

# the Messenger

Volume 26 Issue 3

Fall 2024

## FALL INTO WORSHIP AT MYERS

Join us for Worship each Sunday at 9a and 11a in the Sanctuary and via live stream on Facebook, YouTube, and the Church Website. Communion at Myers Memorial UMC is offered on the first Sunday of each month and is open to all who desire a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Discipleship 101: August 4 ~ September 1 **We're heading back to school and you're enrolled! Class is in session each Sunday morning and we'll dive deeper into what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ.** Join us as we explore, learn, and remind ourselves of the daily practices of our faith. Grab a notebook in the Narthex, or use your phone app to take notes!

Choose Peace: September 8 ~ October 20 Our 2024 ministry theme at Myers Memorial UMC is *PEACE*. The Western North Carolina Annual Conference is providing resources for pastors and congregations to engage in peacemaking work this fall. Our clergy have decided to take part in this work and invite you to do the same. The months surrounding the upcoming elections present a ripe opportunity for our faithful witness as United Methodists in how we foster deep and meaningful relationships that shape the Beloved Community in the face of political and theological divides. We hope you will join us as we strive to *Choose Peace* and become Ambassadors of Peace in our world.

Ever Wonder? What do you wonder about? Let us know! There will be a box in the Narthex to receive your 'wonders' as well as an anonymous online form at [tiny.cc/MyersWonders](http://tiny.cc/MyersWonders).

## OUR MISSION

The Mission of Myers Memorial United Methodist Church is to cultivate a Christ-centered community that welcomes, loves, and serves one another & the world.



## OUR VISION

Together God's life grows in us, so that we can share that life with others.

## Cultivating

### A CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

Worship on Sundays at 9a and 11a

On-site and Live-Stream  
via Facebook, YouTube & Church Website

- Aug 3: Soul Sneakers, 9a
- Aug 4: Communion Sunday, Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a, Youth 5p
- Aug 5-8: Mission Mania, 9a-1p
- Aug 8: Joy Circle, 12p
- Aug 10: DYEP School Supply Giveaway, 1p, CFC
- Aug 11: Christian Education Sunday, Bible Presentation, Blessing of the Backpacks, Teacher Recognition; Worship, 9 & 11a; Sunday School, 10a; Family Olympics (Children & Youth), 5p
- Aug 14: Trinity Memories Café, 11a
- Aug 15: 60+ Fellowship, Honey Baked Ham, 11:30a
- Aug 17: DYEP Volunteer Meeting, 10a
- Aug 18: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a; Wonder & Youth 5p; Kate Bowler Study, 6:30p
- Aug 23: DYEP Parent Meeting, 6p, CFC
- Aug 25: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a; Wonder & Youth, 5p; Book Study, 6:30p
- Aug 28: Music Ministry Dinner, 6p, CFC
- Sept 1: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a
- Sept 2: Church Office Closed, Labor Day
- Sept 5: Thursday Studies, 10a & 6:30p
- Sept 7: Soul Sneakers, 9a
- Sept. 8: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a; Wonder & Youth, 5p; Disciple 1, 5:30p; Book Study, 6:30p
- Sept 9: DYEP Resumes, M-W, 5:30-8p
- Sept 11: Trinity Memories' Café, 11a
- Sept 12: Thursday Studies, 10a & 6:30p; Joy Circle, 12p
- Sept 15: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a; Disciple's Path begins, 10a & 5p; Wonder & Youth, 5p; Disciple 1, 5:30p; Book Study, 6:30p
- Sept 19: Thursday Studies, 10a & 6:30p; 60+ Fellowship, Bush-n-Vine, 11a
- Sept 22: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a; Disciple's Path, 10a & 5p; Wonder & Youth, 5p; Disciple 1, 5:30p; Kate Bowler Study, 6:30p
- Sept 26: Thursday Studies, 10a & 6:30p
- Sept 29: Worship, 9a & 11a; Sunday School 10a; Disciple's Path, 10a & 5p; Wonder & Youth, 5p; Disciple 1, 5:30p; Book Study, 6:30p

PUMPKIN SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 6TH  
45th Anniversary of The Pumpkin Patch  
Worship @ 10a ~ Potluck Lunch @ 11a  
Pumpkins Arrive at 12p!

