



The Circuit Rider



January 2021

Love Shed Abroad Our Hearts

Romans 5:1-5



During our Almost Christmas Advent Worship Series and book study, one of John Wesley's questions lingered with me: "Is God's love shed abroad in our heart?" John Wesley was looking at Romans 5:5 which tells us that hope doesn't disappoint us, because (as John Wesley translates it) "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." This time of year is filled with tradition and expectation. As we transitioned from Advent to the Christmas Season and into the new year, I found myself wondering about this question of love. So much has been stripped away in 2020 from our holiday practices and typical expressions of love. I find it refreshing and challenging to ask the question about God's love being shed abroad in my heart.

The passage in Romans speaks of having peace with God through our Lord Christ and his grace. The passage goes as far as saying we can boast in our suffering. God even redeems our suffering to transform us to grow in perseverance, character and hope. So I wonder if this is an opportunity for us to reimagine how we live out this love, in the reality of our reality. God arrived in the flesh for love to be born among us and in us in the reality of our lives. Is the love of God shed abroad in our heart - is the love of God not only being born in us, but also through us?

As we enter 2021, after this very unique experience of the 2020 Christmas season, may we allow the love of God to be born through us in new and creative ways. Over 2000 years ago, God never intended for the love of God made flesh to be limited to a single moment in history, but rather for it to be continual and eternal as we participate in the mystery of the Body of Christ. As we look back at the last year of our suffering and the disruption of our precious traditions, may we realize that others suffered, too. May we enter the new year with God's love and compassion

Camp United Methodist Church

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Shallotte, NC 28459
(910) 754-4840
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Sunday Services
8:30 AM Praise & Worship
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional

Camp United Methodist Church is a community of faith whose mission is to seek and to serve God by praying, preaching and teaching the Gospel, making disciples and serving others.

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awakened anew for our hurting world. Christ has made peace with us as we have been justified by God's grace. That grace is at work in us, moving us deeper into endurance and shaping our character that we may love all others in new ways. So in this new year all may come to know the love of God that has been made flesh and moved into the reality of our existence.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Steve

Billy Graham's New Year's Prayer 2008



Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us - but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (*Psalm 119:33*).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (*Psalm 33:12*).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to **make You the foundation and center of our lives** this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. *Amen.*

- written for and published in *The Saturday Evening Post*

GOD IS ALL YOU NEED

Let spirituality be your new years resolution. God is all you need.

New Year's Good Luck Traditions From Around the World



Hoppin' John for New Year's Day Dinner. In some Southern states, eating Hoppin' John on New Year's Day is believed to bring luck, peace and maybe prosperity to those who partake of the meal. According to History.com, "Hoppin' John was, and still is, often eaten with collard greens, which can resemble paper money, and 'golden' cornbread. The peas represent coins."

Smash a Plate. In Denmark, broken dishes are a good thing — people go around breaking dishware on the doorsteps of their friends and family. The more shards there are in front of your home the next day, the luckier and more well liked you are.



Pack Light. In fact, pack nothing at all. In Colombia, people take empty suitcases and go for a stroll around the block. It's supposed to guarantee a year filled with travel.



Smash the Peppermint Pig. In upstate New York, they sell special peppermint pigs all throughout the holiday season. Everyone gets to take a turn hitting it with a special candy-size hammer and eating a piece for good fortune in the coming year. The peppermint is very strong, so only take a small piece - but at least you'll start the year with fresh breath!

Keep the Windows Open. Doors too! In the Philippines, it is believed that if you crack open a window or door on New Year's Eve, it's believed that negative energy will leave and good energy will enter.



Choose Your Underwear Carefully. Certain countries, especially in Latin America, believe that the color of your underwear can bring good things to you in the next 12 months. Yellow and green underwear offer wealth, red is for love and white undies bring peace.

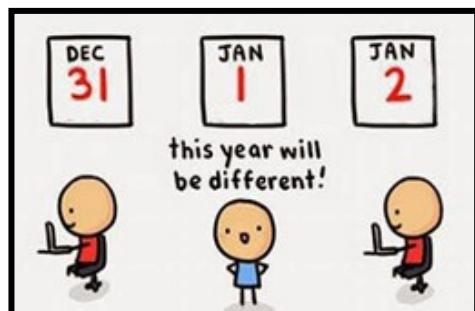
Throw Water out the Window. Puerto Ricans believe that dumping a bucket of water out the window drives away evil spirits. They also sprinkle sugar outside their houses to invite the good luck in.



Add Something Extra to the Champagne. In Russia, people write down a wish for the next year, burn the paper they wrote it on, dump the ashes in a glass of Champagne, and then drinks it before midnight.

