

APRIL
2024

First United Methodist Church

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



A Newborn Church

¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher)." John 20:11-16 (CEB)

Mary saw the risen Lord and believed. In that moment when he called her name, she knew he had risen from the dead. I wonder if all his teachings and declarations about his death and resurrection returned with clarity. The wonder of life after death was made real in the calling of her name and the sound of his voice. Her belief led her to the proclamation and witness of a risen Lord. Jesus told her to go and tell the disciples what she had seen, and she did, telling them that she had seen the Lord.

The Church began at that moment. Mary lived the mission of proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ who was dead and now had risen. All Christian churches stand on the belief of Jesus' death and resurrection. Denominations may differ on what their doctrine says about living out that belief. The core though is the same. Jesus died and Jesus rose from the dead.

The biblical book, Acts of the Apostles records the formation of the early church. Luke records the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was enlivened in the disciples, and they witnessed to all of Jerusalem. Acts continues with the dispersing of disciples to different regions to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus and we read of the many conversions and baptisms of individuals and households. The number of believers grew and grew. The conversion of Saul to Paul is the most dramatic conversion recorded in Acts. Saul was a persecutor of Christians until he was met by the Lord who changed his name to Paul upon his conversion. We read of his travels to all parts of the world and all that he suffered for proclaiming Jesus rose from the dead.

Acts will be the primary scripture for sermons beginning Easter Sunday and continuing through Pentecost Sunday (May 19). We will explore the early or first church, looking at their formation and proclamation of Jesus' resurrection. The sermon series theme is "Can Our First Church Be More Like THE First Church." Of course, this is a play on our name, "First United Methodist Church" and The First Church after Jesus' death and resurrection. These seven weeks will offer us an opportunity for revival in our hearts, our worship, our witness, and our First Church.

Kate Bowler, in her book *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day* writes a reflection of a newborn church. May her reflection be our prayer this Easter Season as we ask, "Can our first church be more like THE first church?"

Let us pray:

"This is what our newborn church looks like: Blessed.

Blessed in our fear and inadequacy.

Blessed by your faith in us.

Blessed that we received by your own hand, the gift of hope – the beginning of the end of sin and of death.

We follow you as best we can along that downward path with all the humility we can manage.

You came back to us.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Alleluia."

Grace and Peace,

Lori Anne



Hi friends,

Did you know that friendship bracelets, the stretchy bracelets with words or names, are all the rage right now? These accessories have sparked joy for decades, but Taylor Swift most certainly increased their popularity within the past year. Well, for our Easter Egg Hunt, we decided to join the craze and make these bracelets as a craft.

Seven simple letters. One cross.



I cannot help but think about the correlation between Jesus Christ's seven last words, which we heard on Good Friday, and these seven letters spelling "New Life." From the darkest of days to the brightness of a full, resurrection life, Jesus has made the way. We are included in this healing and wholeness. Goodness!

Paul tells the Romans, "Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4, CEB).

It is through Christ, and Christ alone, that we can hold fast to the Good News this Easter season and beyond: we are a new creation. May we not only claim it, but live it out and share it. Glory to God for new life! Peace, Pastor Hannah



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL APRIL 17
Menu is Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans,
Proceeds will go to CHHF



UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST MEETING
Sunday, April 14, 7:30 AM Fellowship Hall

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

IN MEMORY
MC DEADMON

By Mack & Martha Deadmon

IN HONOR
PATSY BREWER

By Mack & Martha Deadmon

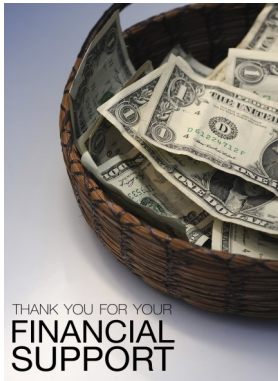
JOHN KOONTZ

By Charles & Patsy Crenshaw



We have exciting news! Our first ever summer preschool has hit capacity!! This is a new 10 week program that we are offering to the community and a way to expand the preschool in ways that we see a need. We are always hoping to get more involved with the church and have the church be involved with our program and students. If you are interested in volunteering, being on our substitute list, or purchasing snacks or supplies for the preschool, please let me know! In the coming months we will be preparing for graduation. We will have 13 students graduate in May. If you are interested in "adopting" a graduate and purchasing a Bible for them to be presented at graduation, please contact Katie as soon as possible. The Bible purchase would be \$15 that would go right into the preschool fund to get these for all of our graduates. You can contact Katie by phone (336) 753-1900 or email katie@firstumcmocksville.org

Katie Roberts



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**



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|---------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| Apr. 03 | Sherri Robinson | Apr. 18 | Frank Bahnson |
| Apr. 04 | Steve Laymon | | Jimmy Kelly |
| Apr. 05 | Tommy Turner | | Tom Stayer |
| Apr. 07 | Karen Marks | Apr. 20 | Shirley Cody |
| | Martha Rooney | Apr. 21 | Jenny Turner |
| Apr. 11 | Piper Cress | Apr. 22 | Carrie Rhodes |
| Apr. 12 | Joel Edwards | Apr. 29 | Cren Rosenbaum |
| Apr. 16 | Raegan Lesch | Apr. 30 | Gail Kelly |

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

FINANCIAL REPORT	FEB 2024	JAN/FEB
Tithes/Offerings	\$38,773	\$82,776
Memorials	315	720
WS Foundation	2,713	
Other	4,216	4,616
TOTAL INCOME	\$43,308	\$88,112
TOTAL EXPENSES	(- 51,606)	(-88,446)
TOTAL	(-\$8,298)	(-\$334)

Lou's Lines



I recently had the privilege of discussing and demonstrating the benefits of music in early childhood education with our Monday Morning Out Parents. We kept the steady beat with balls and scarves, tapped the beat on our bodies as we read poems with a steady beat, used silly vocal inflection when imitating animal sounds in books, and generally enjoyed making fools of ourselves. Why? Because music is vital to young children! And being a little silly is exactly what it takes to engage and teach at a young age. These are techniques that I use with all ages of 'children' as we explore the joys of music together.

- Here are just a few scientific reasons children should participate in music.
- Music is one of the few activities that "lights up" both hemispheres of your brain. It is a complex task that promotes physical changes in a child's brain to promote strong thinking capabilities and improve multi-step problem-solving.
 - An emphasis on rhythm helps improve concentration and focus. In young children, it has shown improvement in impulse control.
 - Pattern recognition improves with music study, as does memory recall. Both of these skills are necessary building blocks for further learning.
 - Movement with music builds coordination skills. The more you cross the mid-line while moving or dancing to the beat, the more 'connections' your brain makes to improve motor coordination.

These are all important in a child's development. But now let's talk about how important it is to have children participate in Church Music:

- Reading and singing (or playing) from a printed page gives children a sense of mastery. What better words or melodies to learn than faith-based biblical truths and traditions?
- Being part of an accepting, creative community develops self-esteem and confidence.
- Singing or playing in a choir reinforces the value of authority. You must adhere to the notes on the page, the composer's suggestions, and the cues of the director to be successful. The cooperation of each individual in this regard allows for group success.
- Participating in music helps give value to children as they learn their importance as a worship participant and leader.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Ann Stayer
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Molly Jo McClamrock
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Mocksville NC 27028

Billie Bean
Brookdale Assisted Living
2201 Statesville Road
Salisbury, NC 28147



Thursday, April 11
Depart the Family Life Center at 4:30 PM

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.
Proverbs 22:6

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