

JORDAN
MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



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VOLUME 11 ISSUE 10

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2022

Greetings brothers and sisters of Jordan Memorial UMC.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
Luke 2:8-14**

If ever there was a group in the Bible that understood social distancing it was shepherds. Shepherds, due to their profession, were often distanced from the community. They would sleep in their fields away from friends. Because they usually had a smell from this type of lifestyle they were not allowed in town or stores. This job was also a 24/7 job so they could not leave their sheep; that meant not going to the Temple for worship. Shepherds were used to isolated living and restrictions being placed on them where they could go or not go, including the church. But despite all these restrictions God chooses them for the angel to appear to and deliver the good news of Jesus’ birth. The angel did not appear to those preparing a Christmas play with the children or to a choir singing a Cantata. There was no candlelight service with packed pews that the angel appeared to. Rather the angel appeared to the least expected, the shepherds. This Christmas will no doubt again be different. As we continue to live in the midst of a pandemic we will once again find ourselves celebrating Christmas in different ways than we are used to. For many of us we will find ourselves in our homes, within our own pastures waiting to hear the good news. How fitting that this year we have a chance to experience Christmas the way those shepherds did! God’s message of Good News came to those who were socially distanced.

This year I want to encourage you to find a quiet place during this season and especially on Christmas Eve and read the above passage about the shepherds’ visit. Let your imagination take you from our living room to an open pasture on the outskirts of Bethlehem. Feel the cold breeze that blows through the night sky, the dark horizon given faint light by this unusually

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<p><u>Please send mail and pray for our Homebound</u></p> <p>Ray Albright 217 Holly Hill Street Ramseur, NC 27316</p> <p>Bill Smith Cross Roads Retirement Center 1302 Old Cox Rd (Room 1) Asheboro, NC 27205</p> <p>Sharon Jones 2988 Tuttle Road Archdale, NC 27263</p> <p>Ann Robinson 2800 Spoons Chapel Rd Asheboro, NC 27205</p>	<p><u>Jordan Memorial Military</u></p> <p>Aaron Bressler and Lundy Burge 10783 Scripps Ranch Row San Diego, CA 92131-2509</p> <p>SPC Trexler, Dylan CMR 422 Box 1453 APO AE 09067-0015</p> <p>Quinton Smith 144 Mt. Vernon Ave. Portsmouth, VA 23707</p>	<p><u>College Students</u></p> <p>Nancy Almanza PO Box 361 Ramseur, NC 27316</p> <p>Kara Camp 5546 Nightwood Drive Randleman, NC 27317</p> <p>Colton Embree 1600 Longwood Dr. Greenville, NC 27858</p> <p>Hannah Harris 2504 NC Hwy 22 South Ramseur, NC 27316</p> <p>Nathan Harris 5128 Powell Townes Way Raleigh, NC 27606</p> <p>Fletcher Rains 225 New Prospect Street Unit #101 Culowhee, NC 28723</p> <p>Ashley Shackelford 2367 Woodridge Drive Asheboro, NC 27205</p> <p>Melissa Strickland 2868 Spoons Chapel Road Asheboro, NC 27205</p>
<p><u>Memorials and Honorariums</u></p> <p><u>In Memory of Bill Johnson</u> by Toni Marley</p> <p><u>In Honor of Toni Marley.</u> by Emily Johnson and Betty Jo Armfield</p> <p><u>Pillars of the Church</u> by Tim & Corinne Benbow</p>		

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bright star that has suddenly appeared. You can hear the bleating of the sheep as they struggle to sleep. It feels different because we are used to being surrounded by people, family, loved ones. We are used to being in church and singing songs. It feels different. But then imagine the darkness retreating as a bright light surrounds you. Feel the brush of angel's wings and hear their song "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those in whom his favor rests!" It is within our socially distanced spaces we can truly hear the Good News of Christmas. We don't need special services, fancy music, or beautiful decorations. Jaidy and I love the story of the Grinch; in fact our Advent study for this year is based on this popular story. In the end after the Grinch steals all the toys, all the decorations and all the food, he feels he has stopped Christmas from coming. But to his surprise that morning, he hears singing; he did not stop it from coming because Christmas is more than parties, lights, decorations, and even worship services. In the words of Dr. Seuss, "Christmas perhaps is something more." As we prepare for this beautiful time of the year, I pray we can be more like the shepherds in the field. We need to simply be in the presence of what God is doing. This is the good news that will cause great joy for all people! For unto this day a child is born, he is the Messiah, Christ the Lord.

