

November
2024
Volume 15
Issue 11



First Methodist Church of Havelock Newsletter

From the Pastor

God created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden of many types of food to eat but with some restrictions on their choices. The happily married couple had a great beginning in life in the Garden of Eden (called a paradise by many theologians). Like Adam and Eve, there are other accounts of God's handiwork manifested in the Bible.



We celebrate Thanksgiving, a time when we plan a meal with family and our communities. This is an important season as we prepare, invite, eat, fellowship, enjoy, and relax on this highly celebrated day. Let us be inclusive, breaking bread together with those who are different, for God's Table is available to all.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Blessings,

Servant of Christ, Reverend, Johnnie L. Wright II, Pastor

Come to God's Table

First, God's angels and prophets visited those who were physically and spiritually hungry (Genesis 2:1-24). Secondly, Abraham rushed and prepared a meal with his choice animals for the angels who visited him and brought him Good News about the heir to the Israel nation (Genesis 18:1-8). Third, the rich man in his palace enjoyed a scrumptious meal with his friends and dignitaries, but Lazarus, the poor beggar, was never invited inside to the meal (Luke 16:19-31). Next, Jesus invited himself to a meal at Zacchaeus', the tax collector's house (Luke 19:1-11). While there, Zacchaeus repented and promised to repay those he cheated. Finally, just before he was betrayed, Jesus invited all twelve of his disciples to the table for two meals on the night of the Passover meal and the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is very important to observe in Jesus' invitation that Judas Iscariot was among the twelve.

In conclusion, church family, we are in the season when we

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This Month at FMC

November 2024

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

Food Pantry Item of Need

The item of need for November is **instant mashed potatoes**. The food pantry basket is in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. 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.

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Bible Quiz

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas



Answer: A (See Acts 8:26-40)

Prayer List

Please remember in prayer: Natasha Adams, Laura Anderson & Family, Dale & Jackie Attaway, Helen Bare, Helen Bayer, Jim Blaylock & family, Ann Bloxom, Bill Britt, Johnny Cauquett, the family of Melanie Chambers, Coverly Chapman, Chris & Nicole, Paula Cowles, Yvonne Denton, Pat Faulkner, Steve & Beth Fowler, the Gardner family, Josephine Graddick, Irma Heerwig, Johnnie Johnston, Rick & Susan Kennedy, Marlene Lynch, Louis McCormick, Preston Mead, Jonathon Morgan, Cynthia Mulligan, Jeanne Puterbaugh, Shirley Reynolds, Chris Roten, Jimmy Sanders, Neil & Joan Scarborough, Tom & Deanna Schmidt, Frances Sides, Hloan Siu & family, Devin Smith, Carene Stover, Debbie Stowell, Kayla & Eloise Thomas, Mike Thompson, Jenny Walsh, Andy Watson, Gayle & H. G. Westberg, and Jane Widener

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

- November 9 Helen Britt
- November 16 Christy MacLaird
- November 21 Alex Ariola, Patrick Modlin
- November 23 Tary Siu
- November 24 Nathan Howard, Neil Scarborough

Anniversaries

- November 18 Norm and Shirley Reynolds
- November 27 Wylie and Sara Marsh



Please welcome Wylie and Sara Marsh to our church family. They joined us on September 29, 2024.



November Servants

Ushers

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| November 3 | Ed Bloxom Norm Reyndolds Marty Metzger |
| November 10 | Linda Eldredge Pete Geier Jim Blaylock |
| November 17 | Judy Simmons Norm Reynolds Larry Thompson |
| November 24 | Debbie Hurst Arden Carter Donna Carter |

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

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| November 3 | Annette Wright |
| November 10 | Jimmy Sanders |
| November 17 | Linda Eldredge |
| November 24 | Peggy Geier |

Children's Message

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| November 3 | Annette Wright |
| November 10 | Jackie Attaway |
| November 17 | Linda Eldredge |
| November 24 | Jackie Attaway |

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

Acolyte

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| November 3 | Tary Siu |
| November 10 | Nate Thurston |
| November 17 | Amelia Thurston |
| November 24 | Tary Siu |

Nursery

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| November 3 | Cherrie Sanders |
| November 10 | Judy Simmons |
| November 17 | Cherrie Sanders |
| November 24 | Judy Simmons |

Altar Flowers

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| November 3 | To be determined |
| November 10 | To be determined |
| November 17 | To be determined |
| November 24 | Anonymous |

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.

Notes from the Lay Leader

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)

"Give thanks to Him." Will we wait? Will we wait to praise our Lord and His goodness? Will we wait to praise our Lord and His goodness on Thanksgiving?

