

The Messenger

Spindale United Methodist Church

PO Box 241 - 185 Mill Street Spindale, NC 28160

December 2025

Eric's Ethereal Cereal

***By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another. John 13:35***

Though many 21st-century Christians are drawn towards the BIG and sparkly manifestations of church, history tells us that the followers of Jesus displaced the Empire of Rome and ushered it to the human kingdom graveyard through the simple power of AGAPE (unconditional, Christ-empowered) LOVE. The Church, which quietly and without violence ushered The Roman Empire to the appendix of history books, did so through the uncelebrated, unselfish acts of individuals who never made it into the pages of a history book. They invested their day-to-day, non-glittering selves in the adventure of following Jesus.

Through the transforming power of Jesus' self-giving love, these early followers literally changed the course of human history. Their power was visible in the extravagant love they expressed towards strangers, the sick, the homeless, the hungry, the lonely, and those who were hopeless. It was visible as well in their love for one another.

This isn't what we typically think of as power. It was/is manifest by the followers of Jesus like quiet, delicate snowflakes. Individually, they don't seem very imposing. Each is different in some way from all the others. Yet, fit together, layer upon layer, they hold the potential to rearrange the landscape. These unassuming, unnamed persons ushered out one kingdom by participating in a Kingdom which preceded them and has no end... It begs questions of each of us: What is the defining mark of those who embrace God's kingdom? What kingdom will I give my allegiance to TODAY? Not the kind of allegiance which manifests with my hand over my heart, or through my words, or songs, or even by my vote, but with my arms and my heart wide open – You know – with my hands and feet and eyes and ears, my sweat and tears... just like Jesus.

Charles Wesley once described his vision of this power in a poem.

*Come, our Holy God and true! Come and my whole heart renew.
Take me now, possess me whole. Form the Savior in my soul.*

*Happy soul, whose active love emulates the blessed above.
 In every action seen, sparkling from the soul within.
 We go every sufferer nigh, hear with concern the cry
 of the widow in distress, of the poor and fatherless.
 The weak hands we lift them up, bid the helpless mourners hope.
 Give to those in darkness light, guide the weary wanderer right.
 Through the influence of your love, tenderness, compassion move:
 Love immense and unconfined, love to all of humankind.
 Love, which wills that all should live.
 Love, which all to all would give.
 Love, that over all prevails.
 Love, that never, never fails... Selah!*

By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. John 13:35

Blessings & Peace!
 Pastor Eric

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	Lynn Wall
Greeter	TBD

Small Groups

Bible Study is held on Sunday mornings at 10am.

Book club will take a break in December but will resume on January 8. They will be reading "Separation of Church and Hate" by John Fugelsang.

CHURCH NEWS

Staff Parish Committee will meet Wednesday, December 3 at 6pm.

Ad Council will meet on Sunday, December 14 following the worship service.



All Saints Sunday 2025



Frankful Fridays

The Frankful Friday Crew will be sharing a free hotdog meal on the second and fourth Fridays of each month (December 12 and 26). We will be set up at 12 noon.



Community Meal

We are hosting a Dine-In Christmas Community Meal on Wednesday, December 17 at 5pm. Lynn Wall is calling for volunteers. We will need hosts, folks to prepare, serve, bake desserts, and clean up. We also invite you to join us for the meal!

Christmas Caroling

In lieu of Saturday Night aLive, we will be Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 20. Please join us as we bring Christmas joy to our homebound members. Please meet at the church at 4pm and plan to return to the church after caroling to share your favorite Christmas refreshments. All are welcome!

Upper Room Devotionals

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



Christmas Eve Drop-In Communion

will be held on Wednesday, 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.



Thank you to all who gave generously of your time and talents. Fall Fixins was a wonderful success. We raised over \$2,000 for local missions!

Lynn Wall and Mara Hamrick

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*

Happy Birthday

3 *Marie Yelton*
4 *Cory Lowery*
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*

HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Lynne Potter
Trinity Ridge, Room 707
2140 Medical Park Dr
Hickory, NC 28602

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Yokefellow – Canned Beans (Pinto, Black, or Navy beans)

Grace of God – individual cans of Vienna sausage, beanie weenies, potted meat, packs of peanut butter crackers, gallons of canned vegetables.

LAST MONTH

November 2

In Person Attendance		49
Online Reach		175
Budget Offering	\$	3,656.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	137,074.01
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	192,104.00

November 9

In Person Attendance		n/a
Online Reach		139
Budget Offering	\$	3,940.14
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	140,679.97
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	196,470.00

November 16

In Person Attendance		45
Online Reach		104
Budget Offering	\$	5,580.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	145,929.97
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	200,836.00

November 23

In Person Attendance		50
Online Reach		118
Budget Offering	\$	4,355.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	149,189.97
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	205,202.00

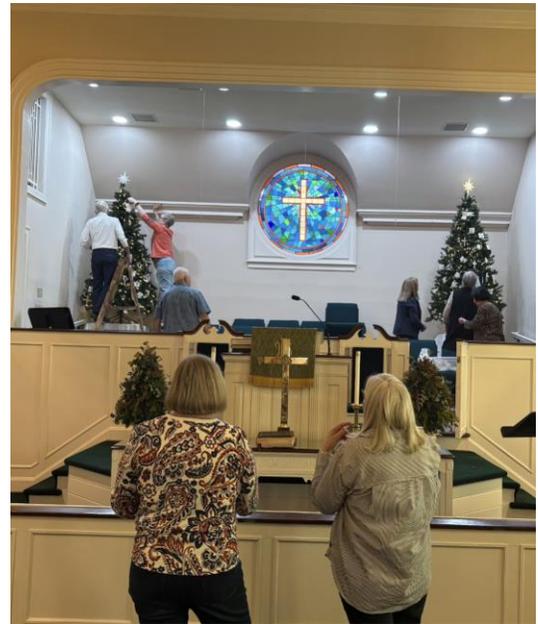
November 30

In Person Attendance		TBD
Online Reach		TBD
Budget Offering	\$	TBD
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	TBD
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	TBD



Prayer Requests

Jessica Shuck – Daughter in law to Jeri Shuck
Patti Deviney
Martha Shuping – Aunt of Jennifer Ruppe
Bobby Miller - Father of friend of Jeanette Klutts Crain
Tony Marshburn - Eric's dad
Adrienne Miceli-Trask – Friend of PJ Roehling
Steve Meador
Carolyn Young
Tim McBrayer
Bill Metcalf
Jimmy Johnson
Johnny Hopkins
Mark Ralls
Charles Clute
Tommie White
Lynne Potter
Wade Ogle Jr - Friend of the Bridges
Kenny Cole - Brother of Stephanie Higgins
Javon Calton - Uncle of Lynn Wall
Lisa Moore - Sister of Jeri Shuck
David Wiseman - Cousin of Jeane
Gina Gold - Friend of Brooke Watson
Bobby Stone – Brother of Tommie White
Thadd Hodge - Nephew of Jeanette and Lucille
Michelle Gillis - Friend of John and Stephanie Higgins





Mara and Lynn were inspired by Christmas at Trunk or Treat.

Agape Learning celebrated their Fall Family night on November 14. They will be on break through the end of the year and will resume in January.



Shakespeare Experience
"Scenes from Julius Caesar"



Wacky Creatures



Fall Fixins 2025



Violin/Fiddle Recitals