



## First United Methodist Church

310 N. Main Street  
Mocksville, NC 27028  
[www.firstumcmocksville.org](http://www.firstumcmocksville.org)

JULY 2024

### Life with Christ, each other, and the World

9 "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. 12 This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. John 15:9-12 (CEB)

Life-giving is my predominant feeling from the Western North Carolina Annual Conference this year. Worship and bible study gives life to my spirit. The strong unity felt between each other gives life to my renewed hope in The United Methodist Church. Seeing old friends and making new ones gives life to my desire for building stronger relationships. Each element of Annual Conference flowed through the theme of Life with Christ, Life with Each Other, and Life in the World.

Our time together at the Annual Conference was centered on John 15:1-17. Thank you to those who read the Scripture daily and prayed for the Annual Conference. Those prayers and reflections added to the life-giving feeling this year. Bishop Ken Carter, Resident Bishop of the WNCC named the Annual Conference, "Life" – with Christ, with each other, in the world. Each service and day of business flowed from Scripture and the theme.

Life with Christ was shown in the backdrop of the stage in Stuart Auditorium. A vine was depicted on a white background with branches growing from the vine. We remember that Christ, not us or the church is the vine. From the vine, all life and love flow. While pruning is necessary for bearing good fruit for Christ, being cut off meant that the branch had no life.

Life with each other is seen through love. God loves us and has loved us since before we were conceived. When we stay connected to Christ, we remain in the love of the Father. The Father's love, the same love in Christ is not a show of affection. God's love is the service we render to each other. Without real love we can only make loud noises and show selfish pride.

Life in the world must flow through Life with Christ and Life with Each Other. Without those guiding principles, we would live for the world and not for Christ. Our life with Christ and Each Other is grounded in love. The result is that we live in the world producing fruit that glorifies God and shares God's love.

The vine is the source of love. The love flows through the branches, keeping the branches alive and energized. Remaining or abiding in the vine provides the connection between life-giver and life-receiver. The continued abiding or relationship fuels life – with Christ, with each other, and in the World.

Plants need cultivation to live and thrive. They need to be watered, pruned, aerated around the roots, and talked to (this one is not scientific). Without being nurtured, they will wither and die. In the same way, relationships must be nurtured for them to live and grow and thrive. Life without nurturing decays and dies. That includes our life with Christ, with each other, and in the world.

Cultivating life takes time and work. AND you can begin with just a small step. Begin a daily devotional time, increase your visits to Sunday School or worship, set aside a little more time each day for prayer. These will help with your personal relationship with God. Your relationship with each other may look different. Offer forgiveness to someone who has hurt you. Find a way to speak out for someone who has no voice due to an injustice to them. Visit the prisons. Visit the hospitals. Teach your children the importance of giving to those who do not have the abundance we have.

Remain in the love of Christ just as Christ remains in the love of his Father.

Let us pray: *God of life, we praise you for the life you have given us with Christ, with each other, and in the world. By your love, help us to stay connected to the vine that is Christ. May we bear fruit for God's kingdom so that God is glorified, and God be praised. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Grace and Peace,

*Lori Anne*

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ who is Love,

I pray this summer season is bringing renewal and connection. Pastor Lori Anne, our delegates, and I just returned from Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska. Our theme was centered on **John 15: Life with Christ. Life with Each Other. Life with the World.** One of my favorite sessions was the Bible Study on this passage about Jesus being the vine and us being the branches. Rev. Dr. Magrey DeVega, Senior Pastor at Hyde Park UMC in Tampa, FL, led us in exploring what Jesus was saying to the disciples then, and what God is saying to us now. *May the Holy Spirit intercede for us as we reflect on what these takeaways mean for us in Mocksville.*

Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you" (v. 4, NRSV). Abiding does not mean sitting back passively and observing. It means being actively alive, intentional, consistent, mindful, and interdependent. **How can we more faithfully abide in Christ?**

When discussing bearing fruit (v. 5), DeVega referenced a wonderful book, one we just gave our graduates, in fact: *Bread for the Journey* by Henri Nouwen. Here was the takeaway: there is a difference between success and fruitfulness, as fruitfulness brings true joy. The goal is fruitfulness, not success. We need this good word to remind us that God is in control and we are not. Fruitfulness is not about individualism, it is about community. **How can we prioritize connection and people (fruitfulness) over numbers and isolation (common labels of success)?**

Lastly, when referencing belonging to God and not belonging to the perceptions of the world (v. 18-27), DeVega discussed what it means to #BeUMC in this very moment. He painted this powerful image: What if the United Methodist Church is not a sinking ship but a submarine in the making? We were made to plunge right into the heart of the matter. We were made to be surrounded by deep waters where most of life resides. Hi, Nemo! **How can we meet people where they are, right here in our community? Who will we meet? Who will we grow in deeper relationships with?**

Let us stay in conversation as we think through these questions and strive to embody John 15: Life with Christ. Life with Each Other. Life with the World.

