

JORDAN  
MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



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# The Link

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NOVEMBER 2025

## A Season of Gratitude



As the air cools and leaves turn, we enter a season marked by gratitude — a time to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the ways God has been faithful. Thanksgiving offers us more than a single day on the calendar; it is a posture of the heart, a spiritual practice that shapes the way we see the world.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians:

***“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”***

### 1 Thessalonians 5:18

At first glance, this may seem simple: give thanks when life is good. But Paul’s instruction goes much deeper. He does not say “give thanks for all circumstances,” but rather “in all circumstances.” This subtle difference is crucial. It acknowledges that life will bring pain, disappointment, and uncertainty. These are situations we might not naturally feel grateful for, yet God calls us to a posture of thanksgiving even there.

Paul is encouraging the Thessalonians and us to recognize that gratitude is not just a response to blessings, but a spiritual discipline that shapes our perspective. When we give thanks amid hardship, we are choosing to focus on God’s presence and faithfulness rather than our circumstances. It is an act of trust, an acknowledgment that God is bigger than our trials and remains at work even when life feels chaotic or unfair.

The context of Thessalonians is important: Paul was writing to a young church experiencing persecution, uncertainty, and social pressure. His call to give thanks was not naive optimism; it was a call to faithfulness. Giving thanks in all circumstances is an intentional recognition that God’s goodness is steadfast, His love endures, and His purposes cannot be thwarted, even when our lives feel fragile or painful. True gratitude is cultivated not only in moments of comfort, but especially when life is hard. It is in those moments that our hearts grow in faith, hope, and resilience.

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

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

**Genie Cross**  
Clapp's Room 206  
500 Mountain Top Dr.  
Asheboro, NC

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

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

**Jordan Memorial Military**

**Quinton Smith**

**Jonatan Murphy**

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**In Memory of Betty Shackelford**

Jerry & Debbie Cox  
John & Priscilla Allen  
Bill & Jackie Craven  
Zhifen Lane  
Jill Wood  
Jamie Poole  
Bruce & Claudia Ihme  
Ed & Shirley Mitchell  
Tom & Debbie Hardin  
Larry & Crandall Ellison  
Jimmy Carter & Cindy Craven  
David & Celia Harris  
Lois Hicks  
Greg & Cindy Chaffin  
Anne Cox  
Mont Gilmore  
Class of 1964 Allen Jay High School  
Bob and Betty Jo Armfield  
Wayne and Ann Hutchins  
Martha Thomas

**College Students**

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

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

**Hunter Shackelford**  
Lynch Hall Room 333  
9201 University City Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28223.

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

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

**Betty Kinley Shackelford Obituary**

Betty Kinley Shackelford, 79, of Asheboro passed away on Saturday, October 4, 2025.



Betty was a native and a lifelong resident of Randolph County. She was a graduate of Allen Jay High School and graduated from Cosmetology School. Betty was employed by the Randolph County Schools as a SIMS Operator and retired after 35 years of service. She was a faithful member of Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church where she sang in the choir and was the first ever female member and chair of the Board of Trustees. Betty also served as a Sunday School teacher and on the Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Ramseur Garden Club and loved giving back to her community. Betty was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry Wayne Shackelford, her son, Shanon Dale Shackelford, her parents, Lester and Roxie Wall Kinley, and her brother, William Eugene Kinley.

Survivors: son, Brian Lane Shackelford and wife Kim, of Asheboro, sister, Sharon Jane Jones, of High Point, brother, Wayne Kinley and wife Samantha, of High Point, grandchildren, Zachary Clark and wife Caroline, Payton Beeson and husband Christian, Ashley Garbarz and husband Michael, Parker Shackelford, Hunter Shackelford, great-grandchild, Wylder Beeson.

Memorials may be made to the Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church Building Fund, PO BOX 848, Ramseur, NC 27316.

# General Information

## Thumbs Up!

Friendship and encouragement for women and girls will meet on Tuesday, November 4th at 3:30. This is a temporary change from our Thursday schedule.

## Announcements!

Leadership Team Meeting Sunday,  
November 2 at 4:00 PM.

## Weekly Email Updates

Beginning in November, the church office will no longer send weekly email updates by using a program called Constant Contact, but will use regular email. **Please make sure your email is updated to receive these important updates.** If you don't receive the weekly update emails, please check your spam folder.

## Line Dancing

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

## AA Group

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

## 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.

Don't forget **Daylight Savings time** ends November 2nd. If you show up at church and there is no one here, just wait an hour!

**Growing Together** will not meet in November, instead we hope you will join us on Connection Day, Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> for our Thanksgiving Meal!

**Thank you** for all the cards and tokens of love that were expressed for Pastors Appreciation Month, we are truly blessed!  
Pastors Chris and Jaidy

## United Women in Faith (UWF)

UWF will meet at 2:30 on Nov 23 in the Conference Room. We will have our pledge service. Please bring your World Thank Offering to this meeting. Following our meeting we will decorate the sanctuary for Advent at 4pm. All help appreciated!

## Strong Arms Needed!

It's time to decorate for Advent. We need help bringing decorations down from storage and to assemble that beautiful tree. Please meet in the Sanctuary Sunday, Nov 2 at 4pm.

