

# Covenant Connections



COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GASTONIA, NC

October 2024

## *A Message from Pastor Larry...*

While I am sitting writing this newsletter, I am looking out of my office window watching the power and beauty of God. It has rained here at home for about 36 hours straight and when I say rain, I mean that rain that comes in sideways. Sharon and I have been sitting on pins and needles just waiting for another tree to fall. While we are waiting, we are also trying to entertain our two year old granddaughter, Flora. Her father, our son, and his wife, are out rescuing people; some just get stuck in a bad situation and some who are just not making smart (ok dumb) decisions and trying to do things they shouldn't be doing.

It was a long 5 hours, and now I have decided to sit back down and finish my newsletter. Let me start by saying, "Praise the Lord" all my family is safe, at least for now. All of us have had some damage. Peyton had multiple trees fall on her back deck and fence, Brad's fence was taken down by trees and his shed had a tree on it and finally the worst may have been Wes's house who had a tree fall on it. Wes has not had any time to really evaluate it because he is out taking care of everyone else in need.

Now I tell you all this to say that even in this storm, God showed his face and I'm sure he will continue to over the next few days. What I heard in the sermon at the church I attended, in Denver, CO, was that God never makes evil or bad things happen, but he can use it to serve his purpose. I saw God right after that storm when just a couple of hours after it calmed down, five neighbors pulled up in my driveway and got out with chainsaws and began cutting the tree up that was blocking my driveway. They did in about two hours what it probably would have taken me two days. My son has told me stories of how people have come out of their homes to help clear roads from downed trees that his rescue service needed to get through to get to someone who was stuck in a mudslide. This past Sunday I asked everyone to keep their eyes open for God because He will always show up during a storm. Doesn't it seem like we see the best in people when things are at their worst?

May God bless you today and every day,

*Pastor Larry*

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,  
who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*



# Covenant Prayer Corner

## Praise God!

**Judy Hoffman** – further testing showed NO cancer! Praise God!

**Linda Raxter** – discharged from the hospital, back at Baxter Village ☺

*Thankful Harold (Swanny) Swanson and Madison Armstrong are safe in the mountains!*

## New/Updated Prayer Concerns

**Dean Atkinson** – been in the hospital for several weeks, multiple issues, waiting on approval for rehab, keep Tommy Sue in prayer as well

## Continued Prayer Concerns

**Jay Raxter**

**Linda Raxter**

**Jeff & Lisa Casey\***

**Keith Pennington\***

**Beverly Cole**

**Jerry Smith\***

**Elaine Mason\***

**Libby Grose**

**Mildred McElveen**

**Carolyn Loudenslager\***

*\*Friends/family of members*

*Pray for Western North Carolina -- the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.*

*Pray for those dealing with flooding, trees, and power outages. Pray for linemen, rescue teams, police and firefighters as they help those in need.*



*Happy Birthday!*

3 Anna Gibson	19 Madison Armstrong
3 Amber Lowe	20 Darlene Raxter
5 Brenda Rodriguez	22 Sharon Cole
15 Carolyn Moore	24 Lee Raxter
19 Scott Ramsey	27 Rocco Cochran

*Happy Anniversary!*

11 Drew & Mandi Merritt - 11 yrs!  
22 Dick & Sharon Cole - 54 yrs!  
27 Matt & Katie Cochran - 12 yrs!

## September Worship Attendance & Giving

September 1	33	\$3,935
September 8	27	850
September 15	21	1,025
September 22	35	965
September 29	26	<u>1,575</u>
		\$8,350

**To meet our 2024 budget,  
we need \$2,904 weekly.**



## *We appreciate you Pastor Larry!*

*As our teacher, counselor, comforter, and one who unselfishly serves,  
let's encourage and show appreciation to our pastor!*

*This is a great time to drop a note or card and give a word  
of encouragement and pray for our pastor.*

*Find YOUR special way to say THANK YOU!*

*"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith,  
your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope  
in our Lord Jesus Christ." ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:3*

