

MAY 2024

First United Methodist Church

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



Be Still! And Be Transformed

“Be still, and know that I am God!”

Psalm 46:10 (NRSV)

Be still! I always hear these words as a call to step away and spend time in reflection and contemplation. While we all need that time away and listen to God, that is not what the Psalmist was saying. In fact, “be still” is not the best translation of the text from the Hebrew language. The Psalmist, speaking for God, is saying, “Stop” or “Throw down your weapons”. God was tired of the people relying on themselves instead of God. God wants them to see that their security is found only in God. The Psalmist began with the declaration that “God is our refuge and strength” (v.1b).

Now that I have ruined Psalm 46:10 for everyone :) , let me say that we often need to be still to remember that God is our refuge and strength, and our security is found only in God. If we are running around putting out the fires in our life on our own, we may not hear God’s voice to us. The stillness we need is the stillness of our heart and mind, taking a moment from the chaos to see the reality before us.

Stillness may vary from person to person. Some may need to truly get away from the grind of daily life and have the time to do so. Others may have a way to still their mind and heart for a brief period or even keep going about their duties. The stillness comes with a quieting of our inner life and a recognition that God is sovereign. Of course, stillness takes practice. With practice, we quiet our hearts and minds even when things are busy and hectic. And maybe for a moment we can hear God speak words of calm and clarity to a situation that is anything but calm and clear. One aspect to remember is that in our stillness we are not seeking information. We are seeking transformation.

Most often in my ministry I read Scripture for sermon preparation, writing these amazing :) newsletter articles, and preparing bible studies. My goal is to gain information for preaching or teaching. When I step aside and away from these tasks and be still, I can read for transformation. Being still in those moments allows the words of Scripture and devotional readings to help me see differently, be open minded, and hear God’s voice to me.

Last month I went to Well of Mercy for a day retreat. The weather was perfect, and I spent most of the day outside with no agenda and no plan. There was plenty of time to be still even when my body was walking the labyrinth or prayer path. At the end of the day, I did not have new facts or new information for sermons. I did have a renewed spirit and heart and felt God’s presence and peace within me. That day helped me return to the “real” world and be more fully present with myself, co-workers, family, friends, and parishioners. My spirit was transformed.

Taking a day away from a busy life each week is not possible. Finding a few minutes each morning or evening does help me be still and feel the transforming power of God in me. Maybe you can do that too. Find a way to be with God in Scripture, devotional reading, or in creation and be open for God’s presence to bring transformation to your heart.

Let us Pray: Transforming God, you seek entry into our lives so that we can be closer to you and hear you speak to us. Give us a heart to hear you and be open to your transforming love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Grace and Peace, *Lori Anne*

Lori Anne

Happy May,

I pray we are watching out for signs of New Life all around us! I am already expectant of one source of this Resurrection joy: Vacation Bible School from July 8-11. I invite you to begin praying for this exciting time of learning and growing together.

This year's theme is Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness. We will look at what it means to have compassion for ourselves, others, and the world. So, what is lovingkindness? "Lovingkindness is the utmost form of selfless love toward ourselves and others. The practice begins with focusing on self-compassion because once we have compassion for ourselves, we can have compassion for others" (Director's Guide, Illustrated Ministry, p. 2). Throughout the week, we will examine various places in our lives where we can cultivate compassion and explore themes of compassion as they relate to each session's scripture.

Will you join in? Would you like to help lead crafts or recreation? Would you like to be an age group leader? Would you like to help decorate or clean up? Will you spread the word to kids in your neighborhood? Your gifts are valuable in sharing the love of Christ this summer! Please let Elizabeth Rosenbaum or me know how you would like to get involved.



**JOIN US FOR
COMPASSION CAMP**

Monday, July 8 - Thursday, July 11
5:30-7:45pm; Free dinner for participants
rising Kindergarten through rising 6th grade

First UMC Mocksville | 310 N Main St
Registration opens in May

Peace,
Pastor Hannah

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

IN MEMORY

WAYNE LONG

By Danny & Julie Cartner
Charles & Patsy Crenshaw
Donnie & Teresa Lakey



ALL are invited to the Annual Chili Cook-Off

Enter your favorite recipe!!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

310 N. Main Street | Mocksville, NC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

FAMILY LIFE CENTER - 5:30 PM

Enjoy a variety of chili including hot, mild, vegetarian, chicken and more!

