

Covenant Connection



COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GASTONIA, NC

October 2025

A Message from Pastor Melanie

“When the young man heard that command, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.” Matthew 19:22

Your life is the sum of the responses you have made toward God. Once God makes Himself known to you, what you do next is your decision. Your reaction reflects what you believe about Him. The rich, young ruler lived a moral life. He was well versed in Scripture and the law of God. But his response to Jesus' invitation clearly showed that, although he possessed a head knowledge of the teaching of God, he did not know God in an experiential way that could be demonstrated by a response of faith. (Matthew 19:16-22)

Whenever the Lord speaks to you, it will require an adjustment in your life. This truth can dramatically affect your prayer life. Every time you pray, you must be aware that if God answers your prayer and reveals His will to you, it will immediately require you to reorient your life. Each time you read your Bible, you must be prepared to obey what God tells you.

Why did God use Peter and James and John so significantly to turn their world upside down? And why were others, like the rich young ruler, never heard from again? CHOICES! The disciples chose to believe, and their belief was proven by their obedience. The rich, young ruler could not bring himself to obey, and Scripture tells us that he “went away grieving.” You are faced with the same question as the rich, young ruler. What adjustments are you willing to make in order to respond positively to Christ?

Experience God Day by Day - Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby



INSTALLATION OF CATAWBA VALLEY DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Sally W. Queen

Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 3:00 pm
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1207 West Dixon Blvd, Shelby NC

Covenant Prayer Corner

New/Updated Prayer Concerns

Lisa Casey (Culver's daughter) scheduled for neurosurgery on October 13 and another on October 22

Laura McDonald - in the hospital for two weeks with an infection, when discharged she will go back to Gaston Health Rehab, Room 221

Ongoing Prayer for Health

Beverly Cole

Mildred McElveen

Mandi Merritt

Ann Myers*

Jeff & Lisa Casey*

Linda Raxter

Harvey McDonald

**Friends/family of members*

October is "Appreciation Month"

As October approaches, within churches the month is designated to show appreciation to our pastors. We are just getting to know Pastor Melanie, but let her know she is appreciated! "Thank you for bringing us God's word each week, Pastor Melanie!" A hug or a thank you is so much appreciated! This month is also Appreciation of Church Professionals; worship staff. Thank you Rebecca for the wonderful music you bring to the worship service with the choir and the bells and your many talents! **We appreciate you both EVERY month!**

~ October Devotion ~

Even while we were still there with you we gave you this rule: "He who does not work shall not eat." 2 Thessalonians 3:10

One of the Christian's responsibilities in following Christ is to have a new attitude toward work. So many young people, as well as older Christians want Christ without responsibility. Jesus was not a drop-out. As a carpenter, He worked hard with His hands. The Apostle Paul made tents for a living while he carried on the work that God assigned him. Whatever work a Christian does is done unto the Lord. He should do his best at whatever his trade or vocation. He should be faithful, clean and honest. Thank you Lord for teaching us that work is a blessing! ~ Day By Day with Billy Graham

Our church has much work to be done not only for our place of worship, but for God's kingdom! Some may be retired from a daily job we used to do, but we are never to retire from doing God's work. Pray about what God is asking you to do for His kingdom. Simple task such as reading the scripture lesson on Sunday morning, feeding the community on fourth Saturdays, taking up the offering or even being a prayer warrior is what God may be asking you to do. Jesus greatest work was dying on a cross for you. What will you do for Him? Without working to serve Him, we cannot fully be fed! Be blessed! ~ Rebecca Brooks



Happy Birthday!

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

Happy Anniversary!

- 11 Drew & Mandi Merritt - 12 yrs!
- 22 Dick & Sharon Cole - 55 yrs!
- 27 Matt & Katie Cochran - 13 yrs!

September Worship Attendance & Giving			
September 7	22	\$1,593	
September 14	21	\$1,545	
September 21	26	\$ 887	
September 28	14	\$1,841	
<i>Craft show - \$1500!</i>			
\$2,528 is needed weekly to meet our 2025 budget.			



Trunk-r-Treat

October 31, 5:30-7:00

Hot dogs & Treats!

**Join in the fun! Decorate your car and
dress yourself up to pass out the treats!
Collecting individually wrapped candy.
Place on the pew in the back hallway.**

Upcoming Events to add to your Calendar!

November 2 - Council Meeting to prepare for conference

November 9 - Charge Conference

November 20 - Community Thanksgiving Dinner

November 29 - Hanging of the Greens

December 14 - Covenant Christmas Party

December 17 - Community Christmas Dinner

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who helped, donated funds, provided baskets, food, or crafts for our Craft & Vendor Show on September 20th.

We couldn't have done it without you!

The profit to report to date is over \$1,500.00!

This includes table space rental, food sales, basket raffle ticket sales and our craft table sales.

We decided to man a table of our own where we sold decorative Cookie-In-A-Jar Mixes, Soup-In-A-Jar Mixes, some Halloween decorations, Hot Chocolate Reindeer cones, Butterfly Plant Sticks, Inspirational plaques, Crocheted hats and other small items.

We will be offering these items for a few more Sundays in the Narthex; why not stop by and see what we have left.

We might be persuaded to accept an offer.

Again, thank you everyone! It was a lot of work, but I enjoyed working together with you again. I give God all the thanks and glory for providing a beautiful day and for giving us the strength we needed to do the job.

Pat Culver, Finance Chair



2025 Charge Conference

November 9th, 2:00 pm

held at Covenant UMC

Council will meet **Nov. 2nd at 9:15 am** to prepare, all reports need to be completed by the council meeting. All church leadership are encouraged to attend.



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting with Rev. Sally Queen, District Superintendent, will be October 12 following worship. All members are invited to attend.			1	2	3	4
5 Communion 10:30 Worship 11:30 Trustees Mtg	6 10:30 Women in Faith Circle Meeting	7 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	 8	9	10	
12 9:15 Council Mtg 10:30 Worship 11:30 Meeting with DS	13	14 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 Worship	20	21 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	22	23	24	25 11 am - 12:30 pm 
26 10:30 Worship	27 	28 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	29	30	31	 5:30 - 7:00 pm Trunk-R-Treat



**Covenant United
Methodist Church**

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

**Melanie Whaley, Pastor
828.217.3173
mwhaley1@wnccumc.net**

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



Weekly Scheduled Activities

Sunday

10:30 am Join us for worship, held in the sanctuary

9:00 am Promised Land Worship, held in the fellowship hall

9:00 am Haitian Worship, held in the chapel

Tuesday

10:00 am Covenant Praise Team

6:00 pm Joyful Noise Ringers

**COME
WORSHIP**
with us!

Monthly Activities

First Monday

10:30 am Covenant Women in Faith Circle Meeting

Fourth Saturday

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Community Lunch