



# October Lamplighter 2020

**“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”**

Landrum United Methodist Church • 225 N. Howard Avenue, Landrum, SC 29356

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## How Old Are You?

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether 20 or 80.” -- Henry Ford

We are all called to be lifelong learners. After all, faith is not some goal we seek to one day achieve or reach, it's not some destination at which we ever reach, but it's a journey we take which lasts our lifetime. We may have rest stops or detours along the way, for the most part, we are called to continue on the path, trusting and believing Christ walks with us on this journey.

This journey of faith involves our whole being (Matthew 22:37 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This involves worship, prayer, and service, as we each seek to experience and live out our faith. But we're also called to seek understanding of our faith (as much as can be attained), and that involves study. Whether we are 20 or 80, we are all called to be lifelong learners, to put our brains to use for better understanding God's Word and God's will for us.

We can learn in several different ways. One way we learn is seeking only information. When we do this, we focus on just facts. We dig into the history and overall context, seeking understanding of the author's objective and meaning. Learning for information is like a research project in which we are discovering only knowledge about God, but this is not the primary way God calls us to be learners.

The information we learn should lead to formation. This means the information is meant to take root in our hearts, not just our heads, and helps us reshape us into followers of the Christ, not just knowers. Learning for formation helps us understand right from wrong, seek purpose and meaning, and look for how God is at work in our lives. Learning this way allows the information we gather to form our thinking and our motives. This is an important step, but it's not the final one.

The ultimate goal of learning is transformation. As information forms us, we are to be changed from who we were to who God wants us to be. Paul tells us in Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.” If our knowledge is only head knowledge, then we cannot help but be and act just as the world acts. Through our learning, we are to be transformed; we are to grow from knowing about God to knowing and being known by God.

At Landrum, we try to provide opportunities for all to learn along life's faith journey. I hope that through the sermons, you gain a new understanding of Scripture and its applicability to your life. Gatherings like Sunday School, Women's Bible Study, Monday and Wednesday Evening Bible Studies are all ways one can, hopefully, be transformed as you deepen your understanding of who God is and who you are in light of that new found knowledge.

All these opportunities along with your own personal study are meant to help you be transformed as you renew your mind and learn, or relearn, who God is calling you to be here at Landrum UMC and where you live in this time. Whether you're 20 or 80, I pray you'll join with us on this faith journey as we all seek to love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and especially with all our mind.

*Pastor Kevin*



## The Pumpkin Patch is back!

Amid the uncertainty around us there is one thing to look forward to in October - Landrum UMC'S Pumpkin Patch! It has been a constant for many years and something the community expects from our church - so we are back! 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!

It begins Saturday October 3rd and will continue until the pumpkins are sold. Please contact Jody at 828-506-3379 if you are willing to help. sell.



How do you  
repair a broken  
Jack-o-lantern?

Buy a pumpkin  
patch!



# Landrum United Methodist Church Administrative Council

August 30, 2020

Members Present: Kevin Dalton, Mark Hartsell, Lou Nespeca, Joy Gardner, Martha Castro, Pete Block, Wayne Hager, Jaime Wofford, Jody McPherson, Ted Andrus, Bonnie Inman, Wanda Manson (Ted, Bonnie, Wanda via Zoom)

Meeting opened by Mark.

Motion by Jaime to approve June minutes. Second Lou. Approved.

## **Finance:** Mark

Charge conference is Oct 4. There are two things that must be in place before conference.

Council must accept nominations for church lay positions for the coming year. Motion by Martha (as member of nominations committee) to extend all positions for one year and to carry on all duties. Second by Lou. Approved.

Budget: Motion by Mark (finance committee) to go over budget line item by line item and increase by 3% for the coming year. Second by Jaime. Approved.

Mark reiterated that the budget is a goal or a guideline for the coming year. We only spend what we have. If we do not have the money, we will not spend it.

When Covid hit, the church applied for a Payroll Protection Plan loan. We received \$14000. We have not used this money. Our options are to turn it into a loan to pay back over time, ask for forgiveness of the loan or pay the total amount back. Right now, we have \$87,900 (undesignated) in the general fund.

Motion by Lou to pay back the total amount of the loan now. Second Martha. Discussion: Kevin stated that God has blessed us. We don't need the \$14000 and should pay it back now. Motion Approved.

