

OCTOBER
2023

First United Methodist Church

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



God's Kin-dom

"The kingdom of heaven is like..."

Matthew 20:1a (CEB)

Google the word "kin-dom" and you will find several definitions and interpretations. When I googled the word there were articles of why a person chose not to use the term and why a church had adopted the word in their vision for the church. Our sermon series for September 24 – November 26 is entitled "Living in the Kin-dom". So, maybe this is a good space to outline and define what "kin-dom" means in the context of the sermon series.

The original use of kin-dom for kingdom is not known. There is a thread leading back to feminist theology. The masculine, male-oriented word, kingdom did not fully convey the biblical understanding of God's rule and reign in the world, a reign that was seen through Jesus Christ. Kin-dom sets the tone for the type of society Jesus tried to create during his ministry. Instead of a patriarchal world of domination and violence, Jesus sought a world of love and relationship.

Theologian, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz heard Franciscan nun Georgene Wilson, OSF use the word "kin-dom" in her writing. She felt a connection with the word and her Latina heritage and her view of liberation theology. Isasi-Diaz interpreted the word for her ministry as "the full inclusion and relationship of all of God's people" (Wikipedia). She believed and taught that the kin-dom was a current reality and possibility not something to look forward to in the future. She may be the first person to use kin-dom publicly.

Jesus describes the reign of God thirty-seven times in the New Testament. He often began a parable with "the kingdom of God" (or heaven in the Gospel of Matthew). Each time Jesus explained the reign of God, his description differed from any type of reign on earth. There was no precedent for God's reign other than Jesus and his disciples. Seeing the rule of God as a kin-dom invites us to think of God's rule as a kinship, one covered with love.

Living in the kin-dom (as our sermon series declares) would mean we understand the rule of God in the believer's heart as one where kinship and love guide and the kin-dom is open and welcoming to all of God's people. Welcoming includes everything within the church, Holy Communion, Baptism, worship, study, and fellowship as well as in the community outside the church.

Changing kingdom to kin-dom also moves us closer to the truth of God's rule. It is not a place where we are going or a hope for the future. The kin-dom is a matter of heart and soul for our lives today. The kin-dom is how we live with one another. Saying kin-dom helps us define our place in God's reign as loving God and loving one another.

Preaching about God's kin-dom may bring up questions for you. They may be questions of understanding and questions for deeper learning. If you have questions, please let me know so that we can have a conversation. I always appreciate time spent in conversation with one another.

Let us Pray: God, you have given us the commandment for loving you and loving our neighbor as ourselves. May we accept your kin-dom here on earth and welcome all into a relationship with you and with us. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Lori Anne

Dear friends,

We are in the thick of it are we not? From school to fall activities to raking up leaves, we are surrounded by the beauty of a new season. Youth has started back for the Fall and we have an excited, eager group of sixth graders. I am grateful for their perspective and hope. Guiding our time together, along with our youth mission statement, are the 5Cs as I like to call them: Candy, Covenant, Courage, Creativity, and Community.

I offer a short description of these pillars in hopes that at least one of them will meet you right where you are and ground you in God's goodness and grace.

- Candy - We always need something sweet, whether a sweet word or a sweet treat. We gather around tables and fellowship, just as Jesus did.
- Covenant - Covenants help us create spaces and communities where people are welcomed, affirmed, and honored. Our covenants are formed from God's covenant to always be with us... from the rainbow as a sign of the covenant between God and the earth (Genesis 9) to Jesus saying, "This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 22).
- Courage - From this covenant, we can boldly live into exactly who God made us to be. It certainly takes courage in a world filled with hatred, fear, and suffering.
- Creativity - God invites us to use our imaginations and dream of how this world can be healed. Scripture invites us to engage our senses and listen closely to what God is saying. It is through this movement of the Holy Spirit that we can join in with God's creative, mending work.
- Community - This is what our life as Christians, our call to discipleship is all about. We cannot do life alone, as we belong to each other and we belong to the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Investing ourselves in community moves faith from just being in our heads to being in our hearts and hands.

Again, I invite you to take what you need...perhaps just one of the 5Cs, perhaps several. My prayer is that the little word(s) will encourage us to live in and share the big, boundless love of God. *Peace, Rev. Hannah Howell*

Mark your calendars! Our Tables for All Occasions fundraiser is October 21st, and you don't want to miss the beautiful and creative tables that will be on display. Tables for All Occasions began in 2002 and after having missed a few years due to Covid, this marks the 20th event! Over the years, we estimate that \$20,000 has been donated to charities that support women and children all because of Tables and your generosity! Please continue to support this amazing fundraiser sponsored by Hannah Circle! Tickets are \$20.00 and include a delicious lunch. Lunch is served at noon but come early to see the creativity! For questions about purchasing a ticket or hosting a table, contact Barbara Laymon at blaymon14@earthlink.net or 336-782-9467. Don't miss this fun and fabulous event!



