



# 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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## Pastor's Ponderings:

### “Joy In the Midst of Anguish”

We have been through much anguish in the last several months. Dealing with COVID-19 has created anxiety and fear among people. In the United States, more people have died from the virus than were killed in the Vietnam War and the wars that the United States has fought since then. Medical care professionals are subjected to danger. Millions have lost their jobs due to the shutting down of restaurants and other businesses. Businesses face failure. Schools have had to go to home learning. Churches have had to suspend worship services and other activities in their buildings. There are people who were content at the beginning of 2020 who now wonder if they have enough food or if they can pay the rent. Even those who are healthy and have not lost jobs have had a major disruption in their lives.

In our spiritual lives, some may be asking, “Where is God in all of this?” This is a legitimate question. I was reading one of my devotions from the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer which addresses this issue. Bonhoeffer lived in Nazi Germany and opposed the Hitler regime. He was part of a group of theologians who started the Finkenwalde seminary, which was established as an alternative to the theological education offered by the German state church. The church in Germany had failed to stand up to Hitler.

Those in the seminary had suffered much. They had lost their freedoms. They had to live in fear of the Hitler regime. Bonhoeffer's Advent 1942 letter acknowledged those who had died---many in the war---since his last letter. The remaining seminary students may

have been asking,  
“Where is God?”  
Bonhoeffer wrote:

*The joy of God has gone through the poverty of the manger and the agony of the cross, that is why it is invincible, irrefutable. It does not deny the anguish, when it is there, but finds God in the midst of it, in fact precisely there; it does not deny grave sin but finds forgiveness precisely in this way; it looks death straight in the face, but it finds life precisely within it.*

We must recognize that God is here, right in the middle of our anguish, our fear, our worrying. God, through Christ, has been through anguish and met it head on through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Now, we can find life within death. God is with us. Our joy in the midst of anguish has to come from God.

In Christ,

- Pastor Wally Culp

### **From the Nurture Team:**

It's so good to see your faces again. Even behind masks, windows and scarves I still see your eyes. I'm glad and thank God for the opportunity to worship Him together with you on Sunday mornings once again. Even Outside. Are you getting use to our new vocabulary? I made a list of words and phrases. See how many you use too. "Social distancing." "Social Tracking." "Zoom Meetings." "P.P.E.", "High touch areas". "Limit movement". "Eliminate physical contact". "Wash your hands for 20 seconds." "Wear your face mask". "6 feet separation". "Hotspot". "Stay Home". "On-line giving." "Pandemic". "Slow the spread". "Flatten the curve".

Our June calendar may include Sunday services inside the sanctuary. The Bishop and Wally are hopeful we can have limited services beginning June 14. Plans are under way to RESET, RESTART,

RENEW. You will hear more about this in e-mail, telephone calls, YouTube and Facebook notices. Right now, we have decided not to have our customary monthly Food and Fellowship meal for May or June. Your safety is paramount to us and several will be working hard to sanitize and provide for your comfort while in the church building.

The Upper Room and Sunday School reading materials will still be available. You can get one at church or mailed to you.

Remember we are not in this alone. Our Bishop Holston and Pastor Wally tell us not to fear returning slowly to gathering in the church. Taking the time represents an opportunity for education and support that will begin the healing process. As we heal, we may become more comfortable with returning to church based upon new safety practices we are learning.

May the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts. May he come through our walls of fear and loneliness. May he stand in front of our uncertainty and give us Peace forever. Amen.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY  
June 21.

- Sandy Sorrow

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

In one of the prayers recorded among John Wesley's writings Wesley pleads, "God, grant that I may never live to be useless."

During this trying time we certainly did not want to feel useless. Our usual channels of outreach were closed to us because of age, health concerns, and safety. So rather than feel useless we have reached out in other ways to our church members and neighbors.

Thanks to all of you, we have been able to stay connected through the Prayer Chain. I am thankful that our Prayer

Chain passes along concerns and praises by human contact. That way we hear a real voice, not a recorded one. We have also stayed connected by sending cards, notes of encouragement, and calls just to ask people how they are doing. There is nothing like a friendly voice to cheer us up. Our Sunday drive-in services have been wonderful. Just getting to hear Rev. Culp, see him in person, and getting to wave to our Church Family brings so much joy.

