

the Messenger



Volume 25 Issue 24

Winter 2023-24

GENEROSITY CHANGES YOU

The Finance and Stewardship has been blessed to witness the abundant and faithful giving of our congregation this past year and it's our honor to guard your donations, making safe investments for the long term. We do this all through prayer and meaningful discussion. Your generous giving at Myers Memorial UMC has changed our community, changed our hearts, supported our staff and members and funded our practical needs.

During the month of November, you are invited to make a financial commitment for 2024 ~ your tithe, your offering, your pledge. Estimate of giving cards are mailed to current givers and members the first week of November. Cards are also available in the Narthex and church office. You are invited to bring your estimate of giving card to the communion rail during the last hymn of worship on one of the first three weeks of November, offering your gifts to God and to Myers Memorial UMC.

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CAMP TEKOA TURNS 75!

Camp Tekoa was founded in 1949, as a summer camp for the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. It has been in continuous operation ever since, through summer camp, school year programs and retreat ministry. Myers Memorial UMC has enjoyed over 25 years of church-wide retreats at Camp Tekoa! In 2024, Tekoa will celebrate its 75th Anniversary and we are all invited to join the celebration! Mark your calendars for April 26-28 for a weekend of fun, fellowship and worship. Registration for events and lodging will be handled by Camp Tekoa and open in January 2024. Camp Tekoa's mission is Touching Hearts, Changing Lives, and Sharing the Light of Christ.

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Cultivating

A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY Worship on Sundays at 9a and 11a

On-site and Live-Stream

via Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

- Nov. 4: Soul Sneakers, 9a
- Nov. 5: All Saints Day, Communion
- Nov. 7: Makers Market Workshops, 1p-3p & 6p-8p
- Nov. 8: Trinity Memories Café, 11a
- Nov. 9 Joy Circle, 12p
- Nov 10-12: Middle School Retreat, Camp Tekoa
- Nov 12: Confirmation Group Meeting, 10a, CFC
- Nov. 14: Makers Market Workshop, 1p-3p & 6p-8p
- Nov. 14: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 4p
- Nov 16: 60+ Fellowship, 11:15a
- Nov. 19: Festival of Tables, 12p
- Nov. 21: DYEP Thanksgiving Meal
- Nov 22-23: Church Office Closed
- Dec. 2: Soul Sneakers, 9a, Thiele Baby Shower, 1p, Parlor
- Dec. 3: First Sunday in Advent, Communion, Children's Advent Festival, 5p**
- Dec. 10: Second Sunday in Advent, Love Feast, 5p
Youth Christmas Parties, 6:15p, Youth Lounge
- Dec. 12: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 4p
- Dec. 13: Trinity Memories Café, 11a
- Dec. 14: Joy Circle, 12p
- Dec. 17: Second Sunday in Advent, Lessons & Carols, 5p
- Dec. 20: Youth Walk Christmas Lights; DYEP Meal
- Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday in Advent, Gingerbread Sunday
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5p
- Dec. 25: Happy Birthday, Jesus!
- Dec. 25 ~ Jan 1: Church Office Closed
- Dec. 28: Office Open for Year End Giving, 12p-1:30p
- Jan. 6: Soul Sneakers, 9a
- Jan 7: Epiphany, Communion
5p Youth & Wonder resume regular programing
- Jan 3: Children's Hang Time with Andrew, 2p
- Jan. 14: Baptism of our Lord
- Jan 19-21: Youth Winter Retreat
- Jan 28: Servant Leadership Summit, 2p-4p

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.



OUR VISION

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP & SPECIAL SERVICES

Join us for Worship Each Sunday at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary and via live stream on Facebook, YouTube, and our Church Website. Make note of these special services the next few months!

November 5: All Saints Sunday, Communion

December 3: First Sunday in Advent, Worship at 9a and 11a, Communion

December 10: Second Sunday in Advent, Worship at 9a and 11a, Love Feast, 5p, Sanctuary

December 17: Third Sunday in Advent, Worship at 9a and 11a, A Service of Lessons & Carols, 5p, Sanctuary

December 24: Fourth Sunday in Advent, Worship at 9a and 11a, Gingerbread Sunday

Christmas Eve Worship, Communion & Candlelight, 5p, Sanctuary

December 31: One Worship Service online led by our College Students, no onsite worship.

