

The Lamplighter

“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

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June 2020

A Birdseye View

The other day Patricia filled all the bird feeders, all 7 feeders not including the 2 hummingbird feeders, I have to lift the full feeders and rehang each one when she's done. I sit here watching these birds; the finches, sparrows, cardinals, orioles, woodpeckers, doves and yes hummingbirds all picking up right where they left off once all the feeders were empty. Seems these birds have a method to how they empty these feeders. The feeders and yard seem to be full as long as the food holds out, but once the food is gone so are the birds.

The food in the feeders ran out the other day and we had nothing to refill them with, so Patricia and I had to purchase more bird feed as well as her making food for the hummingbirds. Having been down for a couple of days and no birds coming around, but once the feeders were refilled and ready for business the birds picked up right where they had left off. I changed where I hung a couple of the feeders, and guess what happened with the change? Nothing! As I sit here writing this article, I notice how the birds just picked up and began again without any problems.

This caused me to wonder, if the same can be said of us as a people? With everything being shut down, and life as we had been accustomed to stopped. Not just slowed down; not just changed; but completely stopped. Most jobs stopped; most restaurants closed; all schools from pre-school through major universities closed; all in-person church services stopped. This whole country stopped and life as we were accustomed had come to a halt. But things seem to be slowly beginning to come back to life once again. The question is how will we handle the changes coming with this restart? Or will we fuss and fight and complain until things go back to exactly the way things were before?

You do realize changes are coming, right? Let's look at the church for a moment, some are going to have to step up and serve by wiping down the church before and after every service; no more gold offering plates passed around, in most cases a box in the narthex for you to nonchalantly drop in your offering as you walk in; or maybe wicker baskets passed around; no fellowship time hugging, shaking hands, and greeting each other; for a while no choirs or singing; no children's moment or nursery; everyone sitting spaced out away from each other, just to name a few. It will be like being together separately.

But as we begin again, I can't help but wonder something else, if during this pause have we, as a people, learned anything? Some of us may have reconnected with family we live with which for what-ever reason we had lost touch with. Others may have reconnected with family and/or friends not nearby, by phone and/or computer, and for some on a regular basis. Some of us, during this time, may have learned who our neighbors are, and in some case neighbors we've lived near for years. Others of us may have used this time to contact not just family and neighbor, but maybe even contact fellow church members (that's a novel idea).

But unfortunately, not all of us have seen this time as an opportunity, some have seen this time as nothing but a big hindrance to our way of life. Some of us, for what-ever reason have used our time to grumble and complain. This brings me back to these birds and how they lived with, and they lived without they just lived differently, but they still lived. Have we all continued to live or have some of us just chose to exist? Do we expect everything to just go back to the way it was before? If we do, we're in for a big surprise. Let each of us decide to come together, differently, but still together in His name.

Pastor Kevin

Music Notes



Joy Gardner

“Music is the one art we all have inside. We may not be able to play an instrument, but we can sing along or clap or tap our feet.....All of us have had the experience of hearing a tune from childhood and having that melody evoke a memory or a feeling. The music we hear early on tends to stay with us all our lives.” Fred Rogers. The World According to Mister Rogers. Important Things to Remember.

I hope it's easy for everyone to feel a connection to this quote by Mister Rogers. Music is an important part of our lives. It gives us a way to express our emotions. It also provides a soothing balm for us, especially during times of uncertainty. My mother always said she could tell what type of mood I was in by listening not just to “how” I played the piano or organ, but what I played; just as others sing or listen to certain types of music pertinent to their feelings. Music is an integral part of our lives.

During this time of uncertainty, I hope that you have continued to carry a melody in your heart, whether you are playing an instrument, singing, clapping, or tapping your feet! I also hope it's one that makes you smile! I'd be interested in hearing from you which songs those may be! Stay well! Hope to see all of you soon!

From the Pastor Parish Relations Committee:

Thanks to the congregation, we have been able to keep the staff intact and the office open.

Thanks to the staff, we have been able to “run the Church” administration, programs, and communications as much as possible.

Thanks to the extra efforts of many, we have been able to communicate weekly with a meaningful message in a quality way.

Thanks to our collective generosity, we have been able to remain afloat financially.

Thanks to our core values, we have been able to care for and lift up others spiritually.

Thanks to God, we are strong and able, looking forward to when we can all be together once again.

Stay safe, stay strong, stay focused, and God's Peace be with you all.

In His Service, your PPRC.



Congratulations to the Landrum United Methodist Church Scholarship Winners!

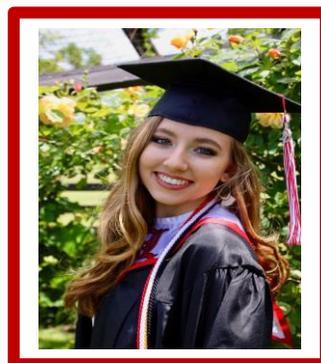
Martha Castro

Congratulations to **Evan Plumley** and **Cassidy Spring** for receiving the very first Landrum United Methodist Church scholarship. The \$1000 scholarship is available for graduating seniors of LUMC. Both Evan and Cassidy have been active members of the church. Part of the application includes an essay question about faith and its influence, and the scholarship committee was very impressed and moved by their responses.

