

FEBRUARY
2024

First United Methodist Church

310 N. Main Street
Mocksville, NC 27028
www.firstumcmocksville.org
336-751-2503



The Depths of Love

"We beg you as Christ's representatives, 'Be reconciled to God!' God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:20b-21 (CEB)

The Lenten sermon series is entitled "Depths of Love". Each week we will dig deeper into the lectionary scripture and see the depths of love that God has for all humanity. We end on Good Friday when we read the scriptures of the passion of Jesus. In those words, we see the extreme depth of God's love.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is a somber day as well. The focus is on our death. We hear the powerful words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." The words remind us of our own mortality. We hear in those words the truth that death will claim us all. The service of Ash Wednesday confronts death, our death. We need the reminder of death so that we can examine our lives, especially our lives in Christ. Ashes are smeared on our foreheads as another reminder of death. The form of the ashes on our foreheads alters the story from death to life.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, the day we think of love in our relationships with a significant other. It is a "mushy" day where flowers and candy are exchanged, and romantic dinners planned. There are memes on Facebook and jokes floating around that this year the ashes should be placed on the forehead in the shape of a heart to represent the love of Valentine's Day. That love is not what we need on Ash Wednesday, the day we remember our mortality. We need, we must have, the sign of God's great depth of love. The cross.

The cross transforms our thoughts of death. We cannot change the fact that we will die. The cross reminds us that we can die in Christ and that makes all the difference. Death is not the end. Christ has won the victory over death. Christ's death means life for us.

We must not move too quickly from ashes of death to life through the cross of Jesus. The ashes remind us of the sin that we have in our lives. We must acknowledge our sin and as our liturgy of Holy Communion says, "Seek to live in peace with God and one another." We receive that peace when we are reconciled to God. Paul was adamant with the Corinthian Christians that returning to God was the only way of living in Christ.

Ashes are the symbol of death. The cross is the symbol of life. Jesus, who was without sin took on our sin and went to the cross. Through his death, we are freed from sin when we acknowledge our sin and repent. Then we are made righteous.

This year as you come forward and feel the cross imposed on your forehead, remember your sin. Do not hide in shame and guilt for God will remove them from you. Look in the mirror and see the cross that is the symbol of the depth of love God has for you. Know that your sin is forgiven, and you have a promise of life in Christ in this world and in eternal life.

Let us Pray:

Holy God, the depth of your love is unfathomable. You held nothing back from humanity, not even your Son, Jesus. Show us first how to acknowledge our sin. Then help us give the sin to you and fully accept your forgiveness. We pray in the name of your Beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.

(Note: We will have an Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes on Wednesday February 14, 2024, at 6:15 PM in the Family Life Center. There will be a pancake meal that evening at 5:30 PM in case you want to share a meal together before the Ash Wednesday service).

Grace and Peace,

Lori Anne



Happy February,

I pray you are finding moments of warmth and light during this season. One ray of hope that starts this month is Confirmation. Five middle schoolers will take on the new title “Confirmands” soon. What a cause for joyous celebration!

Here is a short summary of what Confirmation in the United Methodist Church is all about:

“Confirmation in The United Methodist Church marks the first time a person publicly confirms their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of their local congregation and The United Methodist Church. Through confirmation, we ‘renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ’s holy Church’ (The United Methodist Hymnal). In being confirmed, a person claims the Christian faith as part of their belief and identity. They also confirm that they want to continue learning and growing into a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ” (Introduction, “Connections: A Theotokos Confirmation Resource,” Hinton Rural Life Center).

These wonderful Confirmands will journey through six weeks of classes, starting on February 11, have faith mentors, and attend a weekend retreat at Hinton Rural Life Center. The experiences, classes, mentors, and retreat will help prepare the youth for their profession of faith that is on the calendar for Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

The curriculum and retreat will center around the theme
Theotokos
Title given to Mary, mother of Jesus
theo-to-kos: GOD-BEARER



How are we God-bearers? How can we be more faithful in the lifelong journey of discipleship?

The Good News is that we do not do it alone! Confirmation is two-fold, “both a human act of commitment and the gracious action of the Holy Spirit strengthening and empowering discipleship”
(¶ 216, 1a, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*)

Through God’s unending grace, may we hold the Confirmands in prayer and support them wholeheartedly. Along the way, may we grow more faithful in following Jesus Christ. Let us journey onwards...together!

