

the Messenger

Volume 25 Issue 23

Fall 2023

CELEBRATING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | AUG. 6

One of the great values held at Myers Memorial UMC is our Christian Education ministry—cultivating a Christ-centered community for all ages! On August 6th we're celebrating BIG! We'll recommit ourselves to participating in educational opportunities and celebrate our Sunday School teachers and small group leaders, all who are instrumental in our decades long commitment to growing deeper as disciples of Jesus Christ. Sunday Worship will also include Blessing of the Backpacks & Devices as well as praying for all students, administrators, teachers and staff as our schools go back into session!

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

You may have heard of this or spotted a random red schoolhouse around the building...but do you know why? For over 42 years, Myers Members have had a heart for school children. What started as a Sunday school class collecting loose change to help cover lunch expenses has turned into thousands of dollars supporting medical needs! You can read the history of the Little Red Schoolhouse on our website at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/little-red-school-house.

Today the Myers Health Cabinet administrates this ministry that continues to support children in Gaston County Schools. Needs are identified by Gaston County School Nurses who can request up to \$500 in support of medical needs. This could be a new pair of glasses, lice treatment, medicines, diabetic monitors, extra appointments, or other health/medical needs. Since January 2023, Little Red School House has assisted 55 children in Gaston County, spending \$12,081.54. Our Designated LRSF fund at the Church has a balance of \$10,528.18 which is funded through gifts and memorials. In addition, the LRSF has investment funds with the Gaston Community Foundation securing a long financial future for this ministry.

OUR MISSION

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

Cultivating

A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

Worship on Sundays at 9a and 11a

On-site and Live-Stream

via Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

August Mission Focus: School Supplies

August 5: Soul Sneakers, 9a

August 6: Communion

Christian Education Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks

3:35p Church Day Together, Honey Hunters

August 9: Trinity Memories Café, CFC

August 10: Young Adults, River Jam

August 17: 60+ Fellowship

August 19: Chambers Baby Shower, 2-4p, CFC

August 20: United Women of Faith, 12p, CFC

2p-3:30p Marr Bridal Shower, Parlor

5p Youth & Wonder Back to School Night

August 25: United Methodist Night at Hickory Crawdads

September Mission Focus: Group Homes

September 2: Soul Sneakers, 9a

September 3: Communion

September 4: Labor Day, Church Office Closed

September 10: UM Men, 8a, CFC

9a Hometown Heroes Celebration

September 11: DYEP begins

September 12: Weekend Backpack Packing, CFC

September 13: Trinity Memories Café, CFC

September 21: 60+ Fellowship

October Mission Focus: Cancer Services & Community Connections

October 1: Pumpkin Sunday, Communion

12p Pumpkin Truck Arrives

Pumpkin Patch Opens

October 7: Walk for Wellness, 9a-12p

In Memory of Rev. Henry A. Justice

Blessing of the Animals, Shot Clinic, Blood Mobile

October 11: Trinity Memories Café, CFC

October 25: Project Agape Missionary Program

October 26: 60+ Fellowship

October 28: Choir Retreat, Music Suite

October 29: Trunk of Treats, 4p-5p

OUR VISION

Together God's life grows in us, so that we can share that life with others.



TOY STORIES | FAITH & FUN!

As we head back into school season, we will be having a bit of fun in worship with a number of **timeless toys ~ Playdough, Legos, Rubik's Cubes, The Lite Brite, and Mr. Potato Head!** Join us as we look at some of the most classic toys of all time and connect them to our Christian life. Join the fun and worship each Sunday at 9a and 11a at Myers Memorial UMC August 6 ~ September 3 for *Toy Stories*.

SHOWER THEM WITH LOVE

You are invited to the CFC on Saturday, August 19th, from 2p to 4p, to honor the parents-to-bee, Scottie & April (Martin) Chambers as they prepare to welcome a little "honey". **Baby Chambers is register at Amazon.com and Babylist.com under April Chambers, Charlottesville, VA.**

You are kindly invited to the bridal shower of Kelsey Marr on August 20th in the Church Parlor, drop-in between 2p and 3:30p to celebrate with the Marrs! Registry can be found at kelseyandwill2023.minted.us

HOMETOWN HEROES

On September 10, We will be honoring our hometown heroes and first responders at the 9a service with a breakfast to be served afterwards. Please contact Tanya Lunsford (tlmartintm@gmail.com) to offer your assistance. Are you a first responder who attends Myers Memorial UMC? We know you are a humble bunch of folks but we do wish to honor you! Please let Tanya know if you serve in any way with first responders in our area (Fire, Police, EMT/Rescue).

