



# Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

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## Editor's Comments:

Please use my e-mail address to submit stories, events, happenings, or other information that you would like in the Newsletter. If you do not have a computer, please give it to me in person or mail it to me. The deadline for all news items to be submitted is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. That will give me time to have it compiled and printed for distribution on the last Sunday of the month.

Susie Howell  
Witness Team  
susiehowell635@gmail.com  
(864) 338-5469 - Home  
(864) 221-2710 - Cell

## Pastor's Ponderings:



**"Laughter is the Best Medicine"**

At a recent Lions Club meeting, I was the tail twister. In this role, I went around to the tables and assessed fines for those not wearing a Lions pin or just collected a dollar from everyone. With it being near Halloween, I dressed up as Scottish hero Rob Roy, which included wearing a funny hat with orange hair I bought in Edinburgh, Scotland a few years ago. I told jokes with a Scottish accent (bad but funny!). I also had Halloween trivia questions which gave the people a chance to avoid a fine and to win some candy.

The people were laughing all during the routine. When the meeting was over, several people came up to me and said it was so nice to laugh for a change. These comments got me thinking. We have been so serious about the

COVID-19 pandemic for seven months now, since most everything shut down in mid-March. Have we really given ourselves a chance to lighten up, to laugh at times?

The pandemic is no laughing matter. It needs to be taken seriously. But let us remember that God has given us the ability to laugh as a way to cope with stress. Ecclesiastes 3 reads that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Verse 4 says there is a time to laugh. We need to remember this guidance as we continue through this time of change and uncertainty.

So, when appropriate, tell a good joke or make a funny observation. It can be the best medicine for the burden or stress you are feeling during this time.

In Christ,

- Rev. Wally Culp

**From the Nurture Team:**

**Give Thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ His Son... Give Thanks.**

We have 4 special Sundays this month:

November 1 we celebrate All Saints Sunday with candle lighting remembrance of our loved ones. God has been merciful this past year and we have not had any member die, but we still remember our past years and celebrate the joys and heartaches each one feels for one another.

November 8, we plan to celebrate Holy Communion.

November 22, "Christ the King/Reign of Christ" .

Thanksgiving is November 26.

Advent 1st Sunday begins November 29.

A Canticle announcing the coming Advent season: God's Chosen One

*"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots.*

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hears, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.*

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion cub together, and a little child shall lead them.*

*They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11, selections*

May the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord

make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May He lift his countenance upon you and give you peace."

- Sandy Sorrow

**From the Outreach Team:**

Thank you, Latimer so much for helping provide Elder baskets for the elderly Native Americans in South Carolina that are in need. Many Native Americans live well below the poverty line. Just image the joy that each elder will feel when they receive a filled basic of basic needs.

We all know that an important part of family life is the celebration of special days. Since 1895 Epworth has provided a safe home for children and youth with love, attention, education, and seen that their environment is as close to a family atmosphere as possible. Christmas is at the top of the list of special days at Epworth. We can be a part of this celebration

and help fill the Christmas wishes of the children and youth. We will be collecting money donations to be sent to Epworth to help the staff purchase gifts for the children and youth.

Let's join together with our donations to help this be a good Christmas for the children and youth of Epworth. Please have your donation in by November 29<sup>th</sup>. Make your check out to Latimer and mark it for Epworth Christmas fund. Thank you. This will be our Christmas mission this year. We will not have the Angel Tree.

"Teach a child how he should live, he will remember it all his life." (I read this when I was looking up information about Epworth.)

At Charge Conference the District Superintendent suggested that we collect and save thoughts about how the last months have affected us personally and as a church. I will be glad to start a notebook of these

writings. Years from now people will look back on these events and feelings. You can journal each day about your feelings and the events you experienced. It could be just a few sentences, a poem, or a story.

- Pat Wilson

### From the Witness Team:



### The Doodle Trail

As the old saying goes no news is good news.

We are all waiting at the red light waiting for the light to turn green. There is one guiding light a beacon in this storm to focus on it is Jesus Christ the Lord.

Music is a very important part of my being when I walk or ride my bike it is my time to be quiet, reflect and to seek God's guidance and be thankful for what is giving to me. While I am waiting hymns start to flow and I sing or

hum to myself and usually I find God's direction.

I found this posted on face book which spoke to me.



Witness Team Co-Chair

- Jane Barton

### Church Council:

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

For the first three weeks of October, Latimer has had the following receipts and expenditures: Receipts for budget purposes in the amount of \$11,598.00 with additional amounts for specials:

Apportionments \$1,004.00, Elder Baskets \$30.00, World Communion \$125.00, BIMA \$50.00, and UMCOR \$50.00.

