



# WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

## From the Pastor

By now many of you have likely heard about churches in the area and in our annual conference that have gone through the discernment process and have decided to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. You may be wondering what Wightman's position on the issue is.

The answer to that question is this: No official decision has been made by Wightman on this issue. And, you may want to know that there is no immediate urgency to make a decision, since there is no sunset clause to the current disaffiliation process laid out by our conference trustees.

At the administrative council meeting on March 19, a document outlining the disaffiliation process was distributed and discussed. It was the consensus of the body that Wightman was not prepared at that time to vote one way or the other on pursuing separation from the denomination. It was also expressed by more than one member at the meeting that the congregation needed more information, along with the opportunity to give feedback and to ask questions, before an informed decision can be made by the administrative council to enter a discernment process.

To this point, an overview of the process has been distributed to the Sunday School classes. In addition, our youth were apprised of the issues at hand and asked to give their input, and an informal meeting of select attendees of both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services was held for the purpose of gauging congregational sentiment on this issue.

As a next step in addressing this issue, plans have been made to have Reverend Jim Arant, our district congregational specialist, to come to Wightman and make a presentation to the congregation on the disaffiliation process. The date for that presentation has been set for Sunday, May 21, at 12:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

In the meantime, it is incumbent on each of us to be lifting these matters up to God in prayer and to make sure that all of our conversations and actions regarding these matters are conducted in the spirit of Christ, with the love of God and our neighbor as our aim. A copy of the disaffiliation process is included in this newsletter for your purview. Any questions you may have concerning the matters mentioned above may be directed to David Mitchell, our church lay leader, at (864)420-6584.

Yours in Christ,  
Ben Barnett, Pastor  
David Mitchell, Lay Leader

Wightman UMC's

## EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 8, 11-1**

Easter Story and  
Egg Hunt at 1:00!

**FREE!**

Wightman's Walking Track 302 N. Main Street

**FOOD, GAMES, &  
THE EASTER  
BUNNY!**





# H O L Y • W E E K

Mark your calendars now for our Holy Week activities culminating in the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 9.

## April 2 Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, the children will process into church waving palm branches at each service. All children need to meet in the fellowship hall by 8:45 on April 2 to prepare for the procession at the 9:00 service, and by 11:10 at the CLC ramp that leads to the Fellowship Hall.



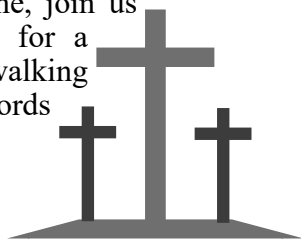
## April 6 Maundy Thursday

Wightman will observe Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. with a service of Holy Communion at the chancel rail. This will be a time to prepare our hearts for Good Friday and the glorious Easter resurrection.



## April 7 Good Friday

The Friday before Easter is known as "Good Friday." The term comes from a derivation of the phrase, "God's Friday." It commemorates the day Jesus spent on the cross, dying for the sins of the world. Please be mindful of this as you go about your day on Good Friday and, if you have time, join us from 12:15 to 12:45 a.m. for a meditative walk at the walking track on the "Seven Last Words of Christ" from the cross.



## April 9 Easter Sunrise Service

There will be a community Easter Sunrise Service to celebrate our risen Lord at Wightman's parking lot on Easter Sunday morning at 7:00 (in case of rain, the service will be held in Wightman's sanctuary). Reverend Jane Mitchum will be preaching. Following the service, all are invited to the Wightman Christian Life Center for breakfast.



## Worship with us on Easter Sunday, April 9

<b>Sunrise Service</b>	<b>7:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Traditional Service</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Contemporary Service</b>	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>



# Administrative Council Highlights

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The Administrative Council of Wightman United Methodist Church met Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the Educational Building Fellowship Hall. Chairman Jeff Shacker called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He then read Philippians 4:3 and thanked everyone for what they do for Wightman.

Linda Spence, widow of life-long Wightman member Larry Miller Spotts, spoke about Larry and honored his last request by presenting a check to Wightman from his estate. Having been all over the world serving in the military, Larry chose Prosperity to be recipients of his estate as “he loved Prosperity the best.” The use of these unrestricted funds will be decided at a later date.

Lewis Shuler, Wightman church member serving on the board of the Frances Spotts Memorial Fund which was created from the estate of her son Larry Spotts, spoke to council members about the fund saying that “they are using Larry’s will to guide them in dispersing these funds to help people in the Prosperity area who fall on hard times.” Application forms were given to Wightman.

The minutes of the January 15, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

Under Old Business, Youth Minister Chris Butler explained that his current computer is approximately 12-years-old and cannot be updated. He is using Viki Hydrick’s iPad that also cannot be updated. He is experiencing system crashes and is unable to use necessary software for youth meetings. He is requesting funds for a new MacBook Pro 13”, a new iPad 9 and the necessary hardware and software. The requested total is \$2,000.00 with an estimated cost of \$1,855.38. Rosemary Bowers made the motion to approve the purchase for the youth department. Todd Studer seconded. The motion was approved.

