

# The Messenger

Spindale United Methodist Church

PO Box 241 - 185 Mill Street Spindale, NC 28160

December 2024

## Eric's Ethereal Cereal

One of my favorite scripture verses is found in the Book of Psalms. I have to admit that it became one of my favorites after I first heard/read it through the lens of Eugene Peterson's redeemed imagination in *The Message*. *Oh! Teach us to live well! Teach us to live wisely and well!* Psalm 90:12 MSG. Thus, this kind of begs the question, "*How wisely and well have I lived these precious days of life – so far – O God?*"

Well, as it is for me in my 16 years of ministry and almost 58 years of life, there have been, and still are, many moments of mountain-top joys. Just as, on occasion, there have been some experiences I would describe as *valley-of-the-shadow-of-death*, with a sprinkle of pain and grief. But as I reflect on the gift of these years of life and ministry, I am stunned at the richness of the relationships and experiences that have been mine. I know these have come my way only by the grace of God. In fact, Henri Nouwen reminds us of the necessity of "*being versus doing*". *Being* often begins in *waiting and listening* – (just like this time of Advent.) Nouwen wrote:

*There is a beautiful story in the Old Testament where the prophet stands at the mouth of a cave, and the Lord is passing. There is thunder, and the Lord is not in the thunder. There is an earthquake, and the Lord is not in the earthquake. There is fire, and the Lord is not in the fire. Then there is the still, small voice, and the Lord is in that voice. (1 Kings 19: 11-13) The voice is very sensitive. It can be very quiet. It is sometimes hard to hear. But the voice of love is already in you. You may have already heard it. Start trying to hear that voice. Get quiet and spend some time trying to hear it. Listen. It says, "I love you," and calls you by name. It says, "Come, come. Follow me."*

As we close this calendar year together with Jesus, I invite you (again) to join me in following Jesus' example ... what Henri Nouwen pointed to as the three essential disciplines/practices we see in Jesus' life (see Luke 6:12-19); practices which still hold the promise of being used by God in shaping us as Jesus' disciples. Luke reminds us how Jesus "practiced" or "made space for God" regularly through *solitude, community, and compassionate service*. Jesus certainly lived wisely and well. Bishop Will Willimon reminds us that as followers of Jesus, we are constantly being shaped as his disciples. This shaping work was named by John Wesley as he moved from this life into the next chapter. He marked that transition with the words, "The best of all is GOD is with us." Some might say these were his last words, "The End," but as Willimon notes:

We use “the end” in at least two ways. End means “final”—the last chapter of the story, when the game is over, the last breath, finis. End can also mean telos, “purpose”—the result of our work, the meaning of the story, the goal of our efforts, the point of it all, our ultimate destination.

The hymn-writer, Richard Gillard, offers us a precious reminder as our journey with Jesus continues. I share his gift words with you as a blessing.

*We are pilgrims on a journey  
We're together on this road  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load  
I will hold the Christ light for you  
In the night time of your fear  
I will hold my hand out to you  
Speak the peace you long to hear  
I will weep when you are weeping  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through.....*

Blessings and Peace! Pastor Eric

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### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Eric Marshburn
Office Manager	Jennifer Ruppe
Financial Secretary	Janet Atkins
Director of Music	Jeane Watson

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday, 9am - 12noon

### Worship Assistants

Liturgists	TBD
Greeter	Marcie McDaniel

### Small Groups

**Bible Study** is held on Sunday mornings at 10am.

**Book club** - Join us on Thursdays at 7pm at Main Street Market in Rutherfordton.

### CHURCH NEWS



**Frankful Fridays - Free Hotdog Meal**  
The Frankful Friday Crew will be sharing a free hotdog meal on the second and fourth Fridays of each month (December 13 and 27). We will be set up at 12 noon.

## Senior Yoga

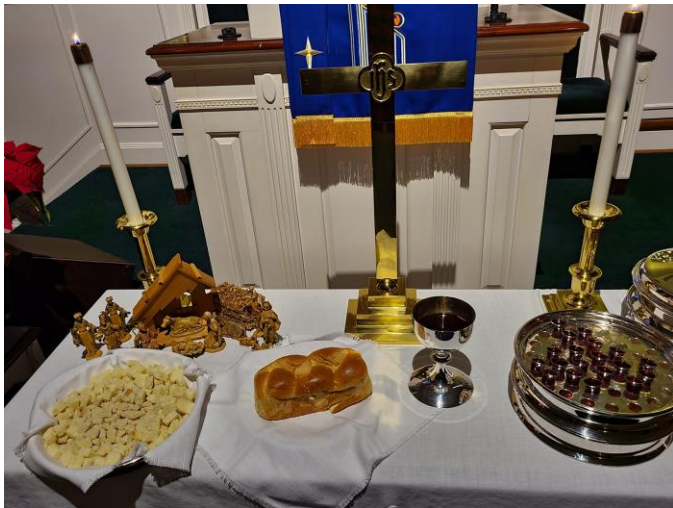
Join us December 12 at 10:30am for Senior Yoga in the fellowship hall. Yoga is led by Marie who also leads classes at the Senior Center.



## Drive Thru Community Meal

Come join our volunteers as we host a Drive Thru Meal on Wednesday, December 18 at 5pm. We will be serving Baked Spaghetti. Contact Bill

McDaniel if you would like to help.



## Christmas Eve Drop-In Communion

will be held on Tuesday, December 24 from 4:30-6pm in the sanctuary. All are invited to come, bring your family and friends to drop in for this time of Christmas Communion.

## Saturday Night aLive

We will not be having Saturday Night aLive this month. Join us again in January!

## Christmas Caroling

Details are undecided at the moment. Please check the future e-news for more information.

