



The 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 20th of each month. That will give me time to have it compiled and printed for distribution on the last Sunday of the month.

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A Word from Our Pastor:



Scripture Psalm 100:4-5

November is the month of thanksgiving. We have an official holiday named Thanksgiving. We have so much for which to be thankful. We are a truly blessed people!

Being grateful and showing gratitude for what we have is a window into the soul. People that have and show gratitude are people of humility. They are those who recognize that everything good that we have comes from God. Thus, we show God gratitude for what He has given us and done for us. We are thankful for His Blessings upon us. Blessings of salvation, health, family, church family, friends, and meeting our needs. We wake up every morning and are grateful for the fact that God's mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness is great.

In the greater society in which we live little gratitude is shown. Much of society is characterized by greed,

by selfishness, by the desire or drive to acquire more and more money and more stuff. It would appear that the more people get the more they want. They want a bigger house, a better car, a better paying job and all this in order to have a better place in society. Here's a case in point. A father took his high school senior to a number of colleges to see which one he wanted to go to. One of those colleges was Wofford. There were a number of seniors there that day. The college recruiter came out and asked the students, "How many of you are going to be doctors? how many lawyers?" There were none who wanted to be doctors and none who wanted to be lawyers. The recruiter said to them, "Why are you here?" This father's son said no way am I going there. There is nothing wrong with being a doctor or lawyer but you get the point.

We as Christians are not immune from the temptation of wanting more and more. The antidote to this is gratitude and thankfulness. We need to develop the attitude of thankfulness and gratefulness and have a humble spirit. Show gratitude to the waitress who waits on us, the auto mechanic who repairs our car, and the list goes on. If we sincerely practice showing gratitude it will help us to truly be grateful and keep us from the trap of ingratitude and a spirit of wanting more and more.

Let's show thanks living in our lives and so point others to God.

- Pastor Dan Fortney

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. And now, let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks." (Henry Smith)

Thankful for this church family, its activities and it's welcoming spirit.

Thank you to the church committees, who help each other and seek ways to spread the Love of Christ to all.

Thank you for our Children's Sabbath celebrated Oct. 17. Once again, we heard from the Walfield family Max and Alana Walfield sang with Alan "Be Thou My Vision" Mom Misty played, and Alana Played the piano during the Offering. October 21, Fellowship luncheon was held outside at church.

Flood Buckets were blessed on October 24th. Thank you church for your donations and Frank for putting it all together.

That time again to set your clocks back 1 hour November 7 – or November 6 as you go to bed!!!!!!

November activities begin with Holy Communion and "All Saints Day", Nov. 7. All those who passed on are remembered in our thoughts and hearts. Our members this year, Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon and Larry Buffington will be remembered by a candle lighting, chimes and prayers.

We do wish all a very Happy and healthy Thanksgiving November 25.

We will begin our Christmas Celebrations during Advent starting Sunday, November 28.

And we will have the Poinsettia Tribute. There will be an order form available in your Sunday bulletins.

During worship we will light the Advent Candle each Sunday during December.

Watch your bulletin for additional worship and fellowship services during Christmas.

If you know someone who would like the sermon, bulletins, newsletters mailed to them, please contact Glenda Conley or Gay Walfield. They also would like names for anyone wishing a visit from the Pastor.

Closing from a dear friend Doug Steadman, recently died in Virginia:

He writes: *"What impression will I leave behind, Will I have taught someone to be kind? May those who follow footsteps*

*Trust mine to find the way,
That lights the path to
Jesus Today and every
day. My thoughts each
day are not always pure.
My actions toward others
may hurt, not cure. God's
pathway I seek though
darkness surrounds I
stumble and faint then hear
a sweet sound – Your
voice is as music calling
my name – Be not
discouraged, my child, you
I shall claim.”*

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”
Isaiah 32:18

Thank you for reaching out to help Aldersgate provide homes for adults with developmental disabilities. . . Christian homes for adults with special needs whose families in our churches seek help and support for family members with special needs. Thank you for your support by donating and supporting Aldersgate with your monies and prayers.

In the Aldersgate Newsletter they said they

looked forward to expanding their ministry by opening a drop-in style respite program in Irmo for adults with developmental disabilities. This program will provide caregivers a break.

Again, this year we will take money donations to help provide Christmas gifts for the children and young people at Epworth. Please plan ahead to donate in November.

