



## Covenant United Methodist Church

801 W. Franklin Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28052

Larry Taylor  
Pastor

taylorgang24@yahoo.com  
(828) 413-4067

### Church Office

(704) 865-5055  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
covenantgastonia@gmail.com

Tammy Bassett  
Administrative Assistant

Laura McDonald  
Director of Music

Rebecca Brooks  
Pianist

Church Website:  
www.covenantumcgastonia.com

## August 2020

### Regular Scheduled Activities (suspended at this time)

#### Sunday

- 8:00 United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Devotion (bi-monthly)  
July - August - October - December
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- 2:00 Council Meeting (2nd wk)

#### Monday

- United Methodist Women Circle Meetings (1st wk)
- 10:00 Mission Keepers Circle
- 6:00 Hope Givers Circle

#### Tuesday

- 12:30 Young & Lively Luncheon (3rd wk)

#### Wednesday

- 6:00 Hand Bells Rehearsal
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

# Covenant Connection

COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GASTONIA NC



## *From the Desk of the Pastor ...*

God's grace to all,

First, I want to say how great it has been to see some of your smiling faces the past couple weeks at our 9:00 drive-In services. It cannot come soon enough for all of us to come together in our beautiful sanctuary. It has been almost five months since we have been able to worship inside. This past week Tammy asked for all of us to write something positive that has happened during this pandemic for our newsletter. I know you are probably like me, we just spent so much time dwelling on the negative. So, I am going to talk about the negative and try to turn it into something positive.

When all this lockdown, or whatever you want to call it started, I had to try to step outside my box and get into this social media mess. See I don't do anything but Facebook. I don't really know Twitter from a Twinky. Not really, because I know I love a Twinky. I started by posting sermons on Facebook and it just didn't feel right for some reason. Then I went to posting what I would call mini sermons with taped music thinking it was the music that was missing. Then we started doing Facebook Live from our sanctuary with the help of Rebecca, Sharon and Caitlin. The music was incredible, but I still felt there was something missing.

We are now doing our drive-in services and it has become obvious what was missing. I am missing the Christian fellowship, the loving hugs and of course every one of your smiling faces. So, what is the positive of this newsletter that we have to look forward to? That someday this will all end. And on that glorious first day back together in our sanctuary I will get to worship again together with ALL OF YOU and greet you with a loving hug.

MISS YOU, LOVE YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU,  
Pastor Larry

## August 2020

*"For God is  
not a God of  
disorder,  
but of peace."  
1 Cor 14:33*

### On the Calendar

**August 15 - 10 am  
Charge Conf. Mtg**

**August 22  
11 am - 12:30 pm  
Community  
Luncheon**

## Hope you had a Happy Birthday!

(July Birthdays)

1 Sydney Armstrong	14 Harvey McDonald	20 Jack Bridges - 80th!
3 Drew Merritt	14 Mark Merritt	20 Ken Aldridge
4 Sherri Poole	14 Linda Raxter	21 Johnnie Flanagan
5 Erin McGinnis	14 Cindy Mathews	23 Dob Phillips
6 Linda Harrison	15 Shane Kaylor	26 Josh McMillan
9 Emily Choate	16 Sharon Taylor	
12 Cora Jane Mathews	17 Tony Wilson, Jr.	

### July Anniversary Celebrations

July 1	Ken & Amy Aldridge
July 3	Larry & Sharon Taylor - 38 years!
July 9	Jeff & Lisa Zelgiewicz
July 27	Rick & Sherri Poole

## Happy Birthday for August!

3 Joyce Watkins	11 Joaquin Rodriguez	21 Andrea Bell
6 Melanie Yelton	11 Ron Culver	22 Ruth Houser
6 Meredith Yelton	13 Eric Rogers	23 Dylan Gray
6 Reggie Watkins	15 Luke Carpenter	24 Carley Carpenter
7 Beverly Cole	16 Ina Jones	25 Jan Phillips
9 Rebecca Brooks	19 Sallie Gibson	28 Carly McMillan

### August Anniversary Celebrations

August 2	Harvey & Laura McDonald - 45 years!
August 6	Tony & Teresa Wilson - 33 years!
August 8	Mark & Caitlin Merritt
August 24	Buddy & Brenda Johnson - 57 years!