## 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!

## Lion's Club

The Lion's Club is collecting old eye glasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. There is a collection box outside the church office.

### Pictures!

We need Pictures!! The church office is redesigning and building a new website for the church. We need pictures to share with our community of all the ministries we host and sponsor here at Jordan Memorial.

Go thru your phones, social media accounts and computer storage and send those great shots to the church office via email. [JordanMemorial@JordanMemorial.org](mailto:JordanMemorial@JordanMemorial.org)

### Connection Day Wednesday, November 26<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.

### BBQ Fundraiser

We hope you can join us on November 15<sup>th</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. If you would like to get tickets in advance and help sell them you can pick them up from the church office. Additionally, We need volunteers to help to plate, serve, and guide folks through the line. There will be a sign up sheet at church on Sunday November 2nd and Sunday November 9th for two hour time slots. If you'd like to help for one, two, or all time slots, please do not hesitate! Any question contact Lauren or Melisa.

### Small Group Bible Study

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

Contact the church office or Pastor Chris to be added to the group text message thread for dates and times of when the groups meet.

### Being the Hands of Ministry

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

November Ushers	
	Debbie Cox
	Kim Shackelford
November 2nd	Luke 19:1-10
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 20:27-38
November 16th	Luke 21:5-19
November 23rd	Colossians 3:11-17
November 30th	Luke 1:5-22



### The Nehemiah Project

We are collecting donations for the Christmas Season – The Nehemiah Project. This project is to help feed needy families in our community during the holiday season. Please give generously, mark check for Nehemiah Project. Thank you!

### Christmas to Children

It's that time of year again! We have 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 will have the opportunity to adopt local children and to help provide clothes and toys this Christmas season.





We joyfully celebrate the marriage of Sharon and Nathan Harris, united in holy matrimony on October 11<sup>th</sup>! May God bless their union with love, grace, and joy!



# Congratulations!



Congratulations to Lauren and Eric Hutchens at the birth of their little girl! Emerie Willow Hutchins was born on 9/16/2025.



(Continued from page 1)

In this season, we not only thank God for what we have, but also for who we have, for the people who make our lives rich with meaning. Family, friends, neighbors, all are gifts of God's grace. Thanksgiving reminds us that love and goodness are not fleeting; they endure. Every shared meal, every act of kindness, every moment of prayer binds us together as God's people. Gratitude turns our attention from what can foster negativity and fear into a recognition of God's presence.

True gratitude is often hardest when life is painful, uncertain, or disappointing. Yet the Bible challenges us to see God's hand even in these moments. When we look for God's presence amid struggles, our hearts are shaped by hope rather than despair.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you to reflect:

- Where might God be present in your challenges this year?
- How can you give thanks in the midst of grief, stress, or uncertainty?

Who might you reach out to with a word of encouragement, even if it's difficult?

When we choose gratitude in hard times, we testify to the power of God's presence to bring peace, healing, and joy even when circumstances are not ideal.

I want to share a story from my own life that has stayed with me. Recently, I had dinner with someone who had lost nearly everything — family connections, personal belongings, and security. This person even endured time in a place of great hardship. Yet, in this new place and season, I saw a remarkable thing: he was finding hope and joy in God and in the kindness of neighbors who had welcomed him.

Thanksgiving is not confined to a holiday. It is a daily rhythm of faith. When we begin each day with a grateful heart, for breath, for beauty, for belonging, we cultivate joy that lasts far beyond November. This Thanksgiving let us take inspiration from this story. May we look for God's hand at work in our own lives especially in times of difficulty and share that gratitude with others. In doing so, we live into the joy, hope, and steadfast love of God, creating blessings that reach far beyond a single day.

*Gracious God,  
In this season of thanks, we pause to remember Your goodness.  
You have sustained us, blessed us, and surrounded us with love.  
Teach us to live with open hands and grateful hearts,  
So that even in our struggles, we may recognize Your presence and reflect Your grace.  
Amen.*

Chris Smith



**Charge Conference** on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at First UMC in Asheboro. This is open to any that wants 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.



Join us for the installation service for our new **District Superintendent**, the **Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee**. The service will be November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at Main St. UMC in Albermarle. Bishop Keneth Carter will be preaching.

# November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Jordan Closet 10am
2 Daylight Savings Time ends Leadership mtg 4pm	3 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm	4 <b>ELECTION DAY-</b> Faith & Fitness 9am Civitian Mtg 6pm	5 Line Dancing 10am	6 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	7	8
9	10 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Lions Club 6pm	12 Line Dancing 10am	13 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	14	15 Fellowship hall & church reserved all day
16	17 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm	18 Faith & Fitness 9am Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5:30pm Civilians Mtg 6pm	19 Line Dancing 10am	20 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	21	22 Fellowship hall reserved 12-6
23	24 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm	25 Faith & Fitness 9am	26 Line Dancing 10am Connection day meal 6:30p.	27 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> Office closed	28	29 Fellowship hall reserved all day
30						

**Ramseur Food Pantry:** Corn Muffin Mix, Small Bags of 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

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 18th at 5:30 PM for 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