Mary Brock

By John Brock

Mary Ellen & M.C. Deadmon

By Mack & Martha Deadmon

Louise Collins

John & Shirley Cottle

Wink Hendricks

Carolyn Cartner

Gifford Basham

Kathleen Cartner

Wink Hendricks

Betty Frost

By Kathleen Cartner

Shirley Wicker

By Wink Hendricks

Taylor Slye

By Wink Hendricks

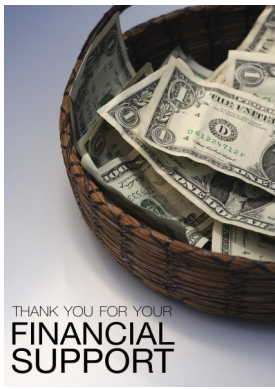
PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool is in full swing! We have started our curriculum, monthly bible verses, and getting more and more comfortable in the classroom each day! Our September verse to memorize was Psalm 139:14 and October will be Luke 11:1. Our students practice and hear these weekly in their classrooms as well as in our monthly chapel service with Pastor Hannah. I want to thank each of you for the prayers and support as we have transitioned into this new school year and ask that you keep it coming. Our annual Krispy Kreme fundraiser is about to start. If you are interested in purchasing a dozen, please let Katie know. All of our fundraisers go straight into supporting the preschool. This includes crafts, supplies, snacks, specials for the students, and staff appreciation. We are always in need of volunteers and substitutes as well. If you are interested in volunteering, a donut purchase, or a last minute preschool T-Shirt please email Katie at katie@firstumcmocksville.org *Katie Allen*

The United Methodist Men meet Sunday, 10/8 at 7:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

The First United Methodist Church Medical/Dental Team traveled to Honduras on September 1. After arrival in Honduras, we traveled about 8 hours over a day and a half to the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation clinic in Limon. Over the next 5 days, we saw patients at that clinic for 2 days while going to more remote towns for 3 days. The medical team saw 511 patients and dispensed over 2800 prescriptions. The dental team cared for 58 patients doing extractions and restorations. After another day of travel, we enjoyed a day of rest and relaxation before returning home on September 10. We first went to Honduras in 2001 with a team from Centenary UMC in Winston Salem. FMC Mocksville started sponsoring teams in 2006. During that time, CHHF teams have been able to serve multiple remote towns. Over that time, we have seen a remarkable improvement in the health status in the areas that we serve. We want to thank everyone one at FMC Mocksville for the continued support over all these years and plan to continue our care for our neighbors in Honduras.

Joel and Beth Edwards



Oct. 02	Carl Riffe	Oct. 20	Kris Seaford
Oct. 04	Vickie J. Hendricks	Oct. 21	Dick Ward
	Julie Cartner	Oct. 27	John Cottle
Oct. 06	Bobby Shelton		Rick Price
Oct. 08	Teresa Deal	Oct. 29	Phillip Prillaman
Oct. 07	Lanna Robinson	Oct. 30	Carolyn Cartner
Oct. 10	Anita Long		Lou Wilson
Oct. 13	Mary Hall	Oct. 31	Jerry Hendrix
Oct. 15	Karen Lutz		Paula O'Rorke
Oct. 16	Erin Foil		

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.

	Aug 2023	Jan-Aug '23
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 34,296	293,935
Other	\$ 600	13,702
Memorials		3,385
W/S Foundation		5,426
Total Income	\$ 34,896	316,448
Expenses	- 45,678	- 383,104
Total	- 10,782	- 66,656

Lou's Lines



This past month, there was a flurry of activity as our musical groups here at church have returned to a regular rehearsal schedule. It is so exciting to have everyone back to the business of praising the Lord through music, but it also means a great deal of music to choose and plan for. With five groups meeting weekly, there is always a new piece of music needed, or new hymns to be chosen for worship, or a plan to revise that did not work out as I had hoped. Each group requires something very different, so I first begin with prayer, knowing that I cannot do this alone, and am always aware of the One who equips me for the task. A few weeks ago, I found myself running into the name of the same composer quite often. Brad Nix is a Choral Composer that I search out frequently for the Chancel Choir. It turns out that he also composed many of the pieces that I am considering for the Music Makers this year. So of course, I had to find out a little more about him.

Brad Nix was blessed with many musical gifts, composing being just one of his accomplishments. As I was reading about his background, it became clear to me why he was possibly one of my new favorites. In an interview with Jonathan Martin with WorshipSongsOnline, he said,

"Regarding my writing, I rely on the Holy Spirit for inspiration, whether I am writing an original octavo, an arrangement, or an orchestration. I am so aware of the fact that without Him I can do nothing. Therefore, I try to always begin my writing sessions with prayer. I often feel overwhelmed with the responsibility of presenting the Gospel of Christ to others through music, and I am leery of beginning any musical project unless it is thoroughly immersed in prayer. In addition, I pray for the choirs that present my music, and for the congregations that will hear the music. I desperately want my efforts to serve, in some small way, as a vehicle for God to speak to others, whether they are singers or listeners".

I know that Brad Nix is not the only composer or musician that prays before attempting to create, nor is he the only musician that dedicates his work to the Lord. I do find comfort in knowing that the music I choose, the choirs I direct, and the congregations that hear our offerings are surrounded in prayer by so many, even those we will never see or know personally.

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:3

Ann Stayer

PO Box 333
256 North Carolina Circle
Mocksville NC 27028

Jean Shelton

Bermuda Commons
Room # 508
316 NC Hwy 801
Advance NC 27006

Madeline Shelton

5152 Moseley Dr
Clemmons NC 27012

Molly Jo McClamrock

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

Elmer Stoneman

10 Luftee Lane
Holly Springs NC 27540

Wanda Bryant

Davie Rehab Room 517
498 Madison Road
Mocksville NC 27028

Ron Cotterman

150 Ken Dwiggens Dr.
Room 217
Mocksville NC 27028

Mary Hendricks

Willowbrook Rehab
333 E. Lee Ave. Room 203
Yadkinville, NC 27055

Billie Bean

1880 Needmore Road
Woodleaf, NC 27054

Christine Woodruff

Davie Rehab Room 205
498 Madison Rd.
Mocksville NC 27028



Young at Heart will travel to Boone, NC on October 10. Breakfast/Brunch will be at Dan'l Boone Inn. (\$14.95) We will visit the original Mast General Store in Valle Crucis as well as shops on King Street. Please call the church office by October 8 to reserve your space. We will leave the FLC parking lot at 8:30 AM on October 10. 336.751.2503