*Thank you to Rebecca Brooks, Caitlin Ramsey, and Sharon Brendle for leading us in our Contemporary Worship Services during these months we are unable to meet in the sanctuary. They practice during the week preparing for Sundays. Thank you ladies!*

### Tithes & Offerings

**Total for June 2020 - \$5,011**

#### July 2020

July 5	13	\$1,590	Thank you for your continued support.
July 12	16	\$1,525	You can mail your checks in or drop them
July 19	20	\$1,451	in the slot of the office door.
July 26	21	<u>\$1,435</u>	God loves a cheerful giver ♥
		<b>\$6,001</b>	



*A little fun and laughter . . .*

Harvey and Laura McDonald have been doing a lot of traveling during this pandemic.... traveling to the doctor.....the drive-thru....Walmart.....and church!

### Funny COVID-19 Story

I'm telling this story once and then never again. I don't mind telling y'all I'm an idiot one time, but I will not keep reminding y'all just how much of an idiot I am.

When the news about the virus hit I panicked. Big time! Total Panic. I wasn't worried about water, food, medicine, staying at home. None of that bothered me. But a toilet paper shortage! Panic to the Nth degree. I am the reason none of you could find toilet paper.

It was sooooo stupid. I wasn't worried about the virus, I was afraid I would die from the concussions where toilet paper kept falling off the shelves. Not shelf-shelves!!! Five closets full of toilet paper. Any closet door in the house spit toilet paper on you when you opened it. I had to borrow a football helmet to put on just so I could get clean clothes every morning.

I prayed for the Lord to protect me from COVID, but I just couldn't bring myself to ask God not to let me run out of toilet paper. So I bought toilet paper, I may need to put it back on my grocery list, in 2033 or 2034. Until then, I'm good!

Judy Hoffman

### Judy's #1 all time favorite cake...Best Chocolate Rum Cake Ever!

1 c. butter	1 T. baking soda	1 T. sugar
1/2 c. cocoa	2 eggs	1 c. brown sugar
1 c. dried fruit	1 tsp. baking powder	Dash of lemon juice
1 or 2 quarts of Rum	Nuts (optional)	

Before you start, sample the rum for quality. Good, isn't it? Now go ahead, select a large mixing bowl, spoon, etc. Check the rum again. To be sure rum is of best quality, pour 1 level cup and drink as fast as you can. Repeat.

With electric mixer, beat 1 cup beutter in a big fluffy bowl. Add 1 tsp thugar and beat again. Meanwhile, make sure the rum is good quality, try another cup. Open second quart if necessary.

Add 2 arge lets and 2 cups fried druit; beat till high. If druit gets stuck in beaters, jssut priy it out with a drewscriver. Try the rum again; check for tonscisity. Sift 3 cups alt or pepper (it doesn't matter), sampletherunagain. Sift 1 pint lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add 1 babblespoon brown thugar or whatever color you find. Wix mel. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 350 gredees. Pour in the boven and cake. Check the rum again and go to ged.





### The Mission is Essential

Our mission work as United Methodist Women is more important than ever. This world-wide health crisis has presented as with uncertainty, but two things are for certain: Our God of Mercy and Grace is with us, and United Methodist Women will continue its important mission work with vulnerable communities far into the future.

