

JORDAN
MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



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VOLUME 14 ISSUE 9

DEC 2025 JAN 2026



As we enter the season of Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas, we also look forward to a new year full of possibilities. Recently, our church community shared reflections using four images to describe how we feel in the life of the church: a car stuck in the mud, a puzzle piece that didn't fit, someone anxious, and someone self-content.

What stood out most was the recognition that we all find ourselves in these moments at different times. None of us is “stuck” forever; none of us is perfectly aligned, and none of us navigates life without moments of fear or contentment. This awareness invites us to practice empathy, patience, and love—not only for ourselves but for one another.

Our recent conversation reminded us that our core values as a church, connection, relationships, and love, are not just ideals we talk about, but ways of life we are called to embody. As we move through Advent, Christmas, and into the new year, these values guide how we show up for others. How do we live them out?

Connection begins before we even invite someone to church. It starts with showing up in someone's life in meaningful ways: listening, checking in, sharing a meal, offering support when times are tough. Relationships deepen when we commit to being present, not just in moments that are easy, but in messy, uncertain, and challenging moments too. Love flows naturally when we accompany others with patience and authenticity, celebrating joys and carrying burdens together.

In the coming weeks and months, consider how you might show up more intentionally: a phone call to someone you know is struggling, a note of encouragement to a neighbor, a moment to sit and truly listen. Connect with others through our various ministries, join a small group, start a small group, all of these help to deepen our connection with one another. Let's take these small but meaningful steps to live into our values as a church family, so that our words and actions reflect the love we profess.

As Advent reminds us, Christ comes into our world not as a distant figure, but as Emmanuel, God with us. Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot and will not overtake it. May this season and the year ahead inspire us to embody that presence in our daily lives, building deeper connections, stronger relationships, and more authentic love within our church and in the wider community.

Pastor Chris Smith

**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:

Grey Graham
Emily Johnson
Pastor Rob and Donna Roberts
Parkway South Homeowners Association
David and Kathy Posey

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



**Interested in joining a
small group for Bible Study
or just fellowship?**

We are looking to reevaluate how we do this in the new year so stay tuned for what is coming. In the meantime, we have a wonderful small group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 prior to worship! We would love to have you join us there!



Being the Hands of Ministry

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

December Ushers

Melisa Perry
Tommy Perry

January Ushers

Greg Chaffin
Brian Burton



New Website!

The church has a new website. While it is a work in progress, stop by and see the new changes!

And remember if you can't attend in-person you can watch worship service from the website.

www.JordanMemorial.org

Stewardship for New Year

Thanks to your giving, our church continues to be a beacon of light and service in this community. Your generosity keeps our missions moving—from local outreach to global partnerships.

As we begin this new year, we want to close any remaining gaps from last year's budget so we can move confidently into the months ahead. If you are able, an extra or catch-up gift this month will make a real difference.

Your faithful giving is an expression of your discipleship and love for Christ's church. Thank you for helping ensure our ministries have the strong foundation they need to thrive.

General Information

United Women of Faith (UWF)

The UWF held its annual Pledge Service as well as our World Thank Offering in November. We would love to have more ladies join us as we continue to serve children, youth and women locally as well as globally.

Upcoming mission projects are:

December: Donate new and gently used toys to Jordan's Closet. Please place donations in the box near the church office. We encourage all members to support this project.

January: Feminine hygiene products for the Ramseur Food Pantry. Place donations on the box near the church office.

February: Red Cross Blood Drive, February 14. More information will be provided in January.

Our next UWF meeting will be January 11. Please join us!!

Jordan's Closet will be collecting new and gently used toys for Christmas. We will be open as usual on the first Saturday in December and third Tuesday as well as the second Saturday. Saturday hours will be 10am-12pm, Tuesday 5pm-7pm. Volunteers are always welcome and needed during hours of operation. The last day to donate toys is December 14.

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.



State of the Church

Join Us Sunday January 25th at 3:00 PM for our annual State of the Church Address. During this time, we will address matters pertaining to all aspects of the church. There will be time for questions at the end for anything not covered during the address.

Leadership Team Meeting

December 7th at 4:00 PM
January Meeting TBA

AA Group

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

Growing Together

Growing Together is planning to meet in December and January but due to the nature of all that is happening we will make the determination of when and where closer to the time. We recognize this is inconvenient but is out of an abundance of caution for our neighbors and friends. Please look to Call-multiplier texts and phone calls for latest information in regard to our next time together. We recognize we need now more than ever a time for crossing cultural and language barriers and to seek to grow in our faith as we learn from each other and create out of our personal stories.

