

September
2024
Volume 15
Issue 9



First Methodist Church of Havelock Newsletter

From the Pastor

September 1973 – Psalm 70

Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O Lord. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt. Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha. Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified. But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O Lord, make no tarrying. (Psalm 70 KJV)

I was only eighteen in September 1973 when I left my Orangeburg, South Carolina hometown. I began my freshman year at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. I was anxious about being away from home even though I had attended Upward Bound (a college preparatory program on the campus of Claflin University). However, the blue book time came for mid-term, and I did not do very well on my test. Immediately, I called my sister, Carolyn, who prayed and advised me on many things about Jesus Christ and faith. I witnessed her unique gifts and how she helped my high school friend during his speech at our graduation. She gave him some Biblical scriptures to read, which was like a miracle for him. She also helped a lot of people in the community spiritually. Consequently, she told me to read my Bible daily and gave me Psalm 70, the King James Version. I read it constantly and the entire Bible and finished all sixty-six books three times.

My roommates saw that I was reading my little white Bible in my room, the library, and the gym and carrying it daily with my other books. Many of the students began to call me negative names, but it did not bother me because I was blessed, and all my blue book tests did a complete 180-degree turnaround. I felt blessed and more confident about my future as a freshman at Johnson C. Smith University.

Reaching out to my sister and her giving me Psalm 70 was truly a blessing. Over my theological studies, I have done my exegesis and hermeneutics research on what King David may have been experiencing. I have gained knowledge and wisdom over the last fifty-one years from receiving this special holy anointing scripture that was earmarked for me during my struggles and afflictions.

When God has given me saints to help guide and direct my path, I pause and "O, I give humble thanks and praise to the Trinity; God the Father God the Son and God the Holy Ghost..." I have been in the ministry for over 30 years, and my hallmark scripture is Psalm 70. Furthermore, I have recommended this scripture to hundreds of people at the churches I have served and others.

In short, we are our brethren's keepers. Jesus had blessed me to have a spiritual sister that helped me along the way. Therefore, I am compelled to help others along my path. I challenge you to read and meditate on Psalm 70 daily and I believe it will make a difference in your life.

Happy Church Anniversary and Homecoming 2024.

Blessings,

Servant of Christ



Reverend, Johnnie L. Wright II, Pastor

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- 2 This Month at FMC
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This Month at FMC

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S)	2 Church office closed 	3 6pm Board of Trustees (CR) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	4 5:30pm Cantata Rehearsal (A) 6:15pm Choir (A)	5 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	6	7
8 8am Methodist Men (FH) 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 5pm Youth 	9	10 10:30am Bible Study (FH) 6pm Church Council (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	11 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 9am Craft Day (FH) 4pm Sweet Hour of Prayer (Chapel) 5:30pm Cantata Rehearsal (A) 6:15pm Choir (A) 	12 7am Rotary Club (FH) 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	13	14
15 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 5pm Youth 	16 6:30pm Joy Circle (FH)	17 10:30am Bible Study (FH) 4:45pm to 6pm Preschool Book Fair (FH) 6pm Quilt Guild (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	18 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 5:30pm Cantata Rehearsal (A) 6:15pm Choir (A)	19 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	20 	21 9am Quilt Guild (FH)
22 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 11am Heritage Sunday Luncheon (FH) 5pm Youth 	23 12pm Faithful Circle (FH)	24 10:30am Bible Study (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	25 7am Men's Bible Study (FH) 9am Craft Day (FH) 4pm Sweet Hour of Prayer (Chapel) 5:30pm Cantata Rehearsal (A) 6:15pm Choir (A)	26 7am Rotary Club (FH) 10am Women of Matthew 18:20 (FH) LOVE=54 with Pastor Johnnie	27	28
29 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (S) 5pm Youth	30					



Prayer List

Please remember in prayer: Natasha Adams, Laura Anderson & Family, Dale & Jackie Attaway, Helen Bare, Helen Bayer, Jim Blaylock & his brother & sister, Ann Bloxom, Bill Britt, Johnny Cauquett, Melanie Chambers, Coverly Chapman, Chris & Nicole, Paula Cowles, Yvonne Denton, Pat Faulkner, Steve & Beth Fowler, Steve Fuller, the Gardner family, Josephine Graddick, Pat Hardee-Thompson, Irma Heerwig, Erin Henderson, Marlene Lynch, Louis McCormick, Preston Mead, Randal Middleton, Jonathon Morgan, Cynthia Mulligan, Rev. Curtis Murphy, Jeanne Puterbaugh, Shirley Reynolds, Chris Roten, Cherrie & Jimmy Sanders, Neil & Joan Scarborough, Tom & Deanna Schmidt, Frances Sides, Hloan Siu & family, Dedin Smith, Levern Staley, Carene Stover, Debbie Stowell, Mike Thompson, Jenny Walsh, Andy Watson, and Gayle & H. G. Westberg

Prayer requests can be made by placing a prayer request card in the offering plate during Sunday worship, contacting the church office, or submitting online: <https://havelockfirst.churchtrac.com/card/4>. All requests will be kept confidential.



