



Landrum United Methodist Church

December 2022

The Lamplighter

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.”

The Pastor's Message

The season of Advent has begun, and our sanctuary is beautiful with the Chrismon Tree, the greenery and the nativity, all setting the stage for our church family to experience the Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace of the season as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ and wait expectantly for his return. We light the candles of the Advent wreath, and they represent the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace that is in our hearts not only during December but year-round. On Christmas Eve and again on Christmas Day we will light the Christ candle.

Hope is at the heart of our faith. Hope in something greater than ourselves. Hope in the gift that is Jesus and Hope that our lives will be transformed by him. Some may not feel there is much hope because of loss or illness. While our faith does not change the circumstances of our lives, our faith reminds us that we have hope in a God who cares so deeply for all of his creation, even each of us. And that we are never alone.

Love it is often said came down at Christmas. Yes, Love came down to earth in the baby named Jesus! Love is central to the greatest commandments: Love God and Love others. This is really not optional as Christians, but it is like Hope at the heart of our faith. Love came as a baby who taught us so much about how we are to treat one another. Remember how Christ offers forgiveness to those who would take his life. When Christ asks us to love, it is exactly how Jesus lived his life. He does not ask something of us that he has not done.

Joy, I have always thought was a bit different from happiness. Joy is a deep emotion and can be experienced even when life is throwing you lots of curves. Joy is that deep sense of knowing that there is more to life than what we can put our finger on here on earth. Joy that is experienced when we invite Jesus into our hearts and lives, and we find that abiding love that is ours that we cannot earn and may not deserve.

Peace is the theme of the fourth candle. We pray for peace in our world, a world still torn by war and violence. We are reminded that Christ came not only to end wars, but to make us whole. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom and means completeness or wellbeing. Christ makes us whole because through him our sins are forgiven. We might experience a peace that is beyond our understanding and our own control when Christ becomes the center of our lives.

At the center of our Advent wreath is the Christ candle. The light given off from it reminds us that Christ is the light of the world, and this light overpowers the darkness of the world.

As you prepare your hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus, remember that you are preparing for his return as you strive to imitate Jesus' love for others. May you and your family find Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace this Advent as your relationship with Jesus grows!

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy

MUSIC NOTES



The Music Department of Landrum United Methodist Church has recently received a most unique gift!

A circa 1880's Kimball pump organ has been gifted to us by Nancy and Don Surface and dedicated to the memory of Nancy's grandmother, Nancy Stone Tyree, a life-long Methodist from West Virginia, who loved playing this organ for her family and friends.

The organ is just as beautiful as the picture depicts and I am having the most fun playing it! Yes, it still works at approximately 142 "years" of age! It is such an honor to play this organ. I'd love to show you how it works! Please come up to the Music Department to see and listen to this unique instrument. I can also show and explain to you how inventive the organ bench is! I wish they were still made this way!

Many thanks to Nancy and Don for this amazing addition to our Music Department!

We are at the beginning of one of our busiest seasons of the Christian year, which also happens to be my absolute most favorite time of year. I love Advent. Advent music is my favorite. I love listening to it. I love to play it.

Many thanks in advance to Chancel Choir for the beautiful Advent Music you will be hearing them sing during this spectacular time of year! I am so appreciative of each of them for sharing their lovely voices and spending so much extra time at rehearsals preparing music for our upcoming very special services.

We certainly hope to see you! Joy

Advent MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 4 during the morning worship service. Join us afterwards for a special gathering WITH SPECIAL GUESTS in the Fellowship Hall!

Celebration of Holy Communion – Sunday, December 11 during the morning worship service.

Drop-In at the Parsonage – Sunday, December 18, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. Guests are welcome to bring their favorite "finger foods".

Longest Night Service – Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Communion – Saturday, December 24, 5:00 PM AND 7:00 PM.

Family Christmas Celebration – Sunday, December 25, 10:00 AM Worship Service. Hot chocolate/coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall following the worship service



I need your help!

We will be having a reception following the Christmas Day service. I would appreciate if a few of you *great Methodist bakers* could bring some cookies or a dessert for us to share.

Please let me know if you plan to provide something that day.

Thank you so much for your support!