## PUMPKIN SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10A

We worship together in one service at 10a as we celebrate the 45th Anniversary as the Pumpkin Church! Our Youth will lead us in Worship followed by a pot luck lunch as we await the semi-truck filled with pumpkins around noon! Wear Your Orange!

## A DISCIPLE'S PATH

Pastor Sally will be offering two small group opportunities this Fall using a resource called *A Disciples Path*. This six-week study for deepening your relationship with Christ is perfectly suited for **all who want to grow as Christ's disciples** and especially for those who are newer to United Methodism. Beginning September 15, the class will be offered Sunday mornings at 10a and on the following six Sunday evenings at 5p September 15, 29; October 13, 20; November 3, 17. If you are interested in more information, please email Pastor Sally, [Pastor@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Pastor@MyersMemorialUMC.org).

## 2024-25 CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are excited to offer a Confirmation experience for all youth grades 6th-12th who have not had the opportunity. Confirmation is a time to affirm or confirm one's commitment to Christ and to the church. We will be mailing invitations to the youth soon. To make sure your youth is on the list, please reach out to Pastor Drew or Pastor Sally.

We will also be looking for adults who are mature in their faith to walk alongside these youth. We hope that if you are asked to be a mentor, you will prayerfully consider saying, "yes." If mentoring a confirmand is something that might interest you, please let Pastor Drew or Pastor Sally know.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A CHOIR!

All are welcome to join the Myers Music Ministry! Sing in the choir, play handbells, help lead the children, or play an instrument! You can do this on occasion or at every occasion! Contact Laura Beatty or Logan McGuire, co-directors of Music (contact information on page 5).

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SMALL GROUPS  
Christian Education is highly valued at Myers Memorial UMC and there is a class for everyone starting in the Nursery! Adults are encouraged to attend classes that meet their interests! And no one will be offended if you want to switch it up when a new study comes along or show up in the middle of a study! Check them out!

- Friends in Faith meets in room E106 with Angie Flake as the lead coordinator ([angieflake20@gmail.com](mailto:angieflake20@gmail.com)). They are currently studying *Creed a look at the Apostle's Creed*. They will begin *Questions Jesus Asked* by Magrey Devega on Sept. 1
- The Open Minds Class meets Room 104 and Mike & Jennifer Rhodes are the contact for this class ([jsmrhodes@gmail.com](mailto:jsmrhodes@gmail.com)). They utilize *Wired Word*, a curriculum that engages class members in thought-provoking discussions by relating current events to Scripture and Hope.
- The Young Adult Class meets in the CFC classroom with Victoria Flake as the coordinator ([victoria.flake23@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.flake23@gmail.com)). The group is currently using Adam Hamilton's *Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why* as a foundation for discussion.
- A Disciple's Path short term study with Pastor Sally will be held in The Upper Room, aka room 104 beginning September 15. See description to the left.

## MUSIC MINISTRY KICK OFF DINNER

The Myers Musicians and their significant others are invited to a kick off dinner on August 28 at 6p in the CFC. This is open to all participants in Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Team and Instrumentalist!

## MARK YOUR CHOIR CALENDARS!

November 1-2: Choir Retreat at Lake Junaluska

December 8, 5p: Love Feast

December 15, 5p: Lessons and Carols

## MYERS PEACE SHIRTS

The Missions & Outreach Committee offered Myers Memorial UMC Peace shirts at the Christmas in July Makers Market and sold out of a number of sizes! A limited number of sizes for adults and children are available in the church office for \$10 each. A reorder has been placed and will be available the beginning of September.

## SUNDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY ~ 6:30P

“Formatted like a prayer book, *The Lives We Actually Have* is an oasis and a landing spot for weary souls, with blessings that focus on the full range of human moments: garbage days, lovely days, grief-stricken days, and even (especially) completely ordinary days.” Women of all ages are invited to meet on Sunday evenings as we use these blessings written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie to laugh, study, and pray about *The Lives We Actually Have*. We will begin gathering on Sunday, August 18 at 6:30p in the Choir Room. Books available on Amazon or if you would like to purchase through the church for \$15, contact Laura Beatty through email ([music@myersmemorialumc.org](mailto:music@myersmemorialumc.org)).

## DISCIPLE FAST TRACK 1

Studying the Bible is essential to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. Disciple Fast Track 1, an adaptation of the original, bestselling Disciple Bible Study, is ideal for busy people who want to fit a comprehensive Bible study into their schedule. Participants are asked to commit to at least the first 12 sessions, reading approximately 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily before meeting to discuss readings and gain insight from video presenters. The Sunday Night Study will dive deep beginning September 8 at 5:30p in the CFC Classroom. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office or facilitator, Allison Evanoff ([evanoffallison@gmail.com](mailto:evanoffallison@gmail.com)).

## ONE STUDY - TWO TIMES ON THURSDAYS

Rev. Ev leads two offerings of the same study on Thursdays, one at 10a and one at 6:30p, both meet in the CFC Classroom. Beginning September 5, the group will offer lessons from the series *That the World May Know* with teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan. No book is required to be purchased but will be available for those that wish. Video presentation by Vander Laan is enhanced by on location teaching from locations in the Holy Land. The Thursday Studies will begin with “**Promised Land - Living For God Where Culture is Influenced**”. Contact Rev. Everett Stoddard should you wish to express your interest or with any questions ([evstoddard15@gmail.com](mailto:evstoddard15@gmail.com)).

## DYEP IS BACK IN SESSION

DYEP (Distinguished Youth Enrichment Program) had *two* wonderful summer programs and are gearing up for the fall! DYEP will be hosting a Back-to-School Giveaway on August 10th at 1pm in the CFC. There will be food, fun, a waterslide and snow cones! The Afterschool Program will kick off with a parent’s information meeting on Friday, August 23 at 6p in the CFC. The 2024-25 Afterschool Program begins September 8th with a school year filled with tutoring, mentoring, new friends, social & life skills. The cost is \$225 for the school year, meeting each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 5:30p to 8p each evening. For more information, volunteering, providing a meal, chaperoning a trip, or providing scholarships please contact Bralicia Bost-Thompson: 980-745-7979 or Dina Thompson: 980-677-7170.



[Facebook.com/myersmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/myersmemorial)  
[YouTube.com/c/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia](https://www.youtube.com/c/MyersMemorialUMCGastonia)  
[Instagram.com/myersmemorialumc](https://www.instagram.com/myersmemorialumc)

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Elementary Children's Sunday School classes continue to gather in room 103 ~ yes, it's Pastor Sarah's new office! See you on the sofa at 10a each Sunday before heading to classrooms for age level appropriate learning about God's love for us! Grown-ups, please pick up the children at 10:45 at the same location. We are *so* excited about two new offerings for our children on Sunday Mornings!

Kindergarden-2nd graders are in for a real treat with Ms. Judy Theile as we begin *Godly Play*. Godly Play is rooted in story, wonder, liturgy, discovery and joy as children seek and find the mystery of God's presence! We seek to nurture spiritual lives of children through imaginative play and Ms. Judy's classroom has been transformed through the generous gift of another UM church. You won't want to miss this opportunity to play and explore what God is inviting us to experience through scripture and experience! Adults, there is a spot for you in this as well! We are looking for a few door greeters that will help welcome the children and aid in projects as needed. Contact Pastor Sarah or Judy Thiele (814-255-2641).