Birthdays

- September 4 Linda Eldredge, Jim Blaylock
- September 8 Louis McCormick
- September 9 Eunice Twiddy
- September 10 Micheal Kennedy
- September 13 Thomas MacLaird
- September 15 Christopher Siu
- September 17 Cherrie Sanders
- September 18 Annette Wright, Jazmine Aranaydo
- September 22 Leia Massey
- September 24 Linda Rawls
- September 26 Donna Mock
- September 28 Alice Martin, Fred Eldredge, Roberta Blaylock
- September 30 Phil Gardner, Pat Faulkner

Anniversaries

- September 1 Pastor Johnnie and Annette Wright
- September 18 Sean and Marlene Lynch
- September 24 Eric and Alison Jimenez
Louis and Sandi McCormick

September Servants

Ushers

	10:00 a.m.
September 1	Cherrie Sanders Larry Thompson Marty Metzger
September 8	Judy Simmons Pete Geier Jim Blaylock
September 15	Peggy Geier Norm Reynolds Larry Thompson
September 22	Debbie Hurst Arden Carter Donna Carter
September 29	Jimmy Sanders Larry Thompson Marty Metzger

Greeters are listed first. Please contact Pat Hardee-Thompson at (252) 229-1655 or hardeepat5@gmail.com if you cannot serve on the designated Sunday.

Liturgist

	10:00 a.m.
September 1	Jackie Attaway
September 8	Linda Eldredge
September 15	Annette Wright
September 22	Linda Eldredge
September 29	Peggy Geier

Children's Message

	10:00 a.m.
September 1	Jackie Attaway
September 8	Linda Eldredge
September 15	Annette Wright
September 22	Linda Eldredge
September 29	Jackie Attaway

Is this something you feel called to do? Please contact Jackie Attaway, jattaway@ec.rr.com or (252) 229-8701.

Acolyte

	10:00 a.m.
September 1	To be determined
September 8	Amelia Thurston
September 15	Tary Siu
September 22	Nate Thurston
September 29	Tary Siu

Nursery

	10:00 a.m.
September 1	Judy Simmons
September 8	Cherrie Sanders
September 15	Judy Simmons
September 22	Judy Simmons
September 29	Cherrie Sanders

Notes from the Lay Leader

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.

Suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. And suppose the ear says, "I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body." By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.

The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you!" The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" In fact, it is just the opposite. The parts of the

body that seem to be weaker are the ones we can't do without. The parts that we think are less important we treat with special honor. The private parts aren't shown. But they are treated with special care. The parts that can be shown don't need special care. But God has put together all the parts of the body. And he has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any. In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy.

You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

This scripture describes the church to a tee because it assures us that each congregation member is important. No one is more important than anyone else. All souls are needed to further the kingdom of our God through our actions, not only in the church building but throughout the week at the grocery store, school, gas station, bank, or a friend's home. Anywhere we may find ourselves

during the week. Anywhere we can serve as disciples of Jesus, following His example.

We all have a part in the congregation. Do you pray for others? Do you take a meal to someone who may need it? Do you pull weeds in the churchyard? Do you serve in the worship service as an usher, liturgist, acolyte, choir member, or meet people at the door as a greeter? Do you visit a shut-in, a new mother, someone who just had surgery, or someone who may need to see a friendly smile? Do you volunteer in the community at a school, as a committee member for the city, by helping clean up our community, or visiting a rest home? These are just a few ways we can serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Remember, no one in the church is more important than another. We are all equal in the eyes of our God. Let's continue to care for each other, love each other, and honor each other.

We are all a part of the body!

God bless us, everyone,

Jackie Attaway, Lay Leader

Altar Flowers

September 1	Pastor Johnnie & Annette Wright
September 8	To be determined
September 15	To be determined
September 22	To be determined
September 29	To be determined

If you want to donate flowers or make a donation to a mission in lieu of flowers, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/2024altarflowers> or contact Krystal Bennett in the Church Office.

Adult Sunday School Teacher

We want to restart the **Achievers for Christ** Adult Sunday School Class. The time will be on Sunday at 8:45 a.m. The meeting place will be determined later. If you are interested in teaching this class, please get in touch with Pat Hardee-Thompson at hardeepat5@gmail.com or 252-229-1655.