Trudy

December Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Robert Black
- 2 Pete Inman
- 3 Joan Clark
Al Barto
- 4 Veronica Howard
- 6 Jody McPherson
- 7 Trudy Van Voorhis
- 8 Emmalea Plumley
- 9 Lisa Gunter
- 17 Beth Pace
- 19 Dennis Gunter
- 21 Marcus Quinn
- 23 Brenda Black
- 28 Wanda Manson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Robert & Brenda Black
- 20 Paul Forster & Wanda Starling
- 30 Al & Cheryl Barto
Guy & Lisa Spriggs



Altar Guild



As Advent begins, we look forward to the amazing miracle we will soon witness. As our sanctuary fills with the beauty of our Chrismon tree, candle-light evergreen boughs at the windows, the shadow wise men approaching the manger, and pine wreaths adorning the walls, let your eyes fall upon the crèche placed on the altar. Allow yourself to remember a time long ago when the world awaited our Savior's birth! Anticipation!

A new flower chart will be available in the Narthex for 2023, for anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar. Debby and I will be happy to arrange provided flowers for you at no charge, and we will be happy to provide a bouquet for you for a charge of \$25. Thank you in advance.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you. Debby & Cheryl

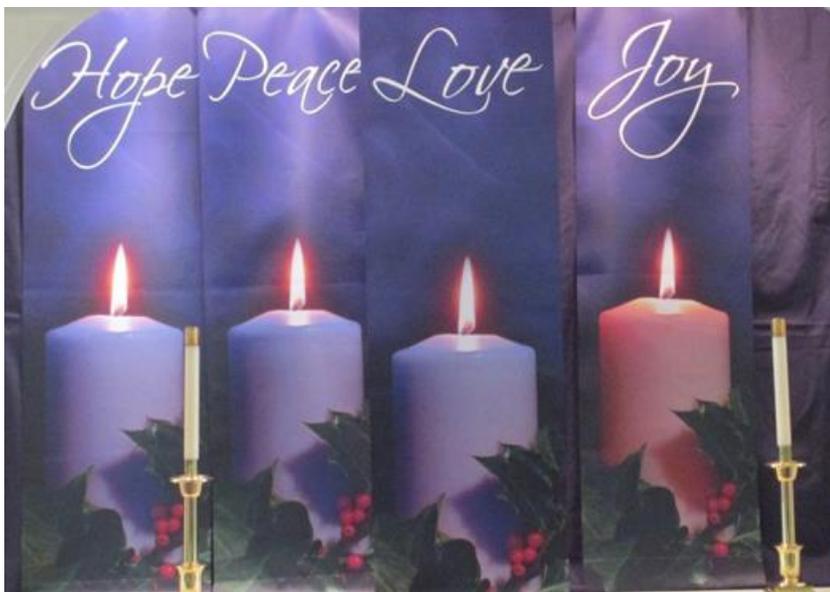
Silver Spirits



We pray that all of our senior citizens are doing well and looking forward to the beautiful Advent season! Presently, our January luncheon is not scheduled as we must monitor the influenza numbers and plan accordingly. This seems to be our new normal, but the wellbeing of our "spirits" is always foremost in our decisions! Trudy Van Voorhis will be joining us in 2023 in helping to plan our Silver Spirit gatherings, and we are so excited to have her onboard! Those who know Trudy, know she is a delightful lady and exceptionally creative.

Our wish for each "spirit" is love, joy, and good health, today and throughout the Christmas season.

Merry Christmas, Cheryl



ADVENT



Ornamental Rejects

Trudy Van Voorhis



I love decorating the Christmas tree. It's a tradition in my household that involves lots of Christmas music and boxes of Christmas mementos- cloth-covered balls, old wooden miniature toys and many others I've accumulated through the years.

After a few hours of hanging ornaments, reminiscing and re-hanging ornaments to fill in the spaces, the tree is a delight to behold. It's a montage to tradition that has survived the decades of my childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

Ornaments that have survived moving, have weathered changing times and perspectives are packed deep in cardboard boxes. These ornaments you admire more year after year as you drift back in time, remembering the butterflies and excitement Christmas brought when you were a child. Ornaments that have been placed in roughly the same place; that hold a special place near the lights or have climbed their way to the top boughs for everyone to see.

Then there are the ornaments whose lost limbs, and frayed fabric isn't cute anymore. The ones put on the tree just in case anyone asks. The ones put on the back boughs.

The rejects.

