



First United Methodist Church
310 N. Main Street
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*Oh, let me sing about faithful love and justice! I want to sing my praises to you, LORD!
2 I want to study the way of integrity - how long before it gets here?
I will walk with a heart of integrity in my own house.*

Psalm 101:1-2 (CEB)

Integrity

Pentecost was the planned topic of this month's newsletter. I was going to write about the way the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples and continues falling upon us today. The news yesterday told of another shooting and I knew a change of topic was needed. The shooting this time was in an Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. How can I be silent in the wake of another mass shooting? Innocent lives gunned down because someone had access to a gun and turned violently toward other human beings. Nineteen students and two teachers from Robb Elementary School were killed by the gunman. My cries mingle with your cries and ask "How long, O Lord" will we stand by and watch these horrors continue?

The writer of Psalm 101 has experienced a conversion of heart and in his lifesaving change, he reaches out to God with words of hope. He recognizes his new life and vows to live life anew. He vows to live a life that will help others realize the hope of justice in their life. He says that he will do whatever it takes to live a life dedicated to God. He will stop his ungodly behavior as he works in stopping others. He desires to study the ways of integrity.

Integrity is moral living that is pleasing to God. Those who have integrity live in faithfulness to God. Their lives are contrasted with hypocrites and evildoers (Ps. 26:4-5) and with those who are greedy and oppress the poor (Prov. 28). The Psalmist who seeks to study integrity was seeking how to live. He knew that integrity is not an attitude or an internal disposition. Integrity is a wholeness of living that is seen in those who dwell with God.

How can we, the Church, show integrity in these days of mass shootings? Where do we need integrity to take root and grow against the greed and prejudices that are prevalent in our world?

Reading the entirety of Psalm 101 I see that the writer began his study and his hope with himself. He uses "my" and "I" in the Psalm. He knows that the changes of his life, his conversion from moral corruption to integrity begins with himself. His conversion allows him to see the ways of integrity that he must live. He states that those who are corrupt will not live in his home and he will not interact with them. He does not want their lives of evil to spill over to his life.

Christian disciples, we must live a life of integrity as well. Like the Psalmist, we must speak out against evil. We must speak justice for the vulnerable children. We must do more than teach them "active shooter" drills. We must end the gun violence and anything that makes gun violence a threat. Better mental health, stricter background checks might be a good start. Then, let's go into the schools and help children know that they are loved by God and by us. Students are always needing tutors, lunch buddies, and mentors. The homes of many children are broken and the love they need is not present. They need to know love from Jesus.

Jesus prayed for all generations of his disciples that they would share the gospel, the good news with all people. "I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word" (John 17:20). What are the ways we show love? Maybe one of the ways is by stopping gun violence in any way we can. Like the Psalmist, it begins me "I".

Admittedly, I don't have all the answers. And I know that it will be easy for me and everyone else to let this slide by and forget the anger and pain we feel at this moment. Let's all make a vow to hold one another accountable to do something. May our thoughts and prayers turn to outreach and action. Don't let me forget and I will do the same for you.

Let us pray: *God of peace, we turn to you in anger and frustration as we once again face a mass shooting in a school. Do not let us rest until we have faced our own complacency. May we not let this be a status quo and think that we have no power to make changes. Show us how to live with integrity. We pray in your holy name. Amen.*

Peace,

Lori Anne

Dear Brothers & Sisters of First UMC Mocksville,

For everything that happens in life—there is a season, a right time for everything under heaven: A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to collect the harvest; a time to kill, a time to heal; time to tear down, a time to build up; a time to cry, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, a time to dance; A time to scatter stones, a time to pile them up; a time for a warm embrace, a time for keeping your distance; a time to search, a time to give up as lost; a time to keep, a time to throw out; a time to tear apart, a time to bind together; a time to be quiet, a time to speak up; a time to love, a time to hate; a time to go to war, a time to make peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

