



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

**The Third Sunday in Kingdomtide
September 12, 2021 • 11:00 am**

Good morning and welcome to this classical celebration of the historic Christian faith in the Wesleyan Tradition!

What Kind of Conversations Do You Have with Yourself?

In 1965, the Rolling Stones released their hit song, "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." In its intended meaning, and even stripped of its innuendo, the song has been an hit for over half a century. Other than it just being a catchy song, it is relatable because, at the core, most people are not content with the way things are. We live in a society that applauds more possessions, more extravagant vacations, and encourages parading it all on social media. It is always easy to find reasons to be **unsatisfied**. We live in a world where we are barraged by the successes of others, and we frequently beat ourselves up with our own perceived failures.

Last week, we concluded that our great God is bigger than any circumstances in our life that may affect the way we think, especially our attitude. We claimed the truth, **"Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude!"**

This morning, we study St. Paul's commentary on the mystery of contentment in **Philippians 4:10-13** and how the conversations within our own heads impact our ability to find peace and contentment in the present.

As we study the Matchless Word of God, let's consider this thought:

*"You will never speak to anyone more
than you speak to yourself in your head.
So, speak kindly to yourself."*

An Affirmation of Faith for the Season of Kingdomtide

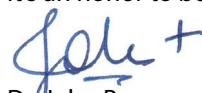
"A Modern Affirmation," which first appeared in the 1932 *"Book of Service"* of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was composed by Professor Edwin Lewis (1881–1959), a well-known and respected Methodist theologian, editor of *"The Abingdon Bible Commentary,"* and professor of systematic theology at Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey.

While this creed follows the traditional Trinitarian structure of the ancient **Apostles' Creed** (c. 341 AD) and **Nicene Creed** (c. 381 AD), it incorporates the important Biblical concepts of God's grace and love into creedal form.

I find the final paragraph a helpful addition to our ancient creedal formulas because it includes the **priority of acts of love and service** as an integral part of the Christian faith and purpose of the New Testament Church. This decidedly modern affirmation, one not found in the historic creeds, adds an important element to our profession of faith.

Across the **Season of Kingdomtide**, a 13-week season of the Church from the end of August to the beginning of Advent which traditionally stresses the principles of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth and our social responsibility as Christian disciples, we will alternate reciting **A Modern Affirmation** and the ancient Apostles' Creed as our Affirmation of Faith.

Remember how much I love you ...
It's an honor to be your Senior Minister!


Dr. John Beyers

We're Better Together!