

JORDAN  
MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



# The Link

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 9

NOVEMBER 2024



Greetings friends and blessings upon you! The above picture is probably a familiar one. "The Starry Night," painted by Vincent van Gogh in 1889, captures a swirling night sky filled with stars above a quiet village. Van Gogh created this work while staying at an asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, where he sought treatment for his mental health. The painting reflects both his emotional turmoil and his

fascination with the night sky.

The church in the painting, which stands out with its steeple, is often interpreted as a symbol of faith and stability amidst chaos. But there is something interesting about it, if you look closely, it is the only building without any lights. There are lights in the sky, lights in the houses, but not the church. Its lack of lights can suggest a sense of isolation or abandonment, perhaps reflecting Van Gogh's own feelings of disconnection from society and the divine. The contrast between the vibrant, tumultuous sky and the dark church is meant to get our attention. This imagery resonates with feelings of spiritual longing or disconnection that people often experience. This realization always humbles me to stop and think, how are we sharing the light of Christ?

As we look around the world it is easy to find dark places. We see places of division, hate, even violence. We know this to be wrong but yet for some reason the church remains silent. We don't want to cause a problem or ruffle any feathers. What would people think if we took a stand on a particular issue? I will admit that it is easier, I would much rather avoid controversy and keep to myself. But when we remain silent for too long people begin to think the lights are not on. It's not intentional but sometimes inactions speak as loud as our actions. It reminds me of the quote from Mahatma Ghandi, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." When I speak to young people or those that have left the church this is what I hear the most. They have not lost their spirituality, they have faith in Jesus, they have lost their faith in the church.

So, what do we do? We could throw our hands up and say there is nothing we can do, times have changed, or we can focus on turning the lights on. We can focus on doing what the church has been known for throughout the centuries, loving our neighbors and speaking out against injustice and hate. We can show mercy and compassion like Jesus did, welcome the stranger, the foreigner, the immigrant. We can call out racism, sexism, classism, and all the other "isms: that plague our society. When we hear rhetoric that is antithetical to the Gospel we should speak up. We need to read our Bibles before presumably saying what we think it says. We need to stop with la-

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**Please send mail and  
pray for our Homebound**

**Ray Albright**  
230 East Presnell Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

**Genie Cross**  
511 W. 4th street  
Siler City, NC

**Sharon Jones**  
2988 Tuttle Road  
Archdale, NC 27263

**Ruth Powell**  
111 Jordan Road  
Ramseur Rehab  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Ann and Malvin Robinson**  
2800 Spoons Chapel Rd  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Jordan Memorial Military**

**Quinton Smith**  
4009 Timberland Drive  
Portsmouth, VA 23703

**College Students**

**Maria Almanza (NCSU)**  
PO Box 361  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Logan Armfield**  
5017 Liberty Grove Rd  
Liberty, NC 27298

**Jaidy Smith**  
307 Elam St  
Ramseur, NC 27316

**Melissa Strickland**  
2868 Spoons Chapel Road  
Asheboro, NC 27205

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**In Memory of Beverly Cox  
Stout:**  
Roger Stout

**In Memory of Ella Lambert  
Craven and Charles Haley  
Craven:**  
Joanne Craven Lancaster

**In Honor of Pastor Chris and  
Pastor Jaidy**  
Emily Johnson  
Margaret McKinnon  
Sam & Missy Rankin  
Ed & Shirley Mitchell  
John & Priscilla Allen  
David & Celia Harris  
Bob & Betty Jo Armfield  
Larry & Crandall Ellison  
Martha Thomas

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bels, walls, and segregation. There is one human race that is made up of an array of colors, cultures, and languages and all of these are in the divine image of God.

As I look at the picture there is one other important detail, despite the church not having lights it is still in the center. I believe for Van Gogh and for many the church is still the center, but they are waiting on us to turn on the lights, to be a place of welcome for all people, to be a voice for those that are silenced by those in power, to be what the church is intended to be. They are waiting on a church that's authentic in its love through word and action and not just Sunday stories, they are waiting on the church to be what it is supposed to be. We are not a social club, we are not a place for members with who is in and who is out, we are a place for healing, for reconciliation, and for all people to find their sacred worth.

As we journey through November, through the election and the political climate of our country, as we journey towards the season of Thanksgiving, I wonder how will we let our light shine? Where do we need to shine the light of God's love in our community? Where do we need to break our silence in order to speak for our neighbors? We need to turn the lights on. We need to shine light into the darkness of the world instead of adding to or perpetuating what is there. I keep this picture as a constant reminder. I don't want to be a church with no light, Lord have mercy for the times I have not and help us to shine light into the world.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. John 1:1-5

Chris Smith

# General Information

## Faith & Fitness

Exercise class meets on Tuesday's & Thursday's at 9am in the fellowship hall. Equipment is provided and there is no fee. It is more than just exercise, it is a time to connect with other ladies and share in stories, prayer, and scripture. There is a physical need that is met but even more so there is an emotional and spiritual need that is met when we come together. Hope you can join us.

## AA Group

Jordan Memorial hosts Alcoholic Anonymous meetings on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the conference room.

