



First United Methodist Church

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



Renewed in Hope
Note and a Prayer – August 2022

“Don’t you know? Haven’t you heard?” Isaiah 40:21a and 28a (CEB)

Isaiah is written in different time periods of the life of the Israelites. Chapter 40 is a time when Judah and Israel have been separated into two nations and have been exiled from the Promised Land. They are living either in another country or are slaves in their own nation. Their lives are filled with despair and wonder where God might be because they believe God is not with them.

The past few years has left many of us in despair. Our lives have been tossed upside down and what we have known as “normal” has been thrown away. Like the people of God who are living in exile, we feel as if we are in a strange land. Our worst days may have us believing like them that God must have forgotten about us. We are weary and tired. Will anything revive us? The prophet’s questions might be asked of us. Don’t you know? Haven’t you heard?

The prophet Isaiah poses these questions to the people of Israel trying to help them see what God can and is doing in their lives. They have missed the mark in following God. They are in despair about their situation and feel that God has forgotten about them. Isaiah answers the questions with statements of fact about God: God inhabits the earth’s horizon, stretches out the sky, and breathes on plants so they will live. After the second time he asks these questions, the prophet reminds the people who God is: God is everlasting, creator of the ends of the earth, and gives power to the tired. Isaiah is giving proof of God’s goodness so that they might be lifted up from their despair.

When I have had times of despair in my life, looking up and seeing God’s goodness is hard. My own doubt leaves me floundering in the world. I seek a foothold or something to hold on to until my feet gain solid ground. I can’t always see the earth’s horizons or God’s good creation. There is one thing that will keep me moving forward and striving to get out of the despair. Hope!

Hope is looking forward in confidence for a future good. The world, our life, the situation we find ourselves in is bad and we feel weary from traveling through the muck around us. In hope, we can see beyond to the good. We have confidence in God who saves and loves. Hope is confidence in a good and merciful God. Hope does not work if we are looking to ourselves, our money, our skills, or our earthly relationships. Hope is hope when God is where our hope is placed and where we look and see good.

Like the people of God, we need a reminder once in a while that God has not forgotten us and plans on leaving us in despair. God is good, just, and loving. Even though we travel through difficulties and stressors in life, God will go with us. God’s love gives us hope and by God’s hope we are renewed.

Let us Pray: *God of hope, your love offers us hope in times of despair and weariness. When life seems hard and we feel as if we cannot go on, grant us grace to see your promise before us. May we remember the love you have shown us through the works of your hands in creation and the life of your Son, Jesus Christ. Give us hope as we journey through these times of uncertainty of life. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Grace and Peace,
Lori Anne

Happy August, FUMC Family,

One month! I can hardly believe it has almost been a month since I began as Associate Pastor. God's grace has already made itself known through conversations, dreaming, worship, and even routine tasks like checking emails and driving to the church office. God's grace is the Holy Spirit alive and active. I can surely feel the Spirit in this place.

During these past few weeks, I have been reflecting on words of wisdom from one of my mentors. He was my clinical unit supervisor at Duke University Hospital when I interned as chaplain on the pediatric units. He told me this:

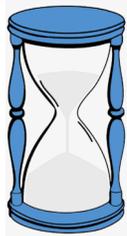
Keep showing up. Keep living out Christ's love. Make that visit. Stay diligent, even in the tasks that feel routine and mundane. God will be in that space every single time. It is never wasted.

As my internship came to an end, I gave him the best parting gift I could see fit: an hourglass. He reminded me that God calls us to live abundantly and with intention, which is a different pace of life than our understanding of time can measure. That moment to stop, listen, care, and share may seem like a waste of time, or at least the last box on our never-ending checklist. Jesus' being *with* people throughout the Gospels tells us something different. Jesus' emphasis on *relationships* reveals a glimpse into God's measure of time. Praise be that God's timing is not my own!

I invite you to join me, step back, and observe what the hourglasses of our lives look like. Is the sand weighed down by our own timing, or has God made that sand flow like living water – full of abundance?

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10

Peace,
Hannah



Childcare Ministries

Our Kids Ahoy group has thrived over the summer! We have 31 students enrolled in our summer camp program, each one making friends and learning more about God each week. It's hard to believe but we only have just a few weeks left of this program before school starts back. As we are nearing the end, let's keep each of our students and camp counselors in our prayers. We know school can be challenging for students and we are so thankful that we have been able to be open this summer to be a safe place for them to go and feel welcome. I also want to share the exciting news that our preschool program is completely full! We have filled 60 spots with young minds eager to learn academically as well as about the Church and spreading the word of God. The preschool teachers work tirelessly throughout the school year and are now shifting back into their teaching mindset. We are all eager to see each bright and smiling face of the students and get to know each one better. As this transition begins in late August with Open House and then school starting, please keep the parents, children, and preschool teachers in your prayers. If you are interested in volunteering in the preschool or being on our substitute list, please email Katie Allen katie@firstumcmocksville.org

Lou's Lines



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

2022-2023 Music Opportunities

Chancel Choir

Join us each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm as we use our gifts to prepare music that will glorify God, uplift the Traditional Worship Service, lead the congregation and give members a small group to be a part of for spiritual formation. If you love music, this is a great place to be!