January 7: Epiphany, Communion

January 14: Baptism of our Lord, Renewal of our Baptism

January 21: Peace ~ 2024 Word of the Year to focus our Mission & Ministry at Myers

SOUL SNEAKERS

We're still walking so lace up your shoes and join us! The Myers Health Cabinet continues to host group walks on the first Saturday of each month at 9a. The locations will vary so please contact Allison Evanoff (evanoff.allison@gmail.com) and she will be able to contact you with any last minute details and let you know where the next month's hike will be located! This is designed for all walking abilities although some trails will be unpaved. On November 4th you are invited to meet at the Sparrow Springs entrance to Crowders Mtn and we will do the Turnback Trail.



301 S. New Hope Rd. Gastonia, NC 28024

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 5 we celebrate the Saints in our lives by remembering those in our congregation who have joined the church triumphant in the last year. Families have been invited to return for this time of remembrance as we light a candle for each member who has died. There will be candles for each of us to light to remember saints in our personal lives. This remembrance will be held during both services Sunday services.

Leon Ramseur

February 10, 1948 ~ November 7, 2022

Barry McCoig

April 21, 1945 ~ November 22, 2022

John Dobbs

August 31, 1943 ~ December 7, 2022

Marty Peninger

November 3, 1958 ~ January 22, 2023

Jim Bright

February 5, 1935 ~ February 15, 2023

Bonnie Gibson

July 10, 1947 ~ February 26, 2023

Guy Threlkeld

June 22, 1947 ~ March 18, 2023

Bett Matthews

July 12, 1934 ~ April 24, 2023

Chuck Wright

February 25, 1932 ~ May 20, 2023

Marjorie Foy

July 10, 1928 ~ May 28, 2023

Earl Phillips

August 8, 1939 ~ October 10, 2023

Mary Bone

April 14, 1937 ~ October 9, 2023

THE MYERS MAKERS MARKET

Myers Makers Market, a unique pop-up artisans market, will open December 2023 for a limited time only! The Myers Maker Market will highlight the many creative gifts the people of Myers have to offer! There will be a variety of handmade and hand curated items for sale to support the Sandwich Brigade Ministry that serves nearly 200 children dinner on the first Monday of each month.

We want you! We need your Gifts! Are you able to bake, craft, sew, make, build, weld, bake and...create and are you willing to contribute items to the Myers Makers Market for a fun shopping event with a purpose? Would you be interested in teaching others? Please contact Pastor Sarah Davis (churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com) or Jennifer Rhodes (jmrhodes@gmail.com).

THE TRINITY TREE

The Trinity Tree, our giving tree in the Narthex will be filled with 100 Salvation Army Angels in *November!* Please return the gifts to the Narthex or Church Office no later than December 3. In *December* you will find the tree adorned with ornaments and decorations that you can purchase as part of the Myers Makers Market to benefit the monthly Sandwich Brigade serving meals at the West Gastonia Boys & Girls Club. In *January* we'll decorate the tree with gloves, hats, scarves and 'hot hands' to aid in warming our coldest neighbors.

MYERS MAKERS WORKSHOP

Want to be crafty and help create items for the Myers Makers Market? Join Pastor Sarah and others for a time of crafting and creating on Tuesdays, November 7 and 14 from 1p to 3p and or 6p to 8p. All supplies will be provided although it's asked that you contribute \$10 per session to cover cost of materials. Guidance will be offered as needed or you may create to your hearts content with the materials provided!

THURSDAY STUDY GROUPS

The Thursday Studies, held at 10a and 6:30p are open to any one who wishes to participate. Feel free to switch between times as your schedule allows! Rev. Everett Stoddard is facilitating these groups (evstoddard51@gmail.com) Now Studying: *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*. Beginning November 30th, the study will be a four week Advent study called *An Unlikely Advent* by Rev. Rachel Billips.

IT'S TIME TO DECK THE HALLS!

Do you love getting into the Christmas Spirit? We're looking for a few extra hands to hang garland, wreaths and crismons in addition to setting out luminaries. Advent begins the First Sunday in December! If you are willing, please contact Lee Black (kimreyblack@hotmail.com) and she will be sure you know when it's all taking place and how you can help!

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You may also return your estimate of giving card via the self addressed envelope sent to your home or visit www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/give to complete the online giving form. Your commitment is between you and God. Your pledge will allow the Finance & Stewardship Committee to make financial plans for 2024. If you have moved your membership to another congregation and are generously giving there, please notify the church office so we may update our records.

