson (dreamwalkintwh@gmail.com).

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Giving Statements for the first half of the year have been mailed. In this statement, you will be able to see your contributions received through the first half of the year as well as your pledged amount are also noted on your statements.

The Finance Committee has updated the Budget for Myers Memorial UMC for the first half of our year. The Budget is based on projections for all areas and church expenses.

Total Church Budget for 2022 = \$656,550

The Total Pledged for 2022 = \$427,134

The difference between these two numbers is the

'unpledged amounts' and we will need to receive \$229,416 to reach our budget goal for 2022.

Year to Date Numbers (*June 2022*)

Pledged amounts received YTD \$200,470 or 47% of goal

Unpledged Amounts received YTD \$71,740 or 31% of goal

Other contributions (*Sunday School & Memorials*) \$3,226

Grand Total received YTD: \$ 275,437 or 42% of Total Budget

The one area where we are struggling to keep under the Budgeted Amount for the Year is on the Utilities - Electric and Gas are running high. Our Bookkeeper, Amelia Bumgarner, has found ways to save on our expenses and we have made those changes (i.e. a reduction in Spectrum services). Payroll and other expenses are well in line with the Budget.

Our next goal is to make a contribution to our Apportionment (Connectional Expense). The Trustees have done a tremendous amount of work and the recent issues with the Sanctuary A/C, dishwasher and several other unexpected repairs stemming from a power surge related to a nearby auto accident will be covered by insurance minus the \$1,000 deductible.

Pledges and Tithing

It is never too late to make a pledge to the church. A pledge enables the Finance Committee to make concrete plans and be good stewards of the money entrusted to the glory of God. We have been blessed with many gifts this year and we are grateful for your faithful financial support.

*Respectfully, Wendy Wade
on behalf of the Finance Committee*



The Bible Year Small Groups are open to all! Find one that meets your calendar and start today! If you need help making contact with a group leader, please call the church office, 704-864-3222.

Sunday Groups

- 10am New Life Class (Wendy Wade, facilitator) In Person, New Life Classroom
- 5:30pm (Allison Evanoff, Tonda Coonce & Susan Robinson, facilitators) In Person, Asbury Room

Monday Groups

- 8pm via Zoom (Marty Brown, Thomas & Brinkley Rhodes, facilitators)

Tuesday Group

- 12:30pm via Zoom (Rev. Sarah Davis, facilitator)

Wednesday Group

- 10am Morning Bible Study, (Debbie Brown, facilitator) In Person, Asbury Room

Thursday Groups

- 11am (Ann Peninger & Laurie Knight, facilitators) In Person, Asbury Room
- 6:30pm Soul Purpose (Rev. Everett Stoddard, facilitator) In Person and Zoom, Asbury Room

