



WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

From the Pastor

Leonard May and Kirk Atwood (your Lay Delegates) and I recently traveled to Florence, SC to represent you at the first in-person Annual Conference since before the pandemic. We gathered with more than 2,000 delegates to pray, worship and conduct the business of the church.

The business that seemed to consume the most oxygen in the arena was the vote on the separation of 113 churches from the SC Conference due to issues related to sexual ethics, biblical interpretation and authority, and other concerns. The vote was approved with little controversy, but with palpable sadness as the names of the separating churches were read aloud. The churches who left the UMC represent 12 percent of the 958 total churches in our Conference, but among them were some of the largest churches in our Conference. In spite of this loss, the churches that remained with the UMC were encouraged to be hopeful in the midst of grief and difficulty and to remain faithful to the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ in their context and community.

Among other church business was the ordination or commissioning of 22 people for ministry, the celebration of the retirement of 38 clergy, the honoring of 49 clergy and clergy spouses who died in the last year, and the approval of a \$13.2 million budget. In addition, two resolutions were approved, one opposing the death penalty and another encouraging United Methodists to address the problem of gun violence. The closings of three churches and the changing of 35 charge lines were also approved.

The historic 2023 Conference ended with an inspiring worship service that included a heart-felt sermon from our Bishop, Jonathan Holston, and the “fixing” of the ministerial appointments by him for the next year. I am happy to report that my appointment to Wightman was “fixed” for another year (my fourth), and I look forward to continuing a fruitful ministry here as your pastor. Keep me and the congregation in your prayers as we navigate the waters of a post-separation UMC and seek to discern God’s direction for our future in the year ahead.

Yours truly in Christ,
Pastor B

A Thank You Note

Thank you for blessing me during my recent surgery and recovery. Your outpouring of love through prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and texts meant the world to me and left me deeply touched. God answered your requests and gave me another chance to serve Him. May God bless each of you.

Rosemary Bowers

Choir Practice

There will be no choir practice during the month of July. Practice will resume Wednesday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Bible Study

The weekly Wednesday morning men’s Bible study will be taking the months of July and August off. Weekly meetings will resume the first Wednesday in September.



College and Career Class

The next College and Career get together will be on July 1st at 5pm. This will be at Kevin and Johnette Kinard’s house. It will be a pool party with corn hole, kan jam, music, hotdogs and hamburgers for dinner! Bring your bathing suits and we hope to see you there!

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will meet Tuesday, August 1, at 3:00 p.m. in the old fellowship hall. Lynda Counts will lead the pledge service. This is the time that members make their mission pledges for 2023-24.

All ladies of the church are invited to join us and participate in our mission projects in our local church, state, nation, and world as the needs of children, youth, and women are met in Christian love.



United
Women
in Faith

South Carolina Conference

July Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

ACOLYTES

- July 2 - Hudson Defreese
9 - Kyle Graham
16 - Ethan Counts-Wohnig
23 - Nolan Amick
30 - Bristol Freeman

CROSS BEARERS

- July 2 - Linda Richardson
9 - Madison Graham
16 - Charlotte Hargreaves
23 - Jennifer Amick
30 - Melissa Freeman

USHERS

- Ronnie Summer, Kirk Atwood,
Joe Miller, Ron Wood

GREETERS

- Kirk and Shirley Atwood
Marcelle Ackerman

TRUSTEE

- Todd Studer

LAY READERS

- July 2 - Christy Bouknight
9 - Hubert Kinard
16 - Gary Hooker
23 - Devonna Summer
30 - Hudson Defreese

July Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

GREETERS

- Jimmy and Karon Hazel

USHERS

- Lee Boozer, Chris Butler,
Josh Meetze, Nick Counts

LAY READERS

- July 2 - Brittany Hazel
9 - Chris Butler
16 - Tim Ringer
23 - Joe Palmer
30 - Kristina Cannon

Special Gifts to Wightman

Operating Budget

A gift from the estate of Cindy Mora Ramirez from her family

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- July 1 - Justin Davenport, Aaron Franklin
2 - Kenneth Bundrick, Katie Engen,
Will Lever, Wanda Oliveto
3 - Mac Murray, Will Murray
4 - Ben Barnett, Summer Nolting
5 - Dianne Bundrick, Mary-Mac Richardson
6 - Mollie Graham, Lori Longshore,
Vic Thacker
7 - Alex Johnson, Julie Murray
8 - Aubrie Bundrick, Lawson Lawrence
9 - Kristina Cannon, Ann Dominick,
Gabrielle Rivas
10 - Tandice Northcutt
11 - Jayden Kinard, Bella Sease
12 - Darin Shealy
13 - Eli Amick, Kayla Rankin
14 - Beth Kunkle, Jacob Meetze, Jordan Butler
15 - Sterling Beckham, Michael Bernardo,
Nelson Perry
17 - Marianna Ray
18 - Allie Compton, Jordan Cannady,
Beverly Shealy
19 - Dawson Defreese, Kimberly Graham,
M.J. Mollohan, Jr., Jennifer Wood
20 - Reagan Owens, Jesse Rogers
21 - Harper Longshore, Lawson Ray
22 - Jessica Meetze, Teresa Owens,
Cayce Scofield
23 - Levi Lawrence, Arlan LeCompte
24 - Cora Floyd, Bob Ivey, Cooper Simei
25 - Mot Hamm, Jordan Jones
26 - Kevin Kinard, Renee Johnson, Emma Metts,
Laurie Shacker
27 - Missy Hydrick, Layla Sheppard
28 - Emily Garner, Ryan Stewart
29 - Timothy Chandler
30 - Jacob Garner, Taygen Hazel, Dylan Rogers
31 - Travis Chapman

Happy Anniversary!

