



The Lamplighter

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.”

You're a Crack Pot

As we began our Lenten journey this year, we began a journey hearing about “Broken Vessels.” We are hearing how we are all broken in some fashion. Broken but still able to be useful in the kin-dom of God. Notice, I said kin-dom not kingdom. Kin-dom reminds us we are all part of the family, and regardless of how we are broken we are still vital.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots was cracked, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot always arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made, and made sure the cracked pot knew about their difference. But the poor cracked pot, having always having their imperfections pointed out, was ashamed of these imperfections, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 yrs. of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. “I am ashamed of myself, and I want you to throw me away and replace me. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts.” The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty with which to grace this house.

Each of us has our own unique cracks, breaks, or imperfections, but it's these flaws which, if we allow Him, God will use to bring unseen beauty to the world around us. We're all cracked pots, but it's these cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, a cracked pot, and look for the good in them.

Pastor Kevin



Before I return to the alphabetical listings of my favorite hymns (I'm skipping from D to L this month for Lent!) I wanted to share a hymn most of us in the United Methodist Church sing during Ash Wednesday Services and occasionally during the season of Lent. "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" is found on page 269 in The United Methodist Hymnal. The hymn on the temptation of Jesus first appeared in the poet's "Child's Book of Praise; A Manual of Devotion in Simple Verse," 1873. It was written by Claudia F. Hernaman and is the author's only hymn still in common use. I think it has a very catchy tune, to me it's one of those that stays in your head, you find yourself humming without really remembering the words. It was arranged by Annabel Morris Buchanan with the harmonies added by Charles H. Webb in 1988. Here are the words to the first and last verses.

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay."

"Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last."



Altar Guild

Cheryl Barto

Deb Croft

We are preparing the sanctuary for the Lenten season as we learn more about broken vessels.

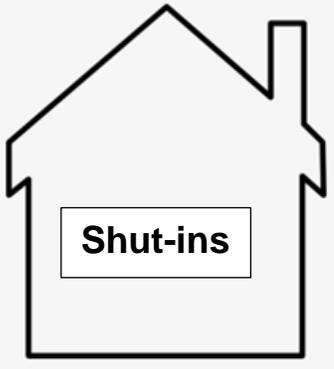
Helpers are needed after Maundy Thursday service (March 25) to help hang the black window drapes for the Good Friday service the next day. This will be done immediately after the 3/25 service and any help is greatly appreciated.

We are excited that our Easter service will be outdoors this year (weather permitting). This will allow for social distancing and accommodate more worshippers than would be allowed in the sanctuary. You are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors to attend this very special service, and please remember to bring flowers to place on the flower cross!

If there is enough interest, we would like to have Easter lilies available for you to purchase in honor or memory or in recognition of someone! These would be used on the outdoor altar and you may take them home with you after the service. The names of those wishing to purchase the lilies and those to whom the flowers are dedicated will be read during announcement time since we do not currently have printed bulletins. Please be giving thought to this and we will provide more info regarding cost of each plant in the near future.

Deb Croft and I are excited and blessed to be serving the Lord in this new role and will be announcing a meeting soon for anyone who would be interested in joining the sanctuary team.

In Christ Cheryl Barto and Deb Croft



Joe Brown
109 Edgewood Ave
Landrum, SC 29356

Dan Donovan
210 Camelia Circle
Landrum, SC 29356

Mary Williamson
Greer Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
401 Chandler Rd
Greer, SC 29651

June Rhymer
810 E Rutherford St
Landrum, SC 29356

Madge Holley
1385 Green Creek Dr
Columbus, NC 28722

Edith Masson (Patricia Dalton's
Mother)
300 Asbury Dr
Landrum, SC 29356

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

Betty Little
508 E Prince Rd
Landrum, SC 29356

Maxine Finch
209 N Cassidy Way
Campobello, SC 29322

Edith Himmel ***
c/o Manning Place
10 Companion Ct. Apt 104
Greer, SC 29651

*** Joyce Himmel asks if you would join
in celebrating her Mother-in-law's 90th
birthday **March 10th** by sending her a
birthday card. It would be appreciated!



Dennis Gunter Back surgery
Donna Potruski Covid unit St Luke's
Dale Potruski recovering from Covid
Ricky & Kathy Howard recovering from Covid
Jerry Azzara arm surgery
Emily Monahan 17 yr old with brain tumor
Laura Reeves Cancer
Jimmy Ashmore Cancer
Pat Parker Cancer ... Cheryl Barto's sister
Rev. Tommy Bailey Cancer ... Pastor Kevin's friend
Steve Butler Cancer ... Brenda Azzara's friend
Levi van Cleef Cancer 4 year old
Mark Fullerton Heart issue Brenda Azzara's friend
Mark Masson Patricia Dalton's brother
Fran Page.....Surgery
Melissa Beasley
Sylvia Semone

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.

