



# 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 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.

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## A Special Message from Rev. Wally:

"We are providing meeting dates for May. However, at the time of this newsletter, because of the coronavirus, it is unclear when or if we will start meeting in May. A decision based on health considerations and safety

will be made in late April and you will be informed. When we do resume meeting, we will observe a number of safety protocols to protect us. Thank you for your continued prayers as we determine what to do."

## Pastor's Ponderings:



## "A Season For Everything"

Since the middle of March our lives have been disrupted by a sneaky unseen virus called the coronavirus. To protect our health, we have been asked to do things we have never had to do before. We basically have to stay home all the time; we have to wash our hands a lot; we need to stay six feet from other people; and we have to ration toilet paper. We cannot go do anything

outside the home; our churches are closed. We cannot go out to eat. We worry about those in the medical field who have to work around those with this deadly virus. We worry about those who have lost their jobs. We worry about those who might get sick with the virus.

We thought we had it under control. The American economy was doing well. We looked forward to NCAA March Madness and the Masters' Golf tournament. If something happened, we figured we could beat it.

But things changed. This virus is not so easy to beat. Our economy now faces the worst unemployment since the Great Depression. It is unclear when things will get better. Besides being anxious, many of us are becoming impatient about when things will get back to normal.

In Ecclesiastes 3 we are reminded that God sets the

timetable for things to happen. There is a time for giving birth and a time for dying. There is a time for planting and a time for uprooting that which was planted. There is a time for laughing and a time for crying.

During this time let us remember that we need to put our trust and faith in God. We cannot do it ourselves. Although this situation has been difficult and will be with us a while, one good thing that has come out of this is more discussion in the mainstream media and on television about the value that faith in God brings us. I see God using this situation to give more people a chance to spread the good message of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to remember to do that even in this time of great anxiety and change.

- Rev. Wally Culp

### From the Nurture Team:

“O Great Light of the world, fill up my soul. I’m half a man here.

So come make me whole. O great Light of the World, Come to impart - the light of your grace to fill up my heart.

The wind of this world can push us around, folding us up,  
backing us down.  
Here in the dark I’m not alone, come with your strength  
and abide in my home.  
O great light of the world, fill up my soul, I’m half a man here, so come make me whole, Oh great light of the world, come to impart, the light of your grace, and fill up my heart.  
Amen.”

Praise charts by Bebo Norman

The month of May for the church activities will be different – just like April, we wait for a signal “All’s well, come on out.” As I write this column, we do not have the “All clear” signal yet. So, continue to practice Social Distancing, Wash your hands a lot, keep praying for family and friends and the world. We are in this together.

The church calendar of events is subject to change, but we have planned our Fellowship Meal for May 31.

Here are some **Simple ideas** you may want to apply to improve your morning routine. You

probably already do many of them.

They are suggestions from Cross Cards Encouragement for today.

1. Start planning the night before.
2. Take care of tedious tasks the night before.
3. Do the most important things first.
4. Go to bed on time.
5. Get up before your family.
6. Do Resist temptation to use your phone when you first wake up.
7. Use a prayer calendar.
8. Read a Psalm and Proverb.
9. Read one chapter in the Bible a day.
10. Journal for 15 minutes.
11. Write a short schedule for the day and pray over each item.
12. Exercise.
13. Read a book.
14. Meditate or sit and think.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY May 10. EACH LADY IS SO VERY SPECIAL. GOD LOVES YOU VERY MUCH.

May Jesus come through our locked

doors of our hearts.  
May he come through  
our walls of fear and  
loneliness. May he  
stand in front of our  
uncertainty and give  
us Peace.

- Anon.

- Sandy Sorrow

### **From the Outreach Team:**

“Patience is not the ability  
to wait, but the ability to  
keep a good attitude while  
waiting.” Anonymous

We have been able to keep  
our church family  
connected through the  
Prayer Chain. Sometimes  
concerns and sometimes  
joys have been shared.  
In addition, the Outreach  
Team has made calls just  
to “check-in” with church  
family and sent notes and  
cards of encouragement.

We are grateful to Andy  
Bullions for taking the food  
from the BIMA Box to  
BIMA.

Our prayers are for our  
neighbors in Seneca, those  
without food, those without  
paychecks, those still  
working to keep us safe  
and meet our needs,  
medical workers, and all of  
God’s people.

