

**MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR JACK JOHNSTON**

The Memorial Service for Jack Johnston will be Saturday, December 7th at 11 AM at the Chapel.

**THANK YOU!**

*We are so thankful to the congregation and elders for the gifts for Pastor Appreciation Day! You are a blessing to us!*

- Kevin and Lanita

**COMPASSION FUND**

Since the storm, the Chapel Compassion Fund has distributed more than \$4300 to help community members with food, water, clothing, cleaning supplies, and other storm related assistance. If you would like to contribute to the Compassion Fund, all money placed in this designated fund goes towards helping people in the community throughout the year. You may contribute at any time. Simply mark your contribution, "Compassion Fund."

**SHEPHERD MINISTRY TEAM**

The new Shepherd Ministry Team will be responsible for caring for Chapel members through:

- Identifying, and tracking members' needs through regular contacts.
- Arranging and providing meals when needed.
- Offering or arranging transportation for those unable to drive.
- Helping with simple household needs.

This new Shepherd Ministry Team will be caring for all our members, rather than having specific shepherds assigned to members. The purpose is to care for one another, especially in times of illness, or other critical times. If you have served as a shepherd and want to continue in this role, we will have a meeting for all interested in serving on this new ministry team **Thursday, November 21st at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**

**IN THE "BLINK OF AN EYE"**

A recent news story told of a law enforcement officer who died suddenly in an ATV crash. A fellow officer described the suddenness of this loss by saying, "This is a reminder of how life can change in the blink of an eye. Let us be there for one another and cherish each other." (WECT.com, October 28, 2024)

I understand the "blink of an eye" is really about 125 milliseconds, a speed most would consider immeasurable. On September 27th, Hurricane Helene arrived in our community not so much in the blink of an eye, but the results of the storm have brought about sudden changes in our lives. One day we were safe, content, and looking forward to another beautiful leaf season in Lake Lure. In the blink of an eye, we were without power, water, bathrooms, cellphone service, and adjusting to a storm-ravaged lake community. Others lost more than modern conveniences- they lost their homes, their places of business, even their loved ones- all in the blink of an eye.

Sudden, traumatic changes often leave us feeling numb, shocked, grieving and even out of control. Where is God in the changes that come into our lives in the blink of an eye?

Psalms 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (NIV)

The nearness of an all knowing, all loving God in the midst of tragedy, or suffering is a promise to remember. And this promise of God's nearness to those who are brokenhearted often takes on human form! Many have been the hands, feet and heart of a loving God by helping others throughout the storm and recovery. Strangers have traveled for miles to alleviate the suffering of others through providing meals, chainsaw "ministry" and cleanup work. God has been near us!

One day, the New Testament gospels tell us Jesus' disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee when a storm arrived on the lake suddenly, in the blink of an eye. They turned to a sleeping Jesus in the boat for help, for the One who is "close to the brokenhearted" was in the boat with them!

Life does change in the blink of an eye- yet thanks be to God, we are not left to face the changes alone!

Faithfully, Kevin

### ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Each year, the chapel has an Angel Tree with tags for children from Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach that members of the congregation may take and purchase gifts or gift cards for Christmas. This year's tree will be up and tags will be available on **Sunday, November 3rd**. Here are the details:

- \*The amount to spend will be \$50
- \*Gifts will be turned in UNWRAPPED.
- \*Donations of boxes for clothing will be appreciated. \*All gifts will be turned in to the chapel.
- \***Gifts are due back to the chapel on Sunday, December 1st.**

We will be wrapping the gifts and preparing them for delivery to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach on **Monday, December 2nd at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.** Volunteers are needed to help, so mark your calendars and make plans to join us!

### COFFEE FOR VETERANS

Meets Thursday, November 14th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All veterans are welcome!

### CHAPEL WORKDAY

Saturday, November 16th, 9 AM–3 PM. We'll be doing grounds clean up, weeding, and some inside projects. We will provide lunch. To participate, sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The filled shoeboxes are due back on **Sunday, November 10th** and will then be delivered to a designated location for delivery to children all over the world. What better way to make a child smile and share the love of God? Make plans to pack a shoebox and bless a child this Christmas!

## NOVEMBER 2024



### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 3**—“Heart Cry” from Freedom Life in Concert

**Sunday, November 10**— Communion

**Mondays, November 11 and 25**—  
11 AM—12:30 PM, Grief Support Group

**Sunday, November 24**—Congregational Meeting for approval of the 2025 Chapel and Missions Budgets