Third-Fifth Graders will begin this fall with a focus on learning to use their Bibles. Sunday School teachers, JerriLynn & Gary Boggess, Jaclyn Tant and Justine Snyder are preparing for a fun and in-depth exploration of God's Word so that it's a lifelong companion and not just another book on the shelf! From a talking donkey to a man being eaten by a giant fish, the Bible has no shortage of strange stories that tell us more about God's love for us! Grownups, help your children by bringing them to Sunday School!

## SUNDAY NIGHTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Pastor Drew & Pastor Sarah are excited to dive back into Sunday Nights with the children and youth! We'll kick off the season together with Family Olympics on August 11 at 5p in the CFC. We'll have fun and games, good food and lots of information about the ministries being planned for children & youth! You will receive specific details in your inbox or mailbox so make sure we have your information! Parents, there are classes for you too starting August 18! Read more about these elsewhere in the Newsletter!

Second Sunday Suppers: On the Second Sunday of each month, the children & youth will eat together in the Youth Lounge, engage in a time of devotion then dig deeper in smaller, age divided groups. Volunteers are being sought to provide a meal on these nights: Sept. 8, Oct. 13, & Nov. 10.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY NIGHT WONDER

*Funga Alafia!* We learned this West African song at VBS and it means 'welcome and blessings'. We continue into fall with this song in our hearts and heads! Wonder is Myers' Sunday Night children's ministry programing for Preschool through 5th graders along with a Nursery for the youngest among us! Kick off on Aug. 11 with Family Game Night and a time of information! Throughout the Fall we look forward to evening opportunities to grow in our faith as God's Children! Dinner will only be provided at the church on the 2nd Sundays of each month. Children will have available to them yogurt, cheese sticks, crackers and other snack items. On the other Sunday nights, enter via the back door and head upstairs where we will engage in music making with Mr. Logan followed by programing that will be Bible centered, service focused filled fun fellowship!

*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51 NIV*  
The Myers Nursery is the most fun place on a Sunday mornings (9a-12p) and on Sunday evenings (5p-6:30p)  
With loving adults, our youngest among us play and grow in God's love as they come to learn Church is a safe & loving place for them! Come Join Us! Welcoming All Children & Safe Sanctuary Certified adults!

## SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH MINISTRY

For all the latest details please make sure you're receiving all the news via email! You can also find details in weekly church eNews and at the youth webpage [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/youth) as well as the youth social media pages on IG & FB. We want all youth to be a part of Myers Youth! Join us Sunday mornings for Worship at 9a or 11a with Sunday School at 10a! Middle Schoolers meet in the Youth Classroom and will begin Confirmation Studies in September. The High Schoolers meet in the Youth Lounge and curate their own studies under the direction of Pastor Drew and other adults.

## MYERS YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHTS

Youth are on the Move! You don't want to miss Family Olympic Night, August 11, where Pastor Drew will meet with the Youth Families to share all the details of this outstanding fall programing! On the Second Sunday, the youth & children will eat together in the Youth Lounge and follow that with a time of worship together and age appropriate small group discussion. On other Sunday nights, from 5p to 6:30p, Myers Youth will meet in small groups at the homes of Myers Members, serve out in the community or have nights of fun and fellowship! Make sure you are reading your weekly emails!

## MYERS YOUTH GO OUT TO EAT

Myers Youth and Friends are invited to gather for dinner at Chick-fil-a on the first Wednesday of each month, 6:30p to 7:30p (Cox Rd). Bring money for dinner or you are welcome to just come hang out with Pastor Drew and be in community together!

## SOUL SNEAKERS

The Myers Health Cabinet hosts group walks on the first Saturday of each month at 9a that are designed for all walking abilities, although some trails will be unpaved. Each walk includes a scripture focus and devotion. If you are interested in walking with Myers friends, please contact Allison Evanoff ([evanoffallison@gmail.com](mailto:evanoffallison@gmail.com)) so she will be able to connect with you regarding any last minute details and let you know where the next month's hike will be located!

