

the Messenger

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

Volume 27 Issue 2 Summer 2025

CELEBRATING SALLY QUEEN'S MINISTRY

Please join us on Saturday, May 31, from 5p to 7p in the Christian Fellowship Center (CFC) as we honor Sally Queen and her nine years of faithful ministry at Myers Memorial United Methodist Church. This special evening will include a potluck celebration meal. The main protein will be provided and a SignUp Genius link can be found at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/celebrate and in the weekly eNews so you can contribute your favorite salads, sides, desserts as well as assist with set up, take down and clean up.

There are several ways you can help us show appreciation for Sally. First, we'd love to collect short video clips from individuals and families sharing their well-wishes. Please record a 15–30 second video message horizontally on your device and email it to Frazier Smith at frazier.smith@cpcc.edu no later than Sunday, May 25.

Another way to honor Sally would be through a monetary love offering or gift cards. Sally and her family are planning international travel this summer, and it would be wonderful for them to have extra funds for meaningful souvenirs. If you prefer to give a gift card, some suggested options include Target, Visa, Body Balance Day Spa, or TJ Maxx.

Pastor Sally's last Sunday will be June 1 which gives her a few days of summer vacation with her family before Annual Conference and leading the group from Myers Memorial UMC to Greece before assuming her duties as the District Superintendent of the Catawba Valley District. Let's come together to make this a celebration to remember!



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

WELCOME PASTOR ANDY

On July 1st, Rev. Andy (Andrea) Curtis will be appointed as the next Sr. Pastor of Myers Memorial UMC. Pastor Andy is coming to us from St. Francis UMC in Charlotte.



Andy is married to another UM clergy, Rev. Mark Curtis and they have a blended family of 6 children ranging in age from 15 to 23.

SPRC shares from her pastor profile, Andy describes her theological themes of her ministry as Grace, love, acceptance, meeting people where they are, radical hospitality, personal relationships, full inclusion of all people, and the priesthood of all believers is essential. Pastor Andy extends a huge thanks to everyone for the warm welcome and well wishes. She fully believes God is at work in Myers Memorial and cannot wait to join the ministries and the movement. We look forward to meeting Pastor Andy in worship on Sunday, July 13th.

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. *Remember we have 3 future dates when there is only one worship service: May 4, July 6 and Pumpkin Sunday, September 28!* We hope you will make space for worship at Myers.

May 4: Celebrate Faith ~ Confirmation Sunday, 10a

May 11: Celebrate Inclusivity ~ Mother's Day

May 18: Celebrate a New Thing ~ Graduation Sunday

May 25: Celebrate Heritage ~ Memorial Day

June 1: Celebrate Love

June 9: Celebrate Signs and Wonders ~ Pentecost

June 15: Celebrate Belovedness ~ Father's Day

June 22: Celebrate God's Faithfulness ~ Annual Conference Sunday

June 29: Celebrate with Amazement

July 6: Celebrate in Song, One Service 10a

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH IN MUSIC

Join us for a special worship service on July 6th at 10a as we celebrate the power of music in our faith.

Whether it's an old hymn or a modern worship song that holds deep meaning for you, we'd love to hear your stories and songs. Please share your story and song with Laura Beatty, co-Director of Music at Music@MyersMemorialUMC.org by June 1.

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP

Myers Memorial UMC is heading to Arden, near Asheville, for an intergenerational mission trip with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a family impacted by Hurricane Helene. The trip is from September 14-20, with a cost of \$375 covering lodging, meals, and construction supplies. All skill levels are welcome, and registration is needed soon for planning. For questions, contact Pastor Drew. Online registration and other ways to help support this team can be found online at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/serve.

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

DON'T LET YOUR GIVING GO ON BREAK!

