

Covenant Connection



Covenant United Methodist Church

February 2023

From the Desk of the Pastor . .

It's already the end of the first month of a new year! Boy, time flies. I didn't make any New Year's resolutions because by now I would have already broken them. I will say that I am going into the new year with a new and fresh outlook. The past couple of unprecedented years have brought forward some incredible challenges. So, I say, let's all go into this 2023 year ready to be more motivated, keeping our spirits high and ready to celebrate what is in front of us, not forgetting that there may be someone out there who needs a little inspiration so that we all can emerge stronger and happier this year.

I read where Ellen Goodman, journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner said, "We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives. . . not looking for flaws, but for potential." So here is to a brighter New Year and the great things to come as we bid a fond farewell to the past couple of years, but may we never forget the memories that we hold from them.

Love you and may God bless you today and always,

Pastor Larry

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.
The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

* * * * *



*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.
If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have
kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this
so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:9-12*



A new Girl Scout Troop has begun meeting at Covenant. There are about 10 girls in the troop. They meet every Thursday from 6-8 pm on the 3rd floor. The troop leader is Leita and her assistant is Cheryl. This is a new troop and they are very excited to be together and are thankful for the use of the church. Stop in and say hello!

(Kids at Work are in the fellowship hall from 4-7 pm and the girl scouts from 6-8 pm so remember this if you are in the building on Thursdays and setting the alarm.)



Plans are to have new church directories coming out this month. Final revisions are being made so it's time to call the office if you have one. Emails are the big question....have you changed yours or do you still use it. Newsletters are sent out monthly to members emails along with information periodically.

United Women of Faith directories will be printed as well. That's the plan!

Also, the membership records do not have some dates (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) and I may be contacting you for that information.



- 1 Allison Smithers
- 1 Melisa Armstrong
- 4 Lily Lowe
- 8 Judy Hoffman
- 8 Mason Meeks
- 11 Randy Dees
- 21 Jerry Yelton III
- 23 Shawn Carpenter
- 24 Savannah Raxter
- 29 Judy Paige

Happy Anniversary!

- 13 Cam & Shawn Carpenter
- 25 Robert & Suzanne Kayler






January Giving & Worship Attendance

January 1	22	\$1,655
January 8	29	\$4,984
January 15	27	\$2,050
January 22	26	\$ 920
January 29	29	\$1,745

\$2,535 is needed weekly to meet our 2023 budget.

February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		Hand Bells resume rehearsals on February 7th	 Happy Groundhog Day Six more weeks of winter? 4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts	4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts	 let it SNOW	1:00 Celebration of Life for Ruth Houser Visitation following
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 Worship	UMW Circles 10:00 Mission Kprs 6:00 Hope Givers	10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells		4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:15 Council Meeting 10:30 Worship		Happy Valentines Day! 10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells		4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 Worship		10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells	7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship Service	4:00 Kids at Work 6:00 Girl Scouts		11:00 - 12:30  Community LUNCH
26	27	28				
1st Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship		10:00 Praise Team 6:00 Hand Bells				



*In Loving Memory of Ruth Houser
August 22, 1933 - January 28, 2023*

1 Corinthians 5:8 tells us that “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” That is where this wonderful woman is today! Ruth Houser lived life to its fullest, impacting many along the way. Everyone who knew her is grateful for time spent with her and we are certain that when she reached Heaven this morning she is dancing, as the Lord welcomed His good and faithful servant! -- Wayne Houser

Ruth passed away peacefully on January 28, 2023, surrounded by family. She was a loving daughter, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was a resident of Gastonia NC, graduate of Gaston High School and UNC Greensboro.

Ruth was predeceased by her parents Charles and Elsie Hipps, brothers R. Harold and Trevlin Hipps and nephew Jeff Hipps. She is survived by her loving husband Wayne, sons and daughters-in-law John and Linda Houser, and Dwayne and Tiffany Houser. Grandchildren John Wayne Houser and Mary Elizabeth Saussy and great-grandchild John Charles Saussy.

