



Spring (Mar-Apr) 2022

Pathways

A monthly newsletter of Nashville UMC & Pastor Ken Smales

"Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Romans 8:34

Rejoice in Easter



Ken's Korner

Pastor Ken

We all have faced rejection in some form or another in our lives. We find ourselves part of the Ain't crowd. You can be poor or rich, uneducated or college degreed, unknown or famous and be among the Ain'ts: coming home from school with a report card to hear *"You ain't smart enough."* You try out for a team and don't make the squad, or you interview for a job, only to hear, *"You ain't good enough," "You ain't experienced."* You ask the bank for a loan: *"You ain't qualified."* You try to fit in, but *"You ain't funny, or pretty or outgoing, or (fill in the blank)...."* Throughout history, though, no one gives hope like the rejected Jesus.

He is The One. And since I'm using grammar to make a point, notice the verb. He **IS** The One. Present tense. Jesus is not dead. He is Risen! He's alive! Yet, why do we respond to Jesus the way we do? Why ain't we more amazed? Why ain't we more willing to follow Him and shape our lives around Him? Anything less is but ... rejection. When we place Him anywhere but first in our lives, we are rejecting Him no differently than those 2,000 years ago. We reject Jesus when we fail to trust and obey Him. We reject Jesus when we hear the word of God and fail to put it into practice. We reject Jesus in our disconnection from worship. We reject Jesus when we are more interested in what's going on around us than our relationship with Him. We reject Him in our failure to love others as God loves us.

Jesus knows what rejection feels like, from the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane, from the wooden manger to the wooden cross. Yet, John 6:37 says Jesus will never reject those who genuinely seek Him. Praise God, we can know the hope that Jesus brings! A hope that can never fade ... even when

He is
RISEN

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

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Maundy Thursday Service

& Communion

Thursday, April 14
7 p.m.



In the Fellowship Hall of Nashville United Methodist Church

LOCAL CHURCHES COMING TOGETHER TO
CELEBRATE CHRIST'S LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION

GOOD FRIDAY

COMMUNITY GATHERING

APRIL 15 AT 7PM

PERRY REESE JR. COMMUNITY CENTER &
OHIO STAR THEATER AT DUTCH VALLEY

Visit goodfriday.one for more information

JOIN US FOR EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Lakeview Hall at Lake Buckhorn

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Service begins at 7 a.m.
with breakfast afterward

*Please take a breakfast casserole
or other breakfast item to share*

Easter Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. at Nashville; 11 a.m. at Killbuck

EXPERIENCE HOLY WEEK WITH US!



Nashville UMC partnered with Love INC of Greater Holmes County to provide an Easter Basket ministry for 26 children this month. Families were able to fill their baskets with all sorts of age-appropriate goodies donated by the congregation. Volunteers then wrapped the baskets. Free Bibles also were available. Families commented: "it was such a wonderful experience," "tons of stuff to choose from," "the volunteers were very kind," and "we felt very loved and cared for." Thanks to all who helped in any way!

Churches shine with 2nd-mile giving

Jesus says in Matthew 5:41: "If anyone demands you go one mile, go with them two miles." Nashville and Killbuck United Methodist Churches have excelled beyond what's expected (going the first mile), and that generosity is helping many others.

Nearly \$1,200 in spare change and donations was collected for Love INC of Greater Holmes County during the month of February as we celebrated "Love Month." The funds are used toward ministry operations to help those in need.

In March, the churches participated in UMCOR Sunday when a special offering is collected around the

world for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR's specialized ministries include responding in disaster, alleviating poverty, fighting hunger, and providing relief supplies. The United Methodist Church is active in Ukraine and with assisting refugees, for which many people designated their gifts.

In all, more than \$1,170 was contributed to UMCOR. If you'd like to support humanitarian assistance for Ukrainian people through UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery, you can go online at www.umcmission.org and click on the "Support Ukraine" link to learn more.

Churches gearing up for summer youth ministry

Planning is underway for some exciting learning and fun this summer at Nashville UMC, where Vacation Bible School will have a little different look.