We have heard from Teresa Phillips that she is working on plans for a Back to School GiveAway for Anderson District Two students. We participated in this last year and we plan to participate this year. This will involve all of our members. We will keep you posted. This is something to pray about and look forward to.

In our Youth Study Book, we are always given something to Take Away. This week's Take Away was, "We experience times of doubt, worry, and anxiety, but God

sustains us and walks along beside us."

A verse to help and encourage.....Isaiah 41:10,13

God bless.

- Pat Wilson

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

#### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

#### **A Time for Everything**

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones  
and a time to gather  
them,

a time to embrace and a  
time to refrain from  
embracing,

a time to search and a  
time to give up,

a time to keep and a  
time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time  
to mend,

a time to be silent and a  
time to speak,

a time to love and a time  
to hate,

a time for war and a time  
for peace.

Hopefully the time we  
can get back in our  
church with things as  
normal as possible is  
close.

The Witness Team is  
trying to help everyone  
stay in touch with each  
other and to know what  
is happening in our  
church through mailings,  
emails, phone calls,  
texts, prayer chain, and  
the Newsletter along  
with YouTube and our  
church website.

Our new cookbook is  
finished and ready to be  
handed out. If you have  
ordered cookbook(s) and  
would like for Susie to  
bring them to you just let  
her know.

Her home phone is (864)  
338-5469, cell (864)  
221-2710, and email  
susiehowell635@gmail.  
com.

Jane would like to thank  
Susie on behalf of the  
rest of the Witness Team  
for her efforts in keeping  
everyone informed and  
up-to-date on what is  
going on with the church.

Hope to see everyone  
soon. Stay safe.

- Susie Howell  
Jane Barton

### **Church Historical Marker:**

The historical marker for  
our church is ready to be  
ordered. Attached to this  
newsletter is the article  
that was in an earlier  
newsletter. If you would  
like to make a donation  
for this please send it

directly to the Belton Area  
Museum Association.  
Mark your check so they  
will know it's for the  
marker.

- Roy Mac Haggard



Drive-Up Church

### **The Liturgist's Schedule:**

No liturgists in June.

### **Church Council:**

The next Church Council  
meeting will be on  
Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00  
PM.

## **Prayer Breakfast:**

No Prayer Breakfasts in June.

## **Graduation:**



Jane and David's granddaughter, Sydney Brochu, graduated from Lebanon High School on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sydney plans to attend Colby Sawyer College in New London NH this fall.

## **Epworth Offering:**

The Epworth offering will be on June 21<sup>st</sup>.



## **Our Prayer Concerns:**

Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, 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, Steven Peck, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Lucretia and Joda Snipes, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

## **Our Homebound:**

Phillip Brannon  
Jackie Manning  
Frank Clark  
Bessie Clark

## **Latimer Lovelies:**

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Tuckers on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please let Sandy Sorrow know if you plan to attend.

## **Anderson District Covenant Group:**

No Covenant Group meeting in June.

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

No Men's Club meeting or breakfast in June.

## **Grief Support Group:**

No Grief Support Group meeting in June.

## **United Methodist Women:**

Latimer's UMW does not meet during the summer. The first Monday in September is Labor day. Therefore the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, at 3:00 at the church.

## **Nursery Workers:**

No nursery provided in June.

## **Richard Campbell Nursing Home:**

No "Brinner" in June.

## **Choir Practice:**

No choir practice in June.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

As we start into the third month of our "social distancing", I am very thankful to all of you for

continuing to support the church's financial needs. We continue to be able to pay all our bills without undue stress or decreased funds. Following is an accounting of the income and expenditures for the past month.

Latimer's income for budget purposes from the period of April 20 to May 18 totaled \$8,012.00. Expenditures for that same time period totaled \$7,100.86, which broke down as follows: Staff salaries and benefits including direct billing - \$6,596.65; Utilities - \$459.21; Upper Room - \$39.00; and Office expense - \$6.00. In addition, amounts were received and forwarded for Epworth and UMCOR.

