



Landrum United Methodist Church



The Lamplighter

"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation."

December 2021

Pastor's Message from John 1: 1-5

"The light shines in the darkness

and the darkness did not overcome it."



When we gather on Christmas Eve and the candlelight spreads throughout our sanctuary, we will hear, "The light shines in the darkness" and the congregations' reply, "and the darkness did not overcome it". It will remind us that the light of Christ is with us always. The Advent season marks the beginning of the Christian year, and it is a time when we remember and anticipate Jesus' birth. We travel with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for his first coming.

This is a time for us to prepare our hearts, minds, souls for the Good News that is Jesus Christ's coming into the world. We still wait for his return. As we mark the weeks of Advent first with the Hanging of the Greens and we see with wonder the symbols of God's love in Christ and we light a candle each week on the Advent Wreath. The words that are associated with each candle remind us of God and our relationship with God. The candle of Hope reminds us of the hope that is ours in Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and his return. The candle of Love shows us that God's love for us is constant and that God loved us so much that he sent his son, Jesus. We are called to reflect God's love to the world in all we do and say.

The third candle is usually the candle of Joy. It is God's promise fulfilled in Jesus that provides us with great joy. The fourth candle is the candle of peace and may it remind us that Jesus came as a king of love and grace. Let us put aside the world's image of power and might holding fast to peace through the way of Jesus. The way of love and grace. AMEN.

Dear Friends and Family of Landrum UMC,

Thank you to Rev. Dan Mason and his congregations and others who joined us for the Thanksgiving Eve service! Your gifts of food staples will help fill the Food Pantry of the Campobello/Liberty Charge and your monetary donations will help Operation Hope serve those in need in our area.

We are glad you have come to Landrum and hope that you have found a church family! If you are not yet a member and want to know more about becoming one, please contact me at 803-522-2009 or email lumc@landrumumc.net. The congregation, by their example, is asked to nurture new persons as they promise to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will be receiving New Members on December 12th!

Addie and I would like to invite you to the parsonage, 300 Asbury Drive, for a Christmas Drop-In on Sunday, December 19, 2021, from 4-6pm. We hope that you can join us!

Blessings for you and your family during Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Nancy

MUSIC NOTES



The Advent and Christmas seasons are here! My most favorite time!! Chancel Choir and the Belles of Landrum have been working diligently to prepare our music for these seasons. Special thank yous to all who are involved in the music programs of the church! I certainly am appreciative of their commitment of time during this especially busy season.

You will have many opportunities to join us in celebrating this most joyous time!

Our Hanging of the Greens service will be on November 28 during our 10:00 AM Worship Service. This will be one of the services when you will have an opportunity to sing a variety of Christmas Carols as you watch in awe as the sanctuary is prepared for the season. Cheryl and Debby have some lovely ideas for the décor this season. It's going to be a beautiful service. One of my favorites!

As if the season will not be busy enough, our son Josh is getting married on December 11 in Savannah, GA, to a lovely young lady, Katherine. Nick Stow will be playing some special arrangements during the Worship Service on December 12.

On December 21, we will have a new service in which to participate this year, "The Longest Night Service", known to some as a Blue Christmas service. Chancel Choir will be singing an appropriate, evocative anthem during this service. It's quickly becoming one of my favorites and each time I hear them sing this one, I'm ready to immediately listen to it again!

You will have the opportunity to participate in two Christmas Eve Communion/Candle lighting Services this year, if you wish. Because I know ahead of time the differences between the two services, take my advice and plan to attend both! These are two totally different services, yet each service will be so meaningful in its own way. What a wonderful way to spend Christmas Eve!

I am sending to each of you the warmest of wishes for a very Merry Christmas!

Joy

A quick reminder: Only lyrics from The United Methodist Hymnal; The Faith We Sing Hymnal; and The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal may be displayed onto the screen during any worship service, pursuant to the restrictions of current copyrighting laws.



Recognizing our Vets

Al Barto, Nancy Bruce, Don Surface, Jack Briggs



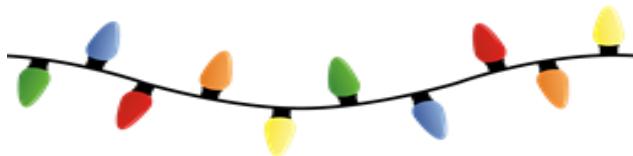
**Veterans
Day

Honoring
all who
have
served.**

Photos: Paul Forster

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
- 10 Grant Hilsman
- 16 Lee Nicholson
- 17 Beth Pace
- 19 Dennis Gunter
- 21 Marcus Quinn
- 23 Brenda Black
Anne Blom
- 28 Wanda Manson



December Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

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

June Rhymers
810 E Rutherford St
Landrum, SC 29356

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

Madge Holley
1385 Green Creek Dr
Columbus, NC 28722

Edith Masson
4308 Faust Street
Bamberg, SC 29003

Gettis Solesbee
400 Pine Avenue
Landrum SC 29356



Shut-ins



Joe Brown
109 Edgewood Ave.
Landrum, SC 29356

Dan Donovan
210 Camelia Circle
Landrum SC 29356

Nancy McGarra
41 Red Bird Road
Tryon NC 28782

Mary Williamson
Greer Rehabilitation &
Healthcare Ctr
401 Chandler Road
Greer SC 29651



Compassion – Bah Humbug!