Peace,  
Pastor Hannah



**VBS Service Project: You are invited to help make this a success! Join us in supporting Somerset and Family Promise.**

Two options by Tuesday, July 9:

1. Bring items that the VBS participants will assemble into care packages for Somerset residents: Socks, Kleenex, Stuffed Animals, Lotion, and Chapstick.
2. Bring money to help buy care package supplies. Any remaining money will be donated to Family Promise. Cash or Check made out to First UMC Mocksville, memo: VBS Service Project



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER or go to the church website.



**UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST MEETING**

**Sunday, July 14 7:30 AM Fellowship Hall**



July 07	Betty Foster	July 20	Randy Hendricks
July 09	Carolyn Price		Shae James
July 12	Molly Jo McClamrock		Kevin Neal
July 13	Daryl Rosenbaum	July 21	Lori Anne Bowen
July 14	Kay Brelig		Gary Hatley
July 15	Carol Bock	July 25	Collins Grace Berry
	Michael Brill	July 26	Melissa Jordan
July 16	Linda Jordan	July 27	Brenda Graham
	Mike Harrison		

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024	May	Jan - May
Tithes/Offerings	\$32,525	\$193,857
Memorials	945	2,135
WS Foundation		2,716
Other	1,916	12,223
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 35,386</b>	<b>\$210,931</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(- 43,926)</b>	<b>(-210,658)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(- 8,540 )</b>	<b>+ \$ 273</b>



### TOMMY'S NOTE

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**Ann Stayer**  
PO Box 333  
256 North Carolina Circle  
Mocksville NC 27028

**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

### The Many Styles of Church Music (adapted from Philipp Steigner)

In most cases, church music is specifically designed for worship. It can range from hymns to Gregorian chants to modern praise and worship music. But church music is more than just a collection of melodies and lyrics. It is a powerful expression of faith that touches people's hearts and souls. This is what distinguishes it from many other musical approaches through its spirituality, and thus gives it its importance. Church music provides excellent support for the associated processes and encourages the involvement of the congregation in worship. The tremendous importance of church music lies in its ability to express spiritual themes in ways that go beyond the spoken word. It speaks to the human soul in profound ways and can evoke feelings of peace, comfort, joy, and uplift. This creates cohesion. Church music has constantly evolved and adapted to changing cultures over the centuries. From the Gregorian chant of the Middle Ages to the polyphonic music of the Renaissance, the great sacred works of the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, and the contemporary church music of the modern era. It has taken on many styles and forms. But despite its many forms of expression, church music has always maintained its central goal.

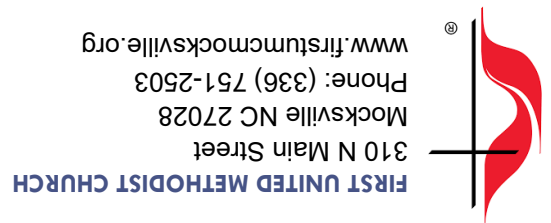
The world of church music is full of timbres produced by many instruments. One of the best known and most appreciated instruments is the organ. With its impressive size and versatile range of sounds, it can create quiet and meditative moods as well as powerful and majestic passages. Singing is also emphasized, which characterizes church music as a central feature of the design whether as a soloist or in a choir. Chant is used to interpret hymns, Psalms, liturgical chants, and other sacred music. In addition, string instruments such as violins, violas, cellos and double basses are often used in larger churches or cathedrals. These can be used, for example, in the orchestra for church music. The situation is similar with wind instruments – both woodwind and brass instruments offer a wide range of timbres and can be used both for accompaniment and for solo contributions. Percussion instruments, on the other hand, are somewhat rarer, but can still be found sporadically in church music. Through them, many traditional musical styles can be revived in a completely new way.

#### IN MEMORY

Betty Ward  
By Faithful Fellowship Class  
Wayne Long  
By Faithful Fellowship Class

#### IN HONOR

Mike Brill  
Tommy Turner  
Lester Cozart  
Lane Hall  
By Wink Hendricks



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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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.