Generosity Changes You
*Your gifts go further than you can see
They support our staff in their ministry
The gas and electric are part of the sum
But that's not so important in the long run
Your faithful gift for this next year
Will give you and everyone it touches much cheer.*



MYERS MEMORIAL 60+

This group is designed for those 60ish and over to meet for food and fellowship on a monthly basis. Mark your calendar for the Third Thursday of each month. Stay connected to our weekly emails so that you may be alerted to any last minute changes!

Thursday, November 16: Hop on the bus at 11:15a or follow along to Gibson Mill Market in Concord for lunch and shopping.

December: No regular Third Thursday gathering. Why not call a friend and attend Sunday worship, the Love Feast, or Lessons and Carols together.

Thursday, January 18: **It's our annual Soup and Sandwich Potluck** in the CFC at 11:30a. Bring your favorite to share and be sure to sample something new!

YEAR END INFORMATION

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30a to 4p. The office will be closed November 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving holiday. The office will also be closed December 25-28. *Volunteers will be at the church on Thursday, December 18 from 12p-1:30p to receive any end of year gifts.* If you have questions regarding your financial pledge and where you may be in your giving at this time of the year, please contact our bookkeeper, Amelia Bumgardner, 704-864-3222 ext. 109 or finace@myersmemorialumc.com. Amelia is in the office on Tuesday afternoons. Also, if you make reoccurring financial gifts via your financial institution or the church's Vanco system, please make time to adjust and confirm your giving for the 2024 year.

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Are you someone whose life was changed by camp, as a camper, staff member, or retreat attendee? Camp Tekoa wants to hear your stories and see your pictures! Please email alumni@camptekoa.org if you would like to share or if you have any questions.



A FESTIVAL OF TREES | NOVEMBER 19

United Women of Faith are sponsoring an exciting event for the entire family: A Festival of Trees! Join us November 19th immediately following worship for a soup lunch among beautifully decorated trees that will in turn bless Angel Tree recipients and support the mission of **United Women of Faith**. We'll enjoy a light lunch of soup as we get into the spirit of Christmas! Contact Tanya Lunsford to offer your support (tlmartinm@gmail.com or 704-678-7122).



Would You Like to Decorate a Tree? We'd love to have at least 12 trees for older adult Angel Tree angels. This is perfect for families, friends, and small groups to participate together. *Trees should be no taller than 4 feet and trees in their entirety will be donated at the end of the event.* Simply contact Tanya to confirm your willingness to donate a tree. The CFC will be open on the Sat. prior from 9a to 12p. Please have all decorated trees set up in the CFC by Sunday, November 19 at 10a.

How Will We Raise Money for UWF? By voting for your favorite tree...with your money! One dollar equals one vote and the tree with the most votes at 1p on November 19, wins! Bring your cash or checks and place your votes during lunch or while you explore and shop the various vendors that will also be present.

How Else Can I Support This Event? By donating a pot of soup for lunch or a dessert to share, helping with set up and/or clean up, encouraging others to participate, inviting friends, by liking, sharing and commenting on the Facebook events.

COMING ON SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

The Sunday Night Study group will begin a new weekly study on Sunday, January 7 at 5:30p using **Bishop Tom Berlin's** book *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess*. This study is open to all who are interested! Contact: Allison Evanoff (evanoffallison@gmail.com) or Tonda Coonce (tondacoonce@aol.com).

SERVANT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2024

Mark your calendars for January 28, 2024 from 2p to 4p for our annual Servant Leadership Summit as we make plans to live out our mission and vision in 2024. Youth & adults are invited to participate. *You do not* have to be a member of any committee or task force to participation. *You must* have a desire to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves and serves one another and the world. See you then!

WHY THIS JUBILEE? ADVENT 2023

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be

Which inspire your heavenly song.

Music is so much a part of the Advent and Christmas season. Whether it is Mariah Carey, Mele Kalikimaka, Silent Night, Blue Christmas, or Away in a Manger, there are songs so familiar in our heart they evoke feelings and emotions that only this time of year can bring about. Join us as we take a deeper look at the words we sing by heart and discover what God is calling us to celebrate this year and the Good News we can sing loud for all the world to hear!

