



July 2022

# Pathways

A monthly newsletter of Nashville UMC & Pastor Ken Smailes

Perhaps the most quoted line of the Declaration of Independence is “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

But what is truth? If we cannot agree on that, what basis do we have for this creed penned by America’s founding fathers?



Ken’s Korner

Pastor Ken

Pilate asked that question when

Jesus was on trial in John 18. He then turned to the crowd, found no fault in Jesus, but had him flogged and turned over for crucifixion anyway. Even though Pilate’s truth was that Jesus was innocent, the mob’s truth as they yelled “Crucify Him!” was that Jesus was guilty.

And it seems the world has struggled with that question ever since. Philosophers have debated it. Theologians have studied it. Politicians have distorted it. Society has corrupted it.

Truth, it seems, has become subjective. And that is dangerous. If truth changes from person to person and from situation to situation, there is no firm ground, no reference point. There becomes a contradiction for everything.

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## What is TRUTH?

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

We hold these truths...

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

This newsletter is published monthly by the Nashville United Methodist Church,  
302 W. Millersburg St., P.O. Box 399, Nashville OH 44661



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## It's a WILD time on Wednesdays

Our summer children's ministry is off and running, and will continue each Wednesday through August 3 when we'll have an *End of Summer* blast before school restarts. It's not too late to join in as we learn about God as Creator, Provider, Protector, Savior, and King. The sessions run from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and include crafts, food, singing, stories, games, missions outreach, and lots of fun.





# Food for the Soul

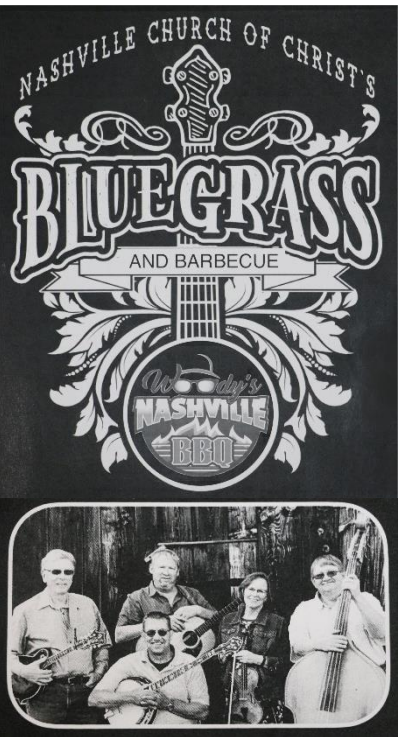
Millersburg UMC is returning with its weekly dinner and lecture series this July.

Summer Soul Food is held on Wednesdays, with dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the featured lecture by faculty from Ashland Theological Seminary beginning at 7 p.m.

- July 6 – Dr. John Byron, *“Being the Church in Exile”*
- July 13 – Dr. L. Daniel Hawk, *“Biblical Prophecy”*
- July 20 – Dr. Yvonne Glass, *“Grief & the Church”*
- July 27 – Dr. Jason Barnhart, *“Being the Church in Occupied Territory”*

The cost is \$9 per lecture, which includes the meal and handouts, or \$30 for all four.

For more info, call the church at 330-674-2641.

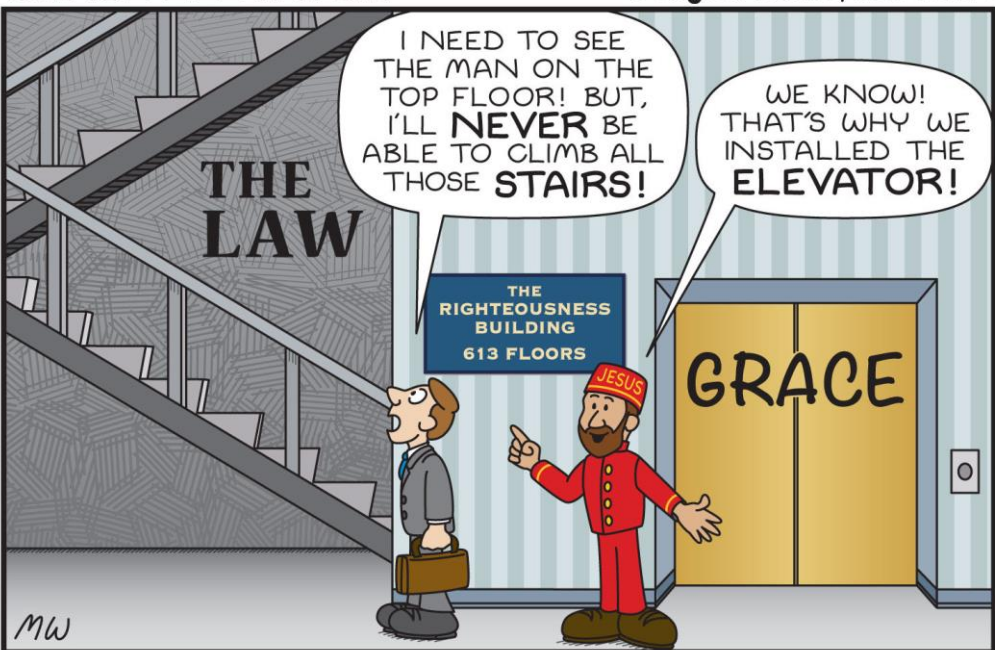


The Nashville Church of Christ is hosting an evening of music and food. Bluegrass and Barbecue will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 6 to 8 p.m., featuring pulled pork or chicken, corn on the cob, baked beans, corn bread, and dessert.