I hope that this year, maybe for the first time in our lives, we can experience Christmas not as we always have but as those shepherds did long ago, as something wonderful and different. It is in the pastures of our lives where we feel alone and separated from the world, that God finds us and sends his angels to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. For unto this day a child is born, the Messiah, Christ the Lord!

Merry Christmas!
Chris and Jaidy Smith

General Information



Calendar

Advent Study November 28th, December 5th, 12th, 19th 10:00 AM Sunday

December 4th Town of Ramseur Christmas on Main St. 11 AM- 7PM

December 13th Field Trip to Southern Supreme (a.k.a Fruitcake Store in Bear Creek) We plan to leave the church at 9am.

December 19th Christmas Caroling (We will meet at 4pm at the church to divide up and go caroling)

January 13th, 20th, 27th Small Group 'The Well' (see description of the Well for more information)

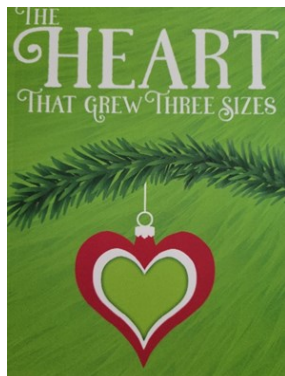
*Please note that Sunday School will be on break following our Advent Study. We will begin again on January 16th.



Christmas Card Delivery / Calendars

The UMW will begin Christmas Card delivery on November 28 and will continue through December 24. Cards will be delivered to all Jordan Memorial members as well as to nursing homes. Donations will be accepted for the delivery of cards.

Additionally, we are collecting calendars for delivery to shut ins.



Advent Study Starting November 28th 10:00 AM Sunday Mornings.

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this Advent Study by Matt Rawle, we will explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we hate is one thing that changes our lives? Join us this Advent and Christmas season as we look at familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.



*Join us as we
celebrate a century
of unconditional love*

MS TONI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

We respectfully request that in-person attendance be restricted to those who are vaccinated for COVID19, are free of symptoms of illness, and are willing to wear a mask indoors to protect her.

December 12th from 2-4pm
at Jordan Memorial
Fellowship Hall. If you are
unable to attend in person,
Ms Toni would love
telephone calls and cards!!

AA Group

Jordan Memorial is hosting an open discussion **AA Group** on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the conference room. Please be in prayer for this important ministry.

Backpack Pals

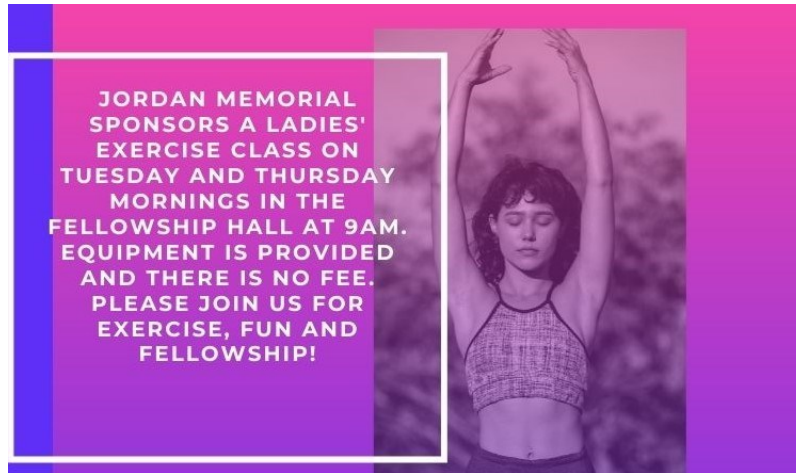
The UMW is responsible for Backpack Pals in January . Donations of money are appreciated to help support this community outreach program. You may place donations in the container in the sanctuary.