Again, thank you all for your generosity to the church. I am sure we are all looking forward to being able to be together as a family again as we transition into a new way of worship.

- Linda Millwood

### **Fellowship Meal:**

We will not have a Food and Fellowship Meal in June.



Handing out the Upper Rooms.

### **Reopening the Church:**

I and your church leadership team have recently discussed the reopening of the church building for worship services and other activities. You will find in this newsletter a list of protocols for restarting worship services on June 14. These protocols have been developed in accordance with CDC and UMC guidelines.

One thing that was discussed in depth was the use of facemasks. I understand from reports from some of the leaders that certain people may not be able to wear facemasks. It is absolutely necessary, for

health and safety, that anyone who comes inside the church building for a worship service be required to wear a facemask or a face covering. We realize this may keep some of you from attending services as long as this is a requirement. We will provide alternatives. One is that the worship service will be broadcast into the parking lot for those who want to come to the church campus. I will also continue to produce a video sermon each week and have it posted on YouTube.

Those who are speaking from the front of the sanctuary, such as me or any singer or other speaker, will not have to wear a facemask while speaking or singing. This is the only exception to wearing a facemask. This is because that person will be such a distance from everyone that the danger is minimized.

We also discussed whether we would have congregational singing. Singing brings extra dangers in spreading droplets from one person to another. This in turn

increases the potential of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Just about all the resources indicate that at this time there should be no congregational singing or choirs. Your leadership team agrees, so during the transitional period back into the sanctuary there will be no congregational singing or choirs.

I realize this is probably a disappointment to you. If are you like me, you enjoy singing hymns. However, safety precautions must govern. We are planning to have music in many ways. I and Misty will work on ways to bring you a full worship experience even with these limitations. We can have solo singers. Music can be played even though it is not sung. Misty has told Max to be ready to play some cello pieces! We will still have a wonderful time of worship.

Even though we will begin worship inside the building on June 14, the leadership has decided that no Sunday school or any other meetings or meals inside the church building will begin on

that date. The church council will meet on July 14 and make decisions on when those activities will begin. The council will also decide whether to amend any of the protocols for inside worship.

The leadership also addressed what to do about groups which meet outside the church building. Those who attend Latimer Lovelies will make their own decision on when and where to meet. As for serving the veterans at Richard Campbell, a decision on that activity will have to be made with the administration at the nursing home.

Please continue to pray for our church as decisions are made in regard to restarting our church programs. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us through this time.

In Christ,

Rev. Wally Culp

### **Protocols for Worship Services:**

### **Protocols for Worship Services at Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church to**

### **begin June 14, 2020 (these apply to worship services only).**

*These are protocols to be used during the transition period. At this time, we do not know how long this transition period will last.*

- The side entrance to the church building will open 15 minutes prior to the church service. This will be the only entrance and exit used. A greeter will open the door for you. When you enter the building, please proceed directly to the sanctuary.
- You will be asked to use hand sanitizer and required to wear a facemask or face covering when you arrive. Please wear a facemask or face covering if you have one. If not, you will be provided with one.
- Signage will be placed throughout the facilities reminding people of social distancing

and general hygiene.

- All services will be held in the Sanctuary.
- Every other pew in the Sanctuary will be roped off.
- Upon entering the Sanctuary, you will be seated by an usher. Seating will be done to observe social distancing.
- Members of the same household can sit together; however, social distancing must be maintained with other congregants;
- There will be no fellowship time during the service.
- There will be no children's sermon during the transition period.
- Communion will not take place during the initial startup period.
- No childcare will be offered,
- Offering baskets will be placed at each entrance and exit in the sanctuary. Please place your offering in the basket as you enter or exit. There will not be

an offering during the service.

- No bulletins will be used during the transition period.
- All hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews prior to the service.
- You are encouraged to bring Smartphones with you so you may pull-up scriptures or other readings which may be used during the service. We just ask that you disinfect the phone before you come to the service.
- There will be no choir during this transition period. We hope to have individual singers and pre-recorded music to use.
- After the benediction, the ushers will dismiss the congregation by sections. You will exit out the side door. The front door will not be used.
- Please do not congregate inside the church building. You may

visit outside the church building, although please maintain proper social distancing.