## Jordan's Closet

Jordan's Closet is open: the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday from 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM of each month!

We always need help sorting and putting out new donations as well as folks who want to come and sit and talk with our friends who come. It is more than clothes, it is connection!

## Small Group Bible Study

Join us as we enjoy conversation in small groups and dive deeper into God's word.

November 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Conference Room  
6:30 PM Parsonage

November 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 AM Conference Room  
6:30 PM Parsonage

## Announcements!

Leadership Team Meeting Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 PM

Connections Day & Cover dish Thanksgiving Meal Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM



Join us for **Growing Together** November 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM at the Church. This monthly gathering is a chance to grow in our relationships with one another. Crossing cultural and language barriers, we seek to grow in our faith as we learn from each other and create out of our personal stories. The ladies enjoy crafting while the men have been going and enjoying breakfast together. This is open to men and women and is a wonderful opportunity to create, share, and grow!

## Thumbs Up!

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 Thumbs Up: Friendship and Encouragement for Women and Girls Come join us for a devotion, fun, and snacks. We do free nail wrapping, nail painting, and crafts. There is something available for everyone! If you don't want your nails done, you can still come and enjoy the fellowship!

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 Thumbs Up Annual Christmas Luncheon: You don't want to miss Texas Roadhouse rolls, Christmas crafts, nails, and door prizes! We will play "Dirty Santa" but the gifts will be provided. You don't have to bring anything but yourself! Please RSVP to Beth for this event so we know how many to prepare for.

(If any congregation members would be willing to help set up or serve lunch, please contact Beth Burton. I could really use a few extra pairs of hands)

## Line Dancing

Line Dancing class is on Wednesdays at 10:00am and on Thursdays at 7-8pm. Cost is \$3.00

## Craft Circle Group

The Craft Group meets on Wednesday's at 3:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

## Hot Dog Fund Raiser

November 17: Hot Dog Luncheon to benefit one of our church members. Immediately following church. Donations accepted for the meal.

**Being the Hands of Ministry**

Thank you for being willing to serve by adding your gifts to our worship services!

<b>November Ushers</b>	Crandall Ellison	Jo Lynne Allen
<b>November Readers</b>		
November 3rd	Jonathan Burton	1 Corinthians 11:17-26
November 10th	Melisa Perry	Matthew 28:1-10
November 17th	Crandall Ellison	Philippians 4:6-13
November 24th	Shirley Mitchell	Revelation 5:11-14

**Connection Day/Thanksgiving Meal - Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM.**

What is connection day? Well, it is just that, a day to connect with God and others! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM for a Thanksgiving Meal. While this is a joyous time to spend with family, we recognize that we have friends among us that have moved into our community and do not have family close by. This is a chance to come together and connect over good food! We invite you to bring your favorite dish and share as we come together for a night of Thanksgiving. There will be a wonderful mix of flavors as we have multiple countries represented around the table. We know this is a busy time right before the holiday, but we want to encourage you to come and share in this time. It is always a blessing, and we know you will enjoy it.



**Daylight Savings Time Ends**

Don't forget Daylight Savings time ends November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you show up at church and there is no one here, just wait an hour!



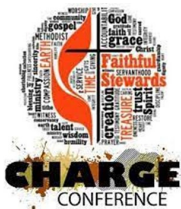
**BBQ Fund Raiser**

We hope you can join us on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12:00pm to 5:30 pm for a Bar-B-Que fundraiser to help support the church. You can dine in or take it to go. Cost is \$15.00 Look forward to seeing you there!



**Food Box Giveaway**

Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> the Ramseur Food Pantry will be giving away 150 boxes of food that are being donated by Mountaire Chicken in Siler City. We will need volunteers to help distribute the boxes as well as help control traffic the day of the event. Exact times will be provided closer to the event.



**Charge Conference**

Charge Conference on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at St. Luke's UMC in Asheboro. This is open to any that want to attend. We will join with our fellow United Methodist Churches in Randolph County for a time of worship and conducting the business of the church.



## Santa Sleigh Project 2024

We now are entering our 6<sup>th</sup> year joined with the Ramseur Ministerial Association (a group of church leaders throughout our community) providing Christmas hope to underprivileged children in our community.

Last year we served 53 children in our community as this event continues to grow every year. And of course, with this growth we see the need to raise additional funds to help us provide Christmas for these children. We hope to provide for each family. This year we also plan to build a new sleigh with 2 rows of seats to allow the families to sit with Santa for pictures more comfortably.

- A personal visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus on Christmas Eve arriving at their home in a full-size sleigh.
- A tin of homemade Christmas cookies
- A personalized stocking stuffed with treats and toys for each child to be handed out by Santa.
- Approximately \$300 in gifts are wrapped for each child and handed out by Santa from his big red toy sack.
- A full Christmas meal for the family including pie for after dinner.

We will have additional cookies and candy on the sleigh to pass out to the children we encounter on our route that want to share a little Christmas magic. We will also be setting up at a local business the weekend before and allowing all children to get a treat from Santa and have their picture taken while sitting in the sleigh with Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

We are inviting you to be a proud sponsor of this event and help us provide an evening of Christmas Magic for some of our underprivileged children and their families.