Peace,
Pastor Hannah



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

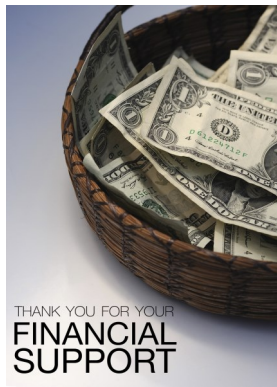
Tom Cowden
By Nelson & Christie Cowden
Wanda Bryant
By Wink Hendricks
By Sue Cave
By Val & Kim Burch
Betty Frost
By Betty’s Children
Madeline Shelton
By Anita Long

In Honor of Mike Hendrix
By Wylie Berry

Mary Hendricks
By Dan & Debbie Archer
By Neil & Kim Menias
By Melza Craven
By Val & Kim Burch
Premier Realty of NC
By Carolyn Cartner
By Bill & June Johnson
By Hank & Polly Van Hoy
By Charles & Patsy Crenshaw
By Wink Hendricks
By Mike Hendrix
By Anita Long
By Don & Sarah Wood

Enrollment season is finally here! I am so excited to get this going as it means we get to open our doors to new families and spread the love of God to children. The community interest in our preschool is increasing, which is beyond what we could have asked for. Due to this, we are considering even raising class sizes to be able to have more students join us. I will be opening enrollment up at the end of February for our new summer preschool program. This will be a 10 week program that offers preschoolers a chance to still join us over their summer break and continue their education. This summer preschool will have more biblical lessons, crafts, and activities than than our usual educational curriculum. This new addition to our program is something I have prayed over for a long time and see it as a wonderful addition to our community. If you would like to get more involved with the preschool, whether it be during the regular school year or summer program, please let me know! We are always in need of substitutes, volunteers, helping with fundraisers, providing snacks, or donations. I greatly appreciate the First UMC’s continuous support for our preschool. *Katie Roberts, Director of Preschool*

UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST MEETING
Sunday, February 11, 7:30 AM Fellowship Hall



Thank you for your generous financial support. Your ongoing gifts are vital to the ministries of FUMC!

FINANCIAL REPORT	Dec 2023	Jan – Dec 2023
Tithes/Offerings	\$78,254	\$502,584
Memorials	3,000	6,560
WS Foundation	2,713	10,852
Other	2,056	22,701
TOTAL INCOME	\$86,023	\$542,697
TOTAL EXPENSES	(34,723)	(561,538)
TOTAL	\$51,300	(\$18,841)

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Ann Stayer

PO Box 333
256 North Carolina Circle
Mocksville NC 27028

Elmer Stoneman

100 Luftee Lane
Holly Springs NC 27540

Billie Bean

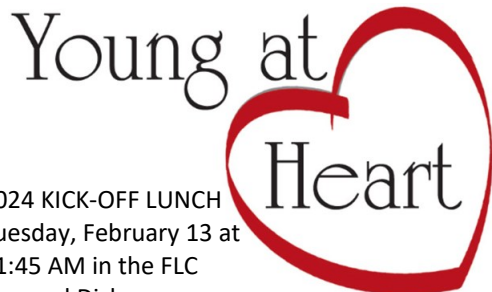
Brookdale Assisted Living
2201 Statesville Road
Salisbury, NC 28147

Molly Jo McClamrock

Bermuda Commons
Room # 403
316 NC Hwy 801
Advance NC 27006

Christine Woodruff

Davie Rehab Room 205
498 Madison Rd.
Mocksville NC 27028



2024 KICK-OFF LUNCH
Tuesday, February 13 at
11:45 AM in the FLC
Covered Dish

Let Mary Hall know if you
have any questions or need
additional information.



Feb. 03	Bob Bromley	Feb. 21	Meg Brewer
Feb. 08	Elise Greco		Ellie Prillaman
Feb. 09	Charlotte Anderson	Feb. 22	Beth Edwards
	Sara Seaford		Dessie Vogler
Feb. 11	Terri Butcher	Feb. 24	Tommy Dunn
	Johnny Miller		Whit Peterson
Feb. 14	Joe Butzbach	Feb. 25	Tiffany Evans
	Kathy Curry	Feb. 27	Lane Hall
Feb. 16	Jean Evans	Feb. 28	Don Routh

Lou's Lines



*Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation thy faith has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.*

Singing this glorious hymn as a child, I was always a little confused about fields of conquest and battle songs, and I've never wanted to sleep in a tent! I knew that I should be ready to march into war for Christ. I had been singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" for a very long time. But somehow, it just didn't feel right. I loved the melody and the uplifting feeling it gave, but something did not sit right with me. Of course, as an adult, I get it. Not the first stanza, but the second that lends an explanation of how the battle should take place.

*Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.*

Oh, thank goodness! What a relief that there will be whispers of peace. No swords or loud drums, just love and mercy. And we know that the greatest deed of love and mercy was Jesus' self-surrender on the cross. So sing proudly, friends, as the gladness breaks like morning and we journey into the light of Christ.

*Lead on, O King eternal, we follow not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.*

Lou Ann Wilson, Director of Music



On February 8 FUMC will once again show appreciation to our local educators at Mocksville Elementary, South Davie, and Central Davie. We will take notes of appreciation and snacks to each school. There are baskets in the lobby of the FLC where you can place your notes. If you would like to provide a snack for one of the schools, please contact Barbara Laymon 336.782.9467. Thank you for helping us show how much we appreciate our educators!



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Tommy Dunn

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Katie Roberts

Director of Preschool
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The mission of First United Methodist Church is to *believe* in Jesus Christ as Lord,
to *receive* the power of the Holy Spirit,
and to *respond* to the needs of others with the love of God the Father.