

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE**  
**OFFERING**

Thank you for your donations throughout the month of November to Samaritan's Purse for the victims of the fighting between Israel and Hamas. We collected \$2,500.00.

**ONE CALL**

FMC has a phone notification system called One Call for members to be notified of changes to the church schedule due to weather or some other significant event. If you would like to be added to this phone notification system or you need to update your number, please call the Church Office at 828-625-2411.

**LOVE OFFERING FOR STAFF**

We are continuing with our tradition of receiving a love offering for the Chapel staff again this year. (Pastor, Music Director, Church Administrator, Pianist, Children's Sunday School Director, Sound Technician, and Facilities Manager.) We are truly blessed to have the services of all these people throughout the year. **We will be receiving the offering for these individuals through Sunday, December 17th.** You may use the "Love Offering" envelopes in the sanctuary pew racks and place your gift in the offering plate over the next several Sundays or mail your check directly to the church office. Please make your check payable to the Chapel and designate it for the Love Offering. Thank you for your generosity and on behalf of the Board of Elders, we wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas season!

***From the Pastor***

"He who has ears, let him hear."

One commentator said of these words of Jesus- "It would be difficult to discover any exhortation that he repeated more often, in one form or another..." (Hendriksen)

Jesus often repeated this phrase when he told a parable to a crowd of people. He implores us to listen, and to not simply hear the words, but let the spiritual truth sink into our hearts.

We are bombarded with words every day. Most of us can barely remember the days when we learned about the events of the day through reading a newspaper in the morning or by watching the news in the evening on the television. Now, "news" is accessible 24 hours, via any device with an internet connection. We have more information at our fingertips than we can process in a lifetime. More than ever, we need to be discerning about what we listen to and what we hear.

There is an antidote to this message overload. (Yes, turning the media sources off and unplugging from devices is one way!) The real antidote though is to go to the Source of all words we truly need- the Bible.

Why not commit to a daily Bible reading plan in the coming year? Or if a year seems too daunting, start with a 30-day commitment to read the Bible every day. Most of us, if we are honest, could use a lot more Bible and a lot less media. And, if the only word from God's Word you hear in a week is the scripture reading in the worship service, could it be that you are being shaped more by the sources you listen to rather than what God has to say to you?

"He who has ears, let him hear."

Faithfully,

Kevin

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**Women's Ministry December  
Outing and Lunch  
Gingerbread House Display  
Grove Park Inn and lunch at Apollo  
Flame Bistro**

**Thursday, December 14th**

Join us as we enjoy the festive display of Gingerbread Houses at the beautiful Grove Park Inn and enjoy lunch following our tour. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Parking at the Grove Park Inn will be \$5 per person. All ladies are invited to join us!

**Christmas Cookies &  
Baked Goods Needed  
FOR: Christmas Community Concert  
Reception**

**DATE: Saturday, December 9th**

Women's Ministry is hosting the reception and volunteers are needed to provide Christmas cookies and baked goods for our Christmas concert reception. Please have baked goods to the church by 3:30 pm on Saturday, December 9th.

### **BLANKET DRIVE**

Women's Ministry will be sponsoring a Blanket Drive for Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach during the month of January. We'll be collecting new blankets of all sizes. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall for donations.

### **COFFEE FOR VETERANS**

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

## **DECEMBER 2023**



**Saturday, December 9th, 4 PM,  
Community Christmas Concert**

Our FMC Choir and musicians have a great concert planned! Stay after for the reception and participate in our **“12 Baskets of Christmas” Silent Auction** to benefit the Lake Lure Classical Academy scholarship fund. Invite your friends and family to join us as we kick off the holiday season!

**Sunday, December 24:**

**Sunday Morning Worship—10 AM,  
the Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion—5 PM**