



The Lamplighter

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.”

Pastor’s Message

Dear Friends of Landrum UMC,

While I know that you nor I can ignore that this church will be coming together to take a vote about remaining a UMC or leaving the denomination on Sunday, January 21, 2024, 11am. I hope that as you continue to serve God and tell others about Jesus and pray, you will find peace about your decision. Perhaps thinking about that phrase that became popular oh a few years ago, “What Would Jesus do?” (WWJD) might give you some guidance.

We have journeyed to celebrate the birth of Jesus during Advent and then beginning on Christmas Eve or Day (depending on who you talk with) those 12 Days of Christmas began ending on January 6th, Epiphany. The story of Jesus’ birth and life is somewhat like a puzzle that has to be put together for us to fully understand. We have heard about angels giving instruction to various ones, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and about stars in the sky that they were to follow. Sometimes the pieces of the story did not always fit ours, like the wise men were not yet there when Jesus was born but came when he was a young child. The messages are important and always pointing to Jesus.

I hope the “pieces of the story” of Jesus’ birth are coming together for you. As Addie and I put our “Christmas Puzzle” which had 1000 pieces together, it was easy to think you had the right piece in the right place and yet you did not! We began on Christmas Day and put the last piece in on New Year’s Day! Sometimes we tried to “make” pieces fit. Well, they were so similar. Yet upon closer examination, it really was too hard to put in, there was just a little too much space on one side, an edge was lifted and not flat as it should be. Almost, but not the right one!

During Advent the Sunday scriptures brought us back to John the Baptist, before he and Jesus were born, and later when they were grown men and John, who was a great preacher with many followers, kept reminding them when they asked if he was the One they were waiting for, no he told them he was pointing the way to the One.

If the puzzle that is your life just seems not quite right, maybe a piece is missing or out of place, just maybe the piece of your life puzzle that you need is Jesus! When Jesus came up from the waters of his baptism, “a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’” (John 2: 17) .

Join us on Sundays at 10am (and other times!) as we are becoming “The People of God”, putting Jesus first in our lives and becoming his disciples and sharing the Good News with others.

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy



Homebound and Shut-ins

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

Maxine Finch
102 Corolla Court
Moore SC 29369

Madge Holley
805 E. Brookwood
Landrum SC 29356

January Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kaleb Gunter
- 12 Rita Plumley
- 17 Nancy Boatwright
- 21 Guy Spriggs
- 24 Jack Clark
- 27 Lois Foster
- 30 Linda Perkin

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Tom and Linda Perkin
- 16 Karl and Kelly Lagerlof



Thank You

Thank you to all for your thoughtful and generous monetary Christmas gift to each of us; for the presents; and your cards of encouragement and well wishes. We are grateful to each of you for your kind gestures and generosity. We want each of you to know that we appreciate your continuing love and support. Once again, thank you so much for your generosity and kindness. We wish all of you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Joy and Pastor Nancy

Music Notes



Once again, what a busy month December was!

Several of my favorite services are held during December – The Hanging of the Greens service being one of those. Hearing the familiar carols being sung during this service, the First Sunday of Advent, is always filled with excitement! Just as I'm sure you do also, I love seeing the sanctuary being transformed in preparation for Christmas and hearing the beautiful Advent music.

What a blessing the Gardner family received the following week! The arrival of twin granddaughters, Juliet and Lillian, on December 5. Thank you all for your many prayers!

The Children's Christmas Program – Bethlehem Bound – was full of energy, as expected! Thank you, parents, for your support, your commitment to having your children at rehearsals, and helping us out however and wherever needed. Rita, Deanna, and Martha worked with the children on their speaking parts and Stephanie and I worked with them on their music during the Sunday School hour for many weeks prior. We have a talented group of young people! They are our future Chancel Choir. By the way, all of us adults learned something new from them each week!! Thank you to Bonnie for her 'magic' with the costumes; and, James for his construction of the stable.

The Longest Night service – another one of my favorite services. If you were not in attendance for this service, you do not understand what you missed! There's no way to adequately explain to you the "feeling" experienced in this service. The music the Belles of Landrum played, and the songs sung by Chancel Choir were AWESOME!

Christmas Eve Communion Service – another of my favorites, was a great service. My sincere thanks to Chancel Choir for being available to two services on Christmas Eve.

It has been an added pleasure to have Linda, violinist, and Nicole, flautist, willing to play special music and accompany hymns as well. They are truly talented ladies, and we have a ball during our rehearsals. We probably laugh more than we play music!

Allow me a few more sentences to express my gratitude to Chancel Choir. They are such a talented and devoted group of musicians themselves. They give of their time each month, but especially during the Advent season, to attend rehearsals, singing song after song after song, making time for extra rehearsals, and being early prior to services to rehearse even more. It is my privilege to have the opportunity to be the one sitting in front of them in rehearsals, who gets to hear their beautiful voices in an enclosed environment. If you'd like to experience that sometime, you are welcome to come and listen any Thursday night during rehearsal. Sure there will be laughter and such taking place but once they start singing, the sound will literally cause chills - it is that beautiful! Thank you, Choir. I appreciate you!