Line Dancing

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

Lion's Club

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



Christmas Program

Join us on Sunday December 14th at 4:00 PM for a special service of Word and Song. The

Choir and Handbells will share with us as we journey through the Scriptures of that first Christmas. A special thanks to Carolyn Albright, Elaine Bowman and all our choir and handbell members for making this possible!



Adopt a Kid

Join Us Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 PM at First Christian Church Ramseur as we will be giving out the gifts from our "Adopt a kid for Christmas"! We will share with the families, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy cookies and Hot Chocolate!

Don't forget ways to help this Christmas!

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

Adopt a Kid for Christmas, the cost is \$100, you can either shop or we can do it for you!

Donating to support the Nehemiah Project to provide meals at Christmas for our community.

BIG Thank You!

The sanctuary is ready for Advent! Thanks to all who helped with decorating. We hope everyone will join us during this season of joy and anticipation.



Christmas Eve—Eve Service

Join us for a special Candlelight Christmas Eve (Eve) service on December 23rd, at 6:30 PM

"O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord" the light of the world that came into the darkness!



Nehemiah Food Drive

The Nehemiah Food Drive distribution will be Saturday, December 20th. We will need help the day of to distribute the boxes as well as help on Friday morning at 9am to get the boxes ready.

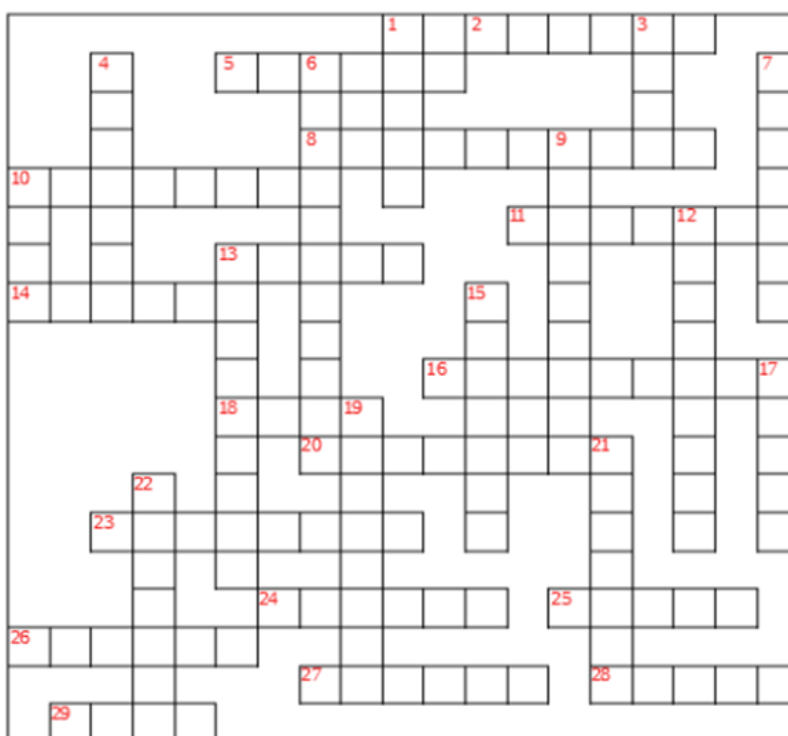
Please contact Pastor Chris or the church office if you would like to help. We are also collecting funds to purchase green beans for donation. Any funds received that exceed the amount needed will be directed towards the Community Meal.



As we approach the end of the year, we hope you will remember the church with your end of year giving! Do you have an IRA and are looking for some tax saving options? Do you have stocks that you are looking for ways to move in order to reduce your taxes? There are many ways you can benefit your own tax liability and at the same time bless the church. If you would be interested in learning more, please contact the church office so we can set up a time to go over your options and see how we can turn your end of year giving into a win-win!