Evan will be attending Winthrop University and major in Athletic Training. An excerpt of his essay is "As for the influence faith has had on myself, I find it to be more important now than it ever has been. I would like to think that I am not alone in my worrying for the future. With the combined stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic, finishing high school, and preparing for college, I have a lot on my plate. However, like the people who have gone on before me to do great things, I find peace in my faith in the Lord, knowing that he has a plan for me. Although it may seem a bit cliché, I feel as though Matthew 17:20 is one of the most perfect biblical answers to all of the Earthly problems we find ourselves dealing with : "...For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Cassidy is attending the University of South Carolina in the fall, where she will major in visual communications. An excerpt of her essay is " Without faith, I would be a lost individual during the time of silent social distancing from my friends, family, and society. However, people can choose to view this quarantine positively or negatively. No one knows when the earth will wake up again, only God knows, yet every person on this planet will be changed forever, and I believe that because of God, he/she will be changed for the better. This planet will not pick up from where it left off before this pandemic, for lives will be improved. I believe that the Lord is speaking to everyone, telling us to take a break, focus on and believe in Him; if we do this, our faith will grow stronger, and we do not have to worry about the "things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see." I am putting all my faith into God's plan for me. I am not worried about making the wrong decision, I am rejoicing in the time he has given me to focus on what he has devised for my future. I choose to focus on the little blessings that I take for granted each day: health, a loving family, shelter, food, friends, and many more.

Congratulations, Evan and Cassidy! Your church family is very proud of you!



June Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Alan Fore
- Paula Moore
- 04 Wendy Donovan
- Cheryl Every
- Jane Harrison
- 05 Nancy Surface
- 10 Julie Edwards
- 16 Mark Hartsell
- 18 June Rhymer
- 20 Emery White
- Erin Fore
- Joe Brown
- 22 Maxine Finch
- Tom Stenson
- 25 Ben Boatwright
- Bill Every
- 26 Lisa Spriggs
- 29 Ellie Boatwright
- Tatianna Carey
- 30 Chris Edwards

ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Michael & Joan Clark
- 04 Mike & Emery White
- 05 Alan & Debbie Fore
- Hal & Veronica Howard
- 07 Dennis & Lisa Gunter
- 08 Jim & Angie Bross
- 13 Pete & Bonnie Inman
- 20 Keith & Beth Spring
- 23 Kevin & Patricia Dalton
- 26 Dan & Wendy Donovan
- 27 James & Lisa Wofford
- 28 Chris & Carmen Krebs



Happy Father's Day



June 21

**To know THE Father, is
the manual to be a
father.**



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

We also 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.

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

Shut ins

Joe Brown

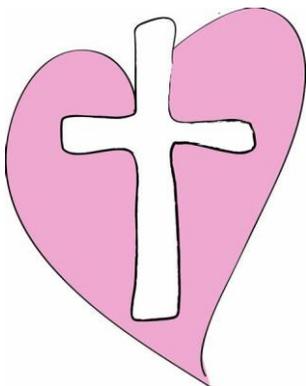
Dan Donovan

Maxie Duke (Lisa Gunter's Mother)

Becky English

June Rhymer

Betty Zeluff (Mary Hager's mother)



Prayers for:

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

Oliver Gowan – recovering from successful surgery
(3 year old fighting cancer)

Marie Mobley (Pastor Kevin and Patricia's daughter) –
recovering from surgery

Jeanette Wofford (Phillip Wofford's mother/Wanda
Wofford's mother-in-law) Hospice

Family of Mary Ruth Upton (Wanda Wofford's
son-in-law's mother)

John Magee (Pastor Kevin's friend) shoulder surgery

Dr Todd Walter - Cancer treatments

Chris Owens - Cancer treatments

Methodist Church – Internal struggles

Graduating class of 2020 – Congratulations!

All affected by COVID 19 virus and its impact

Our Family Reunion



I was thinking that coming back to church will be like a family reunion.

I once enjoyed an article that compared the two and thought about this since we hopefully soon will enjoy a reunification of our services in the church.

At our reunion we will see people who have not been part of our recent life. Seems like the last time you saw them was so long ago. But you never lost your connection to them. You would want to know if something good or bad happened to them. You have hopefully been praying for them. Truthfully, you don't always like everyone at the family reunion. There are always a few of "those" in every family, but still these are the people you have to deal with. You get no vote on who is in or out of the family. The church is the same way. The people who are part of the church are not necessarily people you see every day – maybe not every month. You cannot pick and choose who is part of the church family. In this case God picks them. But when He picks them, He makes a connection that lasts forever.