As always, please keep all of these missions in prayer. Someone said, “It is amazing what kids can do when they believe in themselves and know others believe in them, too.” I think I saw this in the Boys Town publication.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Susie is doing an awesome job of editor of the church monthly newsletter along with the many other responsibility she so willingly takes care of. Gay and Glenda are continuing mailing out bulletins and other correspondence to our homebound and members without emails.

The Witness Team along with the Nurture Team

hosted another bring your own lunch, picnic October 21st at the church. We had a great turn out for such short notice of this event. We 14 members along with Rev Dan who gave the blessing before we started attended. Thank you, Sandy, for cupcakes, sweet tea, water and for Tommy, Frank, David and Rev. Dan for setting up and everyone who help in tearing down. We will have another outside picnic in the spring.

We are still in the holding pattern on future activities with SBS children. However, Angela Pinson the chairperson of this event along with the Witness Team and the donations of candy from the church members are going to pass out candy Sunday October 31st from 5-7 pm on the square. Approximately 1000 children attend this Trunk or Treat event so not knowing the number ahead we will pass out bookmarks, crayons and candy knowing we will run out but next time we will be better prepared.

If anyone is interested in being a Lay Speaker or Lay Servant, please let any Witness Team member

know so we can get you the information you need.

One of my favorite Thanksgiving Hymn, We Gather Together author unknown:

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;

He chastens and hastens His will to make known;

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;

Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not his own

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,

Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;

So, from the beginning the fight we were winning;

Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,

And pray that Thou still our Defender will be;

Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;

Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord make us free!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Witness Team - Jane, Susie, Gay, Glenda, and David.

- Jane Barton

Blessing of the Flood Buckets:

The blessing of the flood buckets was held on Sunday, October 24th.



Church Council:

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9th at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Bring Your Own Lunch Picnic:

A church wide picnic was held on Thursday, October 21st. Fifteen attended. A large time was had by all.



Annual Charge Conference:

Our annual Charge Conference was held on Wednesday, October 20th. It was well attended.



Ushers:

Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield

Acolytes:

Max Walfield
Alana Walfield

Liturgist's Schedule:

Nov. 7th – Ron Walfield
Nov. 14th – Kent Millwood
Nov. 21st – Sandy Sorrow
Nov. 28th – Linda Millwood

United Methodist Women:

Three of the United Methodist Women's national missions are in South Carolina. These are Spartanburg Methodist College, Killingsworth and both the Spartanburg and the Columbia Bethlehem Centers. For the Pledge to Mission Program in October Gloria Eaves presented historical and current information concerning the Bethlehem Center Spartanburg. The idea for this center was begun in 1929 due to many preschool children in the Highland Community being left alone while their parents worked. There was also an increase in juvenile crime. By 1930 the Bethlehem Center

Spartanburg was established with the goals of improving kindergarten, having after school clubs and a playground. During 90 years this has developed many new services including: an after-school K-5 through middle school program, a community-based K-4, sports teams, character education, mentoring, educational enrichment, individual tutoring and assistance, reading time program, and monitoring of grades, attendance, tardiness and character. There is also now a summer program named "Keep Soaring" with a breakfast, lunch and snack service. Its focus is mainly on educational skills and includes book clubs. This is all available to low-income families at no charge. Branching out from the children there are also adult programs primarily for seniors offering social activities and aid with accessing community help. We know we support many missions worldwide but it is more meaningful to gain a deeper understanding of individual programs and realize how much each one does help.

On November 1 the women will meet again and observe the annual World Thank Offering Service at 3:00 at the church. All are invited.

- Regina Bullions

Dan's Schedule:

Dan's will have office hours Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. This may vary from week to week depending on what is going on in the church.

Our Homebound:

Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning
Jerry Manning

Our Prayer Concerns:

Ben Brogden, Marty Brooks' mother and brother, the family of Jean Broome, Hilda Bruce, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Theresa Coward, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Betty Hill, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jackie and Jerry and Jackie

Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Outz Family, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Bobby Poore, Cy Roberts, Melissa Scott, the family of Mike Smith, Norma Timms, Frank Williams, Frank Woods, Marvin Woodson, Carl and Ellen Yates



Treasurer's Report:

As of October 28, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$33867.37, of which \$4,367.88 is escrow. The housing allowance balance is \$1971.95. Deposits continue to be made to this account from the Martha Manry endowment.

A detailed report of both the General account and apportionments will be posted in the Team room around the first of November.

Although, we are closer, have not yet returned to "normal". Our members have continued to support the church not only spiritually and emotionally but also financially without

interruption. A big thank you is due them.