Salads, Desserts, Drinks

Proceeds will benefit

A STOREHOUSE FOR JESUS

Call Beth Edwards for more information 704.437.6282



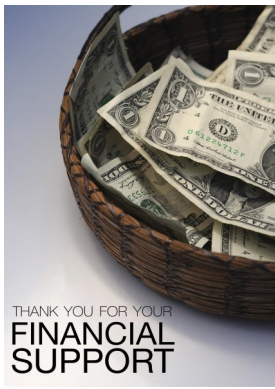
Teacher Appreciation Week is coming soon! We will celebrate the faculty and staff of Mocksville Elementary and Central Davie on Tuesday, May 7, and the faculty/staff of South Davie Middle on Wednesday, June 5.

Please mark your calendars and help by writing notes of appreciation and providing a sweet or salty snack. The teachers appreciate what we do for them so much; thank you in advance for showing them how much we appreciate what they do every day for their students.

Baskets for the notes will be in the FLC. Please let Barbara Laymon know if you plan to provide a snack.

UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST MEETING

Sunday, May 12, 7:30 AM Fellowship Hall



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

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



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|--------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| May 01 | Charles Crenshaw | May 14 | Virginia Coil |
| | Melinda Crenshaw | | Barbara Laymon |
| May 02 | William Berry | May 20 | Ralph Greco |
| | Mike Deal | May 21 | Mackie Deadmon |
| May 03 | Danny Cartner | May 24 | Emery Rosenbaum |
| May 05 | Sam Redman | May 26 | Bob Ritz |
| May 06 | Beth Chapman | | Sarah Wood |
| May 08 | Carl Wicker | May 28 | Paulette Hendrix |
| May 09 | Lester Cozart | May 29 | Sally Brill |
| May 10 | Charlotte Miller | | Katie Hendricks |
| May 12 | Brantlee Evans | May 30 | John Brock |
| | Scotty Seaford | | Robert J. Hendricks, II |

FINANCIAL REPORT	MARCH '24	JAN—MAR
Tithes/Offerings	\$47,868	\$130,464
Memorials	100	820
WS Foundation	2,716	2,716
Other	490	5,107
TOTAL INCOME	\$51,174	\$139,287
TOTAL EXPENSES	(- 39,001)	(-127,447)
TOTAL	+\$12,173	+ \$11,840

Lou's Lines



What a Wonderful World

What a beautiful Spring we are enjoying these days. The blooming trees and flowers, the warm sunshine, and the blue skies. God has given us a visual feast and I pray you have spent time enjoying His beautiful creation.

Maltbie Davenport Babcock was a Presbyterian minister in New York who loved taking walks around the Lake Ontario area. He loved to hike, run, and enjoy God's creation, often telling his secretary, "I am going out to see my Father's world." He went on to write sixteen stanzas of a poem, all beginning with the words, "This Is My Father's World". After his untimely death, his wife compiled his writings into a book entitled, "Thoughts For Everyday Living." A few years later, one of Babcock's friends, Franklin Sheppard, adapted an English folk melody, and used portions of Babcock's text to create the three stanza hymn that we enjoy singing today. The hymn tune is appropriately called, TERRA BEATA, which is Latin for 'blessed earth'.

This hymn reminds us that God's creation is not only a feast for our eyes, but is filled with beautiful sounds to hear and enjoy. The music of God's world fills our souls just as much as its visual beauty. From the rustling grass, and caroling birds, to the music of the spheres, all nature sings to delight our listening ears.

In 1967, the team of Bob Thiele and George David Weiss wrote "What a Wonderful World" and asked Louis Armstrong to sing it. The original thought was that having Armstrong sing it would help ease racial tensions in the United States at the time. But Armstrong loved the song for many more reasons. It reminded him of his beloved neighborhood where he and his wife watched three generations of children grow, the neighbors took pride in their homes, and everyone was like family. The song took many years to become a hit but is now one of Armstrong's most popular.

God did make a wonderful world for all of us to enjoy. We can see it, we can hear it, and we can feel it in the people around us. How blessed we are to live in our Father's world, which is a wonderful world.

The choral anthem, "What a Wonderful World", arranged by John D. Miller combines these two lovely melodies, along with the beautiful lyrics, into a feast for our ears. I cannot wait for you all to hear the Music Makers and Chancel Choir sing them together on Mother's Day.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Ann Stayer

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Molly Jo McClamrock

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

Elmer Stoneman

100 Luftee Lane
Holly Springs NC 27540

Christine Woodruff

Davie Rehab Room 205
498 Madison Rd.
Mocksville NC 27028

Billie Bean

Brookdale Assisted Living
2201 Statesville Road
Salisbury, NC 28147



Friday, May 10 YAH will travel to Murray's Mill in Catawba, NC. The 60 minute tour cost is \$10.70. There is no charge for Veterans on the tour. We will also go to Claremont, NC to see the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge and have lunch a Granny's Country Kitchen. We will depart the FLC parking lot at 9:30. **Please call the church office to confirm your attendance and pay by May 8th. 336.751.2503**