



Landrum United Methodist Church

December 2023

# The Lamplighter

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.”

## Pastor Message

Dear Friends,

We begin the church year with the season of Advent, a time of waiting. Four words often used for each week of Advent, are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. They are part of the readings as the Advent Candles are lighted each week. Some might say let's use something new or different for Advent, but I am certain that the words, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, never go out of style.

As we begin this season of waiting for Christ's first coming, let us choose our words wisely and I suggest that the words of Advent, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love might guide us. What if we measure all we say and do by the Hope we have in Jesus' birth and his return, the Peace that Jesus teaches us, the Joy in the resurrection, and the Love of God.

Ask yourself if what you are about to say or do reflects your faith in Jesus and in his teachings. May this season offer a chance to draw closer to God even if you are in the midst of trials, for even in life's most difficult time, remember God is with you. May you find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love through your faith in Jesus Christ!

Join us and invite a neighbor, co-worker, friend to one of our services!

**Sunday, December 3rd**, at 10am Hanging of the Greens Service. Join everyone for Munch and Mingle in the Fellowship Hall.

Question and Response Session 1 – at 5Pm

**Sunday, December 10th**, Children's Christmas Program service. Join us afterwards for a SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON with SPECIAL GUESTS in the Fellowship Hall!

Question and Response Session 2 – Sunday, December 10, following the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING** – Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 PM.

**Sunday, December 17th**, 10am \*Adult Christmas Musical (Subject to change if the Gardner Twins arrive early!)

Special Munch and Mingle following the Service.

**Thursday, December 21st**, Longest Night Service

**Sunday, December 24th**, 10am Christmas Eve – Sunday Morning Worship

5pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

**Sunday, December 31st**, 10am Service of Lessons and Carols or Adult Christmas Musical IF delayed!

Blessings.

Pastor Nancy



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.

Our love and sympathy to:

Jay and Nancy Boatwright and Jacob Boatwright and family with the death of Jay's mother and Jacob's grandmother, Betty Boatwright.

Tom and Linda Perkin, with the recent death of his nephew.

Charlie Croft and Joyce Himmel, with the recent death of their aunt, Joan Tracey, in Maryland.

To the family of Mrs. Anne Holt, who was part of our Church Family through the Community Meal.

Our prayers for:

Josh and Kat Gardner son and dau in law of Tommy and Joy Gardner who are expecting twins in December

Eda, Dau in Law of Phil and Harriet Goodrich

Gloria Wade

Fred and Gladys Harris

Veronica and Hal Howard

Mike McCallister

Wendy Donovan

Tim Faulkner, friend of Bill Robinson

Lynn, Mary Hager's sister

Charlotte Stow

Samuel and his parents, Kelly and Karl Lagerlof

Brenda and Robert Black

Nancy Magner

Bonnie Inman

Kevin and Patricia Dalton (former pastor and his wife)

Linda and Tom Perkin

Karen Shaw, Charlotte Stow's sister

Travis Clayton, Brother of Kim and Billy Ramsey

Charlie Croft

David, Steve Quinn's brother in Florida

Don and Nancy Surface

Lois Foster

Josh Owens

Fran Page

Jim, Rita Plumley's husband

John Himmel

Larry Long

Allison Corley

Gary, Bro in Law and Julie Davis, Sister in Law of Carmen Krebs

Jan, Sister of Wanda Manson

Eugene Starling, father of Sarah Morgan and Matthew Starling

Pastor Nancy Reed

Chris McKeel, Friend of Pastor Nancy and Addie – Cancer Treatments

Michie Reed, Addie Reed's aunt

Lizzy (Friend of Joyce Himmel)

Keith Haynes

Keren Clay granddaughter of John and Mary Kylin

Everett and Eveleigh (twin great nephew and niece of Mary and Wayne Hager)

Daniel and Lily Ashmore, son and dau in law of Jean and George Ashmore expecting baby girl 12/25

Question and Response Session in December about the UMC and remaining with or separating from the denomination.