2024 MINISTRY THEME

Pastor Sally and the staff started a tradition of having a different ministry theme each calendar year. Here is a look back at our yearly themes: Hospitality (2017), Conversations (2018), Serve (2019), Transformation (2020), Thrive (2021), Vision (2022), and Together (2023).

We are excited to share that our 2024 ministry theme is PEACE with our focus Scripture Philippians 4:7, *The PEACE of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* We can't wait to unpack that word beginning January 21, 2024.

In the meantime, when you reflect on the word PEACE, what images come to mind? To share your thoughts, please email us a description or image at churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Myers Youth wish to thank all of the many volunteers who helped to make the 2023 Pumpkin Patch a huge success! It was great to see all the new faces and to serve together. Our community was welcomed and loved and for that we are grateful! Thank you Pumpkin Church!

ANGEL TREE ELVES

We need a few elves to help sort Angel Tree Gifts on Monday, December 4 and or shop for any missing items before the gifts are picked up on December 6. **We will have over 100 angels and it's sure to be an amazing time to play elf!** If you're available, please contact Rev. Sarah Davis, 704-864-3222 or churchoffice@myersmemorialumc.com.

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS

You're invited to decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias this season. The cost is \$15 per poinsettia. The flower pot base will be wrapped, including a bow, and delivered to the church for us to enjoy this season. Poinsettias can be given in honor or in memory of a loved one and acknowledgments will be printed as well as shared on the Sanctuary screens. Online orders and payments are accepted, checks may be written to MMUMC memo: *Poinsettias*. The online order form can be found at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/worship Please complete your order by December 3.

45TH ANNUAL MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

Since 1978, Myers Memorial UMC has been hosting a Moravian Love Feast, a service of singing hymns and music that centers on the themes of love and harmony. We will enjoy Moravian Spice Cake and sweet coffee as well as light traditional beeswax candles as we gather together in celebration of the Season. We hope you will join us for the 45th Annual Love Feast on Sunday, December 10 at 5pm in the Sanctuary as we gather for this fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry and expressing the *koinonia* (community, togetherness) enjoyed by the family of Christ. Thank you to Haley Marr and family for continuing this tradition.

ONGOING/WEEKLY GROUPS

SUN: Worship, 9a & 11a;

Sunday School for all ages, 10a,
Praise Team, 4p, Youth &
Children, 5p

1st SUN: UMM, Communion,
CAM Food Collection

3rd SUN: Cancer Services
Collection

MON: DYEP, 6p Boy Scouts

1st MON: Sandwich Brigade, 2p

TUES: GriefShare, 10a,
AIAnon, 11a, DYEP, 6p,

DivorceCare, 6:30p, Girl Scouts

2nd TUES: Alzheimer's
Support, 4p

WED: DYEP, 6p, Music
Rehearsals

2nd WED: Trinity Memories
Café, 11a

THURS: Thursday Study, 10a
and 6:30p, Narcotics
Anonymous

3rd THURS: 60+ Fellowship,
12:30p

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

1st SAT: Soul Sneakers, 9a

A New Session of Griefshare will begin on Tuesday, November 7. This support group meets each Tuesday at 10a in the Church Parlor.

A new session of DivorceCare will begin via zoom on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30p.

Girl Scouts are forming new Daisy and Brownie/Junior groups that will begin meeting at Myers in November. Contact Sandi Heavener for more info. sheavener@girlscoutsp2p.org

JOY OF EVERY LONGING HEART

The 2024 Lessons and Carols will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 17 at 5p. This service of song and scripture will highlight an assortment of musical gifts and musicians in our congregation. **This services traditionally ends with the singing of Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus and you are welcome to join the choir for this by simply coming to the front at the end of the service.** We hope you will join us onsite or online wherever you may be on December 17th!

GINGERBREAD SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24

Sunday, December 24 has been named Gingerbread Sunday! Join us at each service for this gift of love in the form of a Gingerbread Cookie from Louisa Suggs. What started as a few gingerbread cookies for the children has turned into a gift for everyone! Thank you, Louisa for your gift!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will gather in person and online on Christmas Eve at 5p to celebrate the reason for this season, a baby born to save us. We will **have one service for all God's children with Communion and Candlelight** in the Sanctuary. If you are joining us online, you are invited to gather a bit of bread, grape juice and a candle so that we may be one in worship.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

The Middle School Youth (6th-8th graders) are retreating to Camp Tekoa November 10-12 for a time of fun, fellowship, study and service. The cost is \$75 but please do not let cost prohibit your middle schooler's participation! **We'll depart via church bus at 8a on Friday and return around 12p on Sunday.** More information can be found on the Youth website or by contacting Andrew Ingram.