## STAFF DIRECTORY

Staff Parish is pleased to announce that after a time of transition, your Myers Staff has settled into new roles and new office spaces! We celebrate the ministry of Myers Memorial UMC and those that find home in our building.

Rev. Sally Queen, Senior Pastor  
[Pastor@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Pastor@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
E111 Ext. 106

Rev. Drew Nix, Associate Pastor  
Youth, Young Adults & Community Engagement  
[Drew@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Drew@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
E108 Ext. 107

Rev. Sarah Watkins Davis  
Pastor of Children & Communications  
[Sarah@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Sarah@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
E103 Ext. 111

Heather Steffey, Ministry Coordinator  
[Heather@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Heather@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
CFC104 Ext. 105

Judy Seay, Receptionist  
[Welcome@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Welcome@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
Main Office | CFC Ext. 100

Amelia Bumgarner, Bookkeeper  
[Finance@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Finance@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
E113 & Remote Ext. 109

Laura Beatty Director of Music  
Chancel Choir & Handbells  
[Music@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Music@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
[LauraBeatty2@gmail.com](mailto:LauraBeatty2@gmail.com)  
E117 Ext. 115

Logan McGuire, Director of Music  
**Praise Team & Children's Music**  
[Music@MyersMemorialUMC.org](mailto:Music@MyersMemorialUMC.org)  
[LGCHS235@hotmail.com](mailto:LGCHS235@hotmail.com)  
Choir Room Ext. 101

Tracey Roberts, Maintenance/Building Supervisor

Helen Dix, Organist

Rev. Eddie Ingram, Spirit Song Counseling  
[Eddie@SpiritSongCounseling.com](mailto:Eddie@SpiritSongCounseling.com)  
704-810-4242

Bralicia Bost-Thompson, DYEP: Distinguished  
Youth Enrichment Program  
980-745-7979

## ONGOING/WEEKLY GROUPS

Please realize that summer often brings a change in schedules! Please contact the church office or those responsible for your group as to any change in their schedule.

SUN: Worship, 9a & 11a;

Sunday School for all ages, 10a;

Praise Team Rehearsal, 4p;

Studies & Activities for Adults, Children and Youth

1st SUN: UMM, Communion

3rd SUN: Cancer Services Collection

MON: DYEP, 5:30p Boy Scouts

1st MON: Sandwich Brigade, resumes in October.

1st WED: Youth Dinner, Chik-fil-a, 6:30p

TUES: GriefShare, 10a; AIAnon, 11a; DYEP, 5:30p; Girl Scouts

2nd TUES: Alzheimer's Support, 4p

WED: DYEP, 5:30p; Handbells, 6p; Chancel Choir, 7p

2nd WED: Memories Café, 11a

THURS: Thurs. Study Groups, 10a and 6:30p, NA

3rd THURS: 60+ Fellowship

1st SAT: Soul Sneakers, 9a

### Fall Event Dates

Handbells Resume: Sept. 4

CAM Open House: Sept. 26

Pumpkin Sunday: Oct. 6

Walk for Wellness, Oct. 19

Trunks o Treats, Oct. 27

*If you have a small group that would like to meet this summer, please first check the calendar and location with Heather Steffey*

## MYERS MEMORIAL 60+ FELLOWSHIP

This group is designed for those 60ish and over to meet for food and fellowship on a monthly basis. Mark your calendar for the Third Thursday of each month. Be sure Heather Steffey has your email ([heather@myersmemorialumc.org](mailto:heather@myersmemorialumc.org)) so she can save you a spot or let you know of any changes!

Thursday, August 15 at 11:30a Meet at Honey Baked Ham Café at 11:30a for lunch with friends!