We look forward to the day  
we can once again come  
together to worship  
together with joyful hearts.

Isaiah 41: 10, 13

- Pat Wilson

### **From the Witness Team:**

The Witness Team still  
seems to keep busy even  
though we are quarantined.  
It is very important that we  
all stay in touch with each  
other to make sure  
everyone is doing well and  
staying safe.

As always, Pat is staying  
on top of the phone prayer  
chain.

Wally continues to write his  
sermons, devotions, and  
other messages. Kent has  
been posting his messages  
on YouTube. If you don’t  
know how to get his  
YouTube videos, here is  
what you do. You go to  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Then  
you put Latimer Memorial  
United Methodist Church in  
the search box. Then you  
will see all of Wally’s  
sermons and other  
messages. You can also  
watch the videos on our  
church website  
[www.latimerumc.org](http://www.latimerumc.org). Susie  
is emailing these  
messages out to everyone

that has an email address  
and Glenda is snail mailing  
everything to those who  
don’t do email.

Ron is keeping up with our  
finances and Linda is  
paying our bills.

Susie has finished printing  
and putting together our  
new church cookbook. It’s  
at the church waiting for  
our return when it’s safe.

It seems that everyone is  
working together to see  
that the workings of our  
church continue even  
though we can’t be there in  
person.

Let’s hope and pray that  
this pandemic will be over  
soon and our lives will be  
back to normal.

- Susie Howell

### **A Message from David and Jane:**

A big thank you goes out to  
Susie for printing and  
putting together the  
cookbooks. David and I  
are well but miss our home  
and everyone.

### **The Liturgist’s Schedule:**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ron Walfield  
May 10<sup>th</sup> - Kent Millwood  
May 17<sup>th</sup> - Linda Millwood

May 24<sup>th</sup> - Sandy Sorrow  
May 31<sup>st</sup> - Songfest

### **Saturday Bible School:**

Our Saturday Bible School that was planned for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> is being postponed until the fall.

### **Church Council:**

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

### **Offering Counters:**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ron Walfield  
                  John Pinson  
May 10<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
                  Kent Millwood  
May 17<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
                  Jim DuBose  
May 24<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
                  Roy Mac  
                  Haggard  
May 31<sup>st</sup> - Ron Walfield  
                  Frank Sorrow

### **Choir Practice:**

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

### **Ushers:**

May - Frank Sorrow  
          Max Walfield  
June - Frank Sorrow  
          Max Walfield

### **Grief Support Group:**

The Grief Support Group will meet at Noon on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker will be Theresa Phillips. Lunch will be served.

### **The Fellowship Meal:**

Our Family Food and Fellowship Meal will be Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be our annual spaghetti lunch hosted by Kent and Linda to benefit the Anderson Cancer Center.

### **Our Homebound:**

Phillip Brannon  
Bessie Clark  
Frank Clark  
Jackie Manning

### **The Latimer Lovelies:**

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Eggs Up on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at noon.

### **Our Prayer Concerns:**

Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, 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, Lucretia and Joda Snipes, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

### **Prayer Breakfast:**

The Prayer Breakfast will be every Tuesday at 8:00 AM.

### **Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:**

The UMC Men's Club breakfast and meeting will be Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

### **United Methodist Women:**

The District Day Apart scheduled for April 4 was cancelled and is not being rescheduled. Therefore, if you have donated anything to have been taken to that event please remove it from the donation box and do with it as you please. The Latimer women will meet again whenever. . . ?

- Regina Bullions

## **Treasurer's Report:**

A big "Thank You!" to all of you for your continuing financial support to Latimer during this time of changed reality. Your faithfulness has allowed us to meet our bills for this past month, and your continuing generosity will hopefully carry us through until we are again able to meet together as a congregation and family.

During the month in which we have been absent, you have contributed a total of \$6,644.00 to be used toward the payment of budget items. Payments during that same period of time have totaled \$7,245.20, which have been distributed as follows: Pastor and staff salaries and benefits, including FICA - \$3,720.30; Direct Billing which includes health and pension benefits for the pastor, both withheld and Latimer's part - \$2,916.70; Office Expenses - \$54.42; and Utilities - \$553.78. Donations were also made for UMCOR, and the proceeds from the sale of hats have returned to the NOW teams account. Insurance and janitorial costs continue to be paid from the house

rental account. The formal monthly report will be available in the counting room on the first weekend in May.

