# CHURCH NEWSLETTER

**September/October 2026**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

This year I started an online program to help with my spiritual development and to build on my relationship with God called Transformational Intensive. It is a program which is ecumenical and follows the spiritual practices of Saint Ignatius. I meet with other clergy who are following this similar process, and we discuss our prayer life and some of the things that have come up within ourselves during our time with God. It has been a challenging but fruitful experience for me so far, and I wanted to share a spiritual practice with you all that I have found to be quite enlightening during my time in this program. It is called “looking at Jesus looking at me.”

This requires a degree of imagination, but the premise is relatively simple in theory but may not be easy in practice. You must begin with some moments in silence, giving yourself space to be comfortable and open to God’s presence. Then you must take your attention outward and imagine an image of Jesus sitting with you as you pray. In this process you must remember that Jesus loves you and is looking down on you with that love expressed through his whole person. And then you pray, knowing that you are being heard and loved by someone who is with you always.

As I mentioned this can be somewhat challenging at first. It is difficult for some of us to sit in silence, others may have difficulty with imagination, or in my case, difficulty with the notion of being seen fully. But this practice I have found to be transformational as it is a reminder that we are all being watched by someone who sees us completely and loves us fully. This is an important truth to remember, and I hope you all can embody it in your everyday lives.

Chance

## MESSAGE FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR

As we enter the Advent season, our hearts turn toward the hope, peace, joy, and love found in the birth of Jesus Christ. Among the many beautiful traditions of this sacred season, music holds a special place. **The hymns and carols of Advent are more than familiar melodies; they are powerful expressions of faith, reminders of God's promises, and invitations to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior.**

Music has always been an important part of worship. When Mary learned she would give birth to Jesus, she responded with a song of praise: *"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour"* (Luke 1:46–47). When Christ was born, the heavenly host proclaimed, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"* (Luke 2:14). From the very beginning, the story of Christmas has been filled with music!

During Advent, beloved hymns such as *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* remind us of the longing for our Redeemer and the fulfillment of God's promises. Their messages bring comfort to the hurting, hope to the weary, and joy to those celebrating God's goodness.

This Advent season, I encourage you to do more than simply listen to the music. **Sing! Worship! Reflect upon the words and allow their meaning to renew your faith.** Whether you are singing from the pews or sharing your gifts through the choir, remember that your voice is an offering of praise to the One who has given us the greatest gift of all.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, may our sanctuary be filled not only with beautiful melodies but with hearts overflowing with gratitude and love.**Let every note be an offering, every lyric a prayer, and every voice a testimony to the goodness of God.**

**This Advent, let us lift our voices together and make room in our hearts for Emmanuel—God with us!**

## YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth will be meeting at Food Lion on November 8th to purchase items for our Horn of Plenty. We will also be having a Youth Christmas Performance on December 13th. We will continue meeting until the end of April.

## FOOD PANTRY

The Outreach Committee greatly appreciates the generosity of our congregation in supporting the Food Pantry ministry.

There is a collection basket in the narthex to receive any food donations, such as "dry" goods (i.e., canned foods, cereals, pasta).

Food bags are distributed the **3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM** in the fellowship hall.

Come early and help with distribution!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION

**Meeting October 2026**

**August Treasurer Report**

- **August Income:** $14,082.00
- **August Expense** $15,141.05
- **August Net Income** $1,059.05

**YTD Income** $127,365.00
**YTD Expenses:** $114,124.99
**YTD Net:** $13,240.01

**Approved:** Fellowship Hall /Sanctuary May 14/15 for Wedding; Rev. Snell vacation Oct 27/28, November 23-29 and December 27-January 3, 2027; Insurance balance designated for sign/playground equipment; Resignation of Treasurer, Shelby Porter; Change of Session Meeting Dates to November 12 and December 10

**Presbytery:** Approved Dennis McLean as Commissioner/Molly Howsden as Alternate for October 3, 2026 Presbytery Meeting at Raeford Presbyterian.

## REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**Congregational Family -** Connie Ahlvers, Betty Cameron, Brian Cameron Family, Glenda Cameron, John Cameron, Kayla Fortin, Paisley Fortin-Sammons, Sheila Funderburk, Peggy Howard, Larry Howard, Jimmy McCormick, Richard Porter, Richard Roller, Donna Tarrants Family, Gayle Weaver, John Wells, Don Warcup, Deborah Womble

**Family and Friends of the Congregation-** Erin Jane Allen, Abena Ampofo,Kaison Ampofo, Jodee Beck Family, Jarrett Blockwell, Don Cseh, Nathan Clifton, Marlys Daugherty, Will Dixon, Dave Dryden, Faye Ellis, Valarie Fields,Jackie Gore, Eli Griffin, Tom Hightower, Fran & Roger Ivy, Cathy Jackson, Denise Johnson, Peggy King, Caid Long, David Lucas, Ray May, Randall McCormick, Anne McDonald, Rob McDonald, Annie McDonald, Belinda McGugan, Tim McNeill, Judy McNeill, Ted McNeill, Jane Morrison, Kara Pataki, Helen Poole, Barett Rimbach,Pedro Rodriguez, Becky Rosser, Pat Ruis, Christian Seeley, Barbara Severin, Marianna Shaw, Dwight Shaw, Brandon Spivey, Yvonne Star, Vivian Street, Robbin Taylor, Robin Thompson, Paul Tysinger, Marlene Watson, Betty Lou White, DeEtta Wood, Cristian Wood, Jon Woods, Teresa Wood

**Missionaries-** Titus and Kathy Gall

**Armed Service Members-**Matthew Armstrong, Felix Contreras, Konner Fortin, Ryan Rivas-Carroll, Justin Sammons, Lucas Yacco

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 1 Bible Study Ruth Ch. 3, 5:00 PM
- Nov 2 Worship Committee 6:00 PM
- Nov 3 Maker's Group 10:00 AM
- Nov 5 Bible Study Ruth Ch.3, 1:00 PM
- Nov 8 Presbyterian Women Meeting BYOL.
- Nov 8 Youth Group 5:00 PM
- Nov 9 Fun and Fellowship 6:00 PM
- Nov 10 Diaconate Meeting 6:30 PM
- Nov 12 Session 6:30 PM
- Nov 15 Friendsgiving Luncheon/ Collections for Horn of Plenty
- Nov 17 Food Pantry and Maker's Group, 10:00 AM
- Nov 18 Handbells 5:30, Choir 6:15, Cantata 7:15
- Nov 23 Christian Education, 6:30 PM

## WAYS TO GIVE

If you are unable to attend services you may:

- Mail your donation
- See Jessica in the office
- Scan the QR Code below

## CONGREGATIONAL BIRTHDAYS

**November**

**Nov 11 Roger Luke Cameron**
**Nov 12 Ruby Campbell**
**Nov 13 Estine Thomas**
**Nov 18 Oscar Pace, Jr.**
**Nov 19 Harold Pace**
**Nov 21 Tina Rimbach**
**Nov 27 Greg Street, Kim McLean**
**Nov 28 Page Hawes**
**Nov 29 Gwen McCormick**

**December**

**Dec 4 Mike Thomas**
**Dec 12 Ellie Coates**
**Dec 13 Kathy Yarborough**
**Dec 17 Brian Cameron**
**Dec 18 Cory Morris**
**Dec 23 Abbigail Necessary**
**Dec 25 Lucas Yocco**

## VISITATION & COMMUNION

If you would like to request a visitation from Rev. Chance Snell or for communion to be brought to you, please contact his cell phone at (540) 245-0261.