Summer is a busy time for travel and family fun but the ministry of Myers Memorial UMC continues all year long! Your faithful giving supports worship, missions, youth programs, community outreach, and so much more, even during the no-so-quieter summer months. Setting up online or automatic giving is an easy way to ensure that your support for the church remains steady and strong, even when you're away. Every gift makes a difference in helping us live out our mission and serve our neighbors with love. Visit your financial institution or www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/give to set up your giving today. Thank you for being a vital part of Myers Memorial UMC!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT MYERS

On Sunday, May 4, we shared a list of upcoming service opportunities for the next few months at Myers Memorial UMC. If you received a copy, please return your completed form as soon as possible. If you were unable to attend and would like to see the available opportunities, please contact Judy Seay in the Church Office at Welcome@MyersMemorialUMC.org. We look forward to serving together in the months ahead!

MYERS GOES TO GREECE

From June 22 to July 3, a group from Myers Memorial UMC will travel to Greece under the leadership of Rev. Sally Queen and guided by Scopia Tours, tracing the footsteps of Paul and visiting major Biblical and archaeological sites across the mainland and the Aegean Sea. The itinerary includes stops in *Thessaloniki, Philippi, Veria, Meteora, Delphi, Corinth, and Athens*, along with a cruise to *Ephesus, Patmos, Mykonos, Crete, and Santorini*. We look forward to following along and hearing about their experiences upon their return. *For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God is spread abroad... 1 Thessalonians 1:8.*

Mark Your Calendars!

One Worship Service at 10a
May 5 ~ July 6 ~ September 28
Pumpkin Sunday

MID-YEAR CHECK-IN

At the beginning of 2025 we encouraged a commitment of daily prayer and the reading of scripture using *The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer* as a guide. As we reach the halfway point of 2025, we encourage you to reflect on your journey of daily prayer. Whether you've been steady or have had **starts and stops**, it's **never too late to continue** building this life-giving habit. The resource is undated so perfect for beginning at anytime. Every prayer strengthens your connection with God. Keep going! Persistence will bring growth, depth, and renewal.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Myers Memorial UMC has a proud tradition of offering meaningful Christian Education for all of **God's children**. We invite you to find your place in one of our Sunday morning adult classes:

- Open Minds (Room E104) coordinated by Mike & Jennifer Rhodes jsmrhodes@gmail.com
- Faith Meets Reason (Room E105) coordinated by Mark Hanna, markeddeck@gmail.com, and David Elzey
- Contemporary Class (Room E106) coordinated by Angie Flake, angieflake20@gmail.com
- Embrace Class (E207) coordinated by Matt McCullen, mrmccullen@gaston.k12.nc.us
- Special Friends (CFC Classroom) is a multi-age, multi-ability class coordinated by Abby Curfman, curfman_abby@yahoo.com

Interested in starting a new Sunday class or small group? Contact Heather Steffey, Ministry Coordinator, Heather@MyersMemorialUMC.org.

THE WASH HUT @ MYERS MEMORIAL UMC

What began as a dream several years ago is becoming a reality this June! Thanks to the hard work of dedicated teams, the former Scout Hut has been



transformed to include showers, washers and dryers, and a welcoming hospitality space. But just as important as the remodeling has been the conversation — thoughtful preparation with trained professionals to ensure we serve our neighbors with dignity, compassion, and respect. The Wash Hut will have a soft opening on Mondays in June, starting June 2 from 10a to 3p. We'll open our doors for showers, laundry services, and a warm place of connection. Judy Seay will serve as the Wash Hut Coordinator and would love to help you find ways to get involved. You can also support The Wash Hut through online shopping, helping provide items like scrubs, laundry supplies, and more. Visit www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/TWH for shopping link and ways to serve. We're excited to see this dream take its first steps — and to continue learning and growing as we love our neighbors well. For more information or to volunteer, reach out to Judy Seay, Welcome@MyersMemorialUMC.org or Pastor Drew, Drew@MyersMemorialUMC.org.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 27 as we celebrate Christmas in July! We will sing our favorite Christmas songs, share festive cheer, and enjoy a time of joyful worship. Wear your tackiest Christmas outfit filled with jingle bells, sparkles, and holiday fun as we celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus in the middle of summer. Come ready for joy, laughter, and a little Christmas spirit to brighten your July!