- Only the bathrooms near the entrance will be used. Please make sure only one person at a time uses the bathroom facilities. An usher will be watchful for entrances and exits to the bathrooms and will wipe down after each use.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in each bathroom. Please make sure you use hand sanitizer or wash your hands whenever you use the bathroom.
- All greeters, ushers, the Pastor, and the Music Director will have their temperature checked before the service. If it is above 100.4, they will not be able to participate.
- Greeters and ushers will wear gloves and facemasks at all times.



- Volunteers will wipe down and sanitize the Sanctuary, foyer, copy room, and bathrooms before the facilities are used again.

**Please do not attend if you fall into one of these categories:**

- Those who have recently been sick
- Anyone who is running a temperature over 100.4.
- Children under five years old
- Those who have recently traveled out of the country.
- Those who have any symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or recent loss of taste or smell.

**Bishop's Corner:**

**Just For Today**

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’” — Lamentations 3:22-24 (NRSV)*

The famed Dear Abby advice column offers wisdom wrapped in empathy and practicality. One such insightful column includes ways to have a chance for a fresh start today. There is no need to wait for a new week, a new month, or a new year. We don't need to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the long term.

“Today is the day that we have the opportunity to discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones,” writes Abby, who then expands on things to do just for today:

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once. I know I can do

something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought, and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something

positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthfully—if only just for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

“JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.”

We are living in the midst of a pandemic. The best that we can do right now is to live just one day at a time. When we are awaiting medical results for a loved one, time slows to a snail's pace and one day can seem longer than a year.

My daughter is a healthcare professional who was required to undergo mandatory testing for COVID-19. That test came back positive even though she did not show symptoms, and immediately she was required to self-quarantine. Because we had been in contact with her, Felecia and I were also required to self-

quarantine. Praise God that we all made it through the quarantine without ever experiencing any symptoms, but we had to face each day as it came, uncertain of what would happen next. We had to live just one day at a time, focusing on the good and not promised anything beyond that.

Every day can be a good day. It is up to you to choose to see it that way. When we choose to follow in the way of Christ today, and then to continue going tomorrow and the next day and the next, one day we look up with eyes wide open to see that we are different from when we started. Our default outlook becomes choosing to see the good in each day. We are looking for the good every day, even when it is hard to see.

With every step and every day, the steadfast love of God sustains us. God's mercies flow abundantly, promising to be new every morning.

Great is thy faithfulness.  
Great is thy faithfulness.  
Amen.

## **Church Historical Marker**

The Belton Area Museum Association (BAMA) along with our church congregation as co-sponsor are working to secure a historical marker for our church. Roy Mac will work with BAMA, as our representative, to coordinate this project. Financial support for this project will be through donations from our congregation, members of BAMA, the Kay Family Association, and descendants of Senator A. C. Latimer.

The total cost for the marker and pole is about \$2200. If you would like to contribute, make your check payable to BAMA and put it in the offering plate or mail it directly to the museum. Be sure to designate on the check that it is for the marker.

The marker will be 24" X 36" with 1" letters. The proposed placement of the marker is on the Green Street side of the church property. The marker will be two-sided and will read as follows:

### **Side One:**

#### **Latimer Memorial Methodist Church**

The Belton Methodist Episcopal Church South, organized in 1876 with Rev. John Attaway as pastor, was renamed Latimer Memorial Methodist Church in 1911 after the death of longtime member U. S. Senator A. C. Latimer. Originally a wooden structure, it was built in 1881 on land donated by Ira Williams and enlarged several times. Charter members included Williams, Harris, Pinson, McGee and Smith families of Belton.

### **Side Two:**

#### **Latimer Memorial**

U. S. Senator Asbury Churchwell Latimer was born in 1851 in Abbeville District. At age 25 he joined the Red-Shirt campaign to support Gen. Wade Hampton as Governor of SC. In 1877, he married Alice Brown, daughter of Dr. William Carroll Brown of Belton. By 1892, he was elected to Congress, and by 1902 to the U. S. Senate. He was credited for improving rural roads and rural free mail delivery. His funeral here in 1908 was attended by many dignitaries from Washington D.C.