Under New Business, Jackie Bowers brought the recommendation from the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee that Dan Anderson, Pastor Ben Barnett’s son-in-law, be allowed to deliver the sermon at least 8 times during 2023. P/SPRC recommends that the funds come from the Staff Salaries budgeted line-item. Finance Committee Vice-Chairman Lynda Counts presented the recommendation from the Finance Committee that the monies be taken from Pulpit Supply and that the 2023 church budget be amended by decreasing the Staff Salaries line-item and increasing the Pulpit Supply line-item. The recommendations were approved.

Lay Leader David Mitchell read the letter to Wightman from District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Stephen Love thanking Wightman for paying 100% of our apportionments for 2022. David then spoke regarding the disaffiliation process from the Methodist Church. Meeting attendees were distributed information on the Local Church Discernment Process. Following a long discussion, Pastor Barnett stated that “Wightman does not need to do anything at this time. We need to wait and see what happens at Annual Conference in June.” He suggested having a congregational specialist from the district come and present the process about what’s involved and having additional meetings to educate the congregation.

As the meeting was running long, Chairman Shacker asked if any committee needed to make a report. Leonard May, annual conference delegate, reported that he will be attending annual conference in June. No committee reports were given.

Pastor Ben Barnett stated that “there will be time for conversations about disaffiliation. Going forward he suggested setting up a plan for Holy Conferencing—pray about it, come together, love each other as we share thoughts and opinions. These are difficult times and we don’t know how it will work out.” This Lenten Season we should “focus on what God has given us and pray that He will give us the mind and spirit of Christ.”

More than 600 dozen cookies were collected from the Wightman congregation for the Kairos Prison Ministry.

The Educational Building downstairs ladies’ bathroom now has a new ceiling thanks to the great work of Ron Wood.

Easter Eggstravaganza is Saturday, April 8, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on the walking track with an egg hunt to follow on the Mike Mills Field.

There being no further business, Pastor Ben Barnett closed the meeting with prayer.

## *Average Attendance for March*

9:00 Worship -	122
11:15 Worship -	74
Combined Worship -	196
Church School -	107

## *Monthly Financial Summary*

General Funds (total)	\$ 97,717.35
Designated Funds	65,903.47
General Funds Available	31,813.88
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>230,901.04</u>
Total Funds	\$328,618.39

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

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- April 1 - Jentry Bickley  
2 - Nolan Amick, Hubert Kinard  
3 - Robbie Amick, Mike Meetze, Jordan Buster  
5 - Scott Johnson, Lucy Thompson  
7 - Victoria Wahnig  
8 - Ann Burch, Martin Friar, Blaire Taylor  
9 - Charlotte Hargreaves, London Poirot  
10 - Olivia Dominick  
11 - Kirksey Koon  
13 - Kingsley Franklin, Kelly Perry, Jillian Wise  
14 - Kyle Kneece, Leonard May, Heather Studer  
15 - Brooks Buster  
16 - Reese Sheppard  
17 - Troy Meetze, Khloe Mrozinski  
18 - Nathan Graham, Mark Kirkland, Aaron Overstreet  
19 - Jimmy Cook, Nicki Hudnall, April Peel, Chad Senn  
20 - Russell Moore  
21 - Jeffrey DeVal, Chuck Lathrop  
22 - Reagan Peel, Braxton Edens  
24 - Raelyn Cannady, Jennie Hendricks, Aleta Jolly, Karoline Kneece, Joanne Trefsgar

## April Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

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### **ACOLYTES**

- April 2 - Jayden Kinard  
9 - Nolan Amick  
16 - Brantley Counts-Wohnig  
23 - Bristol Freeman  
30 - Hudson Defreese

### **CROSS BEARERS**

- April 2 - Betty Graham  
9 - Jennifer Amick  
16 - Charlotte Hargreaves  
23 - Melissa Freeman  
30 - Linda Richardson

### **USHERS**

Robbie Amick, Kevin Kinard,  
David Mitchell, Ted Graham

### **GREETERS**

Jordan Buster Family

### **TRUSTEE**

Jackie Bowers

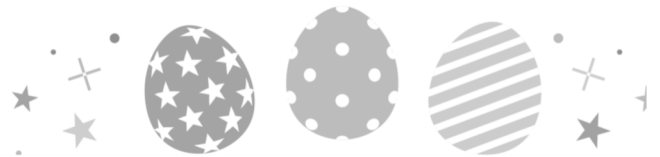
### **LAY READERS**

- April 2 - Devonna Summer  
9 - Hudson Defreese  
16 - Lewis Shuler  
23 - John Hargreaves  
30 - Bill Joiner