SOUL SNEAKERS

Lace up your shoes and let's get moving! The Myers Health Cabinet is excited to offer you this opportunity to walk together! The goal is fitness and fellowship on the first Saturday of each month at 9am and the locations will vary. This group is open to all ages! If you are interested, please contact Allison Evanoff (evanoff.allison@gmail.com). Allison will contact you with any last minute details and let you know where the next month's hike will be located!

BLESSED ARE THE BUSY!

For it wasn't always this way! The pandemic shut down was quite abrupt and we were all left longing for things to do as we sat in the silence of home and the church building was still. But no more! The Church building is **full and busy and it's wonderful!** While it can seem chaotic, it really is wonderful to have our building being used from the kitchen to the basement each and every day! (yep, even Saturdays are filling up!). We celebrate Rev. Eddie Ingram, pastoral psychotherapist with *SpiritSong Counseling*, and his clients who are present in the Music Suite area. We celebrate Meals on Wheels, DYEP, Girl Scouts, Boys Scouts, Alanon, NA and other support groups using our facility! We celebrate our kitchen being used on nearly a daily basis—which brings not only **income to the church but delicious benefits!** We've enjoyed cookies made by Rebecca Wilhelm of *Roses & Whiskers* at our Camp Tekoa Retreat and Bible Studies! *The Souper Chef*, Jack Atchison-chef, has already shared excess food with the church and the community, helped to make connections with Memories Café and local radio **personalities and we can't wait for the Pumpkin Bisque** this fall! In addition to Memories Café, ministry area meals and other small groups, the kitchen alone is full of life! Let us celebrate the need for labeled shelves, minor inconveniences, and the need to offer directions to other parts of the building as we live into this new life and new opportunities to love and serve others.

QUESTIONS GOD ASKS US

What does God ask you? Beginning Sept. 10, the Fall Sermon Series at Myers Memorial UMC will be exploring the questions God asks us as God seeks conversation with us, not for conversation sake, but for deepening relationships with us. Have you ever wondered why God would want to ask us questions? In his book, *Questions God Asks Us*, author and minister Trevor Hudson offers **several reasons for us to consider.** We'll explore these same questions God asked of people throughout the Bible. Questions often have the power to transform us much more than answers. Join us on Sundays at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary or via the gift of technology. As we wrestle with these questions in our own life, may we find ourselves in a whole new world of conversational relationship and discipleship with God.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

The Fall is a great time to start something new! Come join the Choir, Hand Bells or the Praise Team! We would love to have you join us singing or playing as we worship. The Praise Team rehearses on Sundays at 4p in the Sanctuary. The Chancel Hand Bells will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th at 6p. But first, you're invited to join the Polishing Party on August 9th at 5p. The Chancel Choir rehearses each Wednesday at 7p in the Choir Room. Don't feel like you can commit to every week? We're flexible!

Chancel Choir will host a fall retreat in the choir room on Saturday, October 28th from 9a to 12p to learn the music for Advent and sing in December! Lunch will follow.

Save these dates for holiday music: Love Feast, December 10 and Lessons & Carols on December 17th, both at 5p in the Sanctuary.

Do you have questions about the various music ministry opportunities at Myers Memorial UMC? Please contact our co-Music Directors, Laura Beatty or Logan McGuire at music@myersmemorialumc.com. Logan leads the 9a Music, Praise Team, and Children's Music while Laura leads 11a Music, Chancel Choir, and Handbells. Together they lead a dynamic music ministry where you are welcome to share your gifts!

FALL SMALL GROUPS

This Fall You're invited to join in a small group! Need help finding one? Want to help facilitate one? Contact Connie Elzey, director of Christian Education, dce@MyersMemorialUMC.org or 704-864-3222 ext. 105.

Good Enough Book Study with Laura Beatty. Beginning August 27 at 6:30p in the Choir Room.

Soul Purpose with Rev. Everett Stoddard. Ongoing, Thursdays, at 6:30p in the Asbury Room. A new study begins on September 7, *Questions Jesus Asked* by Magrey DeVega.