South Penn Crossing will also be leading the church's Sunday worship.

## GRACE ELEVATOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.  
– JOHN 1:17 NIV

## Outreach partnerships expanding

Recycling bins have been placed at Nashville UMC to support three mission initiatives long undertaken at the Killbuck United Methodist Church. Each offers an opportunity to give new life for unneeded items.

They include:

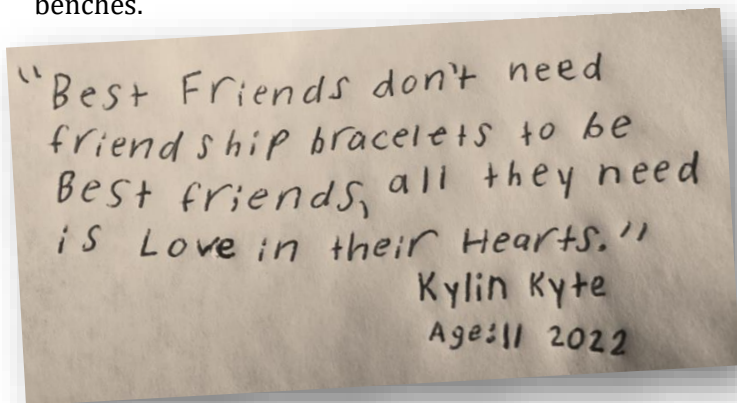
- Manufacturer coupons from Sunday newspaper circulars. Coupons are mailed monthly to **Support Our Troops** in Daytona Beach, Florida, which then forwards them to military families. The best part is that military canteens will honor coupons for up to three months past their expiration date.
- Used amber-colored medication bottles. These are forwarded to **Central American Medical Outreach** in Orrville for use in third world countries. CAMO provides more than 160,000 life-saving services each year to impoverished people who otherwise do not have access to aid. (To donate, just remove any labels).
- Plastic bottle caps and lids. Once 300 pounds are collected by the church youth, the recyclables are taken to **Plastics R Unique** in Wadsworth, which uses them to make benches. The initiative has supported quality benches for West Holmes schools and currently the Killbuck church is working to get two benches.



### Recycle amber-colored medication bottles



### Recycle plastic caps & lids for benches



Thank you, Kylin, for sharing this truth from your heart. ... "Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ."

(Ephesians 4:32)

### Milestones reached

Congratulations to recent graduates who have been a part of our church families:

At Killbuck: Noah Tish and Addison Parrett, from West Holmes;

From Nashville, Wesley Zuercher from Loudonville, and Austin Kurtz and Aubree Houin from their college studies.

### Back to School Bash

Love INC of Greater Holmes County will be sponsoring its *Back to School* celebration on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 10 to Noon at the Love INC facility, 1291 Massillon Road, Millersburg.

School supplies from class lists will be available for a \$5 donation, including a backpack and earbuds. Families also will be invited to Save & Serve to pick up one pack of NEW underwear for \$1 and one pack of NEW socks for \$1 for each student.

(Continued from front page)

Pilate’s question was a sarcastic response to what Jesus had just declared: *“I have come into the world, to testify to the truth.”* But on that day, the truth was nothing more than cultural consensus.

One of my favorite TV game shows is “To Tell the Truth,” which in its different iterations, has spanned the five decades of my life. That’s 3,800 episodes and counting of imposters spinning a yarn to convince celebrity panelists their lie is the truth. Sometimes, I feel like watching the news is a game of “To Tell the Truth,” trying to determine what the real story is. Or deciphering church stances on matters of faith. Or debating the latest U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

The mob standing before Pilate saw Jesus as worthy of crucifixion, and the mob’s truth held sway that day. But it wasn’t really truth at all. Yet, even today the will and beliefs of those who can make the most noise seem to be regarded as truth.

Mob morality is not truth. Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, character, will, and glory of God – the same Creator that our Founding Fathers included in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence. As our pledge to the American flag says: “one nation under God” that is, one nation under the Truth” – it’s a founding principle. Yet, has the truth been relegated to whatever the prevalent public opinion of the day mighty be? Have we gotten so used to that, that God is ignored as irrelevant?

Abandon a biblical definition of truth and unrighteousness results. I fear we see Romans 1 playing out before our very eyes. Paul writes about what happens when a society strays from God and truth, *"They suppress the truth in unrighteousness... they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools... who exchanged the truth of God for a lie."*

Isaiah 65:16, and other scriptures, refer to God as the “God of truth.” And when Jesus said of Himself, *“I am...the truth”* (John 14:6), He was making a profound claim about His own deity. He was making it clear that *all* truth must ultimately be defined in terms of God. Jesus was truth in the flesh — the perfect expression of God and the embodiment of all that is true.

Jesus also said the written Word of God is truth. Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane for His disciples and believers throughout all time, Jesus asked God, His Father: *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”* (John 17:17). And, the Word of God is eternal truth *“which lives and abides forever”* (1 Peter 1:23).