- 25 - Cody Caldwell, Zoie Franklin,  
Bristol Freeman, Diane Lathrop  
26 - Ellen Stephens  
28 - Raymond Ruff, Maddie Shacker, Amy Kirkland  
29 - Andy Shull  
30 - Evie Scofield

*Happy Anniversary!*

- April 3 - Blake and Sarah Longshore  
4 - Chris and Madison Butler  
6 - Mike and Darly Bernardo  
Lee and Jennifer Boozer  
7 - Stevie and Marcie Lawrence  
Patrick and Leslie McDuffie  
8 - Jack and Vicki Hamm  
10 - Nick and Mandy Counts  
12 - Joe and Marquerite Palmer  
13 - Eddie and Myrna Killian  
Michael and Anita McCullough  
14 - Leonard and Paulette Halfacre  
16 - Alan and Lori Longshore  
17 - Kevin and Johnette Kinard  
20 - Lewis and Linda Clevenger  
21 - Herb and Ellen Stephens  
22 - Ladison and Paula Hamm  
24 - Zachary and Danielle Bannister  
Preston and Brooke Farmer  
28 - Jim and Maryanne Atkison  
29 - Arthur and Audra Guy



## April Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

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### **GREETERS**

Gregg and Tracie Turner

### **USHERS**

Lee Boozer, Darrell Beckham,  
Kyle Kneece, Larry Graham

### **LAY READERS**

- April 2 - Heather Studer  
9 - Kyle Kneece  
16 - Chris Johnson  
23 - Cole Harper  
30 - Wightman Youth

## Special Gifts to Wightman

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### Operating Budget

In memory of Von Hiller by Ladison and Paula Hamm

### UMKids

In memory of Herb Stephens by Traci Bouknight

In memory of Von Hiller by Traci Bouknight

### Asbury Bedenbaugh Class Fund

In memory of Dennis Wood by the Asbury Bedenbaugh  
Sunday School Class

## United Women in Faith

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The United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, April 4, at 3:00 pm in the Old Fellowship Hall. Margaret Boozer will lead the program on "Peacemakers & Justice Seekers". Judy Livingston will provide the snack. Bring some Operation Christmas Shoebox items. This is our yearly mission project. All ladies are invited to attend.



## Coffee Ministry

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Do you enjoy having coffee available at Wightman on Sunday mornings? If so, you may like helping the Coffee Team so that the coffee is always available for everyone to enjoy. There are many things you can do and they take very little time as long as we have plenty of people to help. Please contact Marquerite Palmer if you are able to help with any of the following jobs. Cannot help every Sunday? That is okay! Just let Marquerite know what you can do.

Sunday coffee help needed at the following times:

Task 1: 8:15 AM -9:00 AM - Make 4-8 carafes of coffee and set up the coffee station before first service. Once this is done, another team member can do the next task.

Task 2: 9:45 AM - 10:10AM - Check on the carafes to see if more coffee needs to be made or if empty carafes need to be cleaned and put away. Also check to see if more creamer and sugar need to be put at the coffee station.

Task 3: 12:15 PM. At the end of the second service, empty, clean, and put away coffee carafes. Put away the coffee station items and wipe down the countertop or table where the coffee is served.

The Coffee Team Coordinator makes sure there is coffee, sugar, creamer, and other supplies available for the team to use. They also check in with the rest of the team before Sunday to make sure all the jobs are covered for the upcoming Sunday. We are so thankful for the folks who faithfully help with getting the coffee made and ready for all to enjoy. We are excited to add some new members to our team! One of the team members will show you what to do and how to do it. To reach Marquerite you can email her at [mppottery@gmail.com](mailto:mppottery@gmail.com). Text or call her cell at 803-924-6028. Please leave a message if she is unavailable to answer.



## UMKIDS



### Children's Sermons

April 2 - Communion  
9 - Rosemary Bowers  
16 - Henry Dominick  
23 - Ruby Point Miller  
30 - Christy Bouknight



### Children's Church

April 2 - The King is Coming  
9 - An Easter Surprise  
16 - Doubting Thomas Believes  
23 - The Road to Emmaus  
30 - The Good Shepherd's Voice