Apportionments have not been paid to date due to our feelings on the controversy within the Methodist Church and the possibility of a church split. Motion by Lou on continuing to hold off paying apportionments until the decision is reached by the Methodist Church. Second by Pete. Discussion centered on the possibility of the Methodist Church not making a decision for another year. And we are Methodists and part of that is paying our share in the form of apportionments. Voting in favor of the motion: Lou and Pete. Opposed: Ted, Jaime, Joy, Martha, Trudy, Bonnie, Wayne, and Jody. Abstain Wanda. Motion Failed.

Motion by Wayne to catch up apportionments (8 months) to date. Second Martha. Approved with one vote opposed.

To date no money has gone into property maintenance fund. Motion by Ted to transfer whole yearly amount (\$24000) from general fund to property maintenance. Second by Jaime. Approved.

## **Men's Club:** Lou

Bill (Charlotte) Stow has resigned as Treasurer of the club. Tom Stenson is the back up. No activities going on now.

## **Missions:** Jody

Jody has proposed that the Pumpkin Patch return this year and she will head it up. Hope to have sale begin October 3. She will coordinate with men of the church to order and arrange for pick-up of the pumpkins. Lou will send her the information on ordering the pumpkins. Proceeds from the sale will go to Missions. Motion by Jaime to transfer \$2000 from general fund to pay for pumpkins. Second by Bonnie. Approved.

There is a possibility for a take-out Holy smoke BBQ in Oct.

We are once again doing backpacks for O.P. Earle. This year so far only 27 students due to some doing online learning.

**Admin Board minutes continued:**

**Lay Leader:** Wayne

Door is open for youth to come back to Sunday school.

**PPRC:** Pete

Completing reviews and forms before charge conference.

**Choir:** Joy

Hope to be able to have something in the way of choir participation by Christmas.

**Pastor Kevin**

The October 4 charge conference will be done by Zoom.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jody McPherson, Secretary

## October Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

02 Joyce Himmel  
03 Michael Clark  
Rusty Van Voorhis  
04 Patricia Dalton  
William G. Robinson (Bill)  
08 John David Levister  
09 Lauren Carey  
14 Harvey Spiegel  
Kearns White  
Tom Harrison  
16 Matthew Starling  
17 Bonnie Inman  
18 Rebecca Castro  
James Wofford  
19 Don Surface  
22 Ed Aiken  
24 Raley Castro  
25 Patricia Hartsell  
27 Phil Goodrich  
28 Caleb Morgan  
31 Linda Cox  
Savanna Fore

### ANNIVERSARIES

20 Danny & Sarah Morgan





**Trudy's Tidings**

# **Let your pumpkin light shine!**

*When I taught Children's Bible school my favorite lessons were parables. I love the many parables that Jesus told so we could understand His teachings better. This is a good one for this time of year.*

A farmer lives way out in the country. On his farm he has a pumpkin patch. Pumpkins are special. They start out as small oval seeds that grow into big, orange pumpkins. The farmer plants the seeds, waters, and cares for the pumpkin vines and patiently waits as they grow. Finally, by October there are big, orange pumpkins in his pumpkin patch! Some are tall and lean, some short and round, and some have bumps and lumps. They are all pumpkins, and all were planted and cared for by the farmer.

One day the farmer chose a pumpkin for a special project. He brings it in from the field and washes it off. You must be careful with pumpkins; they are tough on the outside, but if you drop them, they break into pieces.

The farmer takes a large knife and cuts a hole in the top of the pumpkin. Inside there is yucky, slimy pulp. That has to go! He cleans it all out and throws it away - never to be seen again. This reminds us of how God takes us and cleanses us from all our sin.

After that he gives the pumpkin a new face! He cuts two triangles for eyes, a square for a nose, and a big, wide smile! The carving of the eyes, nose, and SMILING face represents how God makes us a new creation.

Then he does something special. He puts a small white candle down inside the pumpkin and lights the wick. Christ comes into our lives as a light and can shine through us into a dark world.

How that pumpkin glows! As people pass by, they see the smiling pumpkin and smile back. They know that once again the farmer has taken a simple pumpkin and changed it into a glorious sight!

