



**Covenant United Methodist Church**

801 W. Franklin Blvd  
Gastonia, NC 28052

**Larry Taylor**  
Pastor

LTaylor1@wnccumc.net  
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

**October  
2020**

**Regular Scheduled Activities (suspended at this time\*)**

Sunday

- 8:00 United Methodist Men's Breakfast/Devotion (bi-monthly)\*
- 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 . . .**

Well we are back in the sanctuary and it feels good. But before I start talking about that let me first say thank you to Rebecca, Sharon B., Caitlin, Tony, Teresa and Sharon T. for all they did to make our outdoor services a success. We had over 40 people at our last outdoor service. It was an example of when Jesus said "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. "I truly felt God's presence when the birds were singing or the sun would shine through the trees.

Now finally we are back inside and starting to work our way to some stage of normalcy. We are following all the COVID-19 guidelines. We have the pews taped off to make sure we are social distancing and we are wearing our masks. I know it is it's a little inconvenient, but we were also checking your temperature and asking the COVID-19 questions. So, if you feel comfortable, we would love to see you on Sunday mornings. To those who can't make it we will continue to put the service on Facebook live. I will tell you we are working on the sound so Please be patient, the echoes have caused us some problems.

We also will start back with our committee meetings and other group gatherings as time goes on. I am not sure when we will start back with Sunday school or Bible study but I will let you know.

Please remember to do all you can to stay healthy and let me know if there is anything I can do.

Love you and God bless you, Pastor Larry



**October  
2020**



*Happy Fall Y'all!*

**Upcoming Events**

**October 5 - UMW Circle Meetings**

**October 11 - 10 am Council Meeting**

**October 24 - 11 am Community Lunch**

**November 8 - 2 pm Charge Conference**



- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Anna Gibson        | 20 Darlene Raxter |
| 3 Amber Lowe         | 22 Sharon Cole    |
| 5 Brenda Rodriguez   | 24 Lee Raxter     |
| 7 Michael Grose      | 24 John Kaylor    |
| 15 Carolyn Moore     | 24 Shawn McGinnis |
| 19 Scott Ramsey      | 27 Rocco Cochran  |
| 19 Madison Armstrong | 31 Ray Kaylor     |

*Happy Anniversary!*

- 11 Drew & Mandi Merritt - 7 yrs
- 22 Dick & Sharon Cole
- 27 Matt & Katie Cochran - 8 yrs



**September  
Tithes & Offerings**

September 6	40	\$1,985
September 13	24	\$1,175
September 20	24	\$2,315
September 27	29	<u>\$1,810</u>
		\$7,285
		<b>(\$3,388)</b>

\$2,463 needed weekly  
\$10,673 needed monthly



For the month of October, we will be collecting all items for Crisis Assistance Ministry since we have been off schedule over the last several months. There is a bin by the side sanctuary entrance and the back hallway.



**Circle Meetings this Month - October 5**

**Mission Keepers - 10:00 am**

Hostess: Ann Dees  
Program: Joan Turner  
Meet at the church.

**Hope Givers - 6:00 pm**

Hostess: Teresa Wilson  
Program: Andrea Bell  
Meet at the church.

*To my UMW Circle,*

*Thank you for coming and spending a little bit of time with me on my birthday. What a wonderful surprise! It was so special because I miss my church family so much. I appreciate all the cards, phone calls, and prayers from my Covenant Family. Love you all.*

*Love, Beverly Cole*

*To Our Church Family,*

*Ron and I would like to thank you all for your prayers for our son-in-law and daughter, Jeff & Lisa. The prayers, cards, and calls are so much appreciated. Lisa is thankful to be able to be with Jeff in Atlanta during this time of rehab. Plans are that Jeff will be discharged October 7 and they will be staying at our home. Thank you also for the prayers for my brother Tom. We are thankful for our church family ☺*

*Love, Pat & Ron Culver*



Matt Cochran waits for the next neighbor he can bless ☺

**Jesus ♥ You and so do we!**

Community Lunch was held on Sept. 26 and 65 meals were served to the community! Thank you to those that helped with the meal and to Pastor Larry as he drove around the neighborhood sharing meals with those he came in contact with. One woman flagged him down not for a meal but to jump start her car! Thank you to the Kids at Work program that prepared the meals.



We all need a little laugh . . .

### You know you're getting old when. . .

All you want for your birthday is to not be reminded of your age.  
 Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.  
 It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired.  
 An "all nighter" means not getting up to pee!  
 The candles cost more than the cake.  
 You and your teeth don't sleep together.  
 You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.  
 The pharmacist has become your new best friend.  
 Happy hour is a nap.  
 The end of your tie doesn't come anywhere near the top of your pants.  
 The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.  
 You confuse having a clear conscience with having a bad memory.  
 You discover that your measurements are now small, medium and large. In that order.  
 You finally get your head together and your body starts falling apart.  
 You wake up looking like the picture on your driver's license.  
 Your childhood toys are now in a museum.  
 You realize a stamp today costs more than a movie ticket did when you were growing up.  
 The clothes you've put away until they come back in style...have come back in style.

\*\*\*\*\*

All Jokes aside. . .on a serious note. . .

### The Burning Hut

The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed everyday for God to rescue him. He searched the horizon but never saw help. Exhausted, he finally managed to build a little hut to protect himself and store his few possessions.

One day after searching for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames. As the smoke rolled up in the sky he felt an anger unlike any he had ever known. "God, how could you do this to me?" he cried as tears rolled down his face.

Early the next day he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching. It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" he asked his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged sometimes when things are not going your way, but we shouldn't lose heart. God is at work in our lives even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember the next time your hut is burning to the ground, it may just be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God. -- Anonymous

### Jesus Loves Me Re-do

*Jesus love you this I know,  
 I pray the Lord will heal your toe,  
 your head, your kidneys  
 and your spleen,  
 And all the places in between! ☺*

# Covenant Prayer Corner

\*Friends/family of members

### New/Updated Prayer Concerns

**Jeff & Lisa Casey\*** (Culver's daughter/husband) in Atlanta for rehab, plans are to be coming home on Oct. 7th. Pray for his Lisa, and Ron & Pat as they renovate to prepare for his home coming.

**Tom Goncz\*** (Pat Culver's brother) healing from infection, working with pain management, still has a ways to go in his recovery

**Judy Hoffman** - heart doctor requested to have more tests

**Harvey McDonald** - back surgery is scheduled for October 12th

**Carolyn Moore** - be in prayer for Carolyn as B.A. is in rehab and this time they are apart

**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

**Cam Carpenter  
 Don Gibson  
 Tammy Welch\***

**Dennis Dees  
 Jean Stewart  
 Jay Raxter**

**Ann Lethco  
 Beverly Cole**

### Covenant Shut-Ins

**Ina Jones** (at daughter's home) 100 Huckleberry Ln, Mt. Holly NC 28120

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

**B.A. Moore** - Belaire, 2065 Lyon St, Gastonia 28052, Rm 22A, 704-874-3242



*Our Christian Sympathy and love is expressed to B.A. & Carolyn Moore and Family on the recent death of B.A.'s brother, Jerry Moore.*

*Our Christian Sympathy and love is also expressed to Joaquin & Brenda Rodriguez and Family on the recent death of Joaquin's mother.*

*May you feel God's comfort and peace at this time and know you are in our prayers. Remember the Moore Family and the Rodriguez Family in prayer.*