You know the ones. The sight of them at the bottom of the box, leads to desperate measures of distraction, least someone remembers it as being treasured or worse, endearing of whom ever made it or gave it to us. You just can't toss them out!?

There are some such ornaments in my collection. My mother used to find each and every one of them and place them wherever she could- usually in plain view.

She found that Styrofoam ball wrapped in string that I made in first grade – or the ones I developed when I felt very artistic in my youth.

I have come to look upon my Christmas tree as a portrait of my life. I am no longer upset by the dilapidated stringed ball. I see how it helped me to develop into the artist of the reindeer, snowmen or other homemade decorations I have received so many compliments on. I remember the Santa I held so dear during that Christmas when I wasn't feeling as happy as usual, or the various mementos Christmas ornaments I purchased whenever I went out of town on business trips.

At Christmas, my tree serves to remind me that my rejects are just important as the attractive ornaments in making my tree (and me) what we have become.

My prayer: Lord, you always loved rejects like Zacchaeus. Love us when we feel like rejects too, and then we will become a living Christmas tree, lighting this dark world by loving other rejects. Amen



Welcome to our new members!

Farrell Atkins
127 Oakleaf Drive
Landrum, SC 29356

Phil and Rosemary Odum
135 Gleneagles Road
Campobello, SC 29322

John and Taylor Carruth, IV
500 E. Brookwood Drive
Landrum, SC 29356

Karl and Kelly Logerlof
185 Prison Camp Road
Campobello, SC 29322

Advent and your Journey to Bethlehem

Listening to scripture can be like driving a car. As you cruise down the highway at 70 miles an hour (it's an interstate...), your eye catches a blur of colors. You travel this route often, and have never noticed it before, so next time you pay more attention. You watch closely, then you see it...a lovely little patch of wildflowers, and you wonder how many times you drove by and didn't see them.

It's the same with scripture. There are passages we have read many times. We know the characters, the quotes, and what it means. Then we spot something we haven't seen before. A single word or a verse that has been there all along jumps off the page and you hear it as if it was the very first time.

Few scriptures are more familiar than the Christmas story, and precisely because we know it so well, we miss what it continues to teach us. I hope that you will take some time this Advent to slow down and pay more attention to "the road."

May Advent truly bring all of you peace, joy, hope and love as you travel your road to Bethlehem.

Trudy



Guest
Speaker
Walter
Cantwell





Dennis Gunter
Bonnie Inman
Gloria Wells and family
Keith Haynes
Ted Andrus
Glenn Downey
Jeanne Godwin
Rob Ward
Wally Kern, Charlotte Stow's brother
Sally Ashmore, daughter of Lily and Daniel, granddaughter of George
and Jean Ashmore

Don and Nancy Surface
Nancy McGarra
Betty Little
Nancy Bruce
Farrell Atkins
Ridge, son of Mary Hager's coworker
Jason Rider
Pastor Nancy Reed
Hal Howard
Wendell Grubbs, friend of Bill Robinson
Joyanne Gattie, Ted Andrus' cousin
Phil, Stephanie Quinn's father
June Rhymer
Pete, Martha Castro's stepfather
Jim Plumley, Rita's husband
Vickie Killough
Charlie Croft
John Himmel
Keren Clay (14 yr old) granddaughter of John and Mary Kylin
Edward Downey, Glenn's brother
Everett and Eveleigh, twin great nephew and niece of
Mary and Wayne Hager

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

We 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.

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

Nancy McGarra
41 Red Bird Road
Tryon NC 28782

Edith Masson
4308 Faust Street
Bamberg, SC 29003

Mike McAlister
(Peggy's husband)
White Oak

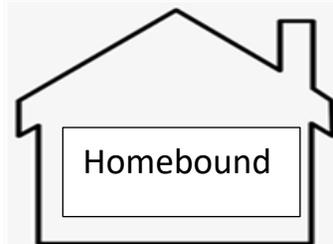
Maxine Finch
102 Corolla Court
Moore, SC 29369

Betty Zeuluff (Mary Hager's Mother)
Sunny Brook Assisted Living
306 Spring St
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Madge Holley
805 E. Brookwood
Landrum, SC 29356

Mary Williamson

Mrs. Wofford (Jaime's grandmother)



June Rhymer
810 E. Rutherford St
Landrum, SC 29356

Joe Brown
109 Edgewood Avenue
Landrum SC 29356