I got this from July/August 2020 issue of Response Magazine. It really made me think. Each year we fill out pledge cards for what we are willing to donate to UMW. Since we are not able to have in person meetings, we may have forgotten about our pledges. We made those pledges. UMW needs those pledges maybe now more than ever. We don't have to meet in person to mail a check a check to Andrea, our faithful treasurer. Please support our UMW. (You may also put in the offering plate, please note on envelope/check for UMW)

Thanks, Judy

### A Message from Our Financial Chair

Hello friends! Hope all of you are doing well. Ron and I have been pretty much staying home and behaving. We have been able to see our kids, grandkids, and our great grandson, Austin, and a couple friends. Other than that, we're pretty boring.

As Finance Chair, I do want to report that we were able to secure a PPP loan (most of you may know that). We are in the process of preparing to file the application to have the loan forgiven, which means we won't have to pay anything back. God has helped us through the whole thing thus far; please pray that He will continue to do so. So much paperwork and changing regulations!

I want to thank everyone for their continued financial support of the church. It will ensure that at the end of all this craziness, we will have our wonderful church to come back to. In the meantime, I so much appreciate all the work and dedication from Pastor Larry, Rebecca, Sharon, Tony and Caitlin for making our services in the parking lot and on line so wonderful! Also, thanks to Tammy for keeping everything in the office going!

Be safe and healthy everyone!!

Love you all,

Pat & Ron Culver

*Your kindness and sympathy will always be held in grateful remembrance by the family of Glenn Houston Leigh.*



*We will always be thankful for all the cards and calls to Glenn during his illness. He loved readings the cards over and over. There were very encouraging to both of us. Also, thank you for the beautiful and caring sympathy cards sharing memories of Glenn. Your kindness, sympathy, prayers, and caring for us during this very sad time in our lives will always be held in our hearts. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. May God continue to bless each of you and keep you safe in His care.*

*Love, Pat, Lori, Don, Mark, Natalie, Pam, Dan, Daniel & Julia*

# Covenant Prayer Corner

### Praise God!

\*Friends/family of members

**Brenda Johnson** - doing well! Heart is back into rhythm.

**Linda Raxter** - feeling much better!

Thank you for your prayers for Linda and Brenda.

### New/Updated Prayer Concerns

**Cam Carpenter** - Came home on June 26. He is walking with a walker, praise God! Having intense rehab. Pray for Shawn and family as they help care for him.

**Tom Goncz\*** (Pat Culver's brother)

**Harvey McDonald** - having a CT scan on his spine, pray for healing so he won't have to have surgery, pray for Laura for her health and as she cares for him and Doris.

**Lori Peabody\*** (Pat Leigh's daughter) recovering from surgery on July 31

**Caitlin Ramsey** - surgery on her wrist went well, pray for healing

**Harold Swanson** - has an infection in his eye, pray for complete healing

**Remember our teachers, students and parents, as school begins again this month.**

**Give them wisdom, peace, and understanding in all situations.**

**Pray for the leaders of our country, for wisdom and discernment in making decisions.**

**Pray for peace and unity in our city and our country.**

### Continued Prayer Concerns

**Pat Leigh & Family**  
**Don Gibson**  
**Tammy Welch\***

**Lib Grose**  
**Sue McMillan\***  
**Jay Raxter**

**Mary Payseur\***  
**Jean Stewart**  
**Beverly Cole**

**Jerry Moore\***  
**Dennis Dees**

### Covenant Shut-Ins

**Ina Jones** (at daughter's home)

**Betty Lynch** - Covenant Village, Room B116

**B.A. & Carolyn Moore** - home

*Our Christian Sympathy and love is expressed to Pat Leigh and Family on the recent death of Glenn, a loving husband of almost 57 years, father, grandfather, and a friend to so many of us at Covenant. Pat and the family are so thankful they were able to share Glenn's last days with him at home. May you know your church family is here for you, especially praying for you.*

*Glenn was a member of Covenant for over 55 years. He passed away on June 6, 2020 at the age of 77 with his loving family by his side. A celebration of life was held on June 10 at Westview Gardens. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made to Covenant UMC, Myrtle MC, Gastonia, or Gaston Hospice.*