**Mark your calendars ...**

**Wightman UMC  
Vacation Bible School  
July 9 – 13, 2023**

**You do not want to miss it!**

**It's going to be...  
STELLAR!**

# Local Church Discernment Process

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1. The church council votes to pursue separation, then sends a written request to the district superintendent to schedule a church conference. Members of the church council view the Agreement to Separate.
2. The local church prayerfully enters a 30-day process of discernment led by the pastor(s) and/or district superintendent, or their designee.
3. Representatives of the congregation will be assigned the responsibility of ensuring that certain financial obligations are satisfied before the congregation can vote on whether to separate:
  - 10 % of the appraised value of all church property (appraised by a local commercial appraiser, not the insurance appraisal) and 10% of liquid assets.
  - Unpaid apportionment giving for the prior year and up to the date of annual conference of the year of closure, plus an additional 12 months of apportionment giving.
  - Unpaid salary and benefits due to clergy appointed to the church.
  - A proportional share of any unfunded pension obligations.
4. Other financial considerations and legal liabilities of the local church must be satisfied or transferred to a new entity.
5. During the time of discernment, the congregation should be given the information necessary to prepare for the church conference.
6. At the church conference meeting, support of two-thirds of professing church members **present and voting** is required to formally declare that the church can no longer function as a United Methodist Church. The vote must take place by **March 1** each year to be considered by Annual Conference members during their regular session the following June.
7. Once all terms of separation are satisfied, the members of the Annual Conference must vote on a resolution to close the local church and transfer its assets to a new entity. A simple majority vote in favor of the resolution is the final step before the local church separates from The United Methodist Church, maintaining its property.

## Boys Farm

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The Boys Farm is seeking gospel focused houseparent couples to join their mission of providing structure, offering hope, and changing lives.

1. Providing Structure  
House parents live in a typical single-family home with up to 8 boys, providing a traditional family structure and taking care of the day-to-day needs of boys in their care.
2. Offering Hope  
Daily discipleship in a servant-leadership role helps children to hear, see, and experience the Gospel continually. We hold out the hope of the promise the Lord offers of a bright and fruitful future.
3. Changing Lives  
The mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual support provided by houseparents and staff help to change the trajectory of children in crisis, giving them every opportunity to succeed.



The Boys Farm offers a competitive salary, fully paid living expenses, training and support, 401K retirement plan, and more. Contact Boys Farm at (803)276-5901 or at [www.boysfarm.org](http://www.boysfarm.org) for more information.

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> Palm Sunday Lenten Breakfast - 8:00 am Holy Communion - 9:00 am & 11:15 Youth 4:30-6:00	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  UWF- 3:00 pm	<b>5</b> Bible Study - 6:30 am M&Ms - 11:00 am Choir - 6:30 pm	<b>6</b>  Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm	<b>7</b> Church Offices Closed Good Friday Ser- vice on Walking Track - 12:15 pm Youth @ Stars and Stripes	<b>8</b> Eggstravaganza - 11:00 am-1:00 pm Easter Story and Egg Hunt - 1:00 pm
<b>9</b> Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - 7:00 am Breakfast follow- ing at Wightman	<b>10</b> Church Offices Closed	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Bible Study - 6:30 am M&Ms - 11:00 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  Youth 4:30-6:00	<b>17</b>  UMMen -7:00 pm SOS - 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bible Study - 6:30 am M&Ms - 11:00 am Choir - 6:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Youth 4:30-6:00  <b>30</b> Brunch & Bond- ing - 10:15 Youth 4:30-6:00	<b>24</b> Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm  Loaves and Fishes - 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible Study - 6:30 am M&Ms - 11:00 am  Newsletter Staff 2:30 pm Choir - 6:30 pm	<b>27</b>  Friends of God - 5:30 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**WIGHTMAN UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

Rev. Ben L. Barnett, Pastor  
P. O. Box 376  
Prosperity, South Carolina 29127

Phone: 364-2340  
Pastor's Cell Phone: 843-274-0898  
Church E-Mail: [secretary@wightmanumc.org](mailto:secretary@wightmanumc.org)  
Pastor's E-Mail: [blbarnett@umcsc.org](mailto:blbarnett@umcsc.org)  
Web Site: [www.wightmanumc.org](http://www.wightmanumc.org)

**Sunday Schedule**

Traditional Worship – 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.  
Contemporary Service – 11:15 a.m.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Prosperity, SC  
Permit No. 1

***RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED***

## Church Kitchen Shower

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Sunday, April 30 at 10:15 a.m., there will be a Kitchen Shower for Wightman. This will take place during Brunch and Bonding!

Our Brunch and Bonding game will have a cooking theme and name a "Top Chef." Contact Jeff Shacker if you would like to be a contestant!

A Kitchen "Wish List" will be distributed. These suggested items can be found on Amazon or elsewhere.

What Can You Do?!

- You may return the list to the church office and mark an item(s) you or a group would like to purchase. (You will be notified for the money when the gift is purchased.)
- You can make a monetary donation at the Kitchen Shower.

Contact any member of the United Women In Faith Group or Rosemary Bowers (803)924-1574.

## Thank You Note

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Gregg Turner recently donated a large 3-piece desk to Wightman. His father custom built this out of solid oak. Thank you, Gregg!