## **Finance**

Finance Committee Members present: Pete Block, Glenn Downey, Wayne Hager, Rita Plumley, Bill Every, Cheryl Every, Ted Andrus, Jaime Wofford, Nancy Reed, Jody McPherson

General fund balance as of Oct. 31: \$31,318.12.

Apportionments due end of December \$26,800. Ted motion that a recommendation be made to admin. council to pay 2023 apportionments by end of year. Second by Jaime. Motion Approved.

Committee budgets due to conference by end of the year.

Discussion on management of budget items and income versus expenses.

## **Administrative Council**

Members present: Martha Castro, Carla Downey, Joy Gardner, Debbie Croft, George Ashore, Pete Block, Glenn Downey, Wayne Hager Rita Plumley, Bill Every, Cheryl Every, Ted Andrus, Jaime Wofford, Nancy Reed, Jody McPherson

Guest: Joyce Himmel

Minutes: Motion to approve Debbie. Second Pete. Approved.

Glenn reported that he recently participated in a council Chair training through the district.

It was noted that it is necessary to have an updated "member status". Church roll would be updated by membership secretary. We do not have a church secretary to complete this task. Pastor Nancy has completed an audit of the current church roll.

### **Worship:** Debbie

All advent banners will be hung at once in the sanctuary.

Artificial greens were purchased to hang on outside doors.

Worship committee has purchased poinsettias for altar. Individuals or families may sponsor one or more flowers and take them home after Christmas.

### **Choir:** Joy

Dates for December worship services:

3 Hanging of the Greens

10 Children's program

17 Adult choir program

21 Longest night service

24 Christmas Eve service

31 Service of Lessons and Carols

Joyce Kimmel is now doing the church bulletin.

## Administrative Council Minutes continued:

**Finance:** Pete

Committee voted and approved a recommendation to Administrative Council to pay 2023 apportionments in the amount of \$26,887. Council must now vote on recommendation. Motion by Ted to approve recommendation. Second. Approved by council.

Pickle Ball players who use the FLC have made a \$325 donation to the church.

**College students:** Carla

Students received Halloween cards and candy.  
It is now time to collect snacks and treats for boxes to be sent for finals week.

**Men's Ministry:** Wayne Men will not meet in November and December.

**SPRC:** Bill

Clergy assessment will be submitted to District. Assessment of Joy will be in early 2024.

Church profile with updated membership numbers will also be submitted to District.

**Exploratory Committee:** George

Third town hall meeting was held on December 12. Overall, 65 people have attended the presentation. Two question and response sessions will be held on December 3, 5pm and 10, following worship service.

Discussion on the presentation continued. Consensus of council to hold a called meeting on Tuesday December 12 at 7 pm to vote on moving forward with the next step in the process. Which is to be added to the District Superintendent's January calendar.

**Missions:** Jody

This is the last month for backpacks until February. Jackson's Grove and First Baptist have December and January respectively.

Pickle Ball players have been helping with community meal by making up bags of toiletries, assisting in unpacking and setting up Sam's food orders and taking the cardboard recycling.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jody McPherson, Secretary

### Financial Information as of October 31, 2023

Checking account total:	\$58,543.47
Money Market total:	\$121,875.71
Total Cash:	\$180,419.16
Designated Funds total:	\$149,101.07
General Funds Cash:	\$31,316.12

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.  
Thanks for all you do to support our church.

Pete Block



### 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
- 13 Jody Antosia
- 17 Beth Pace
- 19 Dennis Gunter  
Alice Sam
- 21 Marcus Quinn
- 23 Brenda Black
- 28 Wanda Manson
- 30 Jean Ashmore

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Paul Forster & Wanda Starling  
Phil & Rosemary Odom
- 30 Al & Cheryl Barto  
Guy & Lisa Spriggs



### Homebound and Shut-ins

Maxine Finch  
102 Corolla Court  
Moore SC 29369

Madge Holley  
805 E. Brookwood  
Landrum SC 29356

June Rhymer  
810 E. Rutherford St  
Landrum SC 29356

Joe Brown  
109 Edgewood Avenue  
Landrum SC 29356

Betty Zeuluff  
(Mary Hagar's Mother)  
Sunny Brook Assisted Living  
306 Spring Street  
Hendersonville NC 28739

