



August 2021

# Pathways

A monthly newsletter of Nashville UMC & Pastor Ken Smailes

**H**ave you noticed how kids desire to grow up, dreaming of the day they reach adulthood? “When I grow up, I will ...,” we say. Yet, as adults, we yearn to be kids again, recalling what seemed to be a simpler time. As children, the world fascinates us; as adults, the world scares us. Children, recognizing the restrictions under which they live, look forward to the freedom they imagine they will enjoy as adults. But as we grow older, we realize there are different restrictions actually limiting that freedom. We tend to be concerned with social status, political clout, and pecking order. We tend to rank people according to how things look to us in the world.

But Jesus warned that using earthly criteria will never give us an accurate picture of God’s Kingdom. Consistent in Jesus’ teaching is that His kingdom is not like the kingdoms of this world. The way of Jesus is one in which leaders are servants, the first are last and the last are first, enemies are loved, and suffering is held in regard. In God’s kingdom, those whom the world looks down upon are looked up on.

Such is the context of Mark 10:15 where Jesus says “I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” What did Jesus mean? Any parent will recall the so-called “terrible 2’s” – that year in a child’s life when mood and behavior rapidly change and parents struggle to deal with them. Nope. That’s not Jesus’ point. Rather, as Matthew 18:3 suggests: that we have the humility of a child.

To experience the change that Jesus can bring into our lives, we must be teachable as little children. That, Jesus says, is the mark of true greatness. His first beatitude in Matthew 5:3 says “Blessed are the poor in the spirit (the humble), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” And here’s what we must remember: the Kingdom of God is not just some futuristic state. It’s here and now; and as Christians, we are citizens first and foremost of that Kingdom. So let’s have that child-like faith and live out our citizenship to its fullest. Amen?



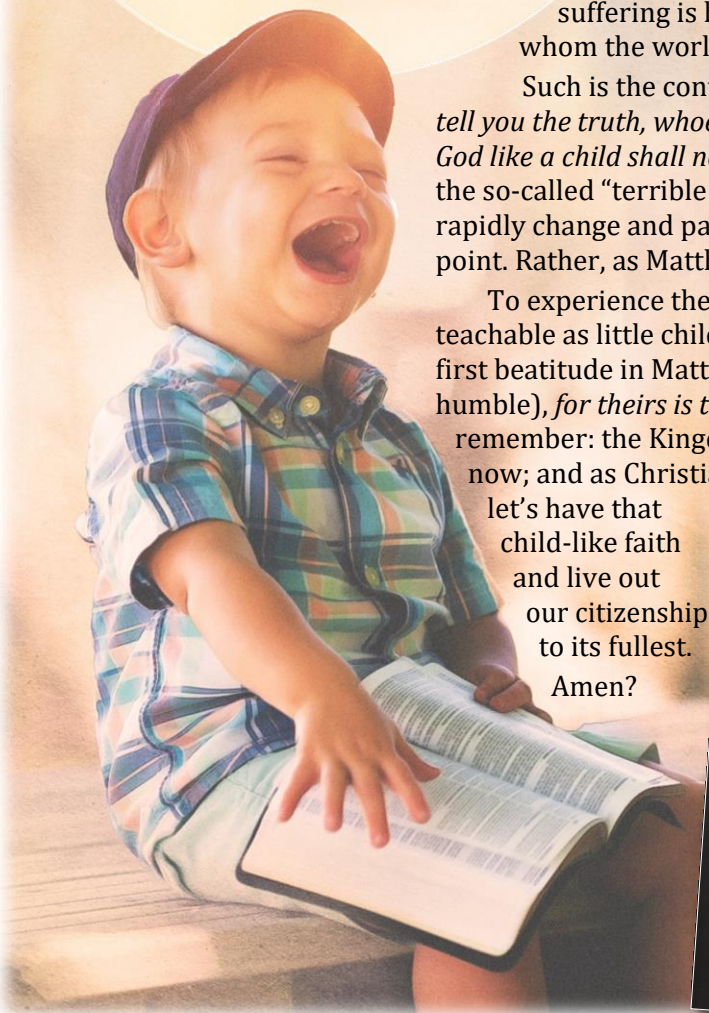
Ken’s Korner

*Pastor Ken*

# Faith

LIKE A CHILD

— Matthew 18:3 —



## A BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God, show our children the right path this school year. May their hearts be ready to learn, and your purposes be revealed in the gifts you have placed in their hearts. Give them a thirst for knowledge, wisdom and understanding. We pray you would empower their teachers, and guide them in instruction, strength to complete their tasks, and energy to joyfully interact. Amen.



**Worship: 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.**

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302 W. Millersburg St., P.O. Box 399, Nashville OH 44661



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# ‘Membership has priveleges’

Are you looking to take that next faith step in your relationship with Christ and His church? Is God calling you to something more in life? Do you want to learn more about John Wesley & the people called Methodists? Then, Pastor Ken has designed a learning experience for you.