What have you given up for Lent?

Trudy Van Voorhis

What does the Bible say you should give up for Lent?

The idea behind giving up something for Lent is based on Luke 9:23 "Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.". Essentially, it's about self-denial, carrying our cross and following Jesus.

It is a tradition during the season of Lent for many people to "give something up." You may practice this tradition yourself. Some examples of the things people give up include chocolate, alcohol, smoking, television, and Facebook. There are lots of different reasons people have for giving something up for Lent. As with many practices there are some good reasons to do it and then there are some not-so-good of reasons to do it. Realize the purpose of the tradition.

It has been pointed out that rather than food it would be more valued if taking up your cross meant bettering yourself in deeper discipleship. Instead of forgoing chocolate or that extra glass of wine – you work to become more respectful of others or working towards the improvement of self.

I have been trying to give up negativity. The glass is usually more empty than full when I see it. I find the adverse in things and then I am not as disappointed and perhaps be wonderfully elated. Giving up negativity after this past year has not been easy.

A pet peeve I have is when I am eating someone makes an unwelcome remark about what I am eating. I don't understand – if I am eating and enjoying it – why make such a malicious comment? If I am not forcing it down your throat – why make a statement? Just like with my food it feels this year I have dealt with comments about politics, masks, health issues, weight etc. This just added to my negativity. I found it an uncomfortable way to live and want to repair my attitude.

It is possible to resist temptation - make the right choices, to resist the pressures of our culture and society and to be free. It is possible to turn away from consumerism, materialism, violence, racism, and all kinds of social and personal sin.

Many believe that making a sacrifice will help them better relate to the sufferings of Jesus. But if you think this through, does giving up Facebook for Lent even begin to come close to helping you relate to the suffering Jesus went through? We are totally missing the point. Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice. His suffering was brutal. The idea of giving up first world luxuries to help us relate to the suffering He endured is laughable at best and mockery at worst.

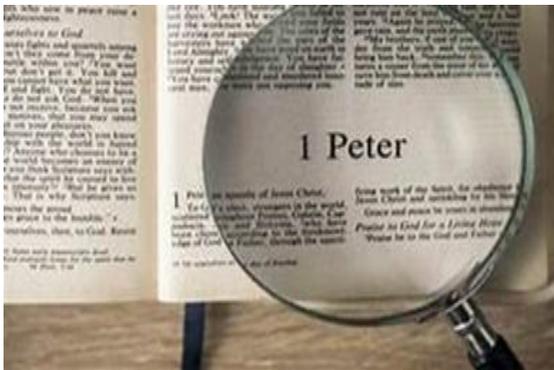
For some giving up something for Lent is a way to kick a bad habit. Lent serves as a catalyst for living a healthier and more balanced life. It might serve to help you eat better or make better use of your time. All that is commendable, and God wants us to be good stewards of our lives. But this still falls short of the fuller Lenten experience.

So, what is the point then? Why would I give something up for Lent?

Lent is often viewed negatively as a time of don'ts, of having to give up things, no eating, drinking or merriment. But Lent is supposed to be a time of hope. Jesus confronted temptation and was able to say 'no' to wrong actions, just as in Gethsemane he said 'yes' when called upon to do God's will. So now we know there is hope for us!

The fact that Jesus made the right decision is good for us, it is a sign of hope for us all.

Bible Studies



Join us Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our study of 1 Peter.



Join Jay Boatwright on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as he continues a study of Scripture.



Handbell choir at work



March Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Madge Holley
- 4 Debbie Fore
- 7 Darrell Bustle
- 11 Julia Fricks
- 14 Eric Clark
Sarah Morgan
- 17 Michelle Fagan
Colleen Carey
Deb Croft
- 25 Steve Quinn
- 29 Chris Gunter

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Jerry & Brenda Azzara



Proud Grandmother



Cupcake Cupid

Administrative Council February 14, 2021

Members Present: Mark Hartsell, Rita Plumley, Lou Nespeca, Martha Castro, Kevin Dalton, Wayne Hager, Jaime Wofford, Joy Gardner, Pete Block, Bonnie Inman, Jody McPherson

Finance: Cheryl Every

Minutes: Martha move to approve. Second Jaime. Minutes approved.

