



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 Ponderings:



With the coronavirus, we are facing an

unprecedented time in our lives. We do not know how bad the virus will spread. We do not know when we might have a vaccine. A large part of our congregation is elderly and some have underlying health problems. These are the most susceptible to the virus and to possible death from it. Because of these concerns, we have had to cancel Sunday school and worship services for at least two weeks.

There are other changes in our lives. Schools are closed. Restaurants, except for takeout, are closed. Events such as the NCAA March Madness, have been canceled. We are basically being told to stay home and not have contact with anyone outside our home. It is a new reality.

There is great anxiety over what will happen. There is anxiety over the changes we have to make. There is still

anxiety over whether we might catch this virus. During this time we need to put our trust in God. This does not mean we are irresponsible and ignore health risks. We still need to exercise good sense and reason while we are going through this pandemic. In his quadrilateral on how to deal with matters, John Wesley stressed that we use reason and experience. Our experience tells us that we need to listen to health experts and heed their warnings.

Psalm 23 is a scripture passage which many of us learned as children. I think we need to remember it during these times. Looking at the Common English Bible translation, We read that God is our shepherd. He guides our path. Even when we walk through the darkest valleys, we feel no danger because God is with us. He keeps us alive. Let us remember these words

as we allow God to comfort us at this time.

In Christ

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

Emanuel, God is With Us. As I look at the world today, it is a different place. This may be called "trying times." Isaiah 41:10 tells "Fear not, for I am with thee; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." I keep my mind on these words of faith and rejoice that His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me. We are called God's people for a reason. We want to help and serve one another in community. Please keep in touch with your church family. Let others know where or how to help. I am praying for you. Please keep me in your prayers.

The Holy Easter Celebration continues this week with Palm Sunday April 5.

As of now our worship services are planned but subject to change.

Please know we will keep you informed of any changes. Maundy Thursday Service with readings, reflections of the cross, and candle-light April 9, and a celebration on Easter Sunday of a new life with our living Lord.

Food and Fellowship Meal April 26, hosted by Kent and Linda Millwood as the annual Italian meal, to raise funds for Cancer Association of Anderson.

Blessings – Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

Involvement in the Kairos Prison Ministries is something we as a congregation at Latimer have participated in for several years. In April we will support the ministry at Leath Correctional Institution in Greenwood that will be held APRIL 23-26. PLEASE HAVE YOUR COOKIES, ETC. AT LATIMER BY 10 AM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21st.

Even if you do not sign the PRAYER VIGIL SHEET, please pray for this ministry, the inmates (approximately 800) and the team.

Please write notes of encouragement to the 42 inmates that will be involved in the weekend. Notes should be written to "Dear Friend" and placed in a blank envelope. Sign your notes with something like "Your Friend in Christ".

Cookies. Why send cookies? The cookies attract the residents to want to come to the Kairos program. The types of cookies that are generally acceptable are: Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, and Chocolate Chip. DO NOT use icing, sugar, or any other type of coating on the cookies. DO NOT add any kind of fruit or nuts to the cookies.

Other ways to help is to decorate posters and decorate placemats. (See the poster in the Library for more instructions).

"I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:36

PS: If there should be change in the dates and times, we will let you know.

We appreciate Linda and Kent hosting the Chili Cook-Off. The monies (\$640.00) was donated to Cancer Association of Anderson. They use the donations to help cancer patients of Anderson County.

Please let us join together in prayer for all to stay healthy.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The hats have arrived and are being passed out after church. The cost ended up being \$16.00 @. We forgot to add SC sales tax. We can wear them instead of hair nets when we help with Brinner.

Susie has been working overtime on the cookbook and is getting very close to print. She is getting the best prices for finishing this project. We have proof read the book twice and after corrections proof read the book again. Sign-up sheets for purchasing

the cookbook are on the library table. The cost of the cookbooks is \$7 each. We always have to estimate the cost of hats, shirts, and cookbooks because the cost always depends on the number ordered. The more we order the less we have to charge to break even.