During our almost six years together, we have probably experienced almost everything on this list. I remember the Wednesday night meals, Bible studies, VBS, Christmas concerts, Sprinkle Preaching, Lenten studies, Christmas plays, singing, children's choir, mission trips, youth group meetings, senior banquets, Young at Heart trips, and our memorable trip to Gatlinburg. I also remember the times of praying, worshiping, and fellowship. There was some tearing down of old ideas and planting of new ideas, some disagreements, and some resolutions, some remembering and some forgiving. Even during the pandemic where we had to keep our distance, we reached out to the community and church members with the "Cast Me Not" ministry. Church members were assigned to vulnerable members to do their grocery shopping during the pandemic. Many other church members called and checked on their fellow church members during that time. We did our best to keep in touch with our church family during that time. I remember the "We Miss You" parades where many of you came and decorated your cars with signs and caravanned to church members homes and neighborhoods to deliver homemade face masks, goody bags, Upper Room devotionals, and just to wave, smile, and give encouragement. We have laughed and cried, mourned, and danced and eaten way too much with our mission and fellowship meals! We have said goodbye to beloved members who have moved or went onto the church triumphant, and we have welcomed new people to our church. Throughout it all, we have bonded and grown in wonderful ways while experiencing a great deal of mercy, grace, joy and love! I have always believed that a pastor is called to a particular place, for a particular time, with a particular purpose to a particular group of people in a particular community. We may have not accomplished everything that I had hoped for; yet much was accomplished.

IMPACT Youth, children, and families of First, I am thankful to have had the honor and privilege to serve in youth and children ministries. Thank you to the IMPACT youth for their dedication and commitment to the church. You each have a servant's heart, and I know God has great plans for each of you. Keep your eyes on Jesus, and there's nothing you cannot accomplish. Parents, thank you for your parental support through the years with chaperoning youth mission trips, youth events, VBS, Fall festivals, teaching Sunday School, volunteering for nursery, and other ministry events. Many of you have said that I have had a tremendous impact on your children, but your children and youth have had an even greater impact on me.

FUMC Mocksville, thank you for taking a chance on me and embracing me as being appointed here as Associate Pastor right out of seminary. I count it among my deepest joys. Even in sad times, what a blessing it has been to support each other in these moments. Again, thank you for all of your patience, kindness, mercy, grace, generosity and love that you have shown Brian and I! We were so appreciative of the prayers, support, and love offering you so generously gave after our house fire last July. Brian and I thank each of you for sharing so much life and time together, it is difficult to say goodbye. This departure reminds me that when Jesus prepared to leave his disciples, he found three promises to share: First, Jesus promised to make a home in his disciples' hearts (John 14:23). Second, Jesus promised to fill the disciples with a spirit of courage and comfort. John 14:26 tells us, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." Finally, Jesus promised to sustain his disciples with a special kind of peace. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" in John 14:27. I hope we can all open and cling to the gifts and promises Jesus give us - a home in him, the courage to move on, and the peace that will get us through many unknowns.

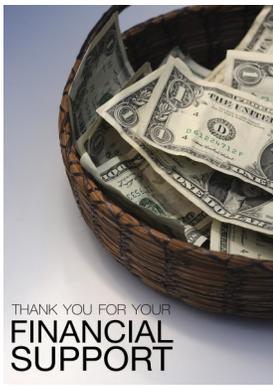
You are a great group of people and I wish you all the best in this new season that you are about to begin. While I'll always be your friend, I will no longer be your associate pastor. I ask that you do the very best to support and embrace your new associate pastor Rev. Han nah Smith, and help her in this process of beginning a new season of ministry together. May you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, worshiping the Lord with your whole heart, mind, body and soul and remember to do everything for the glory of God! I will be holding FUMC Mocksville in my prayers as you step into the future that lies before you. And I ask you to continue to pray for me, for my family, and for the congregation of Asbury UMC as we step into a new season together. Our parsonage address will be 1555 Weatherwood Dr., Lincolnton, NC 28092.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance! *Rev. Natalie Gray*

We will celebrate our graduates on Sunday June 5 & Sunday June 12 at the 10:55 AM service. We will recognize all high school and college graduates. We will have pews reserved for our graduates those days. **2022 High School Graduates are Jackson Clark, Ivey Cowden, C Crenshaw, London Dirks, Kaitlyn Foil, D J Hatley, Alexis Miller, Ryan O'Connor and Reece Yount. Sarah Seaford graduated from High Point University with a Master's Degree in Communications & Business Leadership.**