Save a Wish for Next Year. Have everyone write down a resolution, goal, wish or note to their future selves, put it in a jar, then save it for the year. Next New Year's Eve, you can retrieve the jar and read the notes to see how far everyone has progressed.

- Good Housekeeping



Does your budget look like this?





Our children's ministry ended 2020 with a celebration of Jesus. Through our study of the terms: peace, hope, love, joy, and our "Sing a Song for Christmas" program, our children are equipped to spread the good news to people around them.

We had 13 children participate in our first fund raising event: Parents Night Out! Be on the lookout for our next one around Valentine's Day.

Twenty of our children spread the love of Jesus through our "Sing a Song of Christmas" program. You can check it out via Camp's Facebook page.



Kid's Christmas Party



Thank you to all of those who have supported our children's ministry through cards, kind words of encouragement, monetary donations, volunteering, and much more. We could not do it without you. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for our young families in 2021

Allison Hunter, Director of Children's Ministry



We closed a very challenging year of 2020 with an awesome Christmas party packed with food, games and FUN!! Here are a few pictures for you to enjoy!



The youth continue to sell their fund-raising items to raise money to offset the expense of retreats. Please support them with your purchases of their magnets, note cards, Say Grace Cards and T-Shirts. Thank you so much for your continued backing.

Church Magnets for \$5.00
Notecards for \$8.00
T-Shirts for \$22

Say Grace \$10.00 (a collection of 54 blessings with a holder to sit on your table to use before eating)

Kelly Littlejohn, Director of Youth Ministry

LOCAL MISSIONS

UNION ELEMENTARY

On December 9th, Christmas treat bags and ornaments were delivered to the staff at Union Elementary. Pastor Steve presented the gifts to Principal Vicky Smith. As always, the teachers and staff were thankful for the faithfulness of our church.



"Every charitable act is a stepping stone toward heaven."

Henry Ward Beecher

POWER WALKING MINISTRY

A big thank-you to everyone who donated shoes, socks, and money to our powerwalking kids. We collected 62 pairs of shoes from our church for this mission to help place new shoes on school children's feet.



Thank you also to those who contributed to Building Hope's **Angel Tree Project** (\$25 gift cards for the children of prisoners).

Several church members contributed Christmas gifts to **Hope Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter**.

What an awesome church family we have! Even with the pandemic you are thinking of others.

Barbara and Howard Varman, Local Missions Chairs

CAMP'S OUTREACH IS APPRECIATED

Excerpts from two thank you notes.

From South Brunswick Interchurch Council:

"150 thanks to all of you for your monetary donation of \$500 for the Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes... We actually served 167 families.... Also, there was such a good response to our plea for help in providing the funds for the turkeys and pumpkin pies that we can likely afford to repeat the Dinner Boxes for Christmas [without requesting] any contributions of food items.

Thank you once again for your contributions to the food pantry. With your help, we have been able to distribute food to a total of 11,090 people since mid-March when the Covid-19 virus came into our lives.

Mary K. Pritchard, Coordinator, The Lord's Food Pantry

From Hope Harbor Home, Inc.

"Thanks so much for your very generous contribution with our mission of helping victims of domestic violence in Brunswick County. . . In 2018-2019, we provided more than 1,880 nights of shelter to more than 150 women and children."

In a perfect world, people would not beat those they claim to love. In a perfect world, no precious child would be subjected to the lasting trauma and sorrow of growing up in a violent home. In this imperfect world, we treasure our commitment to our mission, and it is a blessing to have you as a supporter.

Karmen Smith, Executive Director.

MATTHEW'S MINISTRY

Our church helped a freshmen at SBHS, Delanie, fulfill her mission to help children in the Matthew's Ministry program. (*Matthew's Ministry provides backpacks of food to our local youth who may experience food insecurity.*) Her goal was to provide each child, grades K-5, a brand new book. Our church helped to make that dream become closer to a reality by donating about 45 new books. This project started off as a service project for our small group (*The Way*) but, like the loaves and fishes, God turned a few books into many with the help of our congregation. Thank you to all that donated a book.

A special thanks to Rebecca Allen and Becky Hewett for transporting them to the drop-off location.

- Nita Campbell

COVID-19 SAFETY TEAM UPDATE

Health experts advise that cases will continue to rise for the near future. Out of concern for our community, the team has paused all in-person gatherings at Camp. The result is that there will be no church-related activities through January 9, 2021. During this time, members are encouraged to limit their activities and contact with others outside of their immediate circles. Church staff will be available during regular business hours in the Administrative Offices. The current plan is to resume rotating in-person worship services on January 10th, beginning with the Traditional Service.

