



IN CHRIST

The Newsletter of Christ UMC

81 Garrison Br. Rd. 2, Weaverville, NC 28787
August 2026

Speaking of Joy!

Dear People of Christ,

Throughout my time in ministry, I have loved Paul's letter to the Philippians. I see it to be uplifting, especially in troubling times; encouraging for living our faith; and as relevant as ever for our times.

I also appreciate that there is a consistent theme running through the whole letter. It is JOY. That's why scholars have often referred to it as Paul's "JOY LETTER."

So, where are we experiencing joy in our lives? Where might we be seeing joy in our world?

I realize those might be tough questions to answer. Joy seems a bit scarce right now. At least, it does to me. Is that how you feel, too? Mostly what I see and feel in these times is worry, frustration, anger, cynicism, and even a tinge of hopelessness. Stress is a constant companion (it is for me). Fear of the unknown hangs over us.

And yet, I open this letter and it's like Paul is saying to me *"Wait a minute...that's not how it is supposed to be. Look deeper. Look to Jesus the GIVER OF LIFE. He is our joy. Not the things the world gives. Not the things we earn and achieve. Not even obeying the Law. Just Jesus...the source of true joy!"*

I want to expound upon this some more during August. Each Sunday we are taking a chapter and choosing a text that gives special insight to our faith. (See the "preaching schedule" that follows).

Another reason for choosing Philippians is because I think it will be a good "spring board" into an important time of discernment for all of us as members of Christ Church. Here are a few things that come to mind:

****With Christ Love Preschool having "run its course," where might God be directing our church to minister to children? Could it be a new program, a new partnership, or something we have yet to perceive? We have a small team of folks who have volunteered to meet and pray and envision God's new thing.**

****The aftermath of Hurricane Helene has brought new opportunities to be "in mission" by offering our facility to house mission work teams coming into our area. Truly it has been a great blessing to these teams, to the Blue Ridge District's Disaster Relief efforts, and to us. So, how can we build on this?**

****Christ Church is blessed with incredible leaders. I am so grateful for all the folks that have served so faithfully these past years...and, in most cases, are still serving, still giving untold hours and energy for the good of our church. We are so grateful. However, the truth is some of them need a break!**

I still remember what President John F. Kennedy once said: *"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY."* That's powerful, isn't it? And you know what? The same can be said for us and our church. Paul said at another time that when we are in the Body of Christ, we all are ministers. We are all called to step up. We are all called "to build up the Body."

Well, these are just a few thoughts I have about how we can "move forward" as Christ's Church. More to come as we get into the fall. In the meantime, pray for your church...pray for each other...and pray for yourself that you remain open to Jesus' calling to serve with joy in your heart.

"So, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind" (Philippians 2:1- 2 RSV).

In the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the power of the Spirit.
Pastor Mike

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST

August 2

"More Than Enough:
Compassion In Action"
Matthew 14:13-21, Isaiah 55:1-5
Rev Ray Kiess
Holy Communion

August 9

"Grateful Prayer!"
Philippians 1:1-11, Psalm 25:1-10

August 16

"Of The Same Mind
Philippians 2:1-11, John 15:7-11

August 23

"Pressing On!"
Philippians 3:7-16, Psalm 107:1-9

August 30

"Rejoice Always?"
Philippians 4:4-7, James 1:2-6,12

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 5 - 6p - 1st Wednesday Fellowship meal

Aug 12-14 - Senior Meals delivery

Aug 14 - 6:35p - Asheville Tourist Game

Aug 20 - 11:30a - LLL at Bellagio

Coming in September!!

Sep 2 - 6p - 1st Wednesday Fellowship meal

Sep 7 - Labor Day

Sep 8 - 5:30p - Serve Transformation Village dinner

Sep 17 - 11:30a - LLL at Bellagio

Sep 26 - 8-10a - Hospitality Cleaning

Sep 27 - Mission Team

Birthdays

8/7 Mike Holder

August Fellowship Meal - Wednesday August 5, 6pm - Invite your family and friends! This time it's yummy salads - Tuna, chicken salad, broccoli salad, fruit, orange fluff and spinach salad. See you there!

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**CHRIST CHURCH IN MISSION**

We have hosted four mission work teams thus far this summer. They came from Virginia Beach UMC, Toledo, Ohio, (26 youth and 10 adults with Catholic Missions), Wilson UMC (NC), and more recently, a combined team from Davidson UMC (NC) and St. Paul UMC (Christiansburg, VA).

Looking ahead, we have these teams coming: Chester UMC (VA) arriving on Sunday, September 27; and Hayesville UMC (NC) on October 25.

Many thanks to all who have come to clean before and after the teams. What a wonderful way for our church to be "in mission."

**If you would like to help the Hospitality Team with cleaning on a Saturday morning, talk to Melinda Morrow or Terrie Scarboro. Thank you**

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TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

What a great time we had at the game in June. Let's do it again! The next game is Friday August 14, at 6:35p. Tickets are \$11 per person. See Lorraine Asman to order and pay for your ticket(s). \$1 hotdogs and fireworks after the game. Bring yourself...and anyone else you want to invite. Thanks again, Lorraine, for planning.

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**Keep in Touch:**

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