Family Ministries will have Family Day at Dan Nicholas Park in Salisbury. Join us at the park for fun and a cookout at shelter #4 at 5:30PM on Sunday, June 12. Please call the church office by Wednesday June 8 and let us know if you plan to attend. Hamburgers and hotdogs, chips, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

June 26 is Natalie's last Sunday with First UMC Mocksville. We would like to celebrate her ministry with a breakfast on Sunday June 26 beginning at 9:30 AM. There will be a time of sharing a small meal and visiting with Natalie and Brian. We will then have 1 worship service at 10:30 AM in the Family Life Center. We hope everyone can attend and wish Natalie well in her new appointment and thank her for her ministry here at First UMC Mocksville. PLEASE NOTE: **There will be NO Sunday School on June 26.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

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

***Give not from the bottom of your purse,
but from the bottom of your heart.***

	APR 2022	Jan-Apr 2022
Tithes/Offerings	\$48,098	\$169,672
Memorials	250	3,345
W/S Foundation		2,682
Other Income	1,149	1,278
Total Income	49,497	176,977
Expenses	-46,401	-195,893
Total	+ 3,096	- 18,915

PRAYERS

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Clemmons NC 27012

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Molly Jo McClamrock

Bermuda Commons
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Advance NC 27006

Wanda Bryant

150 Ken Dwiggins Drive
Room 107
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IN MEMORY

Del McCullough
By Julia Howard

Debbie Hennessey
By Carolyn Cartner



June 01	Janet Taylor	June 15	Alice Hanes
	Carolyn Vickers		Karen Lutz
June 02	Ward Wilson	June 16	Russell Prillaman
June 03	Lynne Hicks	June 19	Diana Bromley
	Lillian Sharpe	June 20	Jackson Hendricks
	Shirley Wicker	June 21	Christi Cowden
	Rob Wilson		Patrick Mandarano
June 04	Mattie Clark	June 22	Charlie Crenshaw
	Shirley Cottle		Marla Johnson
June 05	Scott Rhodes		Burke Rosenbaum
June 07	Tiffany Berry	June 23	Jean Shelton
	Anita Neal	June 25	Ruth Hoyle
June 09	Jim Henderson	June 26	Bill Breilig
	Margaret Overcash		David Koehler
June 10	Amy Wood		Walter Wilson
June 11	Nan Neal	June 28	Wanda Bowles
June 13	Zeb Chapman		Debra Stanley
	Lauren Koehler		Steve Walker
June 14	Dean Hendrix	June 30	Marianne Stein
			Christine Woodruff



Lou's Lines

What a glorious Spring it has been, filled with beautiful music from our Bells of Praise, our small but talented Chancel Choir, and our Children's Music Makers and Chime Time Ringers. And there's more to come with our Beginning Bells in June. How very fortunate we are to have so many give of their time and talents to praise our Lord and Savior. How about you? As Barbara Laymon asked us on May 22, "Is it time to step out of the boat on faith?" All of these groups have room for more members. Will you step out in faith and share your talent, even your yet undiscovered talent, to join in the praise?

Brian Childers, a long-time Church Musician, Director, and Composer, has written a devotion entitled "Don't Sacrifice Your Gift". The following is an excerpt from that devotion.

We are called to be full-time, full-on Christians, giving everything we have for the prize of the high calling of Jesus in every aspect of our lives. When we love the Lord with all of our hearts, soul, and strength, we are giving every fiber of our beings to become like Christ. We cannot hold anything back. Steve Prefontaine, one of the premier U.S. distance runners in the early 1970s, spent much time encouraging children and youth to run. He closed all of his talks with this thought: "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." Give your best, but don't stop there. Let the giving of your talents seep out into your fellow musicians, your Church, your community. Let it ooze out of who you are, until everyone who sees you knows you and knows the One within you!

Come on and step out on faith and join in the praise! Don't sacrifice your gift, or even your yet to be discovered gift. Give heart, soul, and strength to the One who made you and saved you. You will be amazed at the joy you will receive.

Lou Ann Wilson, Director of Music

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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.