DARKNESS BEFORE THE DAWN WORSHIP SERVICE



On December 15th, over 30 people shared a holy experience in our quiet and darkened sanctuary. It was a sacred time of being the Body of Christ soaking in the scriptures and listening to each other's brokenness. We practiced both listening to the one being vulnerable as they shared as if they were Christ speaking and then we practiced responding to each other as if Christ was speaking through us. We ended the night with Holy Communion, remembering the mystery of the body of Christ broken for us. Many participants gave thanks for a holy, healing and special moment with God.

Small Group Men's Study

A new men's small group will soon be starting. Meetings will be for one hour on Tuesday mornings at 7:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

The 11-week Francis Chan study of the Gospel of Mark will begin when the church reopens for in-person gatherings. Check out the trailer. <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/289491>.

For more information or signing up email Hart Merriam at hartandsusan@gmail.com.

SPPR

As the new year begins, SPRC Team would like to express our appreciation to the Camp Staff for the amazing work they've done over that last year. Our wonderful staff includes: Robin Farmer, Theresa Tese, Dave Gilotty, Allison Hunter, Kelly Littlejohn, Dr. Susanne Adams, Tamy Munns, Wes & Betsy Ward as well as our MMO program staff: Kara Martin, Marlene Hall and Kim Isenhour.

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who run our many programs at Camp. This year has shown us how necessary these programs are to our community. Bless you for giving your time and talents to Camp.

Thanks to Pastor Steve and Pastor Alex for leading us during this unprecedeted time.

Remember that Camp works best when we all work together.

Jill Bryant, Chair

EVANGELISM



The live nativity scene was beautiful to behold. What a blessing it was to our entire community.

Kim Fillman, Chair

TRUSTEES

We now expect our new exterior doors will be delivered to our vendor in early-mid February. Installation will, hopefully, be in mid-late February.

Alan Lewis, Co-chair



ALTAR GUILD

Everything seems to be in a state of flux. We are going to be "on hold" for a few weeks. I already have names for the next couple of weeks . . . but I will not order flowers unless I am sure we will continue to be worshiping in-house.

Thank you all for continuing to make sure Camp's Altar Table was never bare. I have a good feeling about 2021 and I hope you do as well. As long as we continue to speak with wisdom, have some of "Job's" patience, laugh more, pray more, love more. and continue doing Christ work.... well you know what happens when this happens.

Sue Wells, Chair

COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY

On Friday January 1, 2020 the community meal will be hot dogs, baked beans and coleslaw. If you can help in any way please contact Chicky Wallace 410-688-2358 or Brenda Register (910) 443-9669.

Words cannot adequately express how thankful we are for all who have stepped up to help with the Friday Night Meals. Whether it is to help on the serving line, to help to deliver meals to our church shut-ins, to interact with our neighbors as they pull up to receive meals, to prepare the food or to wash dirty pots and pans. Without all your help it simply would not happen. We thank God for each of you and give Him the praise and glory and offer our thanks to Him.

Brenda Register and Chicky Wallace

The Lord's Food Pantry

Our church owes a debt of gratitude to Carol Kendall's for her excellent leadership of The Lord's Food Pantry over the past several years. Her dedication to helping the marginalized people in our community was so beautifully expressed by her faithfulness to God's people and our church through this ministry. We thank you Carol!

During 2020, Camp provided more than 30,168 meals to 3,352 people. That is an increase of 58% from 2019. Covid has certainly created financial challenges for Brunswick County residents, and we can expect this to continue well into 2021. Your continued support will be much appreciated! Your continued support will be much appreciated!

The pantry coordinators for 2021 will be Marlene Mellis, Gary Concelmo, and Jim Antunes.

DID YOU KNOW?



A honey bee has five eyes and four wings.

Honey never goes bad.

An average worker bee makes only 1/12 teaspoon of honey in its entire life.

Honey can attract and absorb moisture which makes it remarkably soothing for minor burns.

It would take about 1 ounce of honey to fuel a bee's flight around the world.



Q: What do you call a bee that lives in America?

A: USB

JANUARY IS REPORT CARD TIME

Worried about your grades. Do you feel as if your teachers don't recognize your true talent and potential? This fellow would have probably felt the same way.

