



The Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

Publisher: Witness Team

Volume No. IX

Issue No. 12

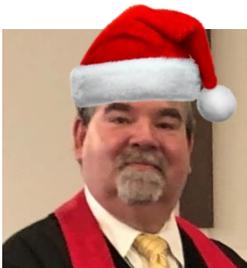
December 2020

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.

Susie Howell
Witness Team
susiehowell635@gmail.com
(864) 338-5469 (Home)
(864) 221-2710 (Cell)

Pastor's Ponderings:



"Hope"

The year 2020 has been a year that has been

unprecedented. A global pandemic due to COVID-19 has disrupted our lives in many ways. We have had to adapt to changes in our social relationships. Things we could not have imagined have occurred. Our church building being shut down for three months. Activities curtailed. Not being able to have congregational singing. I could go on but you know the things that have changed. On top of the additional stress from the pandemic, political divisions and calls for justice have increased our stress level even more.

As I have written about and preached about this year, we can either let the current situation get us down or we can continue to have hope in a better future. In this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, let us continue to give thanks for what we have and what we can do. Think of what Mary, the mother of Jesus,

had to go through as she

brought our savior into the world. In Luke 2, we read of how she and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem while she was on the verge of delivering Jesus. This was a 100-mile trip and would have taken several days at that time to travel. This journey could not have been easy on her. On top of that, when they arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. She had to give birth to her newborn child in a stable. In Matthew 2 we further read that King Herod tried to kill her child and she and Joseph then had to flee to Egypt for safety.

Think of the things Mary had to endure in order to bring Jesus into the world. She didn't choose or cause any of these problems. Instead of complaining and focusing on the negative, she did God's will. Because of her faithfulness, Jesus was born and brought hope into the world.

During this season of Advent and Christmas let us focus on the positive message of Jesus Christ and what he brought the world. Freedom from oppression and sin. A person who taught us how to live with each other and treat each other. We still have that message today even in the midst of this unusual time. Let us continue to always be thankful for God's love and Mary's faithfulness during times of change and turmoil.

From the Nurture Team:

"While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around."

"Get Ready". John the Baptist Shouts!!!!
Events planned for Advent:

November 29 First Sunday in Advent – As we light the Advent Candle Wreath, think of the changes coming into the world. Isaiah 9:2, 6.

December 6 – Second Sunday in Advent – The Shepherds, and Angels. Luke 2:8-10

December 13 – Third Sunday in Advent – Mary, innocent and powerful. Luke 1:46-49

December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Joseph, the traveler, doing what is necessary. Luke 2:1,3-4

Holy Communion planned December 20

December 24 - Christmas Eve, 5 pm, We will have music, candlelight, readings, and prayers. Luke 2:6-7

Thanks to all who participate in gracing the sanctuary with the beautiful Poinsettias.

A reminder that it's important to keep in touch with our home-bound. If you know of someone at home or hospital, who would like a visit, the church bulletin, Wally's Sunday Sermons, or a phone call.

Please let Glenda Conley or Pastor Wally know. Wishing all a Very Merry Christmas And a blessed and safe 2021.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

Just a note to remind all of us that our mission for December is the Epworth Christmas Fund. You can still make a money donation that will help buy Christmas gifts for the youth and children that make Epworth their home. You can make your check to Latimer and make a note that it is for the Epworth Christmas Fund.

Remember to join us in praying for each other. Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The only activities we are still involved in are the monthly newsletter and reaching out to our homebound. Thanks again for Susie, Glenda, Gay and David's faithful service on the Witness Team. Susie's is the Co-Chair, editor of the newsletter along with keeping the congregation informed. Glenda keeps in touch with our homebound while Gay and David are a big part of our team as we bounce ideas off them. Gay and Ron also do visitation to members of church who are in the hospital and nursing

homes which had to be suspended due to COVID

Whenever I ride my bike or walk I find myself enjoying nature and humming hymns. During this time I

feel close to God and feel his presence. Last Sunday on my walk it was a gorgeous day, the sun came out, the fresh crisp smell of fallen leaves and dew were just heavenly. I found myself singing this song and want to share the lyrics .

"Jesus There Is Something About The Name".

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
there's just something
about that name.

Master, Savior, Jesus, like
the fragrance after the rain.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all
Heaven and earth
proclaim.

Kings and kingdoms will all
pass away.

But there's something
about that name.

- Jane Barton

HELP IN TIMES OF NEED

Hebrews 4:16

"So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive His mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need."

May we now come boldly to the very throne of God as we pray, amid a country so divided and a world in disarray. May we ask God for His ever-present mercy and for His grace, to help us with the troubles and problems we ow so often face.

- Billie Jo Campbell

Church Council:

The next regular meeting of the Church Council will be on Tuesday, January 12 at 4:30 pm by Zoom.



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will meet Monday, December 7th at 3:00 PM to continue their Bible Study, "Finding Peace in

an Anxious World". The World Thank Offering service will be held after the Bible Study.

- Gloria Eaves

Special Sermons:

Rev. Culp will be preaching a special series of sermons for Advent from the South Carolina United Methodist Conference. These are part of the *Come Follow Me* sermon series. They are entitled *Grace in the Life of a Disciple* and will begin on November 29..

Charge Conference:

There will be a special called Charge Conference on Sunday, December 13, immediately following worship service. The purpose of this Charge Conference is to discuss and vote on the Trustees' sale of the three rental houses adjacent to the church. Discussed will be the reasons for the sale as well as the terms thereof.