Thursday, September 10 at 10a Meet at the church for a trip to Bush-n-Vine! We'll enjoy the season's latest crops and Lunch at the Farm Café before returning to the church before 2p.

Thursday, October 17 at 11:30a Meet for lunch at our favorite place, Don Pedro's on Union Rd.

Thursday, November 22 The Southern Christmas Show is in town! Hop on the bus and we'll shop 'til we drop! Group tickets are available for those who register to Heather by October 31.

## PUMPKIN SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 6 ~ 10A WORSHIP

Pumpkin Sunday is October 6 with one worship service at 10a! Dress Casually and wear your pumpkin shirt or favorite pumpkin colored outfit! We'll worship together at 10a as the youth share how their faith has been transformed by the gifts of the pumpkin patch. Then we'll enjoy a potluck lunch together at 11a in the CFC then the pumpkins arrive at 12! Just as we've done for 45 years, we will work together and fill the patch with the beautiful orange fruits that make us the Pumpkin Church!

**Before the Pumpkins Arrive...** we need assistance in securing nearly 200 pallets! Do you have a connection?

Do you Need a Pumpkin T-shirt? Everyone's wearing it! Ordering will be available in September on the pumpkin page or by calling the church office (704-864-3222).

**We Need You to Serve and Represent Myers' Pumpkin Hospitality!** The patch will be open 7 days a week with multiple shifts each day. Grab a friend and sign up together or simply sign up for a time and make a new friend! Online Sign Ups begin now!

[www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/pumpkins](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/pumpkins)



# WALK FOR WELLNESS AND HEALTH FAIR

IN MEMORY OF  
HENRY A. JUSTICE

## OCTOBER 19 9A TO 12P

Myers Memorial UMC - 301 S. New Hope Road, Gastonia  
[www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/walk](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/walk)



The Myers Health Cabinet is planning our 9th annual memorial fitness event to honor the late Rev. Henry A. Justice, a United Methodist Minister. Mark your calendars: The Walk for Wellness in Memory of Rev. Henry A. Justice, is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th 9a-12p at The Pumpkin Patch. This is a Health Fair and Fitness Event to raise money in support of Cancer Services of Gaston County. Cancer Services provides free resources and support to local persons and families living with cancer.

As the walk has aged, we have grown and we anticipate this year's event to be bigger and better than ever! We have planned more family friendly options that includes a pumpkin-shaped bounce house, food trucks and even live by our very own Elijah Ray Simpson and up-and-coming artist, Bailey Marie Griggs.

The walk officially happens from 9a to 9:30a, and you are welcome to stay for the morning or drop in as your schedule allows! As always we will have local health representatives such as Novant Family Medicine, CaroMont Cancer Center, CaroMont Wellness, Piedmont Plastics and Dermatology, Partners Behavioral Health, Home Instead as well as free chair massages by Optimum Bodyworks! If you have unused medications, bring them and the Medication Take Back team will properly dispose of them for you. Stay tuned for more participants and activities as the date approaches and visit [www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/walk](http://www.MyersMemorialUMC.org/walk) for more information!

### HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Please reach out to [evanoffallison@gmail.com](mailto:evanoffallison@gmail.com) with any questions, interest or suggestions!

Here are some ways you can support this event!

- Gold Sponsors (\$500) provide financial support of the event.
- Patrons (\$250) and Health Promoters with a health or wellness 'service' to provide (cancer screenings, pet health, health supplements, massage, physical therapy etc.) and are willing to have a booth at the event, providing the service and educating participants about your product.
- Craft Vendors (\$25) We welcome those that have homemade crafts or operate small businesses with items to sell to purchase a vendor spot.
- Walkers and Participants to take advantage of the festivities! Ask your neighbors, your church family, your coworkers to join the fun, have a great walk and check out the groups offering their services. (Free to participate or with a \$30 contribution, you receive a commemorative t-shirt).