- Linda Millwood

## **Anderson District Covenant Group:**

The Anderson District Covenant Group will meet on Thursday, May 21st from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

## **Finance Committee:**

At the end of March, we had a very good response to the request to mail in tithes and offerings. This was significantly important for the April expenses. Unfortunately, conditions have not changed and the mailing in of gifts and offerings needs to continue. As you know, routine expenses continue,

and without income, bills cannot be paid. Please consider giving to Latimer again by mail.

Checks should be mailed to Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church, PO Box 357, Belton, SC 29627. Your tithes and offerings will be counted and deposited every other week or so.

Continue to pray for each other, our community, and nation. Stay safe, be smart, and we look forward to assembling again as a congregation when it is safe.

- Ron Walfield

## **Nursery Workers**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Andy Bullions  
Susie Howell  
May 10<sup>th</sup> - Regina Bullions  
?Volunteer?  
May 17<sup>th</sup> - Gloria Eaves  
Judith DuBose  
May 24<sup>th</sup> - Andy Bullions  
Susie Howell  
May 31<sup>st</sup> - Regina Bullions  
?Volunteer?

## **Richard Campbell Nursing Home:**

"Brinner" at Richard Campbell Nursing Home Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Bishop's Corner:**

### **Can I Get A Witness?**

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven

and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.' So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'"—Matthew 28:1-10

My friends, as people of faith, we are called to live into our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world every day. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted many of our

routines, and we all have spent time learning together about new and different ways to share in ministry and live in community for the sake of Christ.

No matter the circumstances, it is important for us to stay focused on who we are and whose we are as followers of Jesus Christ.

As United Methodists, we know that we are connected to our brothers and sisters through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ regardless of our physical proximity. We regularly partner in ministry with neighbors whom we may never physically meet around the world.

My prayer for each of you is that you will find comfort in God's presence in your life and reflect God's love and grace back out into the world through your thoughts, words and actions. Let us be in prayer together for all who are affected by this pandemic, for the medical professionals treating and caring for patients, and for those working diligently to ensure a healthier future for all of us.

Why do I pray? I pray so that I might come to know God more intimately. God has created us to be in fellowship and community with Him. I long to know God. I want to be able to discern God's voice, to hear God speak to me clearly even in the midst of so much other noise of this world. And so, I spend time listening and sharing with the One who called us into being.

I pray.

What am I praying for? I am praying that God's will might be made known to me. That God's will is going to be done in the midst of all that we see and all that we do. And I am praying for the strength to persevere in doing God's will and God's work in mission and ministry. That's what Jesus did.

Living a life of prayer leads to living a life at peace. At peace with yourself. At peace with the world. Moving out of the storm.

Lent is a time when we can step aside and reinforce a time of daily prayer. As we remember the crucifixion and celebrate the resurrection of the one who has given us everything we need, we can make it a

priority to live a life of prayer, actively seeking God's will for our lives.

Jesus, who paraded into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, knowing already what lay between that moment of celebration and the time of resurrection, gives us the gift of hope. When we bring to Christ our fears, the hope of the resurrection is that this world is not just where Jesus died—this world is where Jesus lives.

May we live out this hope found in the resurrection by continuing to participate in the life of our churches in helpful ways. Here are some suggestions:

- Volunteer to help your pastor stay in touch with homebound church members and others who might feel even more isolated during this time of "social distancing."
- Ask your pastor what you can do from home to support the church's ministry.
- Continue sending your financial contributions through online giving, by mailing a check to your church or by contacting your pastor for other options. Your giving makes possible the

continued ministry and witness of your church in your community and beyond.

- Follow the guidance of state and federal health officials (South Carolina DHEC and CDC).

Each day there is an opportunity to be for someone the Gospel that they may never otherwise hear. As sisters and brothers in Christ, let's continue our kingdom work in making disciples for Christ and transforming our world together. Sustained by hope and our faith in God's promises, we can all give of our time, talent, gifts, service and witness in helpful ways. We cannot avoid uncertainty, but let's respond with faith rather than fear.







