



# The Lamplighter

September 2020

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## What's the Hurry?

The other day Patricia and I had an opportunity to go somewhere we haven't been in a long time. We drove up to Asheville; we had lunch at Moose Café. A favorite of ours. Then we drove next door to the Western North Carolina Farmers Market. After we purchased some fresh vegetables we drove over and got on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We have always loved just cruising the parkway and basking in God's creation. Taking time to stop and enjoy the many over-looks. Hoping as we ride to maybe see some wildlife. Not this trip, but on others we have seen wild turkeys, deer, and even bears. All this beauty, all around us, and when we can, we just ride and enjoy.

But the other day, things were different. First the parkway seemed to have more people on it, or at least there were more vehicles than we're used to. Secondly, it was almost impossible to take in the overlooks as so many vehicles were pulled in. Actually, we could have pulled in a couple, except those ahead of us parked so as to make sure they could get in and get out, but were oblivious to anyone else. Thirdly, and to me the worst of it, was the fact no one and I mean no one was really there on the parkway to really take in God's creation. I say this because, it's kind of difficult to look at the scenery driving 50-55 miles an hour around so many curves and look at the scenery, and not rear-end the car in front of you or worse.

With the beauty of God's creation from start to finish on the Parkway, why would anyone want to drive at such speeds only to get from point A to point B? You miss seeing so much going so fast. Why get on the parkway at all? The speed limit is 45 max, and that's only in certain areas, with most being 35. I struggled to understand this. I tried when-ever possible to turn into overlooks to get out of their way, but like I said earlier, people just pulled in any way that suited them totally ignoring anyone else so I was unable to get out of their way.

Thinking about this, it occurred to me, that this is not something that just takes place on the Blue Ridge Parkway. I realized this happens every day, everywhere. It even happens in churches across this country. We live in a country where we are free to come and worship God, our creator. This trip on the Parkway reminded me, so many today don't really come to worship. No, they come to church to hopefully get from point A to point B the fastest way possible. See, for many, as long as someone sings 3-4 hymns; as long as someone prays; as long as an offering is taking up; and as long as a sermon is preached then people believe they've been to worship, when in reality, they've gone from point A to point B. But those things, and yes I said things, if they are not done, in a specific order, then they believe they've wasted their time. To them the correct boxes have not been checked off.

Why do we have to go through everything in life at break-neck speed? Why is almost everything, and I say almost, because there are some things we do where time is irrelevant, why is almost everything we do have to be done fast. Is it just to say we did it? Is that why we do life so fast, just to say we did it? Why can't we just slow down and, yes just slow down and smell the roses. What is our hurry? Who set the time limit on seeing God's creation? Who set the time limit on worship? Who set the time limit period?

What would happen if people just came together to talk and share? Just come together, and be together? I'll tell what I believe would happen. People would become upset and angry because we have to do this, this, and this, in that order, and be done in a certain time frame or the people would stay away. What has happened to us as a people? Why are we in such a hurry to get from point A to point B? I believe God has something to show us, but as long as we're in such a hurry, I believe we'll miss seeing Him and His glory. What is the hurry?

*Pastor Kevin*



## Sign of the times



## September Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

10 Stephanie Quinn  
Rylee Potter  
13 Mallori Inman  
14 Janine Stenson  
21 Robert Hilsman  
Drew White  
23 Dan White  
24 Carmen Krebs  
27 Larry Fagan  
30 Joy Gardner

### ANNIVERSARIES

3 Pete & Anne Blom



### Trudy's Tidings

## Are You Listening?

All this unrest, complaining and commotion has caused high anxiety in many of us. Some have had to distance ourselves a bit from the TV, social media, and the news to monitor our unease. I found that taking some time and quieting my mind helps. It is in these times that prayer seems to be my sedative.

Sometimes I hear the Lord speak to me in a soft barely perceptible way. I know that some people may scoff and say that what I hear is my conscience, but I believe it is more. When something is lost, I often ask God where it is and a weird sensation leads me to its location. When I accomplish a task that I had no clue how to do, I know that I have been guided by the voice. He speaks to us. The problem is people are not expecting any messages from God, and therefore didn't hear them.

When I receive compliments on my creativity and people ask where I get my ideas, I don't always tell them about the voice that inspires me. Ever feel a gentle urging to call an old friend and discover that a person with a listening ear is what that person desperately needed. The inklings I feel about things or people have proven to be a missive on many occasions.

I don't always hear God when I call on him or, even worse, I sometimes choose not to respond. I wish that God would speak louder....maybe that would influence my direction more. In the times when I am receptive, I find that I am rewarded. When attentive I am able to do the right things or say the right words.

Are you listening for God's voice? Can we be more receptive to it? Give thanks to God whose power working in us is able to do more than we can ask or hope for. Ask Him to speak louder to you.



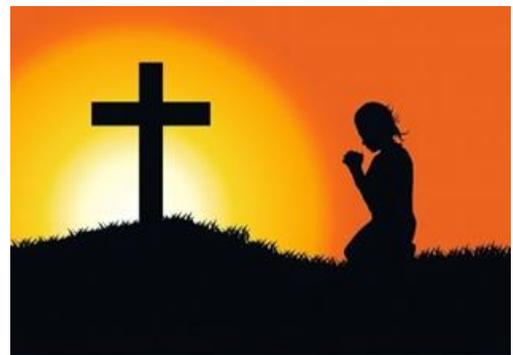
The LUMC Minister and Congregation pray for those who need special prayer or have medical concerns. We also express our heartfelt Christian sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away. Please inform the church office of any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer list.

