

May Birthdays		May Anniversaries	
2	Mia Davis	22	Colleen & Stanten Sikes
6	Lincoln Gates		
11	Margie Miller		
16	Terry Reader		
31	Linda Stewart		

June 21, 2026		
Greeters:	Len Gates	Terry Reader
Announcements:	Stanten Sikes	
Song Leader:	Terry Reader	
Opening Prayer:	Paul Cunningham	
Closing Prayer:	Jim Richards	
Lord's Table:	Len Gates	Stacey Moss
	Jim Richards	Terry Reader
Coordinator:	Kelly Beek	



**When you visit us...** June 14, 2026

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Minister of the Word – Steve Byrne  
P.O. Box 1479 \* 16310 County Road 306 \* Buena Vista, CO 81211  
(719) 395-8753 \* email: mvccbv81@gmail.com  
www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
10:00 am ....Bible Class	7:00 pm.....Devotional
11:00 am.....Assembly	or Bible Class
Noon.....Fellowship Meal	
1:30 pm.....Devotional	

**Mission Work Areas**  
Quito, Ecuador  
Mazatlán, Mexico  
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

**Elders**  
Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629  
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919  
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

**Deacons**  
Stacey Moss (719) 207-0588  
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654  
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856  
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

**New Prayer Requests**

Stanten Sikes – has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will have a PET scan on June 26 and then a treatment plan will be determined. Please keep him and Colleen in your prayers.

Terry Reader – will have a prostate surgery on July 7. Please keep him and Linda in your prayers

Don Cox – back problems. Saw the doctor here in Colorado and has decided to wait until they go back to Amarillo for sugery. Please keep him and Glenda in your prayers.

Melissa Waigle (Fulton's daughter) – her cancer has reoccurred. Not sure what is to come yet. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

**Long Term Prayer List**

Stanten Sikes	Richard Pedrie
Linda & Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Ron Hansen
Marilyn Bartlow	Betty & Danny Sidebottom
Marian Like	Linda Beek – hip & back problems
Patricia Bulmer (Scott's mom)	Teresa & John Grady – various issues
Kelly Mortensen (Toni G's dad)– kidney cancer	Lola Gates (Len's mom) – recovering from her fall – will likely have surgery
Linda Reader – cancer follow-ups	

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 [tdr1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tdr1960@yahoo.com)
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 [lntrader@myct1.net](mailto:lntrader@myct1.net)

## The Unexpected Kingdom of Jesus

Dillon Sluss

Place yourself back in the first century. If you had asked one hundred random people in Israel what they were most hoping for, you would have gotten numerous different answers. Some wanted a king to crush Rome. Some wanted priests to clean up the Temple. Some just wanted the world to burn. Everyone was waiting for the promised kingdom. Nobody could agree on what it looked like. Now after you finish your survey in the crowd of people, a man named Jesus of Nazareth walks into the picture, opens his mouth, captures everyone's attention, and says: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" ([Matthew 4:17](#)).

But here is the problem: the Kingdom that Jesus was announcing was fundamentally different from the one everyone was waiting for. To understand why, you have to go back further than the Roman invasion. All the way back to a moment in 1 Samuel 8. The nation of Israel comes to Samuel with a request that sounds reasonable on the surface: Give us a king like the other nations have. God's response to Samuel is striking. He says: They have not rejected you. They have rejected me from being king over them. The request for a human king was not just a political decision. It was a theological one. Israel was trading the direct reign of a just God for the reign of an unjust king simply for the status it would bring them among other nations.

God grants the request, but not without warning. Samuel reads them the fine print: The king will take your sons for his armies, your daughters for his household, your fields and your vineyards and your olive orchards. He will take a tenth of everything. And you will cry out because of your king ([1 Samuel 8:11-18](#)). This is the kingdom they were asking for.

The story of Israel's physical kingdom is largely the story of that warning coming true: Saul. David's failures. Solomon's excesses. The kingdom division. The northern tribes falling to Assyria. Judah falling to Babylon. The line of kings that they envisioned as better than God's reign ends in exile.

But all throughout that narrative we see prophets who continually told the people the story was not over. [Isaiah 9:6-7](#) describes a child born to bear the government on his shoulders, whose kingdom would increase without end. Daniel, sitting in the court of the most powerful empire on earth, tells of a kingdom that will crush all others and stand forever ([Daniel 2:44](#)). The kingdom they had tried to build by asking for a king was always a shadow. The real thing was still coming.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven – [Matthew 5:3](#).

This is where we find ourselves back in first century Israel. The declaration Jesus makes before he ever sits down to preach is that the real thing is here. The kingdom is not coming eventually. It is at hand. Present tense. And then he climbs the hill, sits in the posture of a rabbi about to teach, and the first words out of his mouth are: "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." That is not an answer anyone would have given about what they were hoping for.

This isn't just a surprising first step; it's a completely un-kingly announcement.

The Greek word for poor here is *ptochos*. It does not mean modest or humble in a polite sense. It means destitute. Needy. The person who is totally dependent on others. The kingdom of heaven, Jesus says, belongs to that person. Not to the powerful. Not to the religiously accomplished. Not to the ones who had spent their lives positioning themselves for the moment the kingdom arrived.

The people Israel had been in the recent centuries, the exiled, the overlooked, the ones ground down by one empire after another, were not disqualified from the kingdom. They were its first citizens.

We are still tempted to want the version Israel asked for in 1 Samuel 8. A kingdom we can see. Something that looks powerful from the outside, that operates by the same logic as the kingdoms around it, just with better values. Jesus spent three years pushing back against that instinct. He is still pushing back against it.

This is the challenge: We must confront what kind of kingdom Jesus actually announced, and what it means for us to trade our desire for the world's power for the unexpected, counter demands of his reign. The answer is going to keep surprising us, just as it surprised everyone who heard it first.

We have a tendency to look back on the people of the first century in judgment that they did not understand the message of Jesus but even today the temptation remains to want a visible kingdom modeled after worldly power structures. Jesus continues to challenge this. We must decide if we will trade the pursuit of power for the "poor in spirit" requirements of his rule. The character of this kingdom remains as surprising and challenging today as when it was first announced.

### Ian & Linda Stewart

#### Going Away

Today - Sunday, June 14

*There will be a "Going Away" celebration for Ian & Linda as they prepare to leave Buena Vista and move to Florida to be near family at the end of June.*

*We will have a more organized potluck on that day as well as wishing them well on their new adventure.*

## Fire & Ice Celebration

July 4<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM



At the  
Church Building  
– bring a dessert & a chair



We invite you to stay for our Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional! We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

#### For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
Ian & Linda Stewart – Going Away	Sunday, June 14 - Noon
Singing Night	July 1
Ladies Bible Study	July 3 – 11:00 AM
July 4 <sup>th</sup> - Fire & Ice Celebration	Saturday, July 4 – 6:00 PM