Expenditures have been as follows: Minister and staff expenses, including benefits \$3,573.93, Utilities \$448.98, Office Expense \$8.82, and Upper Room \$39.00. In addition, before the end of the month, Direct Billing will be paid in the amount of \$2,916.70, as will FICA taxes in the amount of \$159.12.

Disbursements will also be forwarded to the conference treasurer for apportionments and the other special offerings collected this month.

This Thanksgiving we have much to be thankful for, most especially the continuing health of our Latimer family and the faithfulness shown

during this difficult year. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

- Linda Millwood

## **Communion Sunday:**

We are planning to serve Communion on November 8 as part of the worship service. This will be in a modified format and will be explained the week before. The weather will need to cooperate, as part of the service will be held outside. If it is raining, we will move the communion to the next week.

## **Bible Study:**

After thinking about this matter further, and in consideration of current health concerns, Rev. Culp has decided not to have a Bible Study this year. He will look at having something early next year.

## **Our Homebound:**

Phillip Brannon  
Jackie Manning  
Frank Clark  
Bessie Clark



## **Our Prayer Concerns:**

Dr. Tom Barnett, Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Dr. Thomas Burris, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Katie Coward, Stephen Culp, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, Bob Emhof, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick and Nancy Finney, Jim Grubbs, Eugene Hembree, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Sara McDowell, Mike Mock, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Family of Lucretia Snipes, Joda Snipes, Frank Sorrow, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

## **United Methodist Women:**

Finding Peace In an Anxious World, edited by Erin James-Brown is the title of the 4 session Bible study being used

by the women this fall. This study is based on the Serenity Prayer with Gloria Eaves presenting "serenity" as the topic for the first session. Anxiety and fear were discussed as being the opposite of serenity and the lesson included ways to deal with anxiety in order to achieve more serenity.

Although October was the first meeting of the UMW since March, financial support has continued to be given to the following missions: Killingsworth, Tracy Jackson G.I.F.T. and both the Spartanburg and Columbia Bethlehem Centers. A donation will also be made to Meals on Wheels. Gloria has graciously offered to serve as president of the UMW due to Sarah Blackwell having to resign. She was officially elected at this Oct. meeting.

"Acceptance" will be the topic for the next study on Nov. 2 at 3:00 at the church. Again this will be followed by a short business meeting. All women are invited even

if you missed the first study/meeting.

- Regina Bullions

### **Trustees:**

The next Trustees meeting will be Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting.

### **Bishop's Corner:**

#### **Taking the Next Faithful Step**

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*  
*Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)*

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. This age-old adage offers food for thought in new ways as we live in the midst of this fluid time of uncertainty.

For eight years now, we have been seeking "a more excellent way" as United Methodists in

South Carolina. This year's call to action of following God beyond the bounds of expectations gained new meaning in light of a global pandemic and racial unrest that has wreaked havoc on our lives and communities. We have had to rely on God more fully in these months, trusting that when we choose to follow, God will lead us in the direction of the kingdom.

Clergy and church leaders alike have been tasked with making many decisions, followed by evaluation and then pivoting, as we learn more and as conditions change. The same is true of those in conference leadership.

In October, we successfully completed the first-ever virtual South Carolina Annual Conference business session. With the leadership team and presenters broadcasting live from Journey United Methodist Church in Columbia, folks from all across the state logged in to participate. Because of the incredible dedication and hard work of so many

people, their investment of time, energy and expertise paid off as we navigated the important decisions necessary for the work of the church.

This was a new thing for us. The need to make adjustments in the way we live out our faith and do our work together was essential. Many people were skeptical or anxious. So many questions were asked and answered throughout the planning process. We made plans, evaluated, pivoted and tried again.

And in the end, after convening virtually for the clergy and business sessions and livestreaming the service of ordination and commissioning, we know that all the effort was worthwhile.

When we commit to seeking a more excellent way, doing things well becomes our standard. We know that the mission and ministry of the church is worth doing, and because of this recognition, we are willing to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Even when the task is complicated. Even when

the best next step is unclear. Even, and especially, when we feel like others don't understand or don't care.

Every word we speak and action we take can offer the opportunity to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. When we are willing to step up and step out in faith, God will lead us beyond the bounds of expectations. And that, my friends, is where we will be awakened to new hope, new opportunities, new ways to be and new ways to serve. Thank you for your willingness to embrace a new normal and take that next faithful step.