Bells of Praise

If you have experience reading music and have always wanted to give Handbells a try, join us early on Sunday afternoons as we focus on music that challenges our musical skills as well as our artistic heart for beautiful music. Our music is a little beyond beginner but very accessible for those who have music reading experience. As our name suggests, we play to praise and honor our Lord and Savior.

Joy Ringers

Are your music skills a little rusty, or maybe have never been used? Then join our Wednesday afternoon Bell Ringers to learn new musical skills or dust off the ones you used to have. We are a group that supports each other as we build our skills in ringing Handbells to offer praise.

Music Makers

How much fun can you have praising God with singing, movement, instruments, music games, and so much more? The Music Makers will do more singing this year, but we will definitely continue with the rhythm fun we started last year. If you have a child that is in Elementary School, then this is the place for them to be on Sunday afternoons.

Chime Time Ringers

Following Music Makers, our 3rd graders and older will move to the Bell Room and continue making music to honor God. Playing Chimes together builds on children's musical knowledge of note duration, rhythm, harmony and melodic line. They practice listening skills, independent thinking, and collaboration with others, all while having fun!

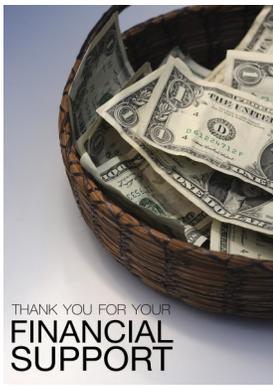
Special Music

Do you play an instrument that you would like to share? Contact Lou and let her know how you would like to be part of the music for Worship at FUMC.

Do you have a new idea?

How can we make you a part of our Music program which focuses on using your gifts to honor and praise God? Call Lou, 336-751-2503, ext. 2238, or email lou@firstumcmocksville.org. We'll figure it out together.

Lou Wilson



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.***

| | JUNE 2022 | Jan-Jun 2022 |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Tithes/Offerings | \$40,285 | \$249,674 |
| Memorials | 50 | 3,445 |
| W/S Foundation | 2,682 | 5,364 |
| Other Income | 330 | 3,133 |
| Total Income | 43,347 | 261,616 |
| Expenses | -44,285 | -303,493 |
| Total | - 938 | - 41,877 |

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Lynne Hicks

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AUGUST Birthdays



| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|------------------|
| Aug. 01 | Shawna O'Rorke | Aug. 16 | Zack Shuskey |
| | Ann Stayer | | Joe Stein |
| Aug. 02 | Elizabeth Rosenbaum | Aug. 18 | Melissa Clark |
| | Maggie Russell | | Clayton Peele |
| Aug. 03 | Ben Sheek | Aug. 20 | Gavin Harris |
| | Jackson Clark | | Julia Howard |
| | Jeff Clark | | Kathy Slye |
| Aug. 05 | Shane Butcher | | Tami Walker |
| | Martha Moorefield | Aug. 25 | Jean Shelton |
| Aug. 06 | Caroline Steed Cress | | Frances Tutterow |
| | Shawn Williams | | Ben Wallace |
| Aug. 07 | Ben Ellis | Aug. 28 | Karen Robinson |
| | Scharlene Stoneman | | Bradley Harris |
| Aug. 09 | Aaron Prillaman | Aug. 29 | Barbara Basham |
| | Colleen Stewart | | Claudia Hunter |
| Aug. 11 | Brad Anderson | Aug. 30 | Christy Anderson |
| | Jeff Bowden | | Will Suggs |
| | Joe Boyette | Aug. 31 | Kathryn Anderson |
| | Buddy Lowery | | Jim Brewer |
| Aug. 15 | Jean Hinshaw | | Betsy Ramsbotham |

IN LOVING Memory

David Plott

*By Carolyn Cartner
By Bucky & Lillian Sharpe
By Mike & Jean Hinshaw*

Karen Heller

*By Carolyn Cartner
By Bucky & Lillian Sharpe*

Jack Ward

*Bucky & Lillian Sharpe
By Carolyn Cartner
By Mike & Jean Hinshaw*

Charles Smith

By Carolyn Cartner

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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.