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

Janine Stenson – recovering from her ankle surgery  
Janine Stenson - newborn Great grandniece – medical issues  
Dr. Wanda Starling - respiratory problems/ pneumonia  
John “Mudd” Whiteside – (Joyce Himmel’s friend) recovering from illness  
Dianna Early – (Joan Clark’s friend) recovering from an operation  
Paula Clark’s mother – recovering from surgery  
Bill Stow – heart issues  
Carrie Taylor – (Rhonda Underwood’s daughter in law) – medical issues  
Jimmy Bobo – Resource Officer Inman Elementary – cancer  
Patricia Dalton & family – loss of father and illnesses in family  
Steve & Claudia Butler, (friends of Brenda Azzara) continued treatments  
Dr Todd Walter - Cancer treatments  
Oliver – 3 yr old receiving Cancer treatments  
Leslie Barto (Al & Cheryl Barto’s daughter-in-law) medical tests  
All medical personnel on the front line of the battle with this pandemic  
People suffering losses from COVID 19, loss of life, jobs, opportunities etc.  
Children, educators, school staffs, and parents with in-person, remote, and homeschooling  
Californians affected by recent fire  
Gulf states affected by Hurricane Laura

## Shut ins

Joe Brown	Becky English
Dan Donovan	June Rhymer
Maxie Duke (Lisa Gunter’s Mother)	
Betty Zeluff (Mary Hagers’s Mother)	



# Music Notes



Joy Gardner

We are sad to say goodbye to Tom and Jane Harrison! They have been active members of the church and choir for several years. We've spent many wonderful times with them, shared lots of laughs, and it was difficult for all of us to say goodbye, especially without being able to join together as a group once more! Many prayers being lifted for them as their travels have coincided with the remnants of Hurricane Laura. We understand Tom and Jane's desire to live closer to family members, yet we are really going to miss them.

One of the choir's favorite choral benedictions is "The Irish Blessing" and I'll share those words of the blessing with all of you so that you may join our choir family in praying this blessing for Tom and Jane – we wish them all the best and look forward to hearing from them again soon!

## THE IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sunshine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
And until we meet again,  
May the God Who loves us all,  
Hold you in the palm of His hand.  
Amen.

## Confirmation class 2020



Proud Families

*Jack Clark, Eli Quinn, Preacher, Patrick Clark, James Wofford*

# June Administrative Council Minutes

Landrum United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council  
June 2, 2020

**Members Present:** Kevin Dalton, Jody McPherson, Mark Hartsell, Trudy Van Voorhis, Martha Castro, Lou Nespeca, Jaime Wofford, Pete Block, Glenn Downey, Wayne Hager, Wanda Manson, Bonnie Inman

Discussion on returning to in- house worship on June 14.

Kevin and Joy will be returning. Kevin is comfortable with coming back to sanctuary.

Offering baskets will be used instead of passing offering plates. Communion may be possible.

List of precautions that must be taken: Masks, hand sanitize (stations here on June 17, temperatures taken upon entering, cleaning and sanitizing. Also, social distancing, (skipping a pew, pews marked with tape, families may sit together) and monitoring restrooms. People enter by front door and leave by side door. No singing.

At this time people are feeling more comfortable with getting out. SC has opened restaurants. NC is still in phase 2.

We need to get information out to congregation as soon as possible so people will know what to expect.

Lou questioned why we are rushing to open when there are still so many questions and protocols to put in place. Martha stated that we need to see each other. Jaime and Glenn agreed that we should open for those who want to come and still maintain an online presence as well. Kevin will send a conference survey to get an idea of how congregation feels.

Lou motion to have in person worship with the following protocols in place: Masks (have available) hand sanitizer, temperatures taken upon entering, ushers seat people to insure social distancing, enter one door and leave by another, collection baskets, no passing of the peace and no singing. Second by Mark.

10 Approved. 1 no vote. Motion carried.

May 18 Minutes approved.

## **New Business**

**Finance:** Mark

Collections have dropped off in May. Stronger at the beginning of the month. This has cost us \$1500-\$1800 a week.

Discussion on idea to form a team for contingency planning in case Covid situation should worsen and the church would have to be shut down again. Emergency plan to put cost saving measures in place. No decision.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody McPherson, Secretary

## The Pumpkin Patch returns

Amid all of this uncertainty around us there is one thing to look forward to – **Landrum UMC'S Pumpkin Patch!** It has been a constant for many years and something the community expects from our church – so we plan to deliver! Jody McPherson has taken on the task of Head of Operations of the patch but needs help from all of us. This project can be done with social distancing in place. It is an important task because it will be the only fundraiser we will have for Missions. No Salkehatchie dinner, no auction, no bake sale this year! Please purchase your pumpkins from the patch and encourage others to do the same. We will be relying on you to pitch in and sign up to work the patch. If you can sit and read a book then you are more than qualified for the job!

We will begin Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> and proceed until the pumpkins are sold. Please contact Jody at **828-506-3379** if you are willing to help the church in this endeavor.



## Dog Days of Summer can be wuff -

The term “Dog Days” traditionally refers to a period of particularly hot and humid weather occurring during the summer months of July and August in the Northern Hemisphere.

They supposedly have passed but I am still hearing a lot of “I am dog tired”, “They treat me like a dog” and “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks”. All of these canine references had me thinking that life is all in how you look at it. If you would ask a dog, they would probably tell you that they don’t have it so bad. If we followed their outlook – maybe things would not appear so ‘wuff’. Try to follow some of their ideas below and see if they help you:

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- Take naps, stretch before rising and run, romp, and play daily.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...run right back and make friends.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.
- Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- If you chase after something in anger, it will find a way to bite you back.
- Be sure to follow your closest friends from room to room when you know they are upset.
- Give generously of your warmth and soul. You've got more where that came from.