SEEKERS IN SNEAKERS: VBS 2025

This summer, children from toddlers to high schoolers are set to play and explore at VBS! Join us July 14–16 (Mon-Wed) from 6p–7:30p. Please note that these dates and times are different from previous years! Grab your sneakers and your investigative skills to discover Jesus! Through geocaching activities and interactive games, children will dig into the Bible to find their way to Jesus. Along the journey, they'll learn to ask questions, work together, shine their light, serve others like Jesus did, and trust Him when things get tough – all rooted in John 13:13–15. Adult volunteers are needed to help make this an amazing adventure! If **you're ready to join the fun and games, contact Pastor Sarah at Sarah@MyersMemorialUMC.org.**

JULY IS CAM MONTH

July is Myers' Month to stock the shelves at CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry), and Outreach is making it fun with a friendly competition! During **July, you'll find donation locations in the narthex** labeled with various universities, including UNC, NC State, WCU, App State, Duke, Wake Forest, UNC-C, Clemson, and the SEC. *Here's how you can participate:* contribute CAM items to your favorite (or least favorite) university's pile for some friendly bragging rights. If you're participating in the VBS CAM Scavenger Hunt, you can designate which team your items will support. The fun culminates in August when Pastor Drew will lead worship wearing the **t-shirt of the winning team!** Let's restock the shelves and have some fun in the process!

PENTECOST IS JUNE 8 ~ **WEAR RED**

Red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit that came down on the apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4). It's a vibrant way to celebrate the birth of the Church. Join us in celebrating Pentecost on Sunday, June 8 **by wearing red and let's fill the church with the color of Pentecost!**

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, May 25 will be another great Sunday when we welcome new members into the life of Myers Memorial UMC. If you have a desire to join Myers as a member who will support this congregation with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness, please reach out to Pastor Sally (Pastor@MyersMemorialUMC.org)

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. Each walk begins with a short devotion, followed by time for walking and fellowship. Most walks are on local trails, with a few more challenging hikes offered twice a year. Upcoming walks include May 3 at Kings Mountain Battleground Trail (meet at the Visitor Center) and **June 7 at Rankin Lake Loop.** If you're interested in participating, contact Tracey Farris at tracey.farris00@gmail.com or 704-853-9786 to stay updated on details and any weather-related changes. **We'd love to walk with you at the Walk for Wellness** so save the date of October 18!

WELCOME KAMP KALEIDOSCOPE

This summer, we are thrilled to welcome Kamp Kaleidoscope to Myers Memorial UMC! Hosted by The Arc of Gaston County, this daily program serves individuals ages 7–21 with developmental disabilities, offering themed activities, outings, and projects that build skills, friendships, and lasting memories. **We're honored to be the Summer 2025 home for this incredible ministry.** Kamper applications are open through May 20! For more information or to apply, contact Sara Osborne at 704-861-1036, arcgaston@gmail.com, or visit gastoncountyarcc.org/kamp-kaleidoscope/.



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



On Sunday, May 4th, we celebrate the 2024–2025 Confirmation Class. Over the past year, these students, along with their mentors and other adults, have journeyed together through an in-depth study of our faith - beginning with our Jewish heritage, traveling through the Protestant Reformation, and arriving at the United Methodist Church as we know it today. They have taken time to retreat and reflect, played games, traveled the area visiting other congregations to **experience worship in God's name in** different locations.

Throughout this time, they have been seeking to deepen their understanding of God's love, their own faith journeys, and what it means to live as committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are proud of their growth, their questions, and their commitments, and we invite you to join us in celebrating this important milestone in their lives.