- Tommy Howell

The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at The Mercantile in Belton for lunch at noon on Wednesday, November 10th. Please let Angela know if you plan to attend by Monday, November 8th so she can give the restaurant a head count



Are We Thankful Enough?

Because of our stress, COVID-19, and "stuff",

We may have forgotten to be thankful enough -

Thankful enough for our many blessings each day,

Thankful that God has blessed us in so many ways.

Are we thankful enough for God's mercy and grace?

Are we thankful enough that He died in our place?

Let us pray that in spite of our stress and "stuff",

We will always try to be thankful enough.

- Billie Jo Campbell

The United Methodist Men's Club:

The UMM Men's Club will meet on Sunday, November 21st at 9:30 AM for breakfast and their meeting. The entire congregation is always invited.

Bishop's Corner:

From the Inside Out



By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"The good news of Jesus Christ—the Message! — begins here, following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. 'Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you; He'll make the road smooth for you. Thunder in the desert! Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight!' John the Baptizer appeared in

the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey. As he preached, he said, 'The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out.'—
Mark 1:1-8 (MSG)

It has been said that, “When spoken together at just the right moment, there are two words that have amazing, life-changing power.” These two words possess the capacity to breathe into us new life, to lift burdens, and to calm fears—as well as to inspire hope. The two words to which I refer are simply these: “I understand.”

After the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing are met, one of

humankind's greatest needs is really the need to be understood. What happens when we are in a serious disagreement with family, friends, coworkers, neighbors or the like?

We probably find ourselves rehearsing speeches in our heads while we are working, driving, pumping gas, studying or lying in bed late at night. We play out different scenarios in our minds and think of clever things we plan to say the next time the issue is discussed.

I believe that one of the reasons we do this is because we want people to understand our point of view. It's difficult to accept that people with whom we share a conflict do not understand our position. In fact, we are determined to enlighten them—if it's the last thing we do!

We have the tendency to rant and rave about all the things our critics don't understand? They don't understand the pressure we are under, the decisions we have to make, or the journey our lives have taken. Our critics don't understand when we are lonely, depressed, or possibly grieving. And when

someone tells us to just “snap out of it,” our instincts tell us to mark that person or persons as insensitive and having no understanding of what we are experiencing.

Maybe it's in the midst of a global pandemic, racial unrest and political divisiveness—something none of us have ever experienced before, that has wreaked havoc on our lives, causing us to adapt to new ways of living. I believe that some of the most frustrating times in life come when we desperately need understanding and can't find it.

Marie Curie, the Nobel Prize recipient in the field of science, said it this way: “Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we fear less.” That is why these two words—“I understand”—are so powerful. When we find ourselves in the tough situations of life—and we will—these two words provide a lifeline, a sigh of relief, and a gracious hope.

Likewise, when it comes to our spiritual journey, we often want the perks without the process. We

want the comfort without the challenge. We want relationship without investment. We want redemption without the cross of Calvary, and we want spiritual replenishment without the journey through repentance.

If we want to truly be people who can proclaim to our sisters and brothers, “I understand,” then we must put in the work of learning and growing ourselves—changing from the inside out.

John the Baptist tried to prepare the hearts of the people, delivering to us a message of repentance. Repentance is hard and painful work. No one ever feels that they have wronged anyone or done anything that needs an apology, which makes it easier to stay in the midst of our denial. We all need forgiveness and freedom for joyful obedience. To truly turn from who we were into who we will be requires commitment and intentionality.

In this spirit, I want to share with you two opportunities to learn and to grow. On Saturday, Oct. 30, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, of the Episcopal

Church, will be the keynote speaker at the Fall Dialogue for the Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops. At this ecumenical event, Bishop Curry will speak through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey about putting faith in action and practicing the belief that love is the way. You can register on the conference webpage to attend this event.

I also invite you to engage in small group discussion using the resource, “Our Response to Racism,” found on the conference webpage at www.umcsc.org/endracism

With this resource as your guide, the walls that divide will fall, and bridges of reconciliation will be built between all of God’s people. The walls crumble when we begin to see and hear beyond our own experience—when we make a concerted effort to learn and understand each other’s stories.

The time is always right for us to have honest conversation and to take the next faithful steps together. May our willingness to learn, share, listen and grow reflect the light of God’s love into a

hurting world, rendering a true reflection of the Gospel, and building up the kingdom of God.

Here are two opportunities to live into our baptisms, actively seeking ways for our lives to change from the inside out as we turn toward Christ and our neighbors, boldly proclaiming, “I understand.”

Children's Sabbath and Laity Sunday