## Upper Room Devotionals

If you would like an Upper Room Devotional mailed to you, please email or call the church office.



The New Sanctuary Door Wreaths were given to the church in loving memory of Faye Henson from Wayne Henson.

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## HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Bill Metcalf  
Autumn Care  
501 Esseola St  
Saluda, NC 28773

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## COMMUNITY NEEDS

**Yokefellow** – Grits, plain or flavored

**Blessing Box** - Any shelf stable foods, individual servings of canned food, crackers, etc. (McDonald's Location)

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

### Children's Coat Drive

We are collecting new and gently used children's coats, gloves, and warm hats. Donated items may be placed in the labeled bin outside the church office. All donated items will benefit Spindale Elementary.

# Happy Anniversary

- 22 *Franklin and Joan Smith*  
24 *Forest and Pam Carpenter*



- 3 *Marie Yelton*  
4 *Cory Lowery*  
4 *Marge Hamrick*  
5 *Paul Crowe*  
7 *Jimmy Johnson*  
12 *Jim Caldwell*  
12 *Sharon Elliott*  
13 *Jennifer H. Wojton*  
15 *Caroline Deck*  
17 *Pete Lowery*  
19 *Charlotte Anderson*  
20 *Kay Hollifield*  
21 *Jeri Shuck*  
28 *Thom White*  
31 *William Dalton Robinson*  
31 *Lynne Potter*



## Prayer Requests

- Paula Stieve  
The Family of Doris Deck  
Wayne Henson  
Eric Marshburn  
Sabra Marshburn  
Tommie White  
Darla - Family Member of David Dunn  
Hope - Daughter of David Dunn  
Lisa Moore - Sister of Jeri Shuck  
Larry Cordray - Friend of Denise Bateman  
Walker Faurot and his Family - His family member is a coworker of Sabra Marshburn  
Jean Ross  
Charles and Maggie Clute  
David Wiseman - Cousin of Jeane Watson  
Bill Metcalf  
Gina Gold - Friend of Brooke Watson  
Bobby and Carolyn Stone – Family of Tommie White  
Thadd Hodge - Nephew of Jeanette and Lucille  
Michelle Gillis - Friend of John and Stephanie Higgins  
Gene and Mary Mitchell  
Lynne Potter  
Marge Hamrick  
Kylie - Granddaughter of friends of John and Stephanie Higgins

Please contact the church office in order to add or remove someone on the prayer list.



### Mobile Pantry Recap

*It took about 8 hours throughout this week to input all of the client applications from Monday's Mobile Pantry at Spindale UMC. This indicates that we reached an entirely different clientele that Washburn Outreach has not otherwise had the opportunity to serve. This speaks to the importance and efficacy of a satellite location and makes Spindale UMC's commitment to host and power the event all the more important. Thank you all for being so organized and responsive to all the coordination required to pull off a Mobile Pantry.*

*On Monday, November 11, 2024 the Mobile Pantry in Spindale served:*

- 180 children under 18*
- 267 adults under 64*
- 99 adults over 65*
- 546 total individuals*
- 253 households*

*All clients qualified for emergency food assistance based on reported income. We had a noticeably more diverse clientele that we typically see in Bostic, which made Cynthia Cooper and our Spanish translating pastor's presence all the more helpful. The few boxes of leftover cucumbers were distributed at Washburn Outreach later in the week where we served an additional 353 households in Bostic. Thank you again.*

*Lindy Abrams – Director Washburn Community Outreach Center Bostic, NC*

## LAST MONTH

### November 3

In Person Attendance		53
Online Attendance		72
Budget Offering	\$	6,165.07
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	145,893.81
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	188,100.00

### November 10

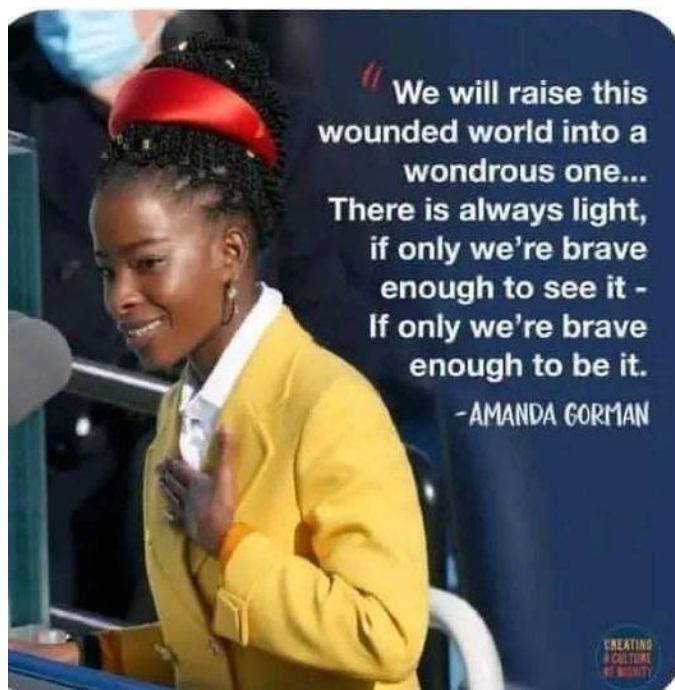
In Person Attendance		49
Online Attendance		47
Budget Offering	\$	6,972.76
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	152,691.57
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	192,375.00

### November 17

In Person Attendance		45
Online Attendance		n/a
Budget Offering	\$	615.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	153,231.57
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	196,650.00

### November 24

In Person Attendance		51
Online Attendance		57
Budget Offering	\$	8,125.50
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	159,728.57
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	200,925.00



# Highlights from 2024