Modeling Killbuck's successful Wild Wednesday ministry, Nashville is transitioning from a traditional weeklong VBS to a six-week series. Our theme each Wednesday from June 29 to July 27 will be "Jungle Safari," where children from kindergarten through fifth grades will learn about God as Creator, Provider, Protector, Savior, and King. Then, on August 3rd, we'll have an "End-of-Summer" celebration before school starts. Each weekly session will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

"Getting together one day each week has wonderful benefits," says Pastor Ken. "Children get to stay connected and engaged in learning throughout the summer. And it creates an opportunity for volunteers to stay fresh and not be bogged down with the sometimes demanding nature of a continuous multiday VBS."

At Killbuck, two three-day mini VBS's will be held: one in early summer, June 8-10; and another from July 27-29, from 10 a.m. to Noon. The theme is "Knights of God's Kingdom." In between, our six-week Wild Wednesday ministry will explore each of the pieces of the Armor of God.

Mark the dates on your calendar, help spread the word, and watch for our next newsletter with more details.



Caring for God's creation

Members of the Nashville Youth Sunday School class participated in their annual cleanup of two miles along County Road 52 on April 3, and enjoyed pizza afterward. The ministry has been ongoing for some 25 years. Thanks to all who helped!

Small Groups ongoing

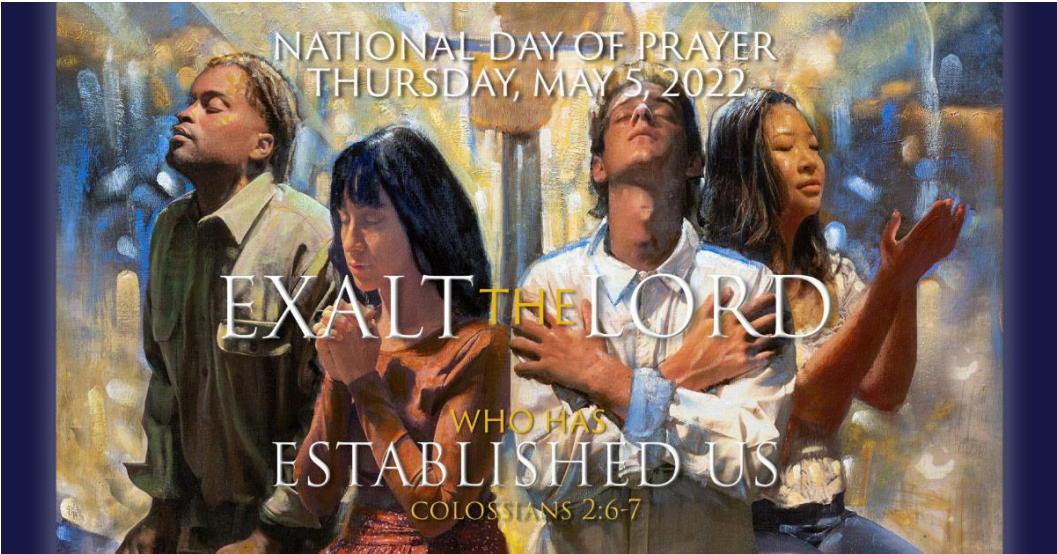
We're finishing up our Small Group Study on "Holy Discontent," during which we had some 20 regular participants. **So, what's next?**

■ In May, we're planning a Bible Study on the book of James, which tells us what it means to follow Christ 24/7. We'll be exploring what a day-to-day relationship with Jesus looks like, how we grow in our faith, and Christian maturity.

■ This summer, we'll join Dr. Wayne Stiles as he takes us on virtual video tours of the Holy Land, connecting the Bible and its lands with life.

Stiles is an adjunct professor at the Dallas Theological Seminary and has been a pastor, author, and board member of National Religious Broadcasters.

■ Our upcoming sermon series following Easter will explore things like doubt, fear and worry that hold us back.




May 5: Focus on Prayer

National Day of Prayer is coming up Thursday, May 5. We invite you to join us from the Nashville United Methodist Church. This year's theme is "*Exalt the Lord who has established us*" from Colossians 2:6-7. We are reminded that our God is MIGHTY and He is ABLE.

The church will be open for prayer that day for anyone who would like to stop by. Watch for a prayer walk through Nashville, in coordination with our congregation and the Nashville Church of Christ. And, on Thursday evening at 6 p.m., join us at the Holmes County Court Square where a county-wide National Day of Prayer gathering is planned with prayer, worship and praise.

If ever there was a time for the Church to unite behind our leaders, our schools, businesses, the military and first responders, the Church, and uphold each other, that time is here. Psalm 33:12 says "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*"

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