

The Messenger

Spindale United Methodist Church

PO Box 241 - 185 Mill Street Spindale, NC 28160

February 2026

Eric's Ethereal Cereal

In his book, *“Joining God in The Great Unraveling,”* Alan Roxburgh recounts the following remarkable/unremarkable story of the mysterious ways God is working in the world. (Sometimes that still includes the church.) One such glimpse he describes in the following narrative.

“In the southeast corner of Connecticut three very small, struggling parishes (congregations) had been formed in that state of small towns many years earlier. Several were now fragile, fearful their days were numbered. They knew they were way beyond business as usual and that programs to attract people weren’t going to work. With a mixture of desperation and desire to discern what God was saying to them they joined with their rector in an experiment of connecting with their neighborhoods. I’m not sure if anyone had any sense of what it was they were supposed to do but the Spirit was gently fermenting something unexpected among this little band of God’s ordinary people.

They asked each other how they might engage their neighborhoods. They discussed the usual programmatic options, talked about ways of meeting needs and helping people, and asked what they could “do” for neighbors. By the wonder of the Spirit, they somehow recognized that none of this was what they were being called to do. Each time they thought about mapping a neighborhood they felt like voyeurs, not participants in the neighborhood. It struck them that these approaches were transactional, turning people into objects of plans and programs.

How they changed is part of the mystery of how God works and how the ferment bubbles into reality. This little band decided they wanted to be with the people not do for them. In one village they saw a laundromat busy with people. An idea came. Several of them bundled up their laundry and headed into the laundromat. It was their simple way of being with rather than doing for. As they did this, they were asking themselves, “What has this to do with being church?” But they persisted. They discovered they weren’t prepared for the laundromat. They’d stepped out of their own controlled worlds into a place where they did not control. If they were to be with people in the laundromat, they were going to have to become vulnerable. They had to ask people how to use the machines; they came without detergent and had to ask where they could get it, they had to ask for change for the dryers.

And so, out of their spaces of control they discovered relationships in mutual connection when, like Luke 10:1–12, they had to receive from people. In this space they actually learned about their neighborhood by listening to the stories of people they were with because what else do you do when you're waiting for a spin cycle to end? The listening invited them into the community, into other places, other risks where they kept encountering the people of the community they could never have known in any other way."

As we move forward into an unknown future, we are being called/nudged by the Spirit to venture off our familiar maps and into new, uncharted waters. It merits each church asking itself: Where and to whom is the Spirit inviting our congregation to go? An old adage comes to mind: "If we keep on doing what we've always done, we're going to keep on getting what we've always got!" But what if we choose NOT to keep on doing what we've always done?

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ~Luke 10:1

Blessings & Peace!
Pastor Eric

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Eric Marshburn
Office Manager	Jennifer Ruppe
Financial Secretary	Janet Atkins
Director of Music	Jeanne Watson

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday, 9am - 12noon

Worship Assistants

Liturgist	Jeri Shuck
Greeter	Charles and Jeanette Crain

Small Groups

Bible Study is held on Sunday mornings at 10am.

Book club meets on Thursdays. They are currently reading "Separation of Church and Hate" by John Fugelsang. Reach out to PJ Roehling if you have questions.

CHURCH NEWS



Frankful Fridays

The Frankful Friday Crew will be sharing a free hotdog meal on the second and fourth Fridays of each month (February 13 and 27). We will be set up at 12 noon.



Community Meal

Come join our volunteers as we are hosting a Drive Thru Meal on Wednesday, February 18 at 5pm. Contact Lynn Wall or Bill McDaniel if you would like to help.



Ash Wednesday

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 18 at 6pm.



Saturday Night aLive will be on Saturday, February 21 at 6:30pm. Mark your calendars to come and join us for a night of food, games, and fun. Start spreading the word!

Upper Room Devotionals

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

2026 Church Directory

You may pick up the new directory beginning February 8. A PDF copy will be emailed out but please let us know if you would like a paper copy mailed to your home if you are unable to pick one up at the church.

Dear Church Family,

The family of Barbara Higgins wishes to thank everyone at Spindale United Methodist for all your expressions of sympathy during this time. We appreciate your thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls and other acts of kindness that were offered by many of you. My mother loved this church and all of you so much. I cannot begin to express my gratitude for your support during this time. Please know that this is much appreciated.

The Higgins Family

HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Bill Metcalf
Autumn Care
501 Esseola St
Saluda, NC 28773

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Yokefellow – Pasta

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

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

We would like to collect monetary donations to support Daniel and his family during this time of treatment and healing. You may write your check to the church and be sure to note that it is for Daniel. There is also a Go Fund Me page set up if you would prefer to give that way.



Our sweet friend, Daniel, is courageously fighting stage 4 gastric cancer, and this GoFundMe is a way to support his incredibly special family with love, light, and financial help during this journey.

Daniel will be fighting this from every angle, and we firmly believe healing is possible. This road, however, is long and demanding. It will involve travel, multiple forms of treatment and medicine, and an immense physical, emotional, and financial strain on his family. Our hope is to help lift some of that burden, so they can focus their energy where it matters most—on Daniel's healing, strength, and time together.

Every contribution, prayer, and share makes a meaningful difference in this season, helping relieve practical worries and allowing Daniel to keep his focus on fighting and healing. Let's surround this family with the support they so deeply deserve and remind them they are not walking this road alone.

<https://gofund.me/c845cd603>



Prayer Requests

The Family of Barbara Higgins
Daniel Dover
David Solomon
Jack Bridges
Patti Deviney
Bobby Miller - Father of friend of Jeanette Klutts Crain
Tony Marshburn - Eric's dad
Carolyn Young
Tim McBrayer
Bill Metcalf
Jimmy Johnson
Johnny Hopkins
Charles Clute
Tommie White
Lynne Potter
Wade Ogle Jr - Friend of the Bridges
Kenny Cole - Brother of Stephanie Higgins
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

February Birthdays

- 2 Jake Lyles
- 2 Heather Davis
- 8 Marsha Bridges
- 11 Caroline Ruppe
- 11 Catharine Jones
- 20 Charles Guy
- 21 Debbie Morgan
- 27 Alison Long
- 28 Joel Lowery

February Anniversaries

- 14 Jim and Marty Caldwell
- 14 Lee and Dot Abrams
- 26 Paul and Pamela Deck

LAST MONTH

December 28

In Person Attendance		32
Online Reach		389
Budget Offering	\$	6,102.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	165,401.97
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	227,032.00

December 31

Budget Offering	\$	13,038.32
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	178,440.29

January 4

In Person Attendance		49
Online Reach		535
Budget Offering	\$	2,680.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	2,390.00
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	4,380.00

January 11

In Person Attendance		48
Online Reach		364
Budget Offering	\$	2,200.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	3,929.00
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	8,760.00

January 18

In Person Attendance		43
Online Reach		414
Budget Offering	\$	3,475.00
YTD Giving to Budget	\$	7,329.00
YTD Needed to meet budget	\$	13,140.00

January 25 Winter Weather Closure



Can you Help?

The church office computers are old and need replacement. We have accepted a bid from Greenlee Technology (the same company who recently installed our security system). The cost of replacing both computers is \$2,000. We are asking for assistance in raising the money to purchase this for the office. You may write a check to the church. Please be sure to note that it is for office computers. Thank you!



Icy scene from Paul and Pamela Deck's yard

Multi-denominational
Community Worship Service

Free Event

8th

STRONGER WORSHIP SERVICE TOGETHER

Sunday, February 8th, 2026

11AM

RS Central High School

641 US-221, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MDCCRC>