A Little Fun for The Holiday Season

Christmas



Across

- 2 Famous snowman
- 5 Traditional dairy drink
- 8 An opener or a famous ballet
- 10 Hung over the fireplace
- 11 Carrot-nosed figure
- 13 Christmas song
- 14 Circular decoration
- 16 Dance of the ____ Fairy
- 18 Tree topper
- 20 Christmas month
- 23 Tree decoration
- 24 Santa's ride
- 25 Santa's helpers
- 26 ____ Bells
- 27 Green Christmas thief
- 28 Plant with red berries
- 29 The First Christmas, "The First ____"

Down

- 1 ____ Pole
- 3 Green Christmas decoration
- 4 Mean or miserly person
- 6 Treat used to build miniature houses
- 7 How Santa gets in
- 9 Striped sweet
- 10 Frozen rain
- 12 Christmas "kissing" plant
- 13 Gift giving holiday
- 15 Little ____ Boy
- 17 ____ Christmas; A season's greeting
- 19 Rudolph and friends
- 21 Lead reindeer
- 22 Kris ____

ADVANCED

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December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	2 Faith & Fitness 9am Civitian Mtg 6pm	3 Line Dancing 10am	4 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	5	6 Jordan Closet 10am
7 Second Sunday of Advent Leadership Mtg 4pm	8 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	9 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Lions Club 6pm	10 Line Dancing 10am	11 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	12	13 Jordan Closet 10am
14 Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Pgm 4pm	15 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	16 Faith & Fitness 9am Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5:30pm Civitian Mtg 6pm	17 Line Dancing 10am	18 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	19 Pack Food Boxes 9am	20 Nehemiah Food Drive
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent Adopt a Kid 3pm	22 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	23 Faith & Fitness 9am Christmas Eve Svc 6:30pm	24	25 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm Office closed	26	27
28	29 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	30 Faith & Fitness 9am	31 Line Dancing 10am			

Ramseur Food Pantry: Canned/Powered Milk, Self-Rising Flour, Sugar, Vegetable oil.
We will need volunteers Dec 15-19.

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
- 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.

Holiday Stewardship

Advent invites us to reflect on God’s greatest gift—love made flesh in Jesus Christ. In that spirit, we pause to thank you for your generosity throughout the year. You’ve helped shine Christ’s light through worship, compassion and service.

As we near the year’s end, we invite you to consider an additional or catch-up gift to help our congregation finish the year strong. Your support ensures that our ministries of love and grace continue into the new year.

Thank you for being part of a church that embodies God’s hope. Your giving is a reflection of your faith—and it is transforming lives.

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3
Ramseur Food Pantry: Rice A Roni, Macaroni & Cheese.						
4 Epiphany Sunday	5 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	6 Faith & Fitness 9am Civitian Mtg 6pm	7 Line Dancing 10am	8 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	9	10
11 UWF mtg 2:30pm	12 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	13 Faith & Fitness 9am Senior Bingo 10am Lions Club 6pm	14 Line Dancing 10am	15 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	16	17
18	19 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Martin Luther Day	20 Faith & Fitness 9am Jordan Closet 5pm Community Meal 5:30pm Civitian Mtg 6pm	21 Line Dancing 10am	22 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	23	24
25 State of Church 3pm	26 AA Mtg 6:30pm Boy Scout 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	27 Faith & Fitness 9am	28 Line Dancing 10am	29 9am Faith & Fitness AA Mtg 6:30pm Line Dancing 7-8pm	30	31

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
 15– Michael Bressler
 16– Susan Bodsford Wesley
 21– Elton L. Smith
 23 – Bill Blake
 23– Ellen Williams
 28- Aaron Hardin
 28– Matthew Hardin
 29– Viletta Embree
 29- Billy Poole



Share the Love Blood Drive — Help Save a Life!



Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church United
 Women of Faith is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a
 special “Share the Love” Blood Drive on Saturday, February 14,
 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As we celebrate Valentine’s Day, there’s no better way to spread love
 than by giving the gift of life. Your donation can make a real differ-
 ence for patients in need within our community and beyond.

Event Details: Registration will open on January 1.

Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

Saturday, February 14, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

All eligible donors are encouraged to participate. Walk-ins are wel-
 come, but appointments help ensure a smooth donation experience.
 Details on registration in the new year.

Let’s come together, share the love, and support this lifesaving mis-
 sion!

Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.JordanMemorial.org



Community Meal December 16th at 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Join us for a Christmas celebration as we enjoy good food, fellowship, and some Christmas Carols! All are invited! Nothing represents the Holidays better than time around the Table. Hope you can join us on this evening at the Table at Jordan Memorial UMC.

*** Note that January's Community Meal will be January 20th.**

Worship times

Sunday School 9:30am

Worship Service 10:30am