Trudy Van Voorhis

This is the time of year you may come across one of the versions of *A Christmas Carol* - the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge changing his uncaring nature and learning real compassion after 3 spirits visit him on Christmas eve.

The unforgettable character of Ebenezer Scrooge— we all know him, but few understand him. The popularity of this tale makes it unfortunate that it is so frequently mistaken as a story about charity. We sometimes refer to a person as a “Scrooge” because they lack Christmas cheer, or because they are wealthy and greedy. The message often emphasized by *A Christmas Carol* is that, through giving and charity, Scrooge was transformed. While giving from the heart develops us into more of the good in who we are, often overlooked in the story is the compassion the spirits forced Ebenezer to recognize.

The message is clear: Scrooge was rich, didn’t give to the poor and didn’t care for Christmas. Thinking this was the reason he was criticized misses the whole point. Ebenezer Scrooge was haunted not because of his wealth or lack of charity, but because he had misplaced the true value in life. Money and material things had become his priorities while the love of friends, family and neighbors had been completely neglected. This is a story about a man who abandoned every opportunity to build meaningful relationships with those around him, and so never discovered his true purpose.

The truth is that we can’t give genuinely and generously to others unless we have allowed ourselves to receive the goodness of life. Had Scrooge been unable to finally realize compassion for himself – to receive it as the soul’s comfort that it is – he would have been unable to change and share it with his nephew and others. If he had not recognized his worthiness to receive and enjoy the sweetness of life, he could not have recognized or acted upon the natural generosity of his spirit.

Ebenezer’s money was his addiction. He worked for it, hoarded it and measured everything—and everyone—by it. His every action was determined if it brought him gain/pleasure. As time passed, loneliness led to bitterness. The Spirits did not come merely to make him generous, but to restore his life by removing this compulsion.

The depth of the story conveys the sadness that he feels in watching his life pass before his eyes, and in confronting a cold and lonely end to a meaningless existence. Everything of himself that he had invested in his narrow definition of success provided no solace on his deathbed. The Spirits force Scrooge to view his own life and that of others through a new perspective.

When finally faced with his name on a tombstone, Scrooge is repentant by the fear of having never truly lived. He pleads that he has changed and promises to “live in the past, present and future.” This is not about money—it is about recognizing the significance of our human and spiritual connections, to our family, our community and even to our former and future selves.

In the end, Scrooge is a man not only more generous—a sign that he no longer worships at the altar of profit—but one who is optimistic, more genial and liberated in both life and death. The story encourages us to embrace a selfless spirit of giving on Christmas and year-round. It should also make us consider the important things in life, and how easily they are tossed aside as we seek our own goals. It should remind us that self-indulgence, for all of its benefits, does not compare to the richness and happiness found in sharing our hopes, fears and good humor with those around us.

The famous last words of the novel conveys the feeling and good cheer to which Scrooge awakens as his story unfolds and that *A Christmas Carol* so passionately celebrates. --“**God bless us, Every one!**”



Stop look and listen this Advent

Trudy Van Voorhis

December is the month of excess. People will spend money they don't have on things they really don't need. Shameless commerce will reach new lows to make money off the holiday. The lights and decorations are beautiful, but while it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas, we know that there is an underlying emptiness in all the contrived merriment. The Nativity is absent. The peace on earth and good will of TV specials will run out of steam before New Year's.

Advent calls outside all this...away from anything that would dilute and dull our awareness of Christ in the world. He comes to us from outside...outside the inn, outside the trimmings and trappings of the season...outside the little bits of Christmas sentimentality where Jesus stays a baby, and we stay the same...content and comfortable.

Advent is a wonderful time to be in church, getting lost in the great hymns of Jesus' birth. But remember...John the Baptist didn't preach in a church, but by a river in the boonies.

Maybe this Christmas will be the most significant in your life. On your gift list write "New eyes and new ears." Rather than only confining your search in the church, watch for Him and wait for Him outside the familiar and comfortable. When you hear the messenger's voice, follow it, even if it takes you in to the wilderness, so you will be prepared and able to recognize Him when He comes.



Faithful Servants



Silver Spirits

We are so thankful for each of our senior adults, and we pray you are all well! We continue to assess the coronavirus numbers, and at this time, don't feel comfortable in resuming our gatherings. Our thoughts and love are sent to each of you, and we hope you have a very Merry Christmas & Happy, healthy New Year! Warmest blessings, Cheryl.