Our Little Island in the Parking Lot

Our Little Island has been a busy place this past month. We have been providing books and food to our community. Watching people put a can of vegetables or fruit in the Blessing Box or a book in the Little Library is such a blessing. Watching someone take books or food out is an equal blessing.

Everyone can participate in this outreach. When shopping, grab an extra nonperishable food item and place it in the Blessing Box or purchase a book for the Little Library. Shop your own home. Did you buy a can of soup you are not fond of? If so, bring it to Blessing Box. Someone will love it. Have you read a good book, or have your children outgrown some? Bring them to the Little Library. There are those in our community that will enjoy them.

What a great congregation that supports this mission to our community! Thank you for your faithfulness.



School Personnel Luncheon

What a joyful time with lots of good food, conversation, and a fabulous gathering at our tenth year of hosting the School Personnel Luncheon. Invitations were sent to all schools so all personnel could join in lunch at our church, and they came out.

Thanks to everyone who provided salads, crackers, drinks, etc. Thanks to all who set up tables and chairs and put them away. Thanks to those who prayed for the luncheon. It takes a village.

We already have some new ideas for next year. If you have some suggestions, please let the Methodist Women know.



The Extraordinary Amid the Ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!



Food Pantry Item of Need

The item of need for September is mayonnaise. The food pantry baskets are in the Narthex and the rear of the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

The food pantry needs volunteers. They are open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. They are located at 925 E Main St, Havelock, NC.

The Gift of Work

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

Goals for Your Church

Pastor and professor Howard Clinebell Jr. described the ideal local church as one that strives to become "a healing, growth-stimulating, redemptive organism." Each congregation, he wrote, should work to develop "a dynamic climate of mutual concern which gradually seeps into and saturates the whole fellowship."

How can your church body meet those goals? For starters, compare your mission, ministry, outreach, and attitudes to the early church.

The New Testament reveals that a fellowship of believers should engage in these activities together: worshiping (Acts 2:46-47), studying (Acts 2:42), witnessing (Acts 2:44-47; 3:9), serving (Acts 6:1-6; 20:35), loving (Hebrews 10:24), praying (Acts 1:14; 12:12), cooperating (Acts 1:11-14; 2:1; 4:23) and suffering for the sake of the gospel (Hebrews 10:32-34; Philippians 1:29).

In addition, Jesus calls New Testament believers to live joyfully (Acts 2:46; 5:40-41; 13:50-52; 16:25), courageously (Acts 4:13; 4:29; 15:26), powerfully (1 Corinthians 4:20), enthusiastically (Acts 2:43-47) and generously (Acts 2:45; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12). May the Holy Spirit equip us to heal, grow and mutually edify one another!



Preschool News

The month of August flew by as the teachers at First Methodist Preschool worked diligently to create



engaging classrooms for our preschool friends. We are so excited to start the 2024-2025 school year on September 3rd and 4th. With the coming school year, we will be placing the giving tree back in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 1st. If you would like to give to the preschool, please take a leaf from the tree and shop that item. Once you have shopped that item, please place it outside of the director's office. Your continued support is greatly appreciated at FMP.

Blessings,

Cassie Mosley, Preschool Director

Special Events:

Sept. 3rd - 2 Day and 5 Day Friends First Day

Sept. 4th - 3 Day Friends First Day

Sept. 17th - Back to School Night/Scholastics Bookfair

Sept. 20th - No School

The Significance of Patriot Day

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating

September 11 as

Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."



National Back to Church Sunday

Mark Your Calendars! Back to Church Sunday is on September 15!

Are you ready to reconnect, rekindle your faith, and reignite your spirit? Join us for a worship at 10:00 a.m. at First Methodist Church of Havelock! Whether you've been away for a while or are looking for a new church home, we welcome you with open arms to our Bible-based community church.

Come as you are and experience the love and joy of our church family. Let's make this a day to remember!

Nursery Starting

Starting August 4, 2024, we began offering a Nursery for children ages Birth to Four (4) years of age. We have two volunteers that have taken on the responsibility of staying with the children during our 10 a.m. Worship Service. If you are interested in volunteering for this service, please contact Pat Hardee-Thompson as soon



as possible so that a schedule can be prepared for each Sunday. We will need a background check and Safe Sanctuary training before starting this service and you can be informed how to do this.

Being Christ Amid Pain

In December 2023, a tanker truck carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline tipped on its side in Totona, Liberia. For two hours, a party atmosphere ensued as people living in poverty rushed to gather gas dripping from the vehicle. But then, the tanker suddenly exploded. Dozens of people died instantly or were severely burned. Thousands have endured deep trauma and grief. How could life go on? Where was God?