Live Worship Service

Tune in to our website
(www.JordanMemorial.org/live-worship/) on Sunday mornings at 11am as we broadcast our service live!

Craft Circle Group

All Crafts Welcome. Every Thursday at
3pm in the Fellowship Hall.



The Well



The Well is a **symbol for Community**. In ancient times the Well was both symbolically, and often literally, located at the center of the Community. Metaphorically, the Well represented all the social resources of the community that were necessary to endure and thrive.

In January, we will begin with our first Small Group, “The Well” This will be the first of what will be several small groups to form as we begin to engage in news way of connection. We will be launching this on Thursday evenings. If you would like to come, taste, and see, we invite you to come out on January 13th, 20th, and 27th. We will meet at Mona Lisa’s Restaurant next to the Carlie C’s IGA Grocery store, at 6:00 PM.

Isaiah 55:1 Come all you who are thirsty!

John 7:37-38 “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

John 4:11-14 ¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” ¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”



Thank you for the continued love and support. The meals and cards are so very much appreciated!

Ray Albright

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 AA Group 6:30pm	3	4 Ramseur Christmas Parade 11am
5 Cookies & Carols 5pm @ Parsonage	6 AA Group 6:30pm	7 Exercise Class 9am Jordan Closet 5pm	8	9 Exercise Class 9am AA Group 6:30pm	10	11
12 Toni Marley Birthday party 2-4pm A Night of Joy 6pm Special Music	13 Southern Supreme field trip 9am. AA Group 6:30pm	14 Exercise Class 9am	15	16 Exercise Class 9am	17	18
19 Christmas Caroling 4pm	20	21 Exercise Class 9am Jordan Closet 5pm	22	23	24 Candlelight Svc 5pm	25 Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Ramseur Food Pantry: Dry Beans, Canned Vegetables.

December Birthdays

04-Billie Thomas
 04-Dylan Leonard
 07-Kathleen Posey Daniel
 10-Mark Trexler
 11-Wesley M. Gilliland
 14- Izzy Benbow
 14- Michelle Keeling
 15-Christian Miller
 15-Toni Marley
 15-Betty Dorsett
 17-Allen Mitchell
 18-Sawyer Mitchell
 19-Linda Brady
 20-Sailor Boyd
 23-William R. Craven
 24-Jack Robert Shelton
 25-Crandall G. Ellison
 26-Richard J. Thomas, Jr.
 31-Dale Byrnes



Merry Christmas!

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 AA Group 6:30pm	4 Jordan Closet 5pm	5	6 AA Group 6:30pm	7	8
9	10 AA Group 6:30pm	11	12	13 The Well Small Group 6pm AA Group 6:30pm	14	15
16	17 AA Group 6:30pm Martin Luther King Day	18 Jordan Closet 5pm Free Community Meal 5pm	19	20 The Well Small Group 6pm AA Group 6:30pm	21	22
23	24 AA Group 6:30pm	25	26	27 The Well Small Group 6pm AA Group 6:30pm	28	29
30	31 AA Group 6:30pm					

Ramseur Food Pantry: Canned Fruit (reg & sugar free) Sauerkraut, Beets. We will need volunteers Jan 3-7.

January Birthdays

01– Martha Thomas
 01– Katherine Sumakeris
 02– Megan Chamblee
 03– Richard Thomas, Sr.
 04– Nina Ruth Foust
 05– Jan M. Shelton
 05– Jill M. Wood
 06 – Sarah Strickland
 08- Anne Cox
 09– Amy Riddle
 09- Easton Rains
 11– Payton E. Shackelford Beeson
 14– Susan Sinkewicz
 15– Michael Bressler
 16– Susan Bodsford Wesley
 20– Charles D. Lane, Jr.

21– Elton L. Smith
 23 – Bill Blake
 23– Ellen Williams
 28- Aaron Hardin
 28– Matthew Hardin
 29– Viletta Embree
 29- Billy Poole

Happy New Year!!

Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.JordanMemorial.org



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

JANUARY 18, 2022 @ 5PM
THIS IS DRIVE THRU GRAB & GO BOX MEAL
JORDAN MEMORIAL UMC
1511 MAIN STREET RAMSEUR