Altar Guild

As we enter this Advent season, Debby and I hope you are as excited as we are about the added beauty within the sanctuary as we approach our Savior's birth. Unlike last year with the limitations due to the coronavirus, we have a few new services inviting participation by the congregation! Our church sanctuary is beautiful everyday but is especially lovely during this holy season. We extend warmest wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Debby & Cheryl



Bonnie Inman

Sunday School and Bible Study Classes

Sunday

9:00 am Children's Sunday School
9:00 am Upper Room Devotional Group

Monday

6:30 pm Bible Study 'Luke'

Tuesday

10:30 am Bible Study 'Luke'

Wednesday

7:00 pm Scripture Study 'Revelation'

Landrum United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2021

Members Present: Martha Castro, Rita Plumley, Pete Block, Glenn Downey, Nancy Reed, Wanda Manson, Cheryl Barto, Jaime Wofford, Joy Gardner, Jody McPherson Finance: Cheryl Every

Jaime motion to approve October minutes. Second Pete. Minutes approved.

Finance: Pete

Apportionments: From the finance committee: One third of obligation has been paid to date. \$17,500 owed. Last Spring council voted to table discussion and payment of apportionments to December meeting. It was decided to bring topic to this meeting. Recommendation from the finance committee to council to pay what we owe to the conference.

Discussion centered on our obligation and commitment as a United Methodist Church to pay what is due. "By paying our apportionments, we are showing the love that now prevails in our church." Motion by Martha to pay balance of apportionments by the end of the year. Second by Cheryl. Motion approved with one abstention.

Rita, as church financial secretary, has noted that it would be prudent to place some checking account funds in a money market account. \$20,000-\$30,000 could be kept in checking with remainder placed in money market account. In the event that it became necessary, money needed could be transferred back into checking.

Motion by Jody to follow finance committee recommendation to keep necessary funds for expenses in checking account and remainder transferred to money market account.

Second by Martha. Approved.

Missions: Jody

Food boxes were packed and some were given out on Saturday. The remainder will go out at the community meal.

There has been discussion by some committee members to distribute bibles at the community meal. One hundred bibles have been purchased. Some were given with the food boxes Saturday. Nancy Surface will determine how many stops the community meal route deliverers make and will give them the appropriate number. The rest will go in the takeout bags.

Trustees: Jaime

During the recent voting, someone smelled gas and the fire department was summoned. (Not the correct protocol.) The gas company put a lock on the meter until everything could be checked. All is in order now. No gas leak.

The office parking lot has been resurfaced and is in great shape. This was done by private donation.

A committee is needed to update safe sanctuary and facility use policies. Volunteers need not be a member of trustees.

Committee is exploring the possibility of re-keying every door due to excess numbers in circulation.

Music: Joy

Choir working on music for Advent. Very appreciative of music department.

Joy reminded us that lyrics for any music that is not included in The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, or The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal will be projected onto the screen during any worship service, pursuant to the restrictions of current copyrighting laws.

Administrative Council minutes continued..

Member at Large: Martha No report

Member at Large: Wanda No report

SPRC: Pete

Completing end of year forms. Positive review on the state of the church.

Worship: Cheryl

Still monitoring COVID levels to determine when Silver Spirits group can resume meeting. Advent wreath stand has been repaired. Will need help in bringing Christmas tree down from upstairs storage and assembling it. Looking at Nov. 26th or 27th to do this plus preparing decorations.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nancy

Nancy has received an email from conference regarding the current issue with the Boy Scouts.

There is a conference Zoom meeting on legal issues that could affect churches.

The scouts do use our facility and have for a long time. It is not determined if we have chartered a troop. We do need to follow the recommendations from the conference.

This year we are adding a longest night service on Nov. 21st. It will be a quiet, contemplative service.

Thanksgiving Eve service with sister Methodist churches will be held here at 7pm.

Advent begins first Sunday after Thanksgiving.

There will be two services on Christmas Eve. First service will have choir and hand bells. Second will be piano and hymns. First service at 5pm and second time to be determined.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jody McPherson, Secretary



**Join our Church Family for
*Christmas Eve Services***

**Friday, December 24th
5:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

**5:00 Choir and Handbells
7:00 Piano and Hymns**



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.

We pray for:

All Students, teachers and school staff

Our College Students

Nancy McGarra Bonnie Inman

Michael McAlister Gigi Van Dyke

Ted Andrus Harvey Spiegel

Nancy Bruce Charlie Croft

Don Surface Maxine Finch

Dan and Wendy Donovan John Himmel

Levi McCleef Jimmy Ashmore

Lois Foster's Daughter in Law

Mrs. Wofford, Jaime's grandmother

Family of Michael Smith

Jody's friend, Rebecca and her Mother Margaret - medical issues

Twin grandsons of the Goodrich's, Charles Edgar and George Rosefin born October 21, 2021



All Saints banner with bells and 'In Memory' names



Lovely solo sung by Nancy Surface