Finance: Mark

Thanks to Rita for taking on the treasurer position.

Apportionments paid for January and February. Budget: keeping everything same for 2021.

Discussion on what to do with excess money in account. Jody suggested sponsoring children who want to play softball/baseball in the spring. Sponsorship would include fees plus equipment to play. Kevin and Jody will make contacts to see how we can locate eligible students. Jaime move that \$5000 be transferred to missions for scholarships. Second Bonnie. Approved.

Another suggestion by Bonnie is to explore construction of showers and laundry facilities In the FLC.

Lou is going to check with laundromats in the area to see how we could assist in paying for use by members of the community.

Finance: Treasurer: Rita

We are now paying some bills (most utilities) online. Some corrections were necessary on W-2s. Corrected ones will be distributed when they arrive.

Current offering counters are: First Sunday: Rita; Second: Mark, Jaime, Third: Rita, Fourth: Nancy, Jody, Fifth: Nancy, Jody. Bonnie and Martha have volunteered to count.

Gas bills are running high. Jaime will check.

Men's Ministry: Lou

Leaky roof has been repaired. Also built a deck in conjunction with the Well. We paid for half and Well paid half.

We are getting 2-3 pallets (140 boxes) of food every week through Church Builders in Spartanburg. The Well and LUMC food pantry distribute the food.

Member at large: Martha No report

Sunday school: Bonnie No report

PPRC: Pete

Wanda Wofford had applied for unemployment. She is not eligible since her position was part time.

She then applied for compensation due to her dismissal being COVID (lack of work) related.

We received a letter from SC Department of Employment Workforce stating the above reason. Pete completed the form and returned it.

Administrative Council minutes continued

Worship: Cheryl Barto (via letter)

Deb Croft and Cheryl will be filling the position vacated by Trudy and Patricia. Cheryl thanked them for their years of beautiful displays. They will be focusing on establishing a worship/sanctuary committee in the near future and welcome all who share an interest to consider joining as another way to serve the Lord! A group such as this has worked well in the past and we know many have ideas that would be a wonderful addition.

In a meeting with Pastor Kevin, an outdoor Palm Sunday or Easter service (or both outside) was discussed.

Council proceeded to discuss the merits of the outdoor services. Jaime motion to hold the Easter Sunday service outdoors. Second Mark. Approved. Cheryl expressing her yes vote in her letter.

Angela Bishop has graciously volunteered to set up for communion Sundays and we greatly appreciate that. Joy Gardner has been baking the communion bread and wants to continue to do so. Thank you Joy.

Lay Leader: Wayne

Wayne has all the detailed data base to satisfy GIK qualifications for distribution of goods. We have not asked for qualification (completion of form) since last March. Wayne suggested that we have a sign in log for those who are picking the bags from GIK at the community meal. He will prepare the log and Jody will see that recipients sign.

Wayne was encouraged with the attendance at today's service.

Music: Joy

Handbell choir is having fun. More bells to be added on Monday.

Missions: Jody

Regarding food boxes Lou spoke about, we are distributing them to Operation Hope, several churches in the Gowensville area, Saluda food ministry and individual families in the Landrum Campobello area. We have picked up 5 high school students in need of weekend food. Guy Spriggs wanted to help with backpacks so he is shopping for those students. Mark and Patricia continue to shop for the 41 OP Earle students.

We distributed 18 food boxes yesterday. We will distribute the remaining boxes at the community meal. We will also be handing out a flyer at the next meal to alert the community to the second Saturday food pantry.

Administrative Council minutes continued

Trustees: Jaime

Parsonage: Replacing garage doors, new range, replacing posts on porch.

Need volunteers to spread mulch around church.

Pursuing purchase of bus.

Still in legal situation with previous copier company. They continue to send invoices for service contract. We continue to request a signed document showing we have a service contract. They fail to produce.

Getting prices for resurfacing office parking lot.

Handbells: A generous church member has offered a \$5000 donation for the purchase of handbells if trustees will match the amount. Trustees will match. This \$10000 plus \$1000 in designated handbell fund will allow for the purchase of a three- octave handbell set.

Trustees have tried repeatedly to work with tenant in Howard Ave. house. They have reached a point where the only course is to file eviction papers next week. Once the tenant is gone the house will be upgraded and put up for rent again.

Pastor's report: Kevin

Items on list to discuss have been covered. Laundromat and sponsorship of youth sports. Appreciate all that is being done. Thank you to all.

No further business. Motion to adjourn by Lou. Second by Jaime. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody McPherson, Secretary

