



IN CHRIST
The Newsletter of Christ UMC
81 Garrison Br. Rd. 2, Weaverville, NC 28787
September 2026

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE BODY OF CHRIST?

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
-1 Corinthians 12:27

Dear People of Christ,

The Apostle Paul wrote at the beginning of his letter to the Philippians: *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you..."* Brothers and sisters of Christ Church, I want you to know that I feel the same about all of you.

In the time I have been your pastor, I have been inspired by your faith...impressed by your perseverance... and blessed greatly by your love. And, like Paul, I do give thanks every day for the privilege of walking beside you as we grow closer to Jesus.

I realize the path has not been easy over the past decade. Our church is not like it once was. Sadly, that is true for a lot of churches in these times. Our challenges are real...daunting even. And the path ahead is just as rocky and steep as ever. And sometimes the best we can do is simply to be FAITHFUL.

That said, as the little song goes, *"The church is not a building...the church is people."* It's you and me, all of us who make up Christ's living Body right here. Folks, we are Christ Church together.

What does it mean to be the Body of Christ? Paul laid it out for the Christians at Corinth when he likened the church to the human body—Christ's body. He says that we each have been given a gift to share in making the body healthy. These variety of gifts come from the Spirit...and each is needful for the body to function.

Think of our church...see the faces of those who sit around you every Sunday...recall the recent times of fellowship and serving together... remember our special times of joy and celebration. And then say a prayer of gratitude for these blessings.

Not just what it was in the past, but what it is in the present. I'm talking about what is happening among us now... and the joy of just being together.

Yes, we are a small church. But from everything I have seen, we sure do have a big heart for serving Jesus. And really, isn't that what it is all about in being His Body on earth? In offering to Him ourselves—our talents, gifts, presence, prayers, witness?

Like I said, I am so grateful...to each of you. I'm not sure our church would be here today if not for each of you...and the countless "sacrifices" you have made, and continue to make. The truth is we are doing great ministry together. We are practicing "radical hospitality" in hosting the mission work teams. We are serving and witnessing in our community weekly. We are providing holy space for others outside our church. And we are doing a lot more.

But it isn't just about all that we are doing...it's more about who we are as Christ's people. Loving members of his Body. Each having a privileged role...and a special place...and the calling Jesus lays on our hearts. All of which, by the way, makes us a HOLY COMMUNION.

Jesus often taught in parables. Here is a parable from centuries ago. It's the story of a wealthy nobleman in a village in the Alps who truly loved and cared about the people. A devout Christian, he realized they had outgrown their tiny church, and besides it needed a lot of repairs. So, after much prayer, he felt that God was calling him to build a new church for the village.

Work began, and the people were glad that they would have a beautiful place for all of them to worship together. Finally, the church was finished... and as they stepped inside for the first time, they were awed by its beauty. But then, someone asked: *"Where are the lamps?"* The stained glass let in some light, but it was still rather dark inside.

The nobleman smiled and pointed to the brackets on the walls. Then he handed out a beautiful lamp to each family and told them they were to bring it whenever they came to church. *"When you are here,"* he said to them, *"your place will be lit. When you are not here it will be dark. This, my friends, is to be a reminder of how each of you are precious to God, and what it means to be the Body of Christ and his light to the world."*

Dear folks, as we make our plans for the Fall and beyond, the challenges remain. Sometimes they can seem overwhelming; and they would be if we were alone. But we are not alone. Together, we are the living Body of Christ!

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

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WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6  
"Blessed Reunion!"  
Ephesians 1:3-14 & Hebrews 10:19-25  
Holy Communion

September 13  
"An Important Work!"  
Nehemiah 6:1-5 & Philippians 1:2-11

September 20  
"Holy Living!"  
Ephesians 4:1-7, 15-16 & Psalm 73:1-9, 23-26

September 27  
"Standing Strong!"  
Ephesians 6:10-24 & Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18  
Rev. Ray Kiess

Birthdays

9/5 Betty Wyrick; 9/6 Terri Blankenship; 9/28 Lorraine Asman

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Sep 2 - 6p - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Fellowship meal*  
*Sep 7 - Labor Day*  
*Sep 8 - 5:30p - Prepare & Serve Transformation Village dinner*  
*Sep 13 - 12:15p - Leadership Team Mtg*  
*Sep 16-18 - Deliver Senior Meals*  
*Sep 17 - 11:30a - LLL at The Fireplace Restaurant*  
*RSVP to Terrie Scarboro*  
*Sep 26 - 8-10a - Hospitality Cleaning*  
*Sep 27 - Mission Team - Chester UMC (VA)*

### **Coming in October!!**

*Oct 3 - 8-10 - Hospitality Cleaning*  
*Oct 7 - 6p - First Wednesday Fellowship meal*  
*Oct 14-16 - Deliver Senior Meals*  
*Oct 24 - 8-10a - Hospitality Cleaning*  
*Oct 25 - Mission Team - Hayesville UMC (NC)*  
*Oct 31 - 8-10a - Hospitality Cleaning*

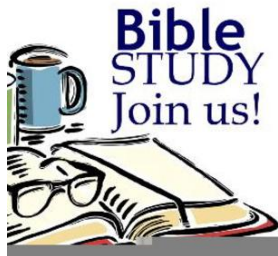
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SEPTEMBER Fellowship Meal - Wednesday September 2, 6pm

Invite your family and friends! This time it's BBQ with fixin's.

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### **Church Family!**



The Thursday night Grace Group has been on a sabbatical for about a year and is now ready to come back together. The study is going to be "Twelve Unlikely Heroes" by John MacArthur. (How God Commissioned Unexpected People in the Bible and What He Wants to Do with You.) This is a 10-week study. We will do a hybrid as before---both zoom and in person at the Scarboro household. The books are \$10.49. Please let Terrie Scarboro know if you are interested in participating so books can be ordered.

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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).

Our next teams are:

Chester UMC (VA), arriving on Sunday, September 27;

Hayesville UMC (NC) arriving on Sunday, 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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CHRIST CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our church is so blessed to have such strong leadership. These folks have faithfully served for a good while. Let us express our gratitude to them:

- Laura Lever, chair

Melinda Morrow, pastor- parish

Terri Blankenship, lay leader and WNC Conference delegate

Bruce Blankenship, maintenance

Kate Thomas, at large
- Terrie Scarboro, worship

Lorraine Asman, treasurer

Carol Young, finance

Jake Morrow, at large

For 2027, we are looking to fill two areas: chair and pastor-parish. We also want to add a third area: missions coordinator.

So, I ask you, "WHERE IS CHRIST ASKING YOU TO SERVE?" Please be in prayer for our church...for what each of us can do to make our church stronger... and how our Lord is moving in our hearts. Then, let's talk.

Pastor Mike

THE RIGHT MINDSET

The consumer mindset teaches people to ask:  
"What did I get out of church today?"

The New Testament mindset teaches people to ask:  
"How was Christ honored today?"  
"How did I share my gift(s) today?"  
"How did I love God and neighbor today?"

One mindset revolves around self.  
The other revolves around Christ and His Kingdom.  
--Pastor James Bell

Keep in Touch:

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