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. 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!**

Nov. 1: *Special Time* 5:30p Meet at the Church for dinner (free) and taking down the Pumpkin Patch!

Dec. 6, Jan. 3: Chick-fil-a (Cox Rd)

Nov. 15, Jan 17: Qdoba (Cox Rd.)

WALKING CHRISTMASTOWN USA

On Wednesday, December 20th the Myers Youth are meeting at 6p to walk through McAdenville. Dress for the weather and stay connected through text and emails to know the gathering location!

SUNDAY YOUTH MINISTRY

For all the latest details please make sure you're receiving all the news from Andrew via email & text. Send Andrew your contact info at Andrew@MyersMemorialUMC.com You can also find details in weekly church eNews and at 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 so join us by entering the building via the back door. 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!

Nov. 5: Love in a Big World: *Kindness*

Nov. 12: Putting Kindness into Action

Nov. 19: Turkey Talk

Nov. 26: Unplugged Night: We're chilling out in the Youth Lounge with food and friends!

Dec. 3: Love in a Big World: *Cooperation*

Dec. 10: Love Feast, 5p, Sanctuary, Youth Christmas Parties in the Youth Lounge (approximately 6:15p)

No Youth Meeting on December 17, 24, or 31

Dec. 17: Lessons & Carols, 5p, Sanctuary

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 5p, Sanctuary

Jan. 7: Love in a Big World: *Fairness*

Jan. 14: Sunday Service Night Projects

Jan. 21: Love in a Big World: *Respect*

Jan. 28: Game On! Game Night

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT 2024

We're headed to Lake Junaluska Assembly for the SEJ Winter Retreat January 19-21! We'll gather with other United Methodist Youth for fun, fellowship, engaging worship, skiing or local mission work. With **Guest Speaker Rev. Iyana "YaNi" Davis** and musical leadership of Chuck Bell, the large group worship time will be extra special events! The cost will be between \$150 and \$215 depending on your activities. Please complete the online registration at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth

CHILDREN'S ADVENT FAIR

We're going on an Advent-ure this season! Preschoolers through 5th graders are invited on Sunday, December 3 at 5p to prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ Child! Enter the back door and head downstairs for dinner then we're headed to the 3rd floor for all the festivities! *This will be our last gathering of Wonder for 2023.*

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY NIGHT WONDER

On Sunday nights from 5p to 6:30p our children 'wonder' about God's great world through music, crafts and story time. Please enter via the Back Door and head to the youth lounge for dinner then our grown ups will take us to the third floor to Wonder. The Wonder Children will sing in worship on November 12 and December 17. Our last evening of Wonder for 2023 will be December 5, the Advent Fair. We will gather again on January 7th.

HANG TIME WITH ANDREW

Get out the house! Elementary children and friends are invited to hang with Andrew in the Youth Lounge on Wednesday, January 3rd from 2p to 4p for some winter break fun!

SOCCER SHOTS AT MYERS IN 2024

It's not just about the game, it's about the players! *Soccer Shots* is an engaging children's soccer program with a focus on character development for children young children and it's moving into the CFC at Myers on Tuesdays and Saturdays in January and February! Our location will be one of the few in our area where a child does not have to be enrolled in a specific program in order to participate. You can check out soccershots.com or email greatercharlotte@soccershots.com with your questions.

FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE
www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

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



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704-864-3222
www.MyersMemorialUMC.org
ChurchOffice@MyersMemorialUMC.com

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Gastonia NC
Permit #185



Why this Jubilee?

Advent at Myers Memorial UMC

December 3

Advent 1 | Communion
9a & 11a Worship
5p Children's Advent Festival

December 10

Advent 2
9a & 11a Worship
5p LoveFeast

December 17

Advent 3
9a & 11a Worship
5p Lessons & Carols

December 24

Advent 4 | Gingerbread Sunday
9a & 11a Worship
5p Christmas Eve Service

All Services will be held in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed on Facebook & our website

Singing Songs of the Season For All The World to Hear

www.MyersMemorialUMC.org 704-864-3222