We are still greeting before church with a few alterations. We are greeting people with hand sanitizer instead of handshakes and hugs. We are putting on disposal gloves and handing out bulletins or you can pick up your own at the table before you enter the Sanctuary. The refreshment table has been suspended for the time being.

The Witness Team along with Rev. Wally have decided to hold the Blessing of The Animals Service in the fall.

The NOW Teams met before the council meeting to discuss SBS the date is May 30th 10:00-2:00. The theme is Wilderness Escape where God guides and provides. Depending on how long we are in this present situation with the

virus this may be rescheduled also.

It is with heart felt emotions that David and I have made the decision to return to NH to be with our family during this time. Sometimes you have to listen to your children as they do have valid points and suggestions.

See you in September.

- Jane Barton

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Apr. 5th - Ron Walfield
Apr. 12th - Kent Millwood
Apr. 19th - Linda Millwood
Apr. 26th - Sandy Sorrow

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th at 5:00 PM.

Offering Counters:

Apr. 5th - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Apr. 12th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Apr. 19th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Apr. 26th - Ron Walfield
Roy Mac
Haggard

Treasurer's Report:

For the period from February 17 to March 16, 2020, offerings to Latimer totaled \$11,780.00. During that same time period, expenses totaled \$11,948.00. Expenditures included personnel salaries and benefits including direct billing in the amount of \$10,113.00; utilities - \$720.00; operating expenses including materials, supplies, and fees - \$134.00; and apportionments in the amount of \$981.00. All amounts have been rounded to the closest dollar amount. For a more detailed itemization, the most recent accounting is posted in the counting room.

- Linda Millwood



Musical Notes:

As most of you already know, I am teaching part-time in Abbeville County. I am working with first, second, and

third graders as a reading interventionist at Cherokee Trail Elementary. This has caused me to change our weekly choir practice to Sunday afternoons at 4:45 pm. However, for the next few weeks, we will not be having choir practice due to the pandemic. I will let all choir members know when we will resume.

As I was thinking about these uncertain times that we are experiencing right now, numerous songs came to mind. As I close, I would love to share the words to one of those with you.

In Times Like These

By: Ruth Caye Jones

In times like these I have a Savior, In times like these I have an anchor; I'm very sure, I'm very sure My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock! This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One; This Rock is Jesus, the only One! I'm very sure, I'm very sure My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

We have this hope-like a sure and firm anchor of the soul.

Hebrews 6:19



Choir Practice:

Choir practice will be every Sunday at 4:45 PM.

Ushers:

Apr. - Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield
May - Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield

Our Homebound Members:

Phillip Brannon
Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning

Our Prayer Concerns:

Sara Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Theresa Coward, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, Dick and Nancy Finney, Jim Grubs, Eugene Hembree, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Jackie and Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell,

Mike Mock, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Lucretia and Joda Snipes, Norma Timms, Pat Wilson, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Doolittle's on Wednesday, April 8th at Noon.

Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:

The Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club will meet at 9:00 AM on Sunday, April 19th at 9:00 AM.

Prayer Breakfast:

The Prayer Breakfast is held on Tuesdays at 8:00 AM.

United Methodist Women:

United Methodist Women has eight Regional Missionaries around the globe who are funded by A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. Along with National Mission Institutions and International Partners these eight women are

involved in educational and economic development opportunities to underserved and marginalized women, children and youth. Traditionally A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is observed during the Lenten season as it was at Latimer on March 3. Through the program that day Latimer's women learned about those 8 Regional Missionaries. Four of them serve in various countries of Africa, others are in Asia and the Pacific, Japan, Caribbean and Latin America (all of the countries south of the United States). The scripture that introduced the program was 2 Corinthians 8:13-15. Thank you to everyone who donated items for Helping Hands of Clemson. Gloria Eaves will take these to the Anderson District UMW A Day Apart meeting on April 4 where they will be added to all the donations from the Anderson District UMW.

Aside from the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering there was no other special emphasis mission offering in March. In April the

special emphasis will be Columbia Bethlehem Community Center.

The Elizabeth Smith/Sue Coward Circles will meet again on Monday, April 6 at 3:00 at the church.