“Stepping Stones” is a class for those wishing to join the Nashville or Killbuck United Methodist Churches as a member, for youth considering confirmation of their faith, for those exploring God’s call into baptism, and for anyone who wants to reaffirm their faith

and gain a better understanding of the Wesleyan tradition. The group sessions will be offered on six consecutive Wednesday evenings from **September 1 through October 6**, with other opportunities for one-on-one growth as well.

*“The Christian faith was never intended to be a journey we take by ourselves. In our new identity in Christ, baptism marks the beginning of becoming that new person but joining a church is one of the most significant ways that we can*

*Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body [the church].*

- Romans 12:4-5

If you’re interested in “Stepping Stones,” contact the church or Pastor Ken by August 20. Details on time and location will be announced once we see the composition of the class.



## Stepping Stones

A membership class on discipleship, United Methodism 101 & baptism

**Wednesdays, Sept 1 - Oct 6**

**Is God calling you into a deeper relationship with Him?**

*Membership to a church is an important step in our spiritual journey and growth. It is one way to affirm your faith in and love for Christ, and express your desire to worship, serve, and grow by connecting with others in mission and ministry through His church.*

**Or, perhaps God is calling you into baptism.** Come, learn about this act of God through Christ’s grace and the work of the Holy Spirit.

This is a six-week class led by Pastor Ken for the Nashville & Killbuck United Methodist Churches

*mature in our relationship with God, His creation, others and ourselves,” says Pastor Ken. “The church is what it means to be the body of Christ in the world, as we encourage and support one another.”*

Topics that will be explored include: confirmation and what it is; baptism; our identity in Christ; our Christian heritage; the sacraments, creeds and statements of faith; church symbols and seasons; who John Wesley was; what it means to be a Methodist; the significance of grace; and much more.

## From your church leadership

# Parsonage options evaluated

Discussion is underway regarding the future use of the church parsonage since Pastor Ken is continuing to live in the Killbuck UMC parsonage. Several options are being explored and your feedback is welcome. Share your thoughts with any board member.

The leadership team will be meeting for a half hour on **August 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. to continue the discussion. Then, at 7 p.m. the focus will turn to Staff-Parish Relations as the board meets with Pastor Ken to set expectations, establish goals for the coming year, and prepare for Charge Conference.



Church parsonage on SR 39

Among parsonage options identified to date:

- 1) Rent it, as an income source for maintenance & capital improvements
- 2) Partner with the “Homes of Hope” ministry through Love INC of Greater Holmes County to help families in need
- 3) Sell it, and put the proceeds in escrow
- 4) Maintain it as is for any future needs of a parsonage

Business manager Sue Weimer is compiling the costs of insurance, taxes and utilities for background information.

Vicki Conn from Love INC has provided information about Homes of Hope, which provides temporary housing for families facing a housing crisis and willing to participate in Love INC’s Fresh Start ministry that includes budget coaching, goal-setting, and life-changing steps toward self-sufficiency. Details about Homes of Hope transitional housing are available at the church.

**Church Leadership Team:** Laurie Etzwiler, chair; Craig Houin, Lee Smetzer, Hazel Taft, Janice & Leo Tope, Sue Weimer, Deanna Wheatley, & Pastor Ken.

## Summer Camp update

Did you know the Nashville United Methodist Church sponsored eight children to attend church camp this summer? And hats off to Laura and Anna Irwin who served as counselors at Camp Wanake.

## In need of prayer?

The church has a prayer team to lift up your joys and concerns throughout the week. If you are in need of prayer or know of a situation to raise up before God, call the church office at 330-378-2055.

## Pastor’s office hours

- **Nashville UMC:** Mondays & Thursdays from 1:30-4:30 p.m.
  - **Killbuck UMC:** Tuesdays from Noon to 5 p.m.
  - **Fridays:** Pastor Ken’s day off
- \* Other times can also be arranged.*

## Stay in touch online

Pastor Ken’s sermons are posted each week at the church website; and be sure to follow us on Facebook for inspiration and updates. *(See cover page for links and contact info).*



Families and students who attend school in Holmes County are invited to the annual **Back to School Bash** hosted from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday** by Love INC of Greater Holmes County. The "School Supply Store" will include many specific items on students' class list, including a backpack and earbuds. The price is \$5/student (this suggested donation will go toward future school supplies).

Families who attend also will be invited to Save & Serve on a designated evening to shop and pick up one pack of NEW underwear for \$1 and one pack of NEW socks for \$1 for each student. Attend the Bash with your student's sizes in mind! Attendees will also be invited to the Love INC Shoe Distribution that will take place the following week.

And don't forget this coming Friday through Sunday is the state of Ohio's annual sales tax holiday for school supplies. You can shop Friday, August 6 through Sunday, August 8 and items that can be tax free include clothing priced at \$75 or less, school supplies priced at \$20 or less and school instructional materials priced at \$20 or less.



It's time to start thinking about your Operation Christmas Child boxes for November. Collection week is November 15-22.

With school supplies on sale now, it's the perfect time to grab them more cost-effectively (and this weekend, Aug. 6-8, is Ohio's sales tax holiday).

