



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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Pastor's Corner:



Scripture: Jeremiah 29:
11 "For I know the plans
I have for you,' declares

the Lord,' plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

January 1, 2022 is a brand-new day and the beginning of a brand-new year. Before we begin the new year, we need to reflect on the past year. We need to reflect on and praise God for His blessings on us as individuals and on us as a church. We also need to reflect on our successes and failures. We also need to reflect on the new year before us, make plans and set goals.

We need to reflect on the past year. We need to count our blessings! God has blessed us in so many ways and we need to thank Him for that! A good exercise would be to think of all the ways He has blessed you individually and as a family. A good way to do that would be for the whole family to sit down

and talk about how good God has been to you. As a family, name some specific things that God has done for you and then pray together and thank Him for what He has done.

As a church we need to reflect on the past year. How has God blessed the church this past year? He has brought us out of the restrictions of COVID 19! We are now able to freely worship the Lord as a church in singing, doing responsive readings together and having meals and fellowship together again! Praise the Lord! People are already talking about our fifth Sunday meal in January. God has brought Dorene and me and the church together as Pastor and congregation. He has enabled us to pay one hundred percent of our apportionments this year! Oh, how good God has been to us. These are blessings and successes that God has

given us this year. As individuals, we need to reflect on our personal lives. Have I grown spiritually this year? Have I grown in grace? If so, thank the Lord. If not, why not? What do I need to do to correct this? Are you willing to make plans and set goals to achieve growth next year? Plans without goals are only wishes.

As a church, we need to reflect on where we are. As your pastor, it is my responsibility to lead us from where we are to where God wants us to be at the end of next year. We have achieved some goals this year as I have already mentioned in a previous paragraph. We have just started a Young Adult Sunday School class. I am believing God for great things to come from this class. I am believing God to help us to achieve great things for Him in 2022 as a church!

Pastor Dan

From the Nurture Team:

“Go Tell it on the Mountains, over the hills and everywhere; Go Tell it on the mountains that Jesus Christ is

Born.” 2022 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Many thanks to all who served during our Christmas season, who faithfully attended, and provided the Poinsettias. Thank you to the shut-ins for your prayers and continued interest in all the activities of the church.

Due to increase in the Covid-19 and other variants there may be a change in our safety protocols and we will notify you by phone if this affects our district and church.

As we anticipate the year ahead, the projects and goals for our church family, let us remember the Nurture team is a part of a larger Latimer Memorial community of sharing and caring. Even as we take down the Christmas decoration on January 10, “God is still with us.”

Our calendar for January begins. Watch for other dates in the bulletins.

January 6 - Epiphany

January 9 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 11 – Church Council

The ministry of Church Nurture includes – Christian Education (Sunday School, Banners, Paraments), headed by Regina

-Worship (Choir, special services, Sacraments, flowers, Ushers and Acolytes, sound)

-Christian Formation - Shared with Witness and Outreach: Children and family ministries, short term groups, church fellowship, and special events.

We are in need of a volunteer Communion Steward. Please discuss your interest to serve with Pastor Dan.

Team members: Rev. Dan Fortney, Sandy Sorrow, Misty Walfield, Regina Bullions, Frank Sorrow

Please keep Latimer Memorial in your prayers and the many activities to witness to others through-out the year.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

A Special thank you to all who donated money so that the children and youth that make their home at Epworth had a good Christmas. Just imagine their faces on Christmas morning when they received gifts you helped provide. There is nothing like being God’s hands and feet so that others experience God’s love. Thank you.

When I talked to Sandra at Patrick B. Harris Hospital, she said they needed large print Bibles. I ordered thirty from Church Source for \$137.71 and took them to the hospital. They were so thankful to us for helping meet this important need. With our help the chaplain can give the patients a Bible of their own to keep.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Jeremiah 29:11. It makes me ask myself what my hope is for 2022. It also encourages me to think about where I should invest my efforts and resources.

I wish for all of you and your families a blessed New Year.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Updates to the church directory are on the library table for members to pick up and add to their church directory. Gay and Glenda continue their ministry by keeping in touch with our homebound and members by keeping in touch and mailing out church newsletter and other correspondence to them.

Angela and Jane hosted the first Christmas meal since COVID. This took place December 19th right after church. This event was a success, good food, good fellowship and a surprise

anniversary cake for Ron and Gay Walfield celebrating their 50th which was provided by Allen and his family.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who provided side dishes and especially the clean-up crew.

Our upcoming lunch for January 30th will be chili. Kent Millwood will be heading this meal. This will be a fund raiser for Cancer Association of Anderson. Look out for sign-up sheets on the Library Table or contact Kent for more information.

News from Asbury Hills:

Ashbury Hills has been serving all people for Christian birth, growth and renewal by offering summer camps and retreats groups experience for all ages since 1961.

Upcoming events coming up are Hands and Feet Service Weekend, February 25-27, 2022.

Open House April 3, 2022 1-5 pm

Let's do a road trip
please let me know if
interested.

Anyone interested in
becoming a Lay leader
or servant please let me
know and I will get
information to you.