- July 3 - Ron and Jessica Northcutt
9 - Ron and Carol Charette
10 - Jamie and Melissa Freeman
11 - Ted and Madison Graham
12 - Vic and Lynn Thacker
Ken and Tina York
18 - Matthew and Alicia Overstreet
20 - Blake and Mary-Mac Richardson
22 - Mickey and Allie Compton
Russell and April Peel
31 - Nick and Carla Dudek

Congratulations, Graduates!



Wightman celebrated the graduation of seventeen young people during the worship services on May 21. They are listed below with additional information when provided:

Chloe Kirkland, daughter of Mark and Amy Kirkland, graduated from Chapin High School. Chloe received the Girl Scouts Silver Award under the leadership of Johnette Kinard in Wightman's Troop 1270. She was a member of the Beta Club and was the historian for the National Honors Society. Chloe auditioned for Chamber Honors Choir, lettered in Choir, and was a member of the SCACDA Honors Choir. Additionally, Chloe was the Lexington Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship recipient for the Medhurst/Norton/Telfer nursing scholarship. Chloe served with the youth group on multiple mission trips around the country, was a VBS and community meal volunteer, and joined the College and Career Sunday School group. Chloe will attend Lander University Honors College to pursue a degree in nursing.

Sean Johnson, son of Gerald and Renee Johnson, graduated from Chapin High School. He plans to attend Midlands Tech to study Electronics Engineering Technology.

Noah Davenport, son of Justin and Janet Davenport, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School and Piedmont Technical College. He received an Associates of Arts degree from Piedmont Tech.

Carsyn Hydrick, daughter of Missy Hydrick and Randy and Viki Hydrick, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School. She will be attending Presbyterian College in the fall.

Kimberly Graham, daughter of Ted and Madison Graham, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School. She will be attending the University of South Carolina with plans to enter the medical field.

Alli Larsen, daughter of Jeremy and Rihannon Larsen, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School. She is a member of Wightman's tech team in the contemporary worship service. She will be attending Piedmont Technical College to study criminal justice.

Campbell Nolting, daughter of Eric and Candace Nolting, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School.

Baylee Hamilton, daughter of Bob and Kelly Hamilton, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School.

Maddie Shacker, daughter of Jeff and Laurie Shacker, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School.

Riley Peel, daughter of Russell and April Peel, graduated from Mid-Carolina High School.

William Eshaak, son of Tony and Jessica Eshaak, graduated from Gray Collegiate Academy.

Ryan Stewart, son of Jim and Paula Stewart, received a Bachelors of Science degree in construction engineering from The Citadel. He was on the Dean's List and received Gold Stars. He will be working with McClam & Associates, a construction company, in Little Mountain as an engineer.

Reed Studer, son of Todd and Heather Studer, graduated in December from the University of South Carolina. He received a Bachelors of Arts degree in public health.

Lauren Cope, daughter of Ken and Emily Cope, graduated from Clemson University. She received a Bachelors of Science in finance.

Jon Lawson Cope, son of Ken and Emily Cope, graduated from Blackbird Academy with a certification in live sound production.

Brandon Fowler, son of Trent and Kelli Fowler, graduated from Piedmont Technical College with an Associates in Arts degree.

Albert Farmer, son of Rusty and Anna Farmer, graduated from the University of South Carolina-Union with an associate's degree. Al will be continuing his academic and baseball career at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, NC.

Brunch and Bonding



Join us in the CLC during the Sunday School hour on July 30 for Brunch and Bonding! It's a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and fun! We hope to see you there!

Average Attendance for June

9:00 Worship -	118
11:15 Worship -	70
Combined Worship -	187
Church School -	103

Wedding



Congratulations to Jarod and Katie Joiner who were married at Wightman on Saturday, June 24.

We wish you joy, love and happiness as you begin your new life together.

Monthly Financial Summary

General Funds (total)	\$ 134,979.67
Designated Funds	63,689.94
General Funds Available	71,289.73
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>198,627.27</u>
Total Funds	\$333,606.94

Youth Mission Trip

On July 2, a group of youth and adult volunteers will be traveling to Kenosha, Wisconsin. They will return on the 7th. The list of volunteers is below. Please pray for safe travels, the hearts and hands of the volunteers, and the community in which they will be serving.

2023 Youth Mission Team

Hunter Bragg, Camryn Butler, London Poirot, Kiley Compton, Bryson Counts, Dawson Defreese, Hudson Defreese, Bethany Friar, MarZavis Gallman, Jayden Kinard, Chloe Kirkland, Ellie Kirkland, Lawson Lawrence, Chyenne Smith, Madison Thornhill, Chris Butler, Madison Butler, Jessica Jones, Jared Jones, Mandy Counts, and Nick Counts.

Contemporary Music Director

Wightman is still looking to fill the position of Contemporary Music Director. You can access the job description on our website by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.



Sunday School Information

Joining a Sunday School class is a great way to grow your faith, meet people, and to get involved with the church. There are several classes available here at Wightman and they would love to have you join!

Asbury Bedenbaugh Class (ABC): Led by Hubert Kinard & David Mitchell, meets in the Old Fellowship Hall.

Growth Class: Led by Henry Dominick, meets upstairs in the Christian Life Center.

JC Class: Led by Eddy Richardson and Leonard May, meets upstairs in the Christian Life Center near the Children's Chapel.

The Fish Class: Led by Daniel Floyd, meets upstairs in the Christian Life Center.

Seekers Class: Led by Tim and Maria Chandler, meets upstairs in the Christian Life Center.

College & Career Class: Led by