What a great holiday Thanksgiving is. Most families gather to enjoy a meal and fellowship with each other, catch up on each other's lives, talk about their future dreams for their lives, and thank our Lord for His blessings.

You know, we are not promised tomorrow. We are unsure when the end of our days on this earth will be. I believe this should make us want to "give thanks to Him" daily. The mercies we are offered each day are completely free. We all talk about the economy and how much we must spend to feed our families. Still, the greatest gift we can receive is absolutely free if we ask. No getting in our car, purchasing gas, driving to the store, picking out what we will cook, standing in line to pay, loading into our car, unloading into our house, putting items in storage, getting out of storage, cooking, and serving -- exhausting and costly. But the greatest gift is ABSOLUTELY FREE for the asking.

While I love Thanksgiving and believe it is a great time to sum up our blessings, let's remember each day is a blessing. Let's remember to be thankful for our blessings each and every day.

"GIVE THANKS TO HIM!"

God bless us, everyone,

Jackie Attaway, Lay Leader

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.

Backpack Blessings

It's time for another great time of packing weekend food bags for kids in Jones, Craven and Pamlico Counties! As our thoughts turn toward November and we begin to count our blessings, we do well to remember those for whom safe, nutritious and adequate food is not a reality. Help us make a difference by signing up to pack weekend food bags. We need to pack 5000 on November 11 and 12 and we need YOU to help! Here is the link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4BA9AB2AAoFDO-52686002-november>

Grace and Gifts

Mark your calendar for November 2nd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. so you won't miss the Grace and Gifts Craft Sale! This event will feature our popular bake sale, quilt raffle, frozen food sale, plant sale, and many handmade gift items!

The Methodist Men will be having a barbecue dinner during the sale. Plates will include barbecue pork, baked beans, potatoes, roll, and a drink for \$12 per plate.

Please invite your friends to join us for a day of gift shopping, great food, and a time of fellowship with our entire community!



Little Island in the Parking Lot

What a joy it is to see someone drive, ride a bike, or walk into our parking lot and stop at our little island. Some drop off a book or a nonperishable food item to bless someone. While others are recipients of these blessings. Either give us a reason to praise God for all His blessings and for allowing us to bless others in His name.

As we transition into cooler weather, a hot meal is certainly appreciated. Canned meat, cereal, boxed milk, canned meals, and veggies are needed to aid those with food insecurities. You can put your donations in the Blessing Box, the container by the door to the Fellowship Hall, or the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall.

Nights are getting longer, so more time is being spent inside. What a great time to sit and read a great book. Our Little Library is a fabulous place to obtain or donate a good book. Donations can be placed in the Little Library, the container by the door to Fellowship Hall, or the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Be sure to grab yourself a good read.

Your support for this community outreach is greatly appreciated.

Monthly Fellowship Luncheon

The Church Council voted to have a Fellowship meal on the first Sunday of each month. We will share in feeding our souls by taking communion and feeding our bodies.

All are welcome to share a meal. Invite your neighbors, your family, and your friends. Let's get to know each other and how we can help each other.

Come out on Nov 3 to enjoy a meal and fellowship time. Jimmy and Cherrie Sanders will be our hosts.

Each month, someone or a group of people will host the meal. This does not mean they have to prepare the entire meal. Just do the planning and organizing. People have volunteered through February. If you would like to host a meal, let Jackie Attaway know.

Be Prepared...to Wait

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God's goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord," says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That's an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus?

—Janna Firestone

A Sainly Prayer

Seminary professor Thomas S. Kepler (1897-1963) was known for his spiritual depth and total dedication to God. At Kepler's funeral, Oberlin College president Robert Carr read these words that the professor had once penned while traveling:

"This night ... I pledge myself, O God, to take upon myself all saintly disciplines with renewed vigor and purity of intent. May every thought, word and action from here on portray in my life thy joyous fruits in my Christian living and example! My great desire and goal is to be a real saint in the world — an example of Christ in all that I do. May thy grace, power and wisdom uphold, guide and support me in this renewed dedication.

"Only thou, O God, art my witness of this pledge. Others will know of this pledge between thee and me as my life shows the fruits of this pledge. So help me God. Your child, Tom Kepler"

Thankful Thoughts

"The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank." That quote from 19th-century painter Daniel Rossetti is often misattributed to Christian apologist G.K. Chesterton. In fact, Chesterton springboarded off Rossetti's statement to elaborate on thankfulness.

"The converse of this proposition is also true," said Chesterton, "and it is certain that this gratitude produced ... the most purely joyful moments that have been known to man. [Rossetti] boasted that he mixed all his colors with brains, and the great saint may be said to mix all his thoughts with thanks."

Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, grazing at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus' free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53, NIV). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, "Starving people aren't interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus — where to find food. It consumes their whole existence. ... That's how we should hunger for God!"

Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God's blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let's share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

A Different Kind of King

As Jesus himself taught, denial of ourselves leads us to find ourselves (see, for example, Matthew 16:24-25). The crucifixion is the ultimate expression of such self-denial. The all-powerful God of the universe submitting willingly to having all power stripped away. How could that be imaginable? Even more, how could that be true?

And yet it was. For Jesus, as for us, this is what it means to steward our power well. Jesus' death was not just a necessary price for humanity's failure and restoration. It was that, of course. But it was also the incomparable and ultimate demonstration of what God-like power looks like in its expression of self-restraint.

—Uli Chi, *The Wise Leader*

Preschool News

An important part of American heritage is the story of the British who planted Plymouth colony. The first winter



in this new land was so difficult that they rationed their supply of corn to five kernels per person, per day. Several years later, when the first Thanksgiving occurred the crops were much more plentiful. During this, they still started their meal with only 5 kernels of corn to remember what God had brought them through. They truly had the understanding of what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:12-13 "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry whether living in plenty or in want. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need." Throughout the next few months of holiday chaos, I pray that we all take the time to remember the faithfulness and blessings of God.

Blessings,

Cassie Mosley, Preschool Director

Special Events:

Nov. 5th – No School

Nov. 11th – No School

Nov. 15th – Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing

Nov. 25th and 26th – Thanksgiving Feast

Nov. 27th – Dec. 1st – Thanksgiving break

Veterans Day Salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.



Thank You!

We want to give a HUGE "thank you" to our folks at FMC and friends in our Havelock community for all of your donations to help keep our WNC brothers and sisters in Christ warm in this cold weather season! Dozens of coats, blankets, warm clothing, and accessories were boxed up, bagged up, labeled, and shipped off this past week. We pray that with each item used, WNC will feel the love and comfort of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



With Gladness and Thanksgiving

... The long day of the year is almost done,
and nature in the sunset musing stands,
gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,
looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...

Empty and folded are her busy hands;
her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,
as in the twilight of the year she stands,
and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,
in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,
and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,
and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.

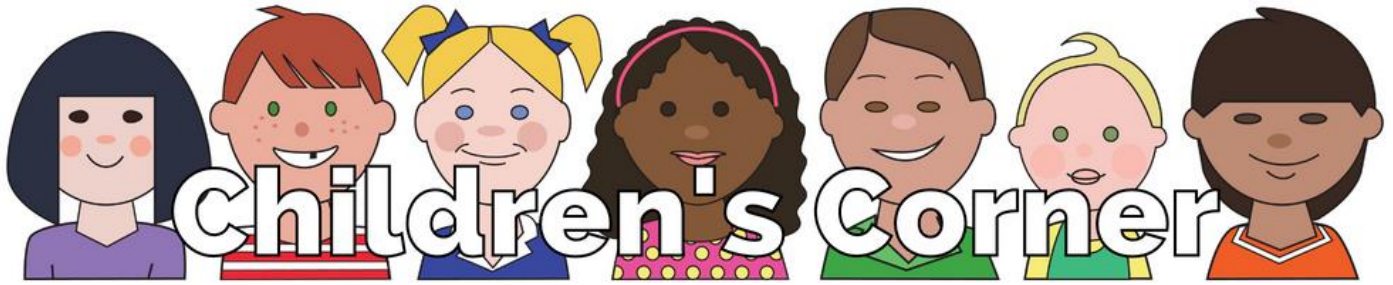
—Kate Seymour Maclean (1829-1916)

What Your Heart Clamors to Do

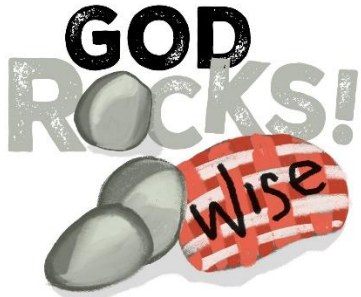
We often speak of pastors as having a divine "calling." God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God's people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a "call"?

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a father doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby's diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that "work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do," and that "we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride." What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is your divine call?



Children's Corner



Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

What you need:

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.



BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Psalm 145:8 | SGAICURO | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Job 36:5 | HGIYMT | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Psalm 90:2 | LTAVREENISG | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2 Peter 3:9 | INETTPA | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:24 | FUFHIATL | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Isaiah 40:25 | OYHL | _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ |

Help me, Lord my __od;
 save __e __ccording __o
 your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV

Answers: gracious, mighty, everlasting, patient, faithful, holy; Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your unfailing love; Psalm 109:26, NIV



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

Newsletter Editor: Krystal Bennett
Submission Deadline is November 22, 2024

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