The families will be selected by local social services, school counselors and pastors throughout our community. We provide them with the number of children and allow them to choose the families that they believe are in the greatest need of a visit from Santa. **The donation is tax deductible as the organization is a registered non-profit charity group and 100% of your donation goes to purchase gifts and food for the children.**

If you choose to donate and help us with this great event, please fill in the information below and provide your check as described. We humbly ask for a response by 11/15/2024.

**James Rank - [james@gatewayconsultingnc.com](mailto:james@gatewayconsultingnc.com)**

**Cheryl Rank - [cheryl@gatewayconsultingnc.com](mailto:cheryl@gatewayconsultingnc.com)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Amount of Donation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Person and/or Business**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number**

**Mailing Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks Payable to: Ramseur Ministerial Association – Santa Sleigh Project**

**c/o Jordan Memorial Church**

**P.O. Box 848 Ramseur, NC 27316**

**Help us bring hope, love and joy to our children by supporting Santa on his annual journey.**



United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith meeting November 10 at 2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Jordan Memorial,  
Thank you for your work in the community and the support of the ESOL population. We appreciate your partnership!

Randolph Community College  
ESOL Department and students.

### Church Construction

We shared in a recent worship service that we are moving forward with the foundation work on the church. Thank you all for your generous donations and support as we have been able to raise these funds in a short time! The project will be broken up into four phases, currently we have enough money to do the first three. Work will begin on November 4<sup>th</sup>! I want to stress that while we are close, we are not done yet! We still need to finish raising the last of the money to finish phase four. Our hope is that by beginning the project we can see the fruit of our hard work and be motivated to see it finished! We are 80% of the way there so let's keep going to finish this out! Please note that during the construction there will be a few Sundays where the front doors to the Sanctuary will not be accessible. They will be clearly marked with caution tape, and we will ask that you use either of the side entrances to enter the Sanctuary on those Sundays.



### Bring Christmas to Children

It's that time of year again! We have three amazing opportunities to help with bringing Christmas to children in our community.

Jordan's Closet is accepting new and gently used toys to be given away in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

We have adopted a family of 4 from one of our local schools.

You can either sponsor a child or donate and we can do the shopping. List available in the church office.

Santa's Sleigh, which is organized by James and Cheryl Rank.

You can donate to help, volunteer to go and shop, or bake cookies.



# November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings End- Clocks back 1 hour Leadership Mtg 4pm	4 AA Mtg 6:30pm	5 9am Faith & Fitness	6 Line Dancing 10am Craft Grp 3pm	7 9am Faith & Fitness Thumbs Up! 3:30pm Bible Study 10am & 6:30pm AA Mtg 10am & 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	8	9
10 UMW Mtg 2:30pm	11 AA Mtg 6:30pm <b>Veterans Day</b>	12 9am Faith & Fitness	13 Line Dancing 10am Craft Grp 3pm	14 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 10am & 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	15	16 Growing Together 10am
17	18 AA Mtg 6:30pm	19 9am Faith & Fitness Jordan's Closet 5pm Community Meal 5:30pm	20 Line Dancing 10am Craft Grp 3pm	21 9am Faith & Fitness Bible Study 10am & 6:30pm AA Mtg 10am & 6:30pm	22	23
24	25 AA Mtg 6:30pm	26 9am Faith & Fitness	27 Line Dancing 10am Craft Grp 3pm Connection Day / Thanksgiving meal 6:30pm	28 <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office closed</b>	29	30

**Ramseur Food Pantry:** Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles, Rice.

## November Birthdays

03-Linda J. Williams  
 03-Jim McIntosh  
 06-Rob Roberts  
 07-Jeff Albright  
 10-Michael Bodsford  
 11-Tara Kurtz  
 12-Jerry Cox  
 12-Jamie Armfield  
 13 - Timmy Elmore-  
 14-Nancy Gudd  
 15-Justin Stout  
 16-Tim Campbell  
 18-Eric Allred

18-Carey E. Campbell  
 19-Sydney Blake-Sheridan  
 19-Joshua Kurtz  
 19-Carol P. Deal  
 20-Mark F. Albright  
 20- Eric Hutchins  
 22-Tommy Hoover  
 22-Susan Womble  
 22-Brian Shackelford  
 24-Claudia H. Ihme  
 27-Sharon Cox  
 28-Jenna Elkins



## Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

1511 Main Street  
PO Box 848  
Ramseur, NC 27316  
Phone: 336-824-2252



E-mail:

[JordanMemorial@JordanMemorial.org](mailto:JordanMemorial@JordanMemorial.org)

[www.JordanMemorial.org](http://www.JordanMemorial.org)

### Free Community Meal

Join Us November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM as we start back up our Community Meal, The Table. We are always looking for volunteers to help cook, cut desserts, and clean, and of course the most important task, people that know how to have conversation and eat! We look forward to this time every month and can't wait to see you there!

#### Worship times

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship Service 10:30am

La Luz Bilingual Service 12:30pm