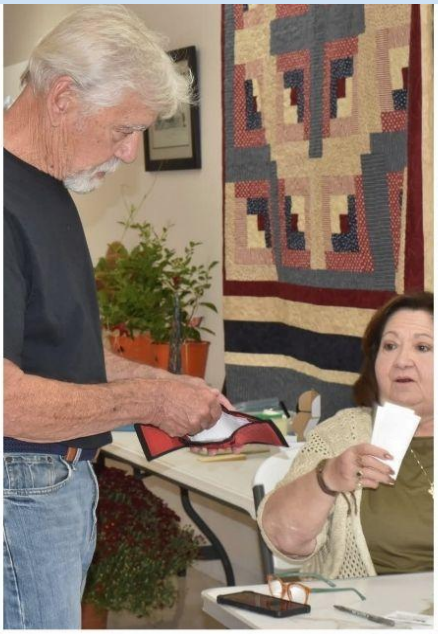
He would love to get to know all the congregation members, so don't hesitate to call.

## INVITATION FROM THE DEACONS

Members of the Diaconate invite you to inform them of people who because of physical and/or financial limitations...cannot do their own yard or housework; need transportation to and from the doctor's office and/or the grocery store; need food and/or clothing.

The deacon who is the head usher in each month will act as the contact person for the Board of Deacons.

During the month of August and September, if you know of someone who has any of the aforementioned needs, Ellen Phillips 614-444-7000 or Gwen McCormick 919-708-3169.











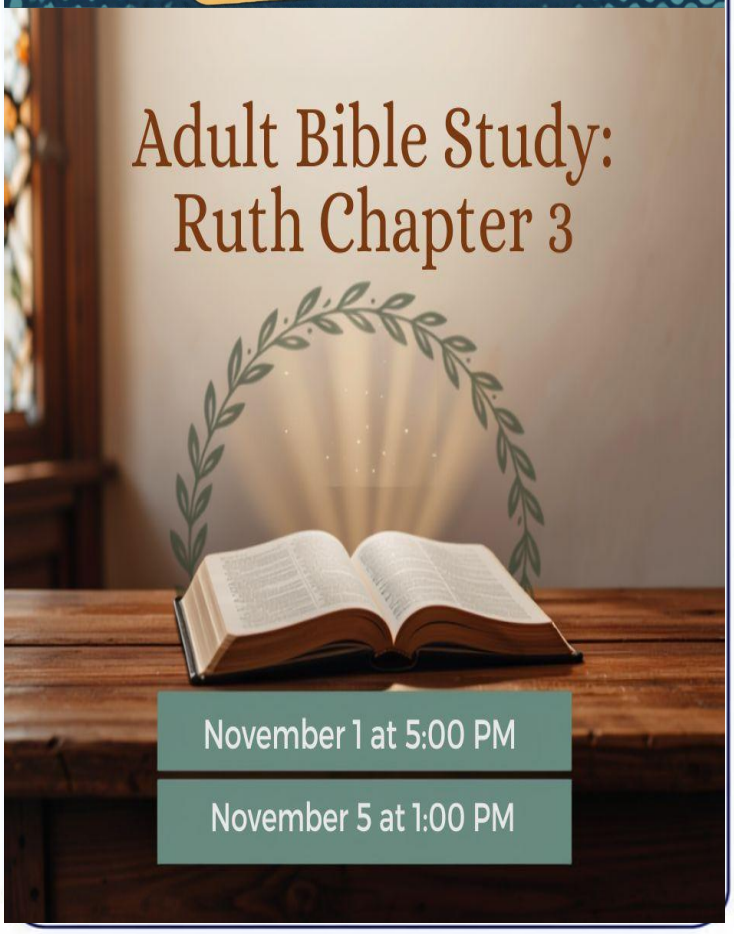













## CHURCH INFORMATION

**Pastor:**
Rev Chance Snell
barbecuepastor@gmail.com

**Minister of Music:**
Matthew Bailey
barbecuepresmusic@gmail.com

**Admin Assistant:**
Jessica Rivas
barbecue1758@gmail.com

**Barbecue Presbyterian Church**
124 Barbecue Church Road
Sanford, North Carolina 27332
919-499-5211

**Check out our website:**
www.barbecuech1758.org

**Ceud Mile Failte!**
**A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!**

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124 Barbecue Church Road
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