As you sit in your pew on Sunday morning you look around. Strange group isn't it? But realize that this strangeness is God's doing AND, you were picked to be part of this strange group as well. Now that should bring a smile to your face.

Just like all the recipes that appear at a true family reunion - some are really great; some you are glad to pass up. But each dish on the table represents someone's best. As you pick up your plate and go down the table you know who made the meatballs and who made the purple salad. Some of these foods you don't eat except at the family reunion because no one else can get them just right. For me this reflects the same uniqueness we each bring to this church. No one leads a Bible study quite like so and so.... Some will do better, others worse, but none exactly like them. As we look around at the strange crew, we see the manifestation of God's choice of spiritual gifts like a table laden with your Aunt's salad and your cousin's dessert.

Another thing about family reunions that reminds me of the church. How does a person, not currently a member of the family, get to come to a reunion? They can't just walk in off the street and say, "Hey, this looks like a nice family reunion. I think I'll join." Yet this is often how most think church growth will happen. We open the doors and wait for the multitude to wander in. It is better when people become part of the family because they are brought in by a current family member. You make a friend, you fall in love, you marry into a family. But it is the individual, one on one, relationship that makes it happen. So many people have left their families. They have moved half-way across the country, they have become estranged, they have been adrift. These folks still need a family as it is not good to be alone. Our church can provide a family for people. When we gather at our services, Munch and Mingle and church luncheons, swapping our stories and eat together, we were being God's extended family.

Preacher Kevin told us the Church was never closed – just the building. At our family reunion when the building reopens worship will take on a different practice. They say, "you can't go home again" and that will be true about returning to church. Home will be changed. Initially there cannot be any congregational singing, no choir, no bulletins. We must keep distance seating with no touching etc. Family will gather again but the reunion will be bittersweet.



Happy Birthday to the church! Happy Pentecost!

Virtual Sermons

If you have access to the internet, please join Preacher Kevin on Sundays in worship with virtual sermons. They are available on the LUMC website - www.landrumumc.net - or on You Tube.

Many outside of LUMC have been watching and report how they have been inspired by these sermons and hope that they can continue even after we have returned into the church building.

The team has been doing such a wonderful job providing these videos so that we can continue our worship at home. The inclusion of photos and messages from our congregation is so appreciated.

Thank you to the production team and Kevin for your support and comfort through God's word, your music and photos in this difficult time.

Let's Get Our Feet Wet!	Scripture Reading: Joshua 3:7-8, 13	May 24, 2020
The Church is Closed?	Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:17-20	May 17, 2020
Are We?	Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17	May 10, 2020
Hey! Do You See Me?	Scripture Reading: Luke 7:11-17	May 3, 2020
Just Stop!	Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-6	April 26, 2020
What do we do now?	Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-25	April 19, 2020
Go Tell Somebody	Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10	April 12, 2020
It's Called Worship	Scripture Reading: John 12:12-19	April 5, 2020
Do You See the Whole Picture?	Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:16-17	March 29, 2020
Why God?	Scripture Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4	March 22, 2020

Landrum United Methodist Church

Administrative Council

May 19, 2020

Members Present: Mark Hartsell, Martha Castro, Joy Gardner, Glenn Downey, Lou Nespeca, Trudy Van Voorhis, Wayne Hager, Pete Block, Bonnie Inman, Kevin Dalton, Jody McPherson

Finance: Mark

We are in good shape for not being "in church" for 10 weeks.

We have had one deposit in May for \$4095 of which \$200 was designated for community meal.

Mark applied to the Small Business Administration PPP program for a loan. We got in on the second wave, asked for \$57,000, and received \$14,100. If we need it, the money will be used for our fixed expenses. If it is not needed we will return it.

Scholarship

Cassidy Spring and Evan Plumley have applied for the LUMC scholarship. Their essays on faith were presented by Mark and Martha. Lou motion to approve Cassidy and Evan for scholarship. Second Jody. Approved. Each will receive \$1000. Checks will be presented when we gather again for worship. Cassidy will attend USC in the fall and Evan Winthrop.

Admin.

Glenn turned the meeting over to Kevin for a discussion on reopening of the church.

Kevin: The Bishop has requested that we hold our first service on June 14th. This is a request and a suggestion. Not an order. Kevin has contacted our District Superintendent. She stated that if we decide to go against the Bishop's suggestion and something were to happen, we would be liable.

Discussion on our right to choose when we want to come back and what is best for our congregation as a whole. Wayne summed it up by stating that we should follow the guidelines of the Bishop and that it is paramount that we protect each other. It was further discussed to meet again on June 2 to reevaluate the virus situation. Motion by Jody to reopen church with worship on June 14 and to meet again on June 2nd to reassess where to go from there. Second Bonnie. Approved.

Missions: Jody

We are no longer getting food donation from BI-LO. Jody and Kevin are in the process of applying to Second Harvest/Feed America to become an agency. The process is lengthy much like United Way/Gifts in Kind. It will be several months before we can be established.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody McPherson, Secretary