Confirmation Participant and Mentor

Joel Anderson ~ Matt McCullen
 Marley Blackmon ~ Lynda Sides
 Zoey Blackmon ~ Giana McGuire
 Chealsea Connelly ~ Jennifer Rhodes
 Gabe Connelly ~ Gary Boggess
 Hailey Curfman ~ Lois Carnes
 Harrison Davis ~ Buddy Flake
 Kyndal Hardiman ~ Brooke Cook
 Laurelei Hearne ~ Tonda Coonce
 Will Kline ~ Mark Smith
 Kate Queen ~ Victoria Herndon
 Cooper Rash ~ Michael Grose
 Hunter Roberto ~ Jarrett Friday
 Savana Royston ~ Tanya Lunsford
 Kamryn Thrift ~ Susan Carnes

2025 MYERS MAKERS MARKET

Are you creative, artistic, or crafty? The Myers Makers Market, our church's annual December fundraiser for Outreach, is looking for original creations from Myers members and friends connected to our church. **Whether it's art, photography, woodworking, baking, metalworking, or handmade crafts, we would love to showcase your talents and generosity.** Help make a difference by donating your original work! To learn more or get involved in this fun ministry, contact Donna Lutz, dlutz55555@gmail.com or Pastor Drew, Drew@MyersMemorialUMC.org.

MYERS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday mornings at Myers Memorial UMC are full of excitement, laughter and opportunities for children to grow in their faith! From caring nursery staff to passionate Sunday School teachers, every child is welcomed into a place where they can learn about God's love, make new friends and have lots of fun.

Between 9a and 12p each Sunday, there's something special for every age group, and we would love for your family to be part of it. Children are always welcome in worship, where a special Children's Moment is offered for the youngest among us to hear a message just for them. For more information about **Children's Ministry at Myers, reach out to Pastor Sarah** at Sarah@MyersMemorialUMC.org. Plus, with Vacation Bible School in July and even more faith-filled events coming up, a summer of joy and discovery is just around the corner!

MYERS YOUTH MINISTRY

Get updates from Pastor Drew about the latest opportunities for service, learning and fellowship by email, text, weekly eNews, Instagram, and at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth. You don't have to be a member! We want YOU to be part of Myers YOUTH! Join us Sundays at 10a and for special gatherings all summer! Contact Pastor Drew with any questions, Drew@MyersMemorialUMC.org. Don't miss out on any of the faith-filled opportunities.

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

This summer, our youth are stepping out in faith to serve others and grow in their walk with Christ. Our High School Mission Team will travel to Kentucky July 20-26 to partner with Appalachia Service Project (ASP), working on home repair projects that bring warmth, safety, and dignity to families in need. Meanwhile, our Middle School Mission Team will head to Black Mountain, North Carolina, July 27-August 1 serving with Be the Neighbor, engaging in ministries that focus on justice, compassion, and community-building. We invite you to pray for both teams - for safe travels, open hearts, strong hands, and the ability to be a reflection of God's love to those they meet. Pray also for the communities they will serve, that the seeds planted through these acts of service would bear lasting fruit. Thank you for surrounding our youth with your support and encouragement!

YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Get ready for an exciting summer! Each week, our youth will come together for awesome events-from fun outings and hangouts to meaningful service projects that make a difference. Whether you're looking to connect with friends, give back to the community, or just have a blast, there's something for everyone! Stay tuned to the youth website and **social media for updates and full details. You won't want to miss it!** Contact Pastor Drew with any questions at Drew@MyersMemorialUMC.org.

MYERS YOUTH ~ SAVE THE DATE

Myers Youth are heading to Charlotte to watch Charlotte FC take on C.F. Monterrey! Seats are in Section 226 and tickets are \$30; scholarships available. Time TBD (likely evening). Sign up now at www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth!

ADULT SMALL GROUPS AND STUDIES

The 60+ Fellowship gathers on the third Thursday of each month and welcomes anyone looking for fellowship, adventure, and—of course—food! To stay in the loop about upcoming events, be sure Heather Steffey has your email address.

Saturday Adventure: Saturday, May 17: Falls Park on the Reedy, bus departs at 9a. RSVP to reserve your spot on the bus by May 12.

Thursday, May 22, 11:30a in the CFC; Medicare Questions & Answers

Thursday June 19, 11:30a at AmberJack Seafood & Steaks 4253 South New Hope Rd

Thursday July 17, 11:30a: Gaston County Museum 131 W Main St, Dallas and Front Porch Provisions 140 North Gaston Street, Dallas

Embrace Cohort The cohort is made up of millennials, gen-z, and people who might be a little older but are young-at-heart who are all committed to sharing spiritual life together. The cohort meets for monthly social events, Sunday School, and service projects. Stay tuned to our website, Facebook Page, and GroupMe for social events and small group updates.