Called Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2023

Members Present: Pete Block, Bill and Cheryl Every, Glenn and Carla Downey, Joy Gardner, Bonnie Inman, Debbie Croft, Rita Plumley, Trudy Van Voorhis, Emmalea Plumley, Jamie Wofford, Nancy Reid, Martha Castro, George Ashmore, Ted Andrus, Cheryl Barto, and Wayne Hager

Glenn opened the meeting with a prayer and then Pete Block, finance chair, had a brief finance meeting. He went over the proposed budget and after a brief discussion, Ted voted to move the budget forward to present to Ad Council and Jamie seconded the motion. The meeting then switched over to the Administrative Council part.

Ted made the motion to carry the vote to disaffiliate from the UMC to the congregation and Cheryl seconded the motion. If the motion is passed, the next step will be to get a date from Rev. Cathy Mitchell for a church charge conference date for church members to vote and make the decision. Admin council members voted by secret ballot, and the motion was passed by a large majority. After the vote, there was some discussion about the next steps in the process.

Next, Ted Andrus made the motion to accept the budget presented by Pete Block and George Ashmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ted closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Martha Castro

Stepping into the New Year



Trudy Van Voorhis

An Advent devotions pamphlet I once read mentioned an ancient tribe that wandered the desert long ago. To assist with their travel with the long sandy journey, they had sewn tiny brass candleholders onto their shoes. They were fitted with small candles and this way, no matter how dark and long the journey, they could avoid stepping on snakes or in hole. They could see just far enough to take the next step. This picture stuck in my mind of these fellows traipsing across the desert with lighted toes.

Have you ever been in complete darkness and had to extend your arms before you to feel what is ahead and protect you from charging right into it? It is a very scary feeling and one that fills me with compassion for those who have lost their sight. What faith the blind must gather to continue to step ahead not knowing whether that step could result in a tumble or a solid movement forward.

I see the start of the new year that way. We really do not know what tomorrow holds. In stepping forward we must have faith in God, trusting in His promises, to fight the battles and bear the burdens of today. We must pray for grace to do better the next day. Living today to its fullest is the best way to approach tomorrow.

Would you like to know what 2024 holds for you? It would be nice to be prepared as to what to expect next.... or would it? Would it make you a different person, a better Christian perhaps, to know what tragedies and triumphs are around the corner?

I believe that the Lord does Christians a favor by putting just a large enough candle in our shoes to illuminate our next step. He puts out His hand so we can keep our balance and invites us to walk with him but one day at a time.

May the coming year be full of new discoveries of God's love and goodness.

Silver Spirits

Happy New Year, Spirits!!! Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Wednesday, January 10th, at 12 noon, for a "Souper Luncheon"!!! Bring your favorite appetizer to share with everyone and a funny story, etc., that all will enjoy hearing! A selection of soup will be provided to melt away winters chill! Bring a friend and join us for fun and fellowship! Hope to see you all on the 10th!

Happy New Year to all our Spirits! Cheryl & Trudy

Altar Guild

The beautiful red poinsettias may be gone, but our sanctuary still has hints of Advent remaining! Our blessed Savior has been born! Now it is up to each of us to maintain that joy, that wonderful gift we have been given, and share with others beyond the walls of our church! We are "the church"! We are Landrum United Methodist Church, and as we enter the new year, may He continue to be all the Light we need!!

A flower signup chart is in the Narthex with many open dates, and we will be happy to help those desiring bouquets for any given Sunday! May God bless each member of our church family in 2024!

Debby & Cheryl

Munch & Mingle

Have you noticed how much we all love to gather, munch, share laughs, and mingle after church on those two Sundays each month??? Here's your opportunity to help make that mission continue the first & third Sunday's!!!

On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall hangs a sign-up chart with many open dates available for your group to join in the fun. You don't have to be a baker or a cook, as there are many options available at our local grocery stores. Coffee and juice is always provided, as are the plates, cups, etc. - all we need are volunteers to keep this mission alive! Step out of your comfort zone in the new year, grab a couple of pals, and "adopt" a Sunday! Let's keep this fun mission going!!!!

Due to the special meeting with the District Superintendent, there will be no Munch and Mingle January 21.

Thanks to all & Happy 2024 church family!!!



Children's Play "Bound for Bethlehem"



Longest Night Service

Beautiful time of worship with our Chancel Choir and Belles of Landrum lead by Music Director, Joy Gardner and Nicole Bengard, Flutist



Our prayers for:

Lillian and Juliet, twin daughters born to Josh and Kat Gardner (son and dau in law of Tommy and Joy Gardner) born December 5, 2023

Jane Mae Ashmore, daughter of Daniel and Lily Ashmore (son and dau in law of Jean and George Ashmore) on December 11, 2023. Big sister Sally welcomes her too! And Jacob is an Uncle again!

Eda, Dau in Law of Phil and Harriet Goodrich

Paul Forster

Lois Foster

Aimee Johnson, Ted Andrus' niece with Myeloid Leukemia

Wendell Grubbs, friend of Bill Robinson

Gloria Wade

Fred and Gladys Harris

Veronica and Hal Howard

Mike McCallister

Wendy Donovan

Tim Faulkner, friend of Bill Robinson

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

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, Brother 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)

Landrum UMC and its members as they follow God's will in 2024, prayerfully considering remaining UMC or leaving the denomination when they vote January 21, 2024, at 11am

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:

Mary and Wayne Hager, with the death of Mary's sister, Lynn in December

Billy and Kim Ramsey with the recent death of Kim's brother, Travis Clayton