This sale is being conducted pursuant to section 2541 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. You have the right to be present and to vote in person at the Charge Conference. You may attend in person in the

sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. on December 13. All safety protocols will be in place.

You may also attend by Zoom. If you wish to attend by Zoom, please respond to an email which will be sent to you several days before the meeting which asks if you want to participate by Zoom. If so, you will be sent a link for the meeting.

In addition, you may also attend by coming to the parking lot and listening to the meeting on your radio. Someone will come to your car to get your vote on the matter.

Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, you may contact Rev. Culp or Linda Millwood.

We look forward to seeing you there.

- Linda Millwood



Holy Communion:

We will celebrate Holy Communion at our Sunday

service on December 20, 2020. We will use the same service and safety protocols we used at our November 8 service. This is subject to the weather. If it is raining or too cold, we will have to reschedule.



A SENIOR'S MUSINGS

I've got a new jacket to wear with my mask,

Just to get them to match is not a small task. I try fitting the mask just over my face,

Then check to see if it's in the right place.

I look in the mirror and to my surprise,

I'm quite pleased with my new look and my disguise.

I feel all dressed up, but now wouldn't you know,

Because of Covid-19, I've got nowhere to go.

- Billie Jo Campbell

Our Homebound:

Phillip Brannon
Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning



Our Prayer Concerns:

Dr. Tom Barnett, Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Dr. Thomas Burris, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Tony Ellett, Bob Emhof, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick and Nancy Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Eugene Hembree, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell, Mike Mock, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Family of Lucretia Snipes, Joda Snipes, Frank Sorrow, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

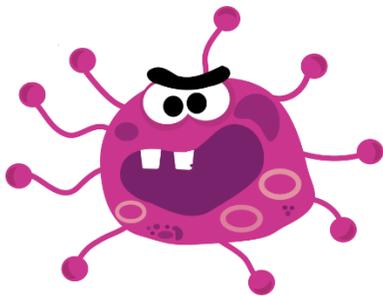
Treasurer's Report:

For the time period of October 25 to November 23, 2020, the receipts and

expenditures for Latimer have been as follows:

Total offerings for general budget have totaled \$6,671.00, with extra offerings being given for Elder Baskets, Epworth Christmas, Apportionments, and Poinsettias. For the same time frame, the following expenditures have been made: Utilities - \$439.34; Pastor/Staff salaries and benefits (including pension, health insurance, and direct billing) - \$6,553.76; Office Expenses - \$39.00; Worship - \$19.99. Funds in the total amount of \$205.00 were sent to the conference for the special offerings received.

- Linda Millwood



"THE VIRUS"

"The Virus" will get you, or so they say,

"The Virus" we hear about day after day.

"The Virus" we all wish would just go away,

But looks like "The Virus" is now here to stay.

We hide from "The Virus" by wearing a mask, Hiding from "The Virus" can be quite a task.

"The Virus" is here, "The Virus" is there,

Just seems that "The Virus" is most everywhere. If you see "The Virus", he's not your best friend,

Tell "The Virus" we want his mischief to end.

If "The Virus" would only go away,

We'd be "Virusly" happy and ever okay.

- Billie Jo Campbell

Bishop's Corner:

The Joy of Every Heart

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."—Luke 2:11

Charles Wesley was a prolific hymn writer who penned several Advent and Christmas songs, but he was never happy with painting a picture of the nativity scene. In the hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," he begins by alluding to scriptural prophecies of Christ and then moves on to a more personal application. Wesley continues: Christ is not only the "desire of every nation;" he is the "joy of every longing heart." He is not only the child born with the government ... on his shoulders (Isaiah 9:6); he is "born to reign in us forever."

In essence, Charles Wesley shares a personal prayer from the heart for Jesus to come into history, into our lives and into our world. Our responsibility is to be fully present and alert to Jesus breaking into our lives.

In every moment, a choice must be made for where to focus our time, talent, gifts, service and witness.

Usually, during this time of year, there are lines everywhere. Lines of traffic to get into the parking lot to do Christmas shopping and a line for purchases made.

Our children stand in line to make their Christmas wishes, and we stand in lines longer than usual for that favorite cup of coffee. Now, our lines of traffic are for COVID-19 testing and for purchasing cleaning supplies and paper products. With so many distractions around us—pandemic, unrest, divisiveness, as well as our own desire for things to return to normal—there is so much competition for our attention.

Yet despite all of the distractions, it is important to remember the true meaning of this season. We celebrate the coming of the Christ child in our midst. When we are enveloped in the dysfunction that surrounds us, we don't recognize this gift. It is only when we resist the urge to feed the worst within us that we are able to reorient ourselves to God's gift to the world and have a chance for hope.

As we celebrate Christmas, we take this time to reflect, meditate and pray, asking God to do a great work in our hearts. Indeed, we celebrate because God expects something amazing to happen in our lives. Jesus was sent on a

mission to restore us and redeem us so we could fully know God and be known by him.

The angel tells the story of the Messiah's birth, casting out any room for fear and instead proclaiming that this is indeed good news that will cause great joy. Choosing to believe the angel's message takes a great measure of faith and courage.

This Advent season, may we choose the path of Christ, even when it seems the more difficult choice. The easier path can lead us to places where we should not go. Sometimes, the more complex and difficult path can lead to a place of spiritual understanding and renewal.

May we choose to focus on joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. And in so doing, may the light of God's love shine through us as brightly as it did on that miraculous night in Bethlehem.