- Regina Bullions

Nursery Workers:

Apr. 5th - Gloria
Judith

Apr. 12th - Andy
Susie

Apr. 19th - Regina
Nancy

Apr. 26th - Gloria
Judith

Richard Campbell Nursing Home:

"Brinner" at Richard Campbell Nursing Home will be Wednesday, April 15th.

The Fellowship Meal:

The Family Food and Fellowship Meal will be Sunday, April 26th. It will be our annual spaghetti lunch hosted by Kent and Linda Millwood to benefit the Anderson Cancer Center.

Bishop's Corner:

An Encouraging Word:

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"Oh, I must find rest in God only, because my hope comes from him! Only God is my rock and my salvation—my stronghold!—I will not be shaken. My deliverance and my glory depend on God. God is my strong rock. My refuge is in God. All you people: Trust in him at all times! Pour out your hearts before him! God is our refuge!"—Psalm 62:5-8 (CEB)

Anticipation abounds in uncertain times. We want to know what to expect, what the prognosis will be—and we want to know now. In the face of the unknown, we can find ourselves overcome with fear and helplessness.

But what if the waiting provides an opportunity for us to learn and grow? What if we choose to live like we truly believe God is certain of our future even when we are not?

Theologian Oswald Chambers names the

tension between certainty and uncertainty succinctly, writing, "To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness, but it should be an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task He has placed closest to us, He begins to fill our lives with surprises."

To remain focused on following God's plan for our lives rather than simply our own plans requires discipline, dedication and a commitment to prayer. This shift in focus requires a deep well of faith. God promises to direct our steps, not to provide us a detailed map in advance. And so we move forward in faith, finding strength and refuge in God's grace, hope, mercy and love.

In May, delegates and church leaders from around the world will convene in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the 2020

General Conference. Much has gone into the preparations for this global gathering, and significant work is before this body when they meet May 5-15.

As we journey through Lent toward the cross and the promise of resurrection, let us remember those who serve in leadership throughout The United Methodist Church.

I invite you to join me in a season of focused prayer between now and General Conference.

When we join together in prayer each day, we remember who we are and whose we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each day we have the opportunity to be for someone the Gospel that they may never otherwise hear. As United Methodist sisters and brothers, we will continue our kingdom work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, sustained by hope and our faith in God's promises. We cannot avoid uncertainty, but we can respond with faith rather than fear.

Together each day, let us join one another in prayer, trusting that God hears every word:

- Sunday: Eternal God, we give thanks for the sacrifice you made for us. Help us rise up to the challenge of living as your disciples. Focus our minds on divine things rather than human things. We willingly pick up our cross, ready to follow you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
- Monday: Loving God, open our eyes that we may see you. Open our hearts, abide with us. Use our lives to share your good news with a world in desperate need of you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
- Tuesday: God of glory, your love and grace are sufficient. Use our times of suffering to build endurance, character and hope. For what more could we ask? Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Wednesday: Almighty God, we know that nothing can separate us from your love. Focus our hearts on

your will and your purpose so that our lives can be a testimony to the love and grace that you freely give. Through your Son, Amen.

- Thursday: Living God, turn our focus toward heaven. Show us how to walk in your way—by faith, not by sight. Increase our confidence as we strive to serve you faithfully. Amen.
- Friday: God of hope, you shine light out of the darkness. All power and glory belong to you. We are yours. Use us so the life of Jesus will be made visible through our words and actions. Amen.
- Saturday: Covenantal God, we hang on to your promise of hope, and it carries us toward the future without fear. Guide us so that we might endure patiently to overcome adversity while pursuing truth. Use us to make a difference in this world. Amen.

Friends, prayer is powerful. When our hearts and minds are engaged in a prayerful focus, we begin to see

situations from the perspective of hope. There is not magic that erases our uncertainty, but in the midst of it all, a life of prayer shifts our perspective from a spirit of despair toward a spirit of hope. We truly trust in God's promises.

May our focus turn away from anxiety in the face of uncertainty and turn toward trusting God—our rock, our hope and our refuge.

My prayer for you is that this season of focused prayer will instill in your hearts a spirit of hope.