Edith Masson  
4308 Faust Street  
Bamberg, SC 29003

Mike McAllister  
Peggy's husband  
White Oak

Edit Masson  
4308 Faust Street  
Bamberg, SC 29003

Mrs Wofford (Jaime's  
Grandmother)

Mary Williamson

# Hide and seek

Trudy Van Voorhis



Christmas is a blessed and a beautiful time of year. Trees are draped with lovely sparkling lights, the stores glitter with dazzling decorations, and crowds of shoppers seek gifts for family and friends. This is a season of rejoicing! A season of celebration! A wonderful time when we celebrate that God sent His Only Begotten Son to redeem the world and us!

While the displays and decorations can be beautiful and uplifting, if that's all we see, then we're missing something. We become so preoccupied with responsibilities, and the stress of our many commitments, that we fail to see with our hearts that which is most essential. The true reason for the season.

Many who lived during the time of Jesus' ministry could not see Him, though He walked among them in plain sight.

The educated and the proud could not see Him. The wealthy and the prominent could not see Him. Those looking for the Messiah - the scribes, Pharisees and other religious leaders who studied the scriptures and longed for the time of the coming of the One who would deliver Israel and witness his arrival did not recognize him. Their narrow interpretation of scripture and traditions kept them from seeing the humble man who walked among them.

Jesus didn't arrive in the way they expected. He wasn't exposed to their religious educations did not agree with all their teachings. So, he certainly could not be the One. Those whose hearts were closed to the Spirit, could not see Him.

To whom did he appear? Humble fishermen and laborers. The ailing and the distraught saw and recognized Him as the Savior.

Being unable to see the holy with the eyes or with the heart has been a fault of the human condition since the beginning. The most precious and sacred things can sometimes be right in front of us, but we cannot or will not see them.

As you travel the road to Bethlehem during Advent, look past the bright decorations, open your heart, and seek the child whom we celebrate. He isn't hiding – He is there with you.

We Welcomed New Members on November 19, 2023!

Linda and Tom Perkin (106 Clearwater, Landrum, SC 29356)

Hans and Nicole Bengard and their children, Jack, Allie, Cooper, and Mason (216 Woods Road, Greer, SC 29650)

## Silver Spirits

Our Seniors group will not be meeting in December, but we want to wish all of our Spirits a very Merry Christmas! Please stay well and enjoy every second of this beautiful holiday season!

We hope to see you all again in January, with a date & time to be announced.

Blessings, Trudy & Cheryl

## Altar Guild

Waiting..... waiting.....we are waiting, Lord! Our sanctuary begins to reflect the beauty of the Advent season with the hanging of the greens on 12/3! The Chrismon tree comes alive with all the ornaments that display symbols of Christ. Our eyes are drawn to the boxes on the altar which reveal a message for each of us. Gaze upon the advent wreath and remember what each candle represents as a new one is lighted each Sunday! Watch as the nativity silhouettes overhead move ever so slightly each week toward that ultimate gift! The beautiful banners against the walls reflect hope, peace, joy, and love. As we gather each Sunday for worship, let us be still and focus on the true meaning of those four words.

Merry Christmas, Debby & Cheryl

## Munch & Mingle

Has it really been a year since we began our twice monthly gatherings after church service? What a year it has been! So many delectable dishes prepared by so many amazing cooks willing to share their talents with us! How grateful we are to each of you!

To those who have dropped donations in the basket, we thank you!

There is a new sign-up chart on the bulletin board in fellowship hall for those interested in helping continue this mission throughout 2024. Having three people on those designated Sundays, works the best for serving and cleanup duties! If you haven't participated in the past, think about doing so next year - it is fun & definitely enjoyed by all! Please join us for a "special edition" on 12/17!

Merry Christmas





# Views from the Pews



Photos: Paul Forster