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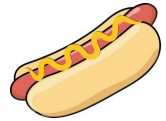


**2024 Charge Conference**  
**November 17th, 12:30 pm**  
**First United Methodist Church, Gastonia**

**Council will meet Nov. 10th at 9:15 am to prepare, all reports need to be completed by the council meeting. Church leadership are encouraged to attend.**



## October 31 Fun begins at 5:30 pm!



**Our Annual Trunk-R-Treat will begin at 5:30 with hot dogs and then time to get some treats! Join in in the fun and decorate your car and dress yourself up and pass out the treats! ☺**

**Donations of individually wrapped candy can be placed on the pew in the back hallway, thanks!**

### **No Money Needed!**






Here is some startling news! We have found a way for a church to function without money! Will you cooperate?

1. Each member will come to church during the week with a broom and mop to keep his part of the building presentable. Then a paid custodian will not be necessary.
2. Each member will take his/her turn playing the piano and directing the choir.
3. Each member will bring materials and tools to repair and remodel the building.
4. Each one must agree to spend at least a year as a missionary at this own expense on some foreign field. There will be no more missions offerings needed.
5. Each member will go to school for the required years and fulfill all the qualifications to become a pastor. We will take our turn preaching, leading the services, conducting funerals, weddings, nursing home ministries, visiting the hospitalized, shut-ins, prospective members, mowing the lawn, doing newsletters and bulletins, sending in district reports, serving in district responsibilities and guiding the administration of the church while we maintain good contact with the total community. This will save the expense of a pastor.
6. All members will bring their own hymnal, Sunday school material and youth materials. This will eliminate the materials expense.
7. Each member will bring a candle to light the building to eliminate the utility bill.

Isn't this a great idea? A new day for the church!

**WOULD YOU REALLY WANT IT THIS WAY?** If not, give God 10% of your income. Share in meeting special needs by giving "love" offerings, and the church can operate in the scriptural manner. But actually - - your church needs no money! You are the one who uses the heat, lights, water, and music; you are the one who calls on the pastor when you are in need. You are the one he holds dear in his (human) heart and longs to serve in Jesus' name. You enjoy the services of the custodian and the staff. You are the one commanded to go to the ends of the world to bring the gospel to every creature. Your missionaries go for you. So, which will it be? The weekly candles and mops, or the weekly envelopes containing the 10% tithe?

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	2	3 4:00 Kids at Work	4 	5
6 Communion 10:30 Worship	7 10:30 Women in Faith Circle Mtg	8 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	9	10 4:00 Kids at Work	11	12
13 9:15 Council Mtg 10:30 Worship	14	15 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	16	17 4:00 Kids at Work	18	19
20 10:30 Worship	21	22 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	23	24 4:00 Kids at Work	25	26 11:00 - 12:30 
27 10:30 Worship	28	29 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	30 	31 5:30 Trunk-R-Treat 	Coming in November: Nov. 10 - Council prepare for Conf. Nov. 17 - Charge Conference	





**Covenant United  
Methodist Church**

**801 W. Franklin Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28052**

**Larry Taylor  
Pastor**

**LTaylor1@wnccumc.net  
828.413.4067**

**Church Office**

**704.865.5055**  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday

**Administrative Assistant**  
Tammy Bassett  
covenantgastonia@gmail.com

**Music Director**  
Rebecca Brooks

**Church Website**  
covenantumcgastonia.com

*October 2024*

**Weekly Scheduled Activities**

**Sunday**

10:30 am Join us for worship!

**Tuesday**

10:00 am Covenant Praise Team  
6:00 pm Joyful Noise Ringers

**Thursday**

4:00 - 7:00 pm Kids at Work

**COME  
WORSHIP**  
*with us!*

**Monthly Activities**

**First Monday**

10:30 am Covenant Women in Faith Circle Meeting

**Fourth Saturday of each month**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Community Lunch