Student: **J. Christ** Grade: 10

COURSE	GRADE	COMMENT
English	C	Tends to write in archaic forms ("sayeth," "maketh," etc.) and relies overly on outmoded figures of speech.
History	B	Excellent and enthusiastic pupil of ancient history but is baffled by the modern era.
Earth Science	Incomplete	Totally misinterpreted a major assignment on the age of rocks and instead reported on the "Rock of Ages." Needs to repeat.
PE	D	A troublemaker—e.g., during our unit on swimming, refused to work on technique and instead tried to walk across the pool.

General Comments: A charismatic boy but social concerns persist. Most disturbing is that he has organized a gang of 12 of his peers. Also, he should keep his hair at a tidy length and not wear sandals, in accordance with the school uniform guidelines. —TEACHER.COM

Found in Reader's Digest
Submitted by Joan Henderson

He has the whole word in his hands. Let's take care of it.



Brunswick County Solid Waste is now collecting Household Hazardous Waste every 3rd Thursday of the month. This is a change from their bi-annual collection events.

What they accept:

Acids	Mineral Spirits
Bases	Poisons
Ammonia	Polishers
Bleach	Household Batteries
Chemicals	Photographic Chemicals
Lighter Fluid	Chlorine
Oil-Based Paints	Muriatic Acid
Stains	Pool + Spa Chemicals
Brake/Starter Fluid	Mercury
Engine Degreasers	Drain Openers
Fungicides	Toilet Bowl Cleaners
Pesticides	Disinfectants
Herbicides	Solvents Thinners
Insecticides	Shellacs
Fertilizers	Caulking
Week Killers	Sealers
Propane Tanks (grill or smaller)	Fire Extinguishers

Brunswick County Landfill
172 Landfill Road, NE
Bolivia, NC 28422
9:00AM-12:00PM

3rd Thursday of each month.
(excluding holidays and/or inclement weather)

CARE FOR THE LAND

Being born as humans to this earth is a very sacred trust. We have a sacred responsibility because of the special gifts we have, which are beyond the fine gifts of the plant life, the fish, the woodlands, the birds and all other living things on earth. We are able to take care of them.

*Audrey Shenandoah (an Onondaga Indian)
found in "In Beauty May I Walk"*

THIRTEEN TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
4. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
5. Do the math. Count your blessings.
6. Dear God: I have a problem. It's me.
7. Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
8. The most important things in your home are the people.
9. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
10. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
11. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
12. Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle - it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
13. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

Author unknown

JANUARY MILESTONES

Beth Hunter	1	Eileen Markum	17	Sarah Roemmelt	22
Phil Inman	1	Beth Baker	17	Jeanne Frederick	23
Thomas Adams	2	Trisha Poulos	17	Cheryl Mills	24
Rita Bennett	3	Margaret Hardin	11	Libby Leggett	25
Kristen Hooks	3	Tammie Lewis	12	Laura Winship	26
Lou Bell	4	Mary Morgan Inions	12	Maggie Stephens	27
Tony Smith	4	Bob Winship	12	Diana Oliver	27
Jim Wallace	4	Chris Hunter	13	Steve Sowder	27
Gene Craft	5	Dale Calhoon	15	Victoria Nelson	29
Kate Inman	5	Parker Pickard	16	Debbie Donoghue	30
Tom Arnette	5	Kurt Meissner	17	Cindy Black	30
Judy Arnold	6	Felicia White	18	Nancy Williams	31
Ron Poston	6	Barbara Kellett	18	Sue Lide	31
Barbara Babcock	6	Poli Barefoot	19	Lisa Mintz	31
Ray Nichols	10	Alex Parker	20	Sondra McDaniel	31
Harold Bland	10	Tom Evans	21	Jerry Thrift	31
Kelly Littlejohn	10	Patsy Thrift	21		



John & Angela Adams	2 (18)
William & Derrice Combs	2 (51)
Jerry & Patsy Thrift	3 (24)
Ted & Lynda Troutman	5 (41)
Randy & Robin Farmer	6 (3)
John & Debbie Donoghue	10 (34)
Donald & Lynda Eagle	11 (62)
Larry & Julie Harrelson	11 (35)
Steve & Barbara Taylor	17 (34)
DeWayne & Elizabeth Oakes	21 (59)
Douglas & Nita Campbell	24 (45)
Alan & Peggy Russ	31 (57)



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

January 1	New Year's Day
1	Office Closed

JANUARY

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	7:30 Men's Bible Study/FH	Bulletin Deadline	5:30-7:30 Children and Youth		4:30-6:30 Soup Kitchen/FH	10:00 Food Pantry/FH/BA

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 	2 10:00 Camp's Food Pantry Day
3 8:30 Praise & Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 11:00 Traditional Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:30 Praise & Worship	18	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22	23
24 11:00 Traditional Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:30 Praise & Worship						