Thursday Studies: Join Rev. Ev Stoddard for a weekly study offered at two different times on Thursdays: 10am or 6:30pm in the CFC Classroom. The current focus is on *Women in the Bible: Eve*.

Disciple Bible Study Fast Track This study is working through the New Testament and meets on Sunday nights from 6p to 7p in the CFC Classroom. Led by facilitators Allison Evanoff and Tonda Coonce.

The **Women's Small Group** meets Sundays from 7–8p in the Choir Room. Join us for support, conversation, and a book study on *Looking for Lovely* by Annie F. Downs. Laura Beatty serves as the group's facilitator.

Looking for a Good Book or Study? Check out current picks outside Heather Steffey's office, browse the Resource Library in the CFC hallway, or ask a staff member for a recommendation!



Confirmation Sunday
One Service
May 4, 2025, 10a

DEAR FRIENDS,

What a privilege to have been your Senior Pastor these 9 years. You have loved and welcomed the Queen family into your lives and for that I am most grateful. Thank you for trusting my leadership and for forming my children in their faith. I have so many celebrations of our time together: home visits, *surcies*, Christmas in July, prayer walks in the neighborhood, Myers Meals in May, learning to preach to an empty sanctuary during covid, welcoming DYEP, becoming a Lighthouse church with open doors for all, drive through events during covid, mission mania, All Saint's Day, the stained glass, Pumpkin Sunday, food scavenger hunts, preschool chapel time, yearly ministry themes, teaching, preaching, and so much more. I am blessed to have held your hands to pray, to have sat with you while you grieved, to have stood with you while you said goodbye to someone you loved, to have celebrated at your weddings, to have held your new babies and mostly to have shared life's moments with you.



It has been a joy to watch you be the CHURCH and to love each other and our community. I am grateful!

Beginning July 1, I will become the District Superintendent for the Catawba Valley District. I will be serving approximately 93 churches and over 100 clergy in Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties. I am excited about this opportunity and ask for your prayers as I step into this new way of being in ministry. I look forward to supporting clergy and churches as they offer God's love to the world.

I am excited for all that God will continue to do through the people at Myers Memorial UMC. I have already told Pastor Andy she has the "Dream Team" staff to work with and she has amazing laity to be her ministry partners. And you, my friends, are in the capable hands of a gifted and dynamic pastor. It is going to be great!!

I love you! Pastor Sally

RECESS WITH HANNAH ~ SUMMER FUN

Recess with Hannah, led by certified kids fitness coach Hannah Youngberg, brings year-round, faith-filled fun to Myers Memorial UMC! Kids of all ages enjoy active events like Kids Night Out and multi-day camps, helping them grow in faith and fitness. **Coming Up Kid's Night Out: May 3, 4:30–7:30p** and **Early Summer Camps: May 27–29 and June 30–July 3**. Stay connected on Facebook and Instagram @RecessWithHannahNC, or email RecessWithHannah@gmail.com to get updates. Pastor Sarah and Hannah are excited to continue building this wonderful ministry for our kids!

MEMORY CARE MINISTRIES AT MYERS

Myers Memorial offers meaningful support for families facing Alzheimer's and dementia. Join us for Trinity Memories Café on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11a. This welcoming space for individuals with dementia and their care partners to enjoy lunch, music, and fellowship in a stigma-free environment. Our Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, providing caregivers a safe place to share, learn, and connect with others who understand the journey. Contacts for this ministry are Mark Hanna, markeddeck@gmail.com, or Bill Wilhelm, bill.wilh46@gmail.com.

FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE www.MyersMemorialUMC.org

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A decorative graphic featuring a large, elegant script word "Celebrate" in a dark purple color. Below it, in a smaller script font, is the text "at Myers Memorial United Methodist Church". The background is white with a dense collection of small, colorful circles in shades of orange, yellow, pink, blue, and green, resembling confetti or streamers, scattered across the top right and bottom right areas. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin purple rectangular border.