



PASTOR'S NOTES

We Believe: The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is one of the great themes of Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God is revealing his plan to establish his reign over a redeemed people in a restored creation. The kingdom is central to Jesus' preaching and teaching. Yet, there remains considerable confusion about it.

What exactly is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is God's rule and reign through King Jesus. And, wherever that reign is gladly received and joyfully obeyed, the realities of the kingdom are displayed.

The kingdom of God is both a present spiritual reality and a future physical reality, a distinction that many people in Jesus' day struggled to understand.

Jesus announced: *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.* (Mark 1:15)

From then on, many expected dramatic political and military changes. They anticipated the overthrow of Israel's enemies, the restoration of Israel as a nation with honor and prominence, and the visible reign of the Messiah from Jerusalem. Their expectations were shaped by prophetic passages.

I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel. And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk. (Joel 3:2; 18 ESV)

Many people misunderstood how and when those prophecies would be fulfilled.

According to the Scripture, the Messiah would first come as the suffering servant who would bear the sins of his people. Later, he would return as the conquering King, establishing his kingdom in all its fullness.

Jesus constantly taught these truths. *The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.* (Luke 17:20-21 ESV)

The Pharisees were looking for visible, miraculous signs from Jesus. They wanted evidence that could be seen and experienced. They expected the political realities to be turned upside down, even if it meant doing so through military force. Instead, Jesus pointed them to a reality standing directly in front of them.

The kingdom of God was present because the King was present. In fact, the reign of God had entered history through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The kingdom is not merely future; it is a present spiritual reality experienced by those who belong to Christ.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3 ESV)

Before anyone enters the future physical kingdom, the kingdom of heaven, he must first enter God's kingdom spiritually by faith in Christ.

Upon repenting and believing in Christ, people are moved into the kingdom of Christ. *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.* (Colossians 1:13 ESV)

Christians already belong to the kingdom, and that truth changes how we understand and practice the Christian life.

The realities of the future kingdom are already part of our lives through Christ today.



We live in the spiritual kingdom of Christ as he rules as king over our hearts and lives. Yes, his kingdom will be physical, but, at our salvation, Christ ushered us into those same spiritual realities.

If you misunderstand the kingdom of God in which we dwell by faith in Christ, then you'll see yourself on one side of life and the kingdom of God on the other. However, the kingdom impacts us today and eternally.

Citizenship in the kingdom of God is not merely a future promise; it is a present calling. Every day we have opportunities to display the realities of Christ's kingdom.

This is why Jesus taught us to pray: *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* (Matthew 6:10 ESV)

We pray that prayer because we long for the day when Christ's kingdom will be fully revealed. But we also pray it because we desire for his rule and reign to be increasingly evident in our lives today.

The King has come. The King reigns. And the King is coming again. Therefore, live as faithful citizens of his kingdom until the day faith becomes sight.



MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, June 28, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



...TO HIM WHO LOVES US

AND HAS FREED US

FROM OUR SINS

BY HIS BLOOD

AND MADE US A KINGDOM,

PRIESTS TO HIS GOD AND FATHER,

TO HIM BE GLORY AND DOMINION

FOREVER AND EVER.

AMEN.

REVELATION 1:5-6



CONNECT

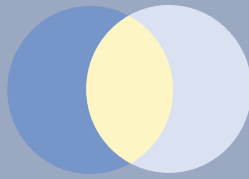
people to Christ
and His church

55+ GRANDCAMP

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM
COST: \$10 PER ADULT



Grandparents, bring your grandchildren (**K-5th grade**) for a special day designed for the young and old! GrandCamp will feature engaging activities, Bible devotions, and a time of worship to strengthen faith and create lasting memories across generations. **REGISTER on the App or mbchurch.com/55plus**



MeadowBrook Young Adults
DWELL RETREAT
JULY 7-10 • OCOEE, TN

Join us for Dwell Retreat — a high-energy trip packed with white water rafting, deep friendships, and powerful moments in God's word!
Cost: \$200 | Registration ends today | MBCHURCH.COM

PICKLEBALL NIGHT



A fun, competitive evening, open to all! We will have a beginners clinic for those wanting to learn the basics of Pickleball, and we will have a King and Queen format tournament for individuals who are looking to put their skills to the test!

Cost: \$5.00

Register at MBCHURCH.COM
or on the MB App

MONDAY, JULY 27
6:00 PM • GYM



GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

10:00 am - 55+ Grand Camp
6:00 pm - God's Heart for the Nations - Café '59
6:30 pm - Middle School Girls Bible Study
6:30 pm - Special Choir Rehearsal - Worship Center

JULY 2-11

Mission Team to Northern Ireland

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Happy Independence Day

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

June 28 - Isaiah 33	July 2 - Isaiah 37
June 29 - Isaiah 34	July 3 - Isaiah 38
June 30 - Isaiah 35	July 4 - Isaiah 39
July 1 - Isaiah 36	

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!

life group

Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.



SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship

NORTHERN IRELAND MISSION TEAM JULY 2-11

Pray for the community of Belfast, asking the Lord to bring peace, healing, and unity through his Church and the message of the Gospel.

Pray for our partners, Nathan and Emily Brown, who are seeking to make disciples and plant a healthy local church among the Irish Catholic people as there is not an evangelical local church among them.

Pray for our team who will be working with Irish Catholic children this week, seeking to love them and share the hope of the Gospel with them.



Stop by Guest Connections or Ministry Central to pick up MeadowBrook's 2026 3rd Quarter Global & Local MISSIONS PARTNER Prayer Booklet

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Max & Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure

- Ed Gilchrist - recovering from surgery
- Ivan Fike, father of Matt Fike - North Alabama Medical Center