Operation Christmas Child boxes will be soon available for pick-up at the Nashville church.

## Monthly roundtable discussion



## Where news & faith intersect

Capitalizing on 35 years as a print and broadcast journalist, Pastor Ken hosts a monthly current events discussion ... and all are welcome. *"Beyond the Headlines"* explores the news from a faith perspective and is held 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the Killbuck United Methodist Church, 410 N. Main St., Killbuck.

This month's topics is: "The Olympics & Christianity." Were there Olympics in Jesus' time? When did the Olympics begin? What role has Christianity had in the Olympics?

Future dates include: September 2, October 7, and November 4.

A virtual option is also available. If you want to join via Zoom from a computer or smartphone, just call either church or send an email address to receive the link.

Over the past year, we've explored the present state of Israeli affairs and the history of conflict in the Middle East; the "Cancel Culture" movement; racism; world religions; the role TV and film play in morality, culture, & faith; and human trafficking.



## Looking to the future

Charge Conference for the Nashville United Methodist Church will be held **October 26<sup>th</sup>** at the Millersburg UMC, beginning at 7 p.m.

The Leadership Team is currently planning for the year ahead with Pastor Ken transitioned into his full-time appointment with Nashville and Killbuck. He also continues to serve Blissfield by holding a service on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

The leadership board will be meeting with District Supt. Rev. Kelly Brown on Thursday, **September 9.**

## Internet upgraded

The internet service at the church has been upgraded.

In July, we transitioned to Spectrum for our internet and phone service, which is providing higher-speed connectivity, useful communication features, and a more economical package.

In addition to enhancing our internal network, a WIFI hotspot is available to Spectrum customers who can sign in for free with their Spectrum account credentials.

Pancake Breakfast

The H15 Teen Center in Millersburg is hosting a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser **Saturday, August 14** from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cost is by donation.

In addition to pancakes made from scratch with sausage links for breakfast, those attending are invited to check out the Teen Center, located at 34 East Jackson St., and learn more about the ministry.

Proceeds will be used for ongoing needs and help to move the Teen Center into Phase 2.

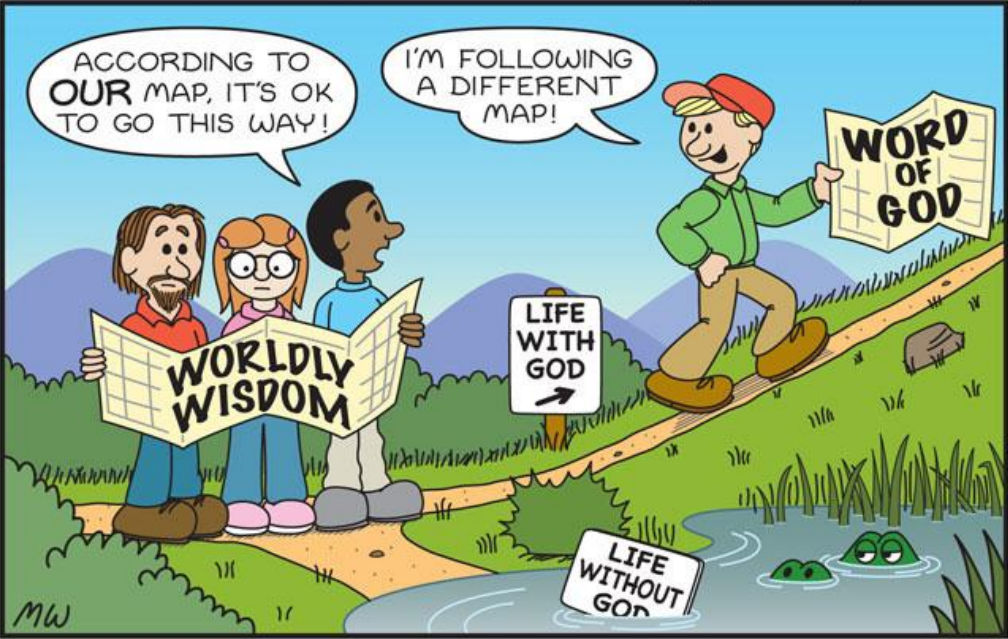
Love INC Thank You

*It is such a joy to partner with you and your freezer meal gap ministry. As needs arise, because of your church and your team, we are able to encourage them to visit with you. A recent quote from a woman helped by several gaps – “I just can’t believe how caring these people are! I’ve never had anyone treat me so kindly before,” she said between tears. Your time, your efforts, your prayers – it is making a difference!*

*Thank You! Your friends  
at Love INC*

A DIFFERENT MAP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters




How can a young person stay on the path of purity?  
By living according to your word. -PSALM 119:9 NIV

On the lighter side

- Before you begin to give someone a piece of your mind, consider carefully whether you can spare any.
- Don't pray for rain if you are going to complain about the mud.
- It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.
- The Christian life is like tea. Its full strength comes out when it's in hot water.
- "The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason." - Benjamin Franklin.
- At what time of day was Adam created?

*A little before Eve.*



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