

MEDITATION



Josh Tucker
Pastor
St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church

"Then [Jesus] took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Matthew 26:27-28)

It seems to me that so much of the focus in the world today is on what's broken. The economy is broken. The justice system is broken. Our system of legislation is broken. And, for some, the way of the church is often

viewed as broken. As God's people, we can acknowledge that, because of sin, we are broken. We are broken and we are in need of a Savior; we are in need of God's redemptive grace, love and forgiveness.

Surely, during this moment recorded in Matthew's gospel, when Jesus gathered with his disciples for the last time around the table at Passover, there were some thoughts among the disciples of all that was broken at that time and place. After all, Jesus had been warning his disciples that the end was near and he would be with them only a little while longer. The chief priests and elders were together conspiring with the high priest, Caiaphas, in a plot to crucify Jesus. And, Judas had already agreed to hand Jesus over to the officials in a moment of betrayal. Indeed, there was a lot that was broken that could have been discussed around that Passover table.

But, instead of focusing on what was broken in the world, Jesus embodies the broken by giving up himself on the cross in love for you and for me. Jesus embodies the broken in this scene by taking bread and wine

and giving it for all for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus' focus is not on what's broken, but on what's unending: God's covenant.

For in Jesus Christ, God has made a new everlasting covenant with his people - a continuous promise that is built upon his love for us. Such love that he would reach out to a broken world by sending his only Son to save us. That, each and every time we gather around the Lord's Table, we gather as a covenant people along with God's people everywhere and all the saints to remember and focus on how the broken might be made whole again, in Christ.

And so, in and through this heavenly meal, and in our Christian walk may we forever experience God's love, grace and forgiveness through the promise of the covenant. May our focus as Christians be not on the broken in the world but on the one thing that that is and always will be whole: God's love. May we have faith in the knowledge that in his covenant God chooses us who were once broken, and makes us new to be his people sharing the promise of the covenant with everyone.

BRIEFS

EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH - York Road, will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, Sept. 29. The 11 a.m. service will feature special music by the choir, individuals and groups plus a video presentation as members and guests "walk down memory lane" with pictures.

Members will also share memories of the past and testimonials of how God is moving in their lives and Pastor Caulder will conclude the service with challenges for the present and future. After the morning worship hour a covered dish lunch will be served in the church fellowship building. The public is invited.

WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH - 114 Westover Dr., will present Heart to Heart in concert Sunday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall after the concert. The public is invited.

AFFORDABLE CARE

ACT PROGRAM - County Commissioner Jason Falls will discuss and answer frequently asked questions about the new Health Reform Act on Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Life Enrichment Center, 222 Kings Mountain Boulevard. Sitter service for the person with dementia is provided during the meeting by calling 704-739-4858 by Sept. 27.

EL BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - will serve country breakfast Saturday, Oct. 5 from 6:30-10 a.m. , carry-outs are also available. Churchwomen will also have a variety of baked goods available for sale. All proceeds benefit church projects.

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - will hold a Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 5 from 2-4 p.m.

Games, face painting, bounce houses, candy prizes and fun for all ages will be featured in the free event open to the public.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church,
NALC Member
KM Senior Center
909 E. Kings St.

Ardent Life Church
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700

Arise Church
Kings Mountain YMCA
211 Cleveland Ave.

Bethlehem Baptist Church
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)
704-739-2877

Calvary Way Holiness Church
1017 Second Street
Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church
262 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church
113 S. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-2471

Cherokee St. Baptist Church
421 S. Cherokee Street
704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church
618 Chestnut Ridge Road
704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church
246 Range Road
704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church
714 Stone Street
704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain
108 E. Mountain St.
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)
704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God
202 Margrace Road
704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist
107 Range Road
704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist Church
125 Mayberry Lane
704-739-0310

David Baptist Church
2300 David Baptist Church Road
704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church
602 Dixon School Road
dixonpresbyterian.com

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church
701 E. Gold Street
704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God
Hwy. 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.
704-739-7367

Eastside Baptist Church
308 York Road
704-739-8055

Ebenezer Baptist Church
1621 County Line Road
704-739-8331

El Bethel United Methodist Church
122 El-bethel Road
704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church
602 Canterbury Road
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church
1128 S. York Road
704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church
1009 Linwood Road
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center
1818 Shelby Road
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church
605 W. King Street
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene
121 Countryside Road
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church
111 E. King Street
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church
505 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist
117 Galilee Church Road
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church
202 S. Railroad Avenue
704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church
105 N. Cansler Street
704-739-1062

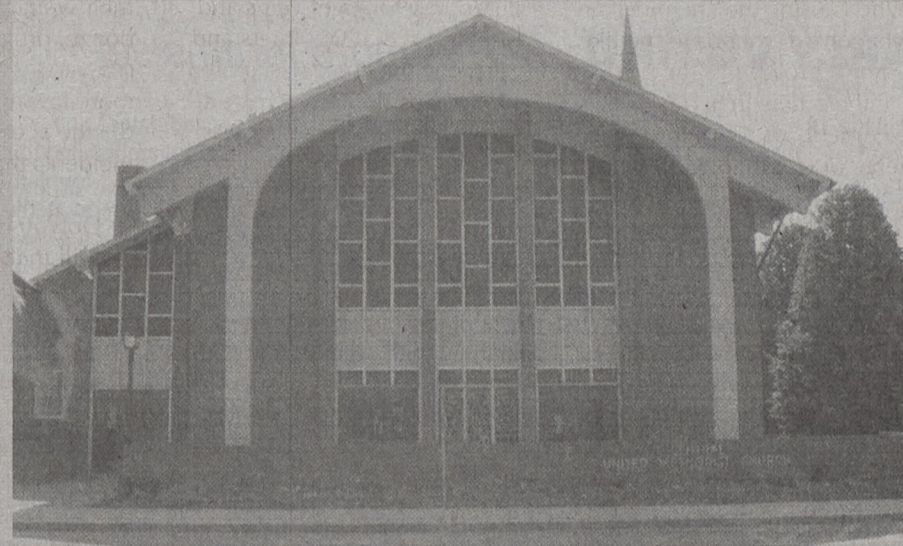
Grace Fellowship
144 West Mountain Street
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church
830 Church Street
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516

Life of Worship Ministries
405 S. Cherokee St.
704-777-2927



Featured Church of the Week: Central United Methodist Church

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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