Sunday Evening Bible Study with Allison Evanoff, Tonda Coonce, and Susan Robinson facilitating. Resuming Sunday, September 10 at 5:30p in the Asbury Room. The class will delve into a deeper study of the book of Revelation.



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS FOR EVERYONE!

Sunday School Classes meet each Sunday from 10a to 10:40a.

Children gather in Room E103 for connection before heading upstairs with their teachers. Children will return to E103 at 10:40a for pick up!

Youth meet downstairs each week! Middle Schoolers meet in the Youth Classroom and High Schoolers meet in the Youth Lounge.

Adult Classes

Asbury Class Room CFC106, James Moore studies

Contemporary Class Room E106, Adam Hamilton studies

New Life Room E105. Resumes meeting on August 13 in a new main floor room! Also beginning a new study ~ *Enough* by Adam Hamilton.

Open Minds Room E104, use the *Wired Word*, a topical current event explored through a lens of our Christian faith.

WHO IS IN COLLEGE?

Please help us keep in touch with our college age students! Whether they are far away or just up the road, taking classes or already hard at work, we want to remain connected! Please share your addresses or text numbers with Connie Elzey or Heather Steffey (heather@myersmemorialumc.com). Please let us know where they are and what they're up to these days!

FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE
www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

/Give /Youth /Children /Worship /Pumpkins
/Lighthouse /Serve /Calendar /TMC
/TheStainedGlassWindows

WELCOME D.Y.E.P!

For many years, the people of Myers have dreamed of **tutoring children in our community but we just didn't** know the best way to do that. Let us praise God who works in many wonderful ways and we celebrate the way God worked through many avenues to bring DYEP to Myers! *The Distinguished Youth Enrichment Program* is a tutoring program that had outgrown its current location and will soon be operating on our first floor on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6p to 8p beginning September 11. DYEP seeks to help children and youth climb the ladder of success one step at a time and specializes in tutoring for preschool through high school students from throughout our community as well as teaching life skills and providing a homecooked meal. As we begin to build our connection between Myers and DYEP, there will be many ways we can serve the children of our community! You are invited to contact Donna Lutz with any questions.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH | AUGUST 20

The women of our church and community are invited to the next quarterly gathering of United Women in Faith. On Sunday, August 20th at 12p (immediately following 11a worship) in the CFC. You're encouraged to bring your favorite Summer Salad to share! Questions? Contact Tanya Lunsford at 704-678-7122.

MYERS MEMORIAL UMC 60+

This group is designed for all those 60 years and older to meet for fellowship, sometimes food and always an adventure on the third Thursday of each month. Mark your calendars and invite a friend! If you would like email reminders about the 60+ Fellowship gatherings, please contact the church office or Connie Elzey.

- Thursday, August 17, 11:30a, Meet at *Venecia* (306 E. Garrison Blvd.) for lunch and fellowship.
- Thursday, September 21, 10:15a, Meet at the Church to carpool or ride the bus to *RiverBend Creamery* in Lincolnton followed by lunch at Court Street Grille in downtown Lincolnton.
- Thursday, October 19, 10:30a Meet at the church to carpool or ride the bus to *Gibson Mill Market & Food Hall* in Concord.

MEET NARA AND PROJECT AGAPE | OCT. 25

You are invited to a unique opportunity to meet Nara Melkonyan, director of Project AGAPE in Armenia. Nara will be in North Carolina to share more about the ministry of Project AGAPE, a joint-ministry of the Western and North Carolina Conferences of The United Methodist Church that cooperates with the Armenian Apostolic Church. Project AGAPE is committed to sharing the love and hope of Christ with the people of Armenia; contributing to the Christian education of the Armenian people; and developing humanitarian and benevolent activities. For 27 years of activities, AGAPE has led different projects, served people in Kashatagh and in border villages, now serve the displaced people who had to leave due to the war in 2020. From Christmas Boxes to Humanitarian Aid, offering monetary gifts to hands on work at the Mission Response Center in Terrell, NC, you can have an impact in the lives of many all the way in Armenia. Join us for conversation with Nara on Wednesday, October 25 at 6p.

