

NOVEMBER  
2023

**First United Methodist Church**

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



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Lament

*“Alongside Babylon’s streams, there we sat down, crying because we remembered Zion.”*

Psalm 137:1 (CEB)

Psalm 137 is a song of lament that expresses the humiliation of the exiles from Judah. The people of God had been taken from their homeland because of their disobedience from God. Throughout the Psalm the people are mocked by their captors. The song of lament shows the feelings of God’s people because of the current state of their nation.

The purpose of a lament, at least in the Old Testament Scripture, is song of a nation to grieve their fate after a calamity. The people of Israel, God’s people, had many reasons for lament throughout their history. They often turned from God and relied on their own desires for direction and their own resources for rescue.

Lament describes our voice or our song in the present. Our nation has witnessed calamity. The pandemic brought death, sickness, and significant changes to every life. Our responses to the pandemic and the calamity have also brought more lament as we have chosen division over working together. Like the people of Israel, we have sought our own desires and followed our own resources for rescue.

As our nation struggled in the pandemic, a spotlight was shown on other issues of division. Racism, inequality, and poverty has overtaken our systems and we have divided more deeply into “us” versus “them”. Many of us are “crying because we remember” days where we pulled together instead of picked each other apart.

The lament of Psalm 137 could be our song as well. The people were not given answers to their cries for help. They continued moving between various choices such as whether to wage war or peace and whether to join or tear apart their life. They looked toward destroying themselves and others or create a different song. The Psalm and the people seem to be without hope.

And yet...their cries are for God. They turn to the One who has been faithful to them in all the calamities and the joys of their life. They go to God who created them and formed them into the people of God. Their return to God begins their confession and their reconciliation. Their pleas to God are a sign of hope.

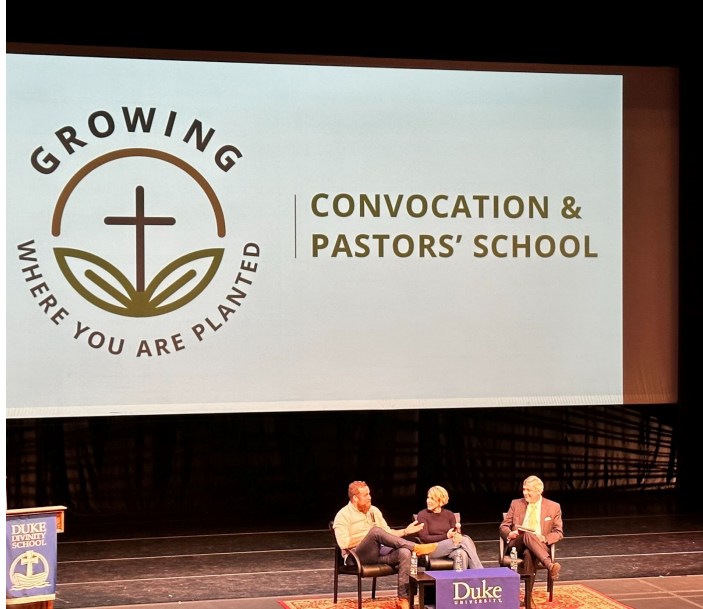
People of God, we too can turn to God. Even amid our lament where we sing of the calamity that has befallen us and our part in bringing it upon us, we can turn to the One who has been and always will be faithful. We, not as a nation but we as people of God who are called church, must turn to God in confession. We must lay down self and selfish desires so that we may pick up justice, mercy, and humility.

Let us pray: *God of all, you hear our lament as we cry and stand waiting for our cries of confession. You have sent your grace as a message of your faithfulness. We receive your grace, and it nudges us to remember our sin and we seek your justifying grace for our lives. Grant us rescue from the calamities of our situation and our own desires that may have caused the results of the calamity. Bring us back to you in love and mercy to serve you better and love our neighbor as ourselves. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

Grace and Peace,

*Lori Anne*

On October 15-17, I had the opportunity and privilege to attend Convocation and Pastors' School at Duke Divinity School, my alma mater. This is a wonderful time of continuing education and gathering with friends, old and new. The theme of this year's event was "Growing Where You Are Planted." With this community-oriented focus, Erin and Ben Napier of HGTV's *Home Town* were invited to speak about loving the place you live and serve. They were interviewed by Rev. Robb Webb, Director of the Rural Church Program Area of The Duke Endowment. I most definitely fan-girled when I saw the Napiers! Their show is on repeat on my parents' television, and just hearing their voices brought me back to the comfort of home.



