



The Lamplighter

“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

Landrum United Methodist Church • 225 N. Howard Avenue, Landrum, SC 29356
Website: www.landrumumc.net • Email: lumc@landrumumc.net • 864-457-3984

July 2020

Independence Day

As I sit here thinking about the upcoming 4th of July weekend it saddens me to think just how many people will be complaining about not being able to celebrate an event that most have no concept of what it actually entails. For most the 4th of July is beach and/or lake trip, cookouts, culminated by a fireworks display. Most if not all major celebrations will be or have been canceled. Many southern beaches as well will be closed. This, as I said, will spark anger and many arguments, but why. What gives us the right to complain about not being able to incorrectly celebrate something most, if not all, know very little to nothing about what Independence Day actually means.

Most of the people who settled in the New World came to escape religious persecution. As time went on the first settlements grew and became colonies, 13 to be exact. Then these people decided they wanted a clean break from England. The first Independence Day is listed as July 4, 1776, but the signing of the document known as the Declaration of Independence was actually July 2nd, but why argue about two days? A couple of the signers of the Declaration did argue over those two days. So, we really haven't changed all that much since then. We still don't like being told to do anything and we'll argue about anything.

What everyone misses is that those first people, those who ventured out and started this nation came so they could worship as they wanted without any government dictating how and when they could worship. But, where, how, and who were they worshipping? They did not have facilities like we have today, so they didn't worship buildings like we do. They didn't have organs or pianos, so they weren't worshipping the music like we do. They didn't worship the preacher, like many churches do today. That only leaves God to worship, right? It had to be God they worshipped.

What would happen, if all worship services everywhere were ALL about worshipping God, and only God? What if ALL worship services were about lifting up God and encouraging the people to go forth and be His witnesses in the world in which they live? Could it be too many today come to worship services wearing bibs to be served and filled? What would happen if instead of bibs the people came wearing aprons ready to go forth and serve?

Most of what is being said today about everything and/or anything has little to nothing to do with God but rather seems to be all about the individual and what the individual wants and/or thinks they deserve. That is seen not only in the streets but is also very prevalent within the church as well. Let's try something different this Independence Day. Let's seek to celebrate the blessings we all have. Let's celebrate the many opportunities we have to worship God rather than complain about when we don't. Right where you are, stop and celebrate by breaking out in song to God rather than complaining about when we don't sing.

We all have a lot to celebrate so why waste it by complaining about what we don't have and/or do. Celebrate being able to praise God anytime anywhere and not being relegated to one specific spot. 2 Timothy 1:3 "I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience," are we? Hebrews 12:28 "let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe," do we? Now this is something to celebrate! What are we waiting for we can celebrate Him right now, right where we are? What are we waiting for? What are you waiting for? It's Independence Day people, CELEBRATE HIM!

Pastor Kevin



The LUMC Minister and Congregation pray for those who need special prayer or have medical concerns.

We also express our heartfelt Christian sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away.

Please inform the church office of any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer list.

Please remember these people in your prayers as well as our church, Pastor, Outreach, Missions, community, and our nation.

Jeanette Bashore and her family - relative of Iris Bashore

Nick Roper - accident - friend of Iris Bashore

Family of Gale Forster Phillips – Paul Forster’s sister has died

Family of Al Masson, Patricia’s Father, has died

Jeanette Wofford - Phillip Wofford’s mother/Wanda Wofford’s mother-in-law has died

Dr Todd Walter - Cancer treatments

Chris Owens - Cancer treatments

Methodist Church – Internal struggles

All affected by COVID 19 virus and its impact

Shut ins

Joe Brown Becky English

Dan Donovan June Rhymer

Maxie Duke (Lisa Gunter’s Mother)

Betty Zeluff (Mary Hagers’s Mother)



In Appreciation

Thank you is not enough for the love and support for my family from the LUMC family during the loss of my Daddy, Al Masson.

The many prayers, the cards with the beautiful touching words, the delicious food provided, and the calls and Facebook comments all have helped during this time of sorrow to bring comfort. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a loving church.

Again, thank you and please continue to pray for our family.

Blessings, Patricia and family

Altar Flower Sign Up

July 5 Stephanie Quinn
July 12 Veronica & Hal
Howard
July 19 Trudy Van Voorhis
July 26 *Available*

**The Upper Room
Devotionals can be
picked up at the church
office between 9 – 1
Monday through Friday**



July Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

2 Pam Hilsman
Charlaine Fuhrman
3 Bill Stow
5 Jacob Boatwright
9 Savannah Devine
10 Paul Forster
11 Jay Boatwright
Amanda Edwards
15 Hal Howard
19 Dale Potruski
22 Jake Hartsell
27 Carla Downey
Clayton Carey
29 Kay Spiegel
30 Brenda McFerrin

ANNIVERSARIES

12 Jon & Martha Castro
29 Eric & Paula Clark
David & Amanda Edwards



Photos – Paul Forster



Many thanks to Glenn Downey and James Wofford for sharing their guitar music with us during the worship service on Father's Day! What a privilege it was for me to have the opportunity to play along with them. We had a very good time at practice as well – so much so that James commented he's "going out to find him a gospel band to join!"

Now is a good time to let me know if there's some favorites of yours you'd like to hear! If it's something I don't know, I'm willing to learn!

Remember the opening paragraph from last month's article which is a portion of a quote from Mister Rogers - "Music is the one art we all have inside. We may not be able to play an instrument, but we can sing along or clap or tap our feet....." Stay well!



Fireworks of Faith

Trudy Van Voorhis

The Fourth of July. While I admire all it stands for – it has never been one of my favorite holidays because of the noise and sparkle. Growing up in D.C. we would often go down to the Mall and watch the huge fireworks. Those were amazingly beautiful but were far away that they did not get me too nervous. I was always uncomfortable as a kid with those noises and sparklers the other children loved – having them swing around me and spitting those sparks. I did not know what the big deal was because before too long the thrill was over and they were begging to light another or try a different firework.

Sometime being a Christian reminds me of those sparklers. A revitalizing spirit comes through us and things are shimmering for a time but slowly the surge fizzles. I find my Christian experience requires continual effort and nurturing. Like a campfire it must be kept fed and glowing to do its work. We must continually add to it through prayer, Christian service, and study. This keeps the fire of God's presence burning inside us. Those quick, glittery life sparklers are pretty and give us a boost on occasion but the "flame of faith" we keep inside keeps us through good times and bad.

There are different types of "fireworks" going on all around us this year. While surrounded by complaining, sickness, arguing, fights, racism, and all we are witnessing in our world today, we have to be sure the fire of God's presence burns true in us. Faith in God can make a difference in how we survive during this time of adversity.