SAVE THE DATE | FESTIVAL OF TREES

The United Women in Faith will be hosting a Festival of Trees on Sunday, November 19th at 12p. This year's Festival will include lunch, a fashion show, vendors, and a tree competition! You're invited to donate a decorated tree (no larger than 4ft). Trees will be voted on by lunch attendees and the money will talk! The tree with the most money votes will be deemed the winner! The real winners will be the Salvation Army Older Adult Ministries who will receive these trees to decorate their apartments as well as the funds will support their needs.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Young Adults (18-35 year olds) are planning to attend River Jam on August 10th at the Whitewater Center! Meet at the church at 6p to carpool or you can meet us there (parking is \$6/car). RiverJam is free and the live music begins at 7p. Bring a friend, a blanket/chair, and **money for food or drink and let's enjoy a relaxing summer evening together!** Text Victoria Flake (980-285-0667) to let her know you're coming!



Facebook.com/myersmemorial
YouTube.com/c/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia
Instagram.com/myersmemorialumc



ONGOING WAYS TO SERVE

Trinity Giving Tree stands in the Narthex as a giving point for donations to serve one another and the world. Each month the Trinity Tree will highlight a different ministry and an opportunity for you to contribute as we seek to welcome, love and serve one another and the world!

August: School Supplies

September: Group Home Residents

October: Cancer Services & Community Connections

November: Angel Tree

First Sundays for CAM The New Life Sunday School class invites you to participate in a collection for Crisis Assistance Ministry. Simply leave your donations at the rear of your vehicle on the 1st Sunday of each month and a member of the New Life Sunday School class will stop by to pick up your donations. Contact: Wendy Wade.

Thirsty Third Sundays The Choir leads us in a collection on the 3rd Sunday of each month for Cancer Services of Gaston County. You are invited to bring donations of Gatorade and Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soups Please leave your donations in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary nearest the choir loft. Contact: Alice Sweezy.

Mission Possible meets as needed to construct and assemble ramps at homes in the community. No construction skills necessary! The need continues to be great and while we have a core dedicated and experienced team, we want more! We need more folks to build as well as to help provide lunch on the day of the build. Please consider being a part of this ministry! Contact: Mike Rhodes

Weekend Backpack Food A group of volunteers meets each month to pack nutritious foods to sustain school children on the weekends when food is scarce. The first packing will be mid afternoon on September 12th. Contact: Susan Robinson.

Sandwich Brigade The First Monday of each month during the school year, a group of volunteers assembles sandwiches for the West Gastonia Boys and Girls Club. We start back on October 2nd and would love to have you join us! Contact: Mary Leigh Crain.

*Want to serve? Call the church office and we'll get you connected!
704-864-3222*

Mark your calendar to participate in the 8th 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 to raise 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? Visit the website for more information! We can't wait to walk with you! ALL proceeds collected will go directly to Cancer Services.

The event will run from 9a to 12p. There will be a survivors celebration and a moment of memorial for those who have lost the fight. We'll also enjoy fitness demonstrations throughout the day, a delicious food truck, a blood mobile, vendors, music, don't forget the Pumpkin Patch and the Blessing of Animals!

Coming Soon! The 2023 Walk for Wellness T-shirts! The shirts will sell for \$30 each with all proceeds going to Cancer Services!

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/walk



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 ruled paper*)
- Ballpoint Pens (*blue & black*)
- Expo Markers
- Ticonderoga Pencils
- Crayola Crayons
- Crayola Markers
- Hygiene Items

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 with the leadership of the group.

- *Naranon*, Mondays, Zoom
- *Grief Share*, Tuesdays, 10a, Parlor
- *DivorceCare*, Tuesdays, 6:30p, Zoom
- *Alanon*, Tuesdays, 11a, Asbury Room
- *NA*, Thursdays, 7p, Youth Lounge
- *Alzheimer's Caregiver Support*, 2nd Tuesdays, 4p, Asbury Room

YOUTH ARE OUT TO DINNER WITH ANDREW!

Myers Youth and Friends are invited to join Andrew for dinner from 6p to 7p on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays in August, September, October. Bring money for dinner or you are welcome to just come hang out but let's be in community together! Don't let Andrew eat alone!

Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4: Chick-fil-a (Cox Rd.)

Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18: Qdoba (Cox Rd.)