Yet, life did go on — not easily, but in this way: Medical staff and others rallied to care for all who were suffering physically and emotionally. A nearby church held comforting worship services, and its choir went to homes to sing messages of hope. Parishes and disaster-response ministries sent teams from near and far to support people through post-traumatic stress, income loss due to disability, the birth of babies whose young fathers had died in the blast, children's transition back to school and more.

These Christian caregivers and comforters couldn't bring instant, perfect healing. But by connecting with people who were grieving and struggling, they have become the presence of Christ.

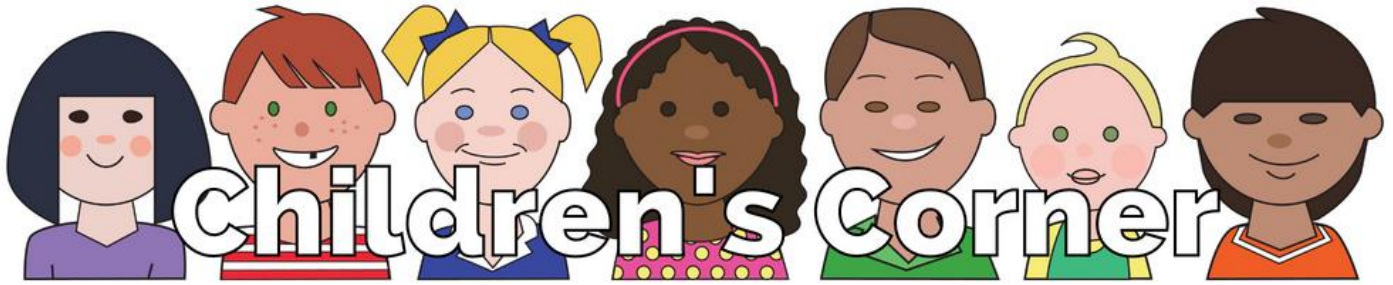
Where is God? There, in the midst and aftermath of pain, working unceasingly to bring new life.

—Heidi Hyland Mann (source: Living Lutheran, May 13, 2024)

A Hymn

O God of earth and altar,
bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter,
our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,
the swords of scorn divide,
Take not thy thunder from us,
but take away our pride.

—G.K. Chesterton



a Brainy breakfast

Add a smart start to your school day with

superfoods

that promote a healthy body and mind.

What you need:

- Large bowl
- 1 medium avocado
- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- Salt
- Whole wheat toast
- Pumpkin seeds, chopped
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Mash the avocado in the bowl.
2. Chop the eggs into cubes and add to the bowl.
3. Add salt to taste. Mix well.
4. Spread over two pieces of toast. Top with chopped pumpkin seeds.
5. Adjust this recipe with your favorite flavors. Add herbs, "everything bagel" seasoning or hot sauce.
6. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

Puzzle!

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV). Put the words in order on the spaces below to complete the Bible verse.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes bread comes ✕ in whoever
hungry go life me me never to never the the of will
will thirsty whoever

T	E	1	R	S	U	V	W	A	M	X	Y	Z	A	B	T	H	E	I
J	K	L	M	B	R	E	A	D	N	P	O	F	Q	R	L	I	F	E
D	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
B	C	D	F	C	O	M	E	S	G	H	I	J	T	O	K	L	M	E
N	W	I	L	L	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	N	E	V	E	R	V	W
Z	Y	Z	B	C	A	G	O	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	H	U	N	G	R	Y	N	A	N	D	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	W	H	O	E	V	E	R
M	N	O	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
V	W	X	Y	Z	I	N	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	M	E	U	V	W	X	Y	A	B	C	D
D	E	F	W	I	L	L	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	N	E	V	E	R	A	B	C	D	B	E	D
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	T	H	I	R	S	T	Y	O	P	Q

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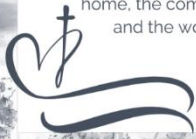
_____"

- John 6:35, NIV

Answer: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV



Sharing Christ's love in the
home, the community,
and the world!



Newsletter Editor: Krystal Bennett
Submission Deadline is September 20,
2024

The Church Staff

Reverend Johnnie L. Wright II, Pastor
Nancy Rhodes, Treasurer
Krystal Bennett, Church Administrator
Krystal Bennett, Music Director

Church Office: (252) 447-3541

Pastor's Phone: (919) 880-5789

Email: secretary@havelockfirst.org

Website: havelockfirst.org

Facebook: facebook.com/havelockfirst

Instagram: [@havelockfirst](https://instagram.com/havelockfirst)

Twitter: [@havelockfirst](https://twitter.com/havelockfirst)

YouTube: [@havelockfirst](https://youtube.com/havelockfirst)