Go Tell It On The
Mountain is an African-
American spiritual song
compiled by John
Wesley Work Jr dating
back to at least 1865

Refrain

Go, tell it on the
mountain

Over the hills and
everywhere

Go, tell it on the
mountain that Jesus
Christ is born

While shepherds kept
their watching

O'er Silent flocks by
night

Behold throughout the
heavens

There shone a Holy
Light

Refrain

The shepherds feared
and trembled

When lo! Above the
Earth

Rang out the angel
chorus

That hailed our Savior's
birth

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger

Our humble Christ was
born

And brought us all
salvation

That blessed Christmas
morn

Refrain

Happy New Year from
the Witness Team

Jane, Susie, Gay,
Glenda and David

Liturgist's Schedule:

Jan. 2nd – Ron Walfield
Jan. 9th – Kent Millwood
Jan. 16th – Sandy Sorrow
Jan. 23rd – Linda Millwood
Jan. 30th – Songfest



December Christmas Fellowship Meal:

Jane and Angela hosted
a fantastic Christmas
Fellowship Meal on
Sunday, December 19th.
We also celebrated Ron
and Gay's 50th wedding
anniversary.

United Methodist Women:

The United Methodist
Women met December
6, 2021 in the
Fellowship Hall at 3:00
pm. Pat Wilson
presented a very timely
program on the timeline

of the birth of Christ. All members present participated by reading selected scripture passages. A Love Offering was collected for the children at Belton Elementary School whose families cannot afford to provide their children with Christmas presents.

The Guidance Counselors at the school will do the shopping for the children. Latimer collected \$235.00 of which \$200.00 will go to support the Belton Elementary Christmas Project. The excess will be placed in the UMW Children's Fund to help children in the Belton Community.

The January meeting will be held on the second Monday of January which will be January 10, 2022. At this point it has not been confirmed but hopefully our speaker will be Teresa Phillips from Anderson School District #2 to speak about the homeless children in Anderson School District #2 schools and what

Latimer UMW might do to help.

All are welcome to join us as we as United Methodist Women strive to live up to our purpose of helping the women and children of our community. Except for January we normally meet the first Monday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 pm.

- Gloria Eaves



The Gray House:

The Latimer Lovelies had their Christmas lunch at the Gray House in Starr. There were 8 of us attending. Sandy and Gloria were there too but not in the picture.

Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at the China Super Buffet at noon on Wednesday, January 12th.

United Methodist Men's Club:

The UMMC will meet on Sunday, January 16th at 9:30 AM for their breakfast and lesson.

Ushers:

Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield

Acolyte:

Max Walfield
Alana Walfield



"A Brand-New Year"

*We stand at the
threshold of a brand-new
year;*

*The old year has gone,
and the new one is here.*

*Are we filled with wonder
at what lies ahead?*

*Or could we just maybe
have a small sense of
dread?*

*A new year is like the
rising of the sun,*

*Or like a newborn whose
life has just begun.*

*Let's be filled with
wonder and not with that
of fear,*

As we step across the threshold into "a brand-new year".

By: Billie Jo Campbell

Our Home Bound:

Frank Clark
Bessie Clark
Jackie Manning
Jerry Manning



Our Prayer Concerns:

Ben Brogden, 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

Church Council Meeting:

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 11th at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary.

Treasurer's Report:

As of December 21, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$28,226.11, of which \$5,222.88 is escrow. In December the Church Council voted to make a \$9,032.00 payment to Apportionments. This fulfills 100% of the \$13,548.00 requested from Latimer in 2021. This payment was made possible by the balance in the General Fund plus some significant donations designated for Apportionments.

The housing allowance balance is \$1971.99. 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 January. We 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 thanks to our members

- Tommy Howell

Choir Practice:

Choir practice is every Sunday at 5:00 PM.

Bishop's Corner:

The Days Are Surely Coming

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"
Jeremiah 33:14-17

The word “Advent” means “coming” or the arrival of something important.

As a people of faith, we join the voices of Ancient Israel in the clarion cry for God to save us, to restore justice and to build right relationships. We join their voices in a call for the fulfillment of God’s promises.

It is in times like these that we cry out to God to come in power and to do the spectacular. And, at the same time, we learn a new patience with God and ourselves. If there is one word that captures fully the meaning of the season of Advent, it is the word “wait.”

We’ve learned anew what it means to wait lately. With supply chain issues, we have to wait on products to be in stock, or we have to wait longer on packages to arrive. We have had to wait on test results and wait in anticipation to see if our plans will come to fruition or have to be postponed.

What is most important is not that we wait, but

how we wait. Do we wait with a sense of excitement?

Anticipation? Hope? Or, do we wait in the doldrums of frustration, fear and anxiety? As we move through this season of Advent, we must learn a new patience with God and ourselves. To be fully present in our waiting is to have hope in God’s promise. For me, hope sustains and restores life.

In my first appointment, Grant Sherfield was a member. Mr. Sherfield had a unique talent for restoring neglected and damaged furniture. His shop was filled with an array of tools. It was amazing what he could do with broken tables, chairs, discarded desks and the like. To see him was to think he was too feeble for all the hours he spent caning chairs and restoring furniture. After finishing a task, he would receive compliments graciously by saying, “Saving these things is a joy for me. I just try to restore the beauty that should be there.”

Friends, restoring the beauty of our lives is the work of hope. With the hope born in Christ, our lives can be restored to their intended beauty. Mr. Sherfield’s face would glisten after a task of restoration.

I believe that God’s face shines even brighter with hope when we practice our faith and fully trust that God’s promises will be fulfilled in our lives. Think of the beauty that has been restored during the last 20 months—the innovative ways our churches have created meaningful new worship experiences online, on the phone and in parking lots; the creative methods that have been developed to meet the needs of the community from drive-through soup kitchens to blessing boxes to so many new community partnerships.

As we have pivoted and reset, we are constantly seeking ways to put our faith into action for the sake of restoring the beauty of God’s kingdom here on earth... just as it was on that sacred night in the little town of Bethlehem.