SUNDAY YOUTH MINISTRY

For all the latest details please make sure you're receiving all the news from Andrew via email & text! You can also find details in weekly church eNews & on the Youth webpage, www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth.

In addition to Sunday Mornings at 10a, Myers Youth meet most every Sunday night from 5p to 6:30p. This Fall, enter the building at the back door and head to the Sanctuary for devotion and worship, followed by dinner and the program starting around 5:30p! It might be a study, it might be a service project, it might be a party! Check the dates and make sure you're where you need to be each week! We want you to be a part of Myers Youth!

UMYF Benediction *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)*

August 6 | Blessing of the Backpacks, 9a & 11a

3:35p Honey Hunters Game, meet at CaroMont Health Park Families are encouraged to come! \$9 per ticket while they last! Contact the Church Office to reserve your tickets.

August 13 | Sunday Fun Day | 5p to 8p

We will depart the Church at 5p and head to Moss Lake for an evening of fun at the Brown's House! There will be food, swimming, floating, paddle boating, kayaking and more! Dress for water fun, bring a towel and something dry to sit on for the ride home! We'll return to the church around 8p.

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING! OCTOBER 1

October 1st is Pumpkin Sunday! Dress Casually and wear your pumpkin shirt or favorite pumpkin colored outfit! We'll worship together at 9a and 11a then enjoy lunch together until the pumpkins arrive! We will work together for the 44th year to unload the truck and fill the patch with the beautiful orange fruits that make us the Pumpkin Church!



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

Do you Need a Pumpkin T-shirt? Everyone's wearing it! Ordering will be available in September on the pumpkin page 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

August 20 | BYOG | 5p to 6:30p

It's BYOG ~ **Bring Your Own Grownups** night at Youth! Parents/Guardians are to join you for youth tonight! Dinner at 5p in the CFC followed by a 'normal' night at youth ~ filled with worship, games and questions! (families with children and youth will be able to attend both groups!)

Sunday Night Study | 5p to 6:30p

No Youth Group on Sunday Sept. 3, Oct. 1 or Oct. 29.

Myers Youth is going to get gross, weird and maybe a little scary as we dive into the Bible this fall! From talking donkeys to severed ears, gross Godly orders and bloody tent pegs, the goal of these unique encounters with unexpected, unsettling stories is solely to show us more of who God is! Join us on Sunday nights, we know you can stomach the Word of God!

September 17 | Divide and Serve | 5p to 6:30p

Meet at the church for dinner at 5p then we'll divide and serve in our community ~ much like we did at VBS this summer!

October 1 | Pumpkin Sunday

It's Pumpkin Sunday! The youth will be leading worship at 9a and 11a and followed by lunch, we'll start unloading the pumpkins and filling the pumpkin patch for the 44th year! The Pumpkin Patch is the main fundraiser for the Myers Youth that is supported by the entire church! Wear your orange and get ready! We're the Pumpkin Church and the pumpkins have to get off the truck!!

October 29 | Trunk o Treats | 3p to 6p

We need you to dress up, decorate and/or host fun activities in the Pumpkin Patch parking lot for a night of fun for children in our community! Youth need to be prepared to be at church from 3p to 6p as the party happens from 4-5p.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY NIGHT WONDER

Coming this Fall....a new time & a snack supper! Children's Wonder is **WONDER** designed for Prekindergarten through 5th graders to explore the wonders of God's great world! From Music to Crafts to Bible Study, each week we will wonder and explore! On a weekly basis, please enter the back door and head to the CFC for a snack supper at 5p in the Youth Lounge before heading upstairs for small groups. Got Questions? Please Contact Andrew Ingram, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, Andrew@MyersMemorialUMC.com, 980-613-1808. *Wonder will not meet Sept. 3, Oct. 1 or Oct. 29.*

We Want Parents to Wonder Too!

On August 20th, Parents/Guardians are to join their children for a WONDERful opportunity! Dinner for all will be served at 5p in the CFC followed by a 'normal' night at Wonder ~ filled with music, games, Bible Stories, crafts and more! Families with children and youth will be able to attend both groups!) Parents will have an opportunity to explore the newly painted rooms, see what goes on each Sunday night as well as ask any questions!



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**Myers Memorial United Methodist Church
presents**

TOY *stories*

Worship on Sundays at 9a and 11a

**Toys teaching us
about our
Christian lives**

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