Just like us, all the pumpkins were different. But there was something the same about every one of them - that yucky, slimy pulp on the inside! The yucky, slimy pulp is like the sin that is in all of us.

God has made a way that all our sin can be forgiven and washed away.

After cleaning out that pumpkin, the farmer gave the pumpkin a new face! The Bible says God can make us a new creation too. 2 Corinthians says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Then came the special part. The light was placed inside that pumpkin and it glowed for all to see!

2 Corinthians says: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Matthew 5:16 says: "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Through Christ we can get a new face and let His light shine through us so we can become like that pumpkin and be a glorious sight for others to see the love of Jesus!

Now when you see a carved pumpkin, remember the light of Christ and how we as Christians should be letting His light shine through our lives.

**ARE YOU  
READY for  
BBQ?!**



**Annual**  
**Holy Smoke**  
**BBQ Dinner**  
**& FIXIN'S**

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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

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## Music Notes



Joy Gardner

Okay! Since I haven't received any messages from any of you about your favorite hymns, I'll start a series of sharing stories of my favorites from The United Methodist Hymnal with you! Rather than listing them from my most favorite, I'll try to remember to go alphabetically. (If you'd like a hymnal to have at home to follow along, please let me know.) And yes, I know you can simply google and find all and more you'd like to know about hymns but these are my favorites I'm sharing with you and you don't know what my favorites are yet! (Remember I gave you the opportunity to share your favorites with me!)

**And Can It Be that I Should Gain** Charles Wesley Page 363

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn in 1739 to celebrate his conversion to Christianity. Wesley made reference in his journal entry of May 23, 1738, to two hymns but it is not known if that reference was to this hymn or to another hymn "Where shall my wondering soul begin" (Page 342 UMH); therefore some publications credit the hymn being written in 1738.

There are actually five questions that Wesley poses in this hymn. The first being (paraphrased) "who I am that God died for me?" The hymn was originally published in six stanzas, but our current hymnal only includes five. That's because John Wesley excluded it from his 1780 Collection!

The first verse begins "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood. Died He for me, who caused his pain....." The refrain "....Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God should die for me?"

This is one of the hymns that profoundly speaks to me. Whether I'm listening to the hymn being played, sung, or I'm playing it myself, my eyes will always tear up. The words are powerful to me and I absolutely love it!

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## Silver Spirits

**No "news" other than we miss everyone & pray you are doing well during this distancing time!**



### October is Pastor Appreciation Month

**October 11, 2020 is Pastor Appreciation Day.**

This celebration was established in 1992 with the mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries, and religious workers. This year they could probably use a little more encouragement than normal.

Let Kevin know how grateful you are for his words, visitations and efforts or you can text, post on Facebook or send a card. I imagine he would always appreciate a meal or a treat!

Preacher Kevin, you have touched many hearts and we appreciate your work!



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

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

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:

Friends and family of Becky English who has gone to her Heavenly home.

Friends and family of Retired Sheriff's Deputy Micah Horton of Spartanburg, SC who has died.

Patricia Dalton's family. Her sister in law died.

Friends and Family of Nancy Surface's brother in law who died.

Robert Black recovering from foot surgery.

Wanda Starling recovering at home from pneumonia.

Kara Raines – still recovering from house burning.

Jimmy Bobo – cancer Resource officer for Inman Elem

Phil Goodrich's friend Jenny Gardner - Stage IV colorectal cancer and recovering from surgery.

Kevin Dalton's sister-in-law's brother George Boisvert has stage 4 cancer.

Jerry Jennings recovering from heart catheterization,

Steve & Claudia Butler, (friends of Brenda Azzara) They appreciate the cards and prayers sent as they continue their treatments. Steve & Claudia Butler 111 Beaver Dam School Rd. Gaffney, SC 29340

Dr Todd Walter - Cancer treatments

Oliver – 3 yr old receiving Cancer treatments

Methodist Church – Internal struggles

All affected by COVID 19 virus and its impact

All affected with California and Oregon fires

National protests and challenges.

## Shut Ins

Joe Brown      Dan Donovan

June Rhymer

Maxie Duke (Lisa Gunter's Mother)

Betty Zeluff (Mary Hager's Mother)