Their voices also proclaimed good truths and words of wisdom about how the church is not isolated from the community. We here at First UMC Mocksville know this, as we have been focusing most recently on recognizing our place in Mocksville and larger Davie County. This has looked like partnering with schools, being present in town happenings like the 5K race, and opening up our events like Fall Festival to all members of the community.

Erin and Ben stated that even though they might be the face of the revitalization happening in their hometown of Laurel, Mississippi, they are not doing it alone. They emphasized that there is a whole team of people making this growth possible. At their core, Erin and Ben believe they are called to be the cheerleaders and the mascots for the community by highlighting the unique gifts already present in their town. Their faith compels them to do this work through the art of storytelling, not the robotics of transactions.

I now pose similar questions to us: How can we deepen the good, community-oriented work we are already doing? What people or places have we forgotten? Are we more concerned with people and their stories or numbers? What are Mocksville's gifts? How can we highlight them and build upon them? How can we more faithfully work together as a team, as the body of Christ?

Will you pray with me?

*God, grant us the courage to cheer wholeheartedly for this town we call home. May your will be done in Mocksville as it is in heaven. Amen.*

Peace,  
Pastor Hannah



**BETTY FROST**  
By Mike Hendrix  
**GIFFORD BASHAM**  
By Mike Hendrix  
**LOUISE COLLINS**  
By Betty Foster

**IN HONOR OF REV. LORI ANNE BOWEN**  
By Ruth Hoyle  
**IN HONOR OF REV. HANNAH HOWELL**  
By Ruth Hoyle

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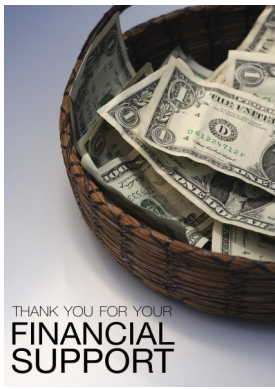
The United Methodist Men  
Sunday, 11/12 at 7:30 AM  
Fellowship Hall

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## Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion.





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.***

	Sep 2023	Jan-Sep '23
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 27,063	320,998
Other	\$ 590	14,293
Memorials	50	3,435
W/S Foundation	2,713	8,139
Total Income	\$ 30,416	346,865
Expenses	- 42,411	- 424,765
Total	- 11,995	- 77,900

**Ann Stayer**

PO Box 333  
256 North Carolina Circle  
Mocksville NC 27028

**Madeline Shelton**

5152 Moseley Dr  
Clemmons NC 27012

**Elmer Stoneman**

10 Luftee Lane  
Holly Springs NC 27540

**Ron Cotterman**

150 Ken Dwigins Dr.  
Room 217  
Mocksville NC 27028

**Billie Bean**

1880 Needmore Road  
Woodleaf, NC 27054

**Molly Jo McClamrock**

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

**Christine Woodruff**

Davie Rehab Room 205  
498 Madison Rd.  
Mocksville NC 27028

**Wanda Bryant**

Davie Rehab Room 517  
498 Madison Road  
Mocksville NC 27028

**Mary Hendricks**

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



Nov. 03	Josie Miller	Nov. 19	Tyler Laymon
Nov. 04	Matthew Mandarano		Callie Cress
Nov. 05	Kim Harmon	Nov. 20	Brent Ellis
Nov. 06	Wylie Berry	Nov. 22	Linda Peterson
Nov. 11	Peggy Nail	Nov. 23	Tim Trudgeon
Nov. 12	Ivy Cowden	Nov. 26	Sheek Bowden
Nov 13	Yvonne Butzbach		Landon Carter
Nov. 16	Betty Ward	Nov. 27	Bill Steed
Nov. 17	Harold Wood	Nov. 29	M.A. Brewer

*The United Methodist Hymnal Number 102*  
**Text:** Martin Rinkart; *Trans. by Catherine Winkworth*  
**Music:** Johann Cruger; *Harm. by Felix Mendelssohn*  
**Tune:** NUN DANKET

Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
and free us from all ills,  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.



Young at Heart will travel to Duke Chapel on Tuesday, November 14. Please call the church office to register your attendance by November 12. We will leave the FLC parking lot at 8:30 AM.