Ruth was a 25-year volunteer with Crisis Assistance Ministry of Gastonia and a life-long member of Covenant United Methodist Church where she was a member of the choir for many years. She enjoyed singing in the choir, vacations in Windy Hill, SC, family reunions in Maggie Valley, reading books, shopping and gift giving. She loved finding that special item to place as a gift on the bed for visiting family members.

Ruth resided with her husband Wayne Houser at Covenant Village. Of which she said it was like being back in college, but you never have to go to class! Well schools out, and you are now on an endless summer vacation. We will all join you on that vacation someday. When we do, we imagine you will meet us with a big smile and a hug and exclaim “Where have you been?!”

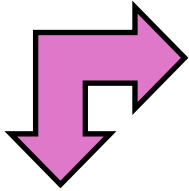
A memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday February 4th at Covenant United Methodist Church, Gastonia, NC. A visitation will follow. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Covenant United Methodist Church, 801 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28052.



**Covenant
Young & Lively
Group - 2019**

**Covenant United Methodist
Women’s Conference - 2018**





Covenant Prayer Corner

New/Updated Prayer Concerns

Amy Aldridge - healing from infection in her leg

Rebecca Brooks - healing from kidney stones and surgeries, praying the last was on Feb. 1

Jeff & Lisa Casey (Culvers daughter/husband) health concerns, Jeff is very depressed

Family of Ruth Houser - be in prayer for Wayne, sons, and her extended family

Margie Martin - in the hospital, has an infection and tested positive for COVID

Laura McDonald - recovering from heart surgery, doing well!

Scott Ramsey - healing from infection in his leg

Jay Raxter - healing from an infection in his foot

Please pray for **Elaine Mason**, wife of former pastor David Mason. Elaine will be having aortic heart valve replacement surgery on February 7th. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Continued Prayer Concerns

Libby Grose

Dean Atkinson

Dennis Dees

Sarah Bentley

Beverly Cole

Ina Jones

Don Oglesby

Jerry Smith

Sarah Bentley has been moved to Peak Resources in Cherryville. She is in Memory Care.

Sarah can have visitors, however, she does not have a phone in her room. That will be difficult for her because we all know how she likes to call and chat 😊 Be in prayer for Sarah, here is her address: **Peak Resources, Sarah Bentley, Rm 310**

7615 Dallas Cherryville Hwy Cherryville, NC 28021

Our Christian Sympathy is expressed to Harvey, Laura and Family of the recent death of Harvey's sister, Doris Hill. Laura and Harvey have cared for Doris for several years in their home, she passed away January 11 at the hospital under Hospice Care, she was 87 years old. Remember the McDonald family in prayer.

Hello Remarkable Church Family!

The past year has been the hardest year of my life! B.A. loved me, our daughter Leanne, our entire family, his church, his preacher, and basically everyone he came into contact with, selfishly and with his WHOLE heart! When able, he would do anything for anyone and always did! My heart is broken into pieces today, however, I know he is made whole again! He is giving our Heavenly Father one of his huge hugs (if you ever met him, you have had one of these) and telling Him all about Carolina Tar Heels basketball!

I also realized a piece of my heart is living in heaven. We miss him so very much!!! We are the ones hurting, not him! I would give anything for one more anything with him. Love your family a little more, hug them a little tighter if they are still here with you! Thank you for all the prayers and calls. It was not for lack of praying on his behalf. We will see him again one day and we will spend eternity together!

Peace and Love,

Carolyn Moore and Leanne too!

March 11th is the 1 year anniversary of B.A. going to heaven.



**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

February 2023



Regular Scheduled Activities

Sunday

10:30 am Join us for worship!

Tuesday

10:00 am Covenant Praise

6:00 pm Joyful Noise Ringers

Thursday

4:00 - 7:00 pm Kids at Work

6:00 - 8:00 pm Girl Scouts

**COME
WORSHIP
with us!**

Monthly Activities

First Monday

10:00 am Mission Keepers Women's Circle

6:00 pm Hope Givers Women's Circle

Fourth Saturday of each month

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Community Lunch