The Bible Year ~ Daily Scripture Readings

DAY	DATE	SCRIPTURE	DAY	DATE	SCRIPTURE	DAY	DATE	SCRIPTURE
153	Aug. 1	Psalms 131:1-136:26	184	Sept. 1	Isaiah 8:1-11:16	214	Oct. 1	Ezekiel 17:1-21:32
154	Aug. 2	Psalms 137:1-140:13	185	Sept. 2	Isaiah 12:1-16:14	215	Oct. 2	Ezekiel 22:1-26:21
155	Aug. 3	Psalms 141:1-144:15	186	Sept. 3	Isaiah 17:23-18	216	Oct. 3	Ezekiel 27:1-32:32
156	Aug. 4	Psalms 145:1-150:6	187	Sept. 4	Isaiah 24:1-27:13	217	Oct. 4	Ezekiel 33:1-37:28
157	Aug. 5	Proverbs 1:1-2:22	188	Sept. 5	Isaiah 28:1-31:9	218	Oct. 5	Ezekiel 38:1-42:20
158	Aug. 6	Proverbs 3:1-35	189	Sept. 6	Isaiah 32:1-35:10	219	Oct. 6	Ezekiel 43:1-48:35
159	Aug. 7	Proverbs 4:1-5:23	190	Sept. 7	Isaiah 36:1-39:8	220	Oct. 7	Daniel 1:1-3:30
160	Aug. 8	Proverbs 6:1-7:27	191	Sept. 8	Isiah 40:1-44:28	221	Oct. 8	Daniel 4:1-6:28
161	Aug. 9	Proverbs 8:1-9:18	192	Sept. 9	Isaiah 45:1-48:22	222	Oct. 9	Daniel 7:1-12:13
162	Aug. 10	Proverbs 10:1-11:31	193	Sept. 10	Isiah 49:1-52:12	223	Oct. 10	Hosea 1:1-5:15
163	Aug. 11	Proverbs 12:1-13:25	194	Sept. 11	Isiah 52:13-55:13	224	Oct. 11	Hosea 6:1-10:15
164	Aug. 12	Proverbs 14:1-35	195	Sept. 12	Isaiah 56:1-59:21	225	Oct. 12	Hosea 11:1-14:9
165	Aug. 13	Proverbs 15:1-33	196	Sept. 13	Isaiah 60:1-66:24	226	Oct. 13	Joel 1:1-3:21
166	Aug. 14	Proverbs 16:1-33	197	Sept. 14	Jeremiah 1:1 - 4:31	227	Oct. 14	Amos 1:1-4:13
167	Aug. 15	Proverbs 17:1-18:24	198	Sept. 15	Jeremiah 5:1-8:17	228	Oct. 15	Amos 5:1-9:15
168	Aug. 16	Proverbs 19:1-20:30	199	Sept. 16	Jeremiah 8:18-12:17	229	Oct. 16	Obadiah 1-21
169	Aug. 17	Proverbs 21:1-22:29	200	Sept. 17	Jeremiah 13:1-16:21	230	Oct. 17	Jonah 1:1-2:10
170	Aug. 18	Proverbs 23:1-35	201	Sept. 18	Jeremiah 17:1-20:18	231	Oct. 18	Jonah 3:1-4:11
171	Aug. 19	Proverbs 24:1-34	202	Sept. 19	Jeremiah 21:1-24:10	232	Oct. 19	Micah 1:1-4:13
172	Aug. 20	Proverbs 25:1-26:28	203	Sept. 20	Jeremiah 25:1-29:32	234	Oct. 20	Micah 5:1-7:20
173	Aug. 21	Proverbs 27:1-29:27	204	Sept. 21	Jeremiah 30:1-33:26	235	Oct. 21	Nahum 1:1-3:19
174	Aug. 22	Proverbs 30:1-33	205	Sept. 22	Jeremiah 34:1-38:28	236	Oct. 22	Habakkuk 1:1-3:20
175	Aug. 23	Proverbs 31:1-31	206	Sept. 23	Jeremiah 39:1-45:5	237	Oct. 23	Zephaniah 1:1-3:20
176	Aug. 24	Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26	207	Sept. 24	Jeremiah 46:1-49:39	238	Oct. 24	Haggai 1:1-2:23
177	Aug. 25	Ecclesiastes 3:1-5:20	208	Sept. 25	Jeremiah 50:1-52:34	239	Oct. 25	Zechariah 1:1-4:14
178	Aug. 26	Ecclesiastes 6:1-8:17	209	Sept. 26	Lamentations 1:1-2:22	240	Oct. 26	Zechariah 5:1-9:17
179	Aug. 27	Ecclesiastes 9:1-12:14	210	Sept. 27	Lamentations 3:1-5:22	241	Oct. 27	Zechariah 10:1-14:21
180	Aug. 28	Song of Sol. 1:1-4:16	211	Sept. 28	Ezekiel 1:1-5:17	242	Oct. 28	Malachi 1:1-2:17
181	Aug. 29	Song of Sol. 5:1-8:14	212	Sept. 29	Ezekiel 6:1-11:25	243	Oct. 29	Malachi 3:1-4:6
182	Aug. 30	Isaiah 1:1-4:6	213	Sept. 30	Ezekiel 12:1-16:63	244	Oct. 30	Matthew 1:1-2:23
183	Aug. 31	Isaiah 5:2-7:25				245	Oct. 31	Matthew 3:1-4:25

We have discovered that reading scripture together at Myers Memorial UMC has enhanced not only our daily lives and personal relationship with God but also with one another and the church. As we have read and heard the scriptures taught and preached, we have grown in our understanding of how God reaches out to God's people...repeatedly. VBS this year took on a different understanding and experience for the leaders as they were able to make the Bible come to life for the children and youth. How have you been impacted by reading the Scriptures?

WWW.MYERSMEMORIALUMC.ORG/THE-BIBLE-YEAR

Myers Memorial United Methodist Church

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THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING! OCTOBER 2, 2022

October 2nd is Pumpkin Sunday! Dress Casually and wear your pumpkin shirt or favorite orange shirt! We'll worship together then picnic in the patch as the pumpkins arrive and we work together for the 43rd year to unload the truck and fill the patch with the beautiful orange fruits that make us the Pumpkin Patch!

Before the Pumpkins Arrive... we need assistance in securing nearly 200 pallets! Do you have a connection? Please call Heather in the church office (704-864-3222)

Do you Need a Pumpkin T-shirt? Everyone's wearing it! Ordering will be available at www.myersmemorialumc.org/pumpkins or by calling the church office (704-864-3222).

We Need You to Serve and Represent Myers' Pumpkin Hospitality!

The patch will be open 7 days a week with multiple shifts each day. Grab a friend and sign up together or simply sign up for a time and make a new friend!
Online Sign Ups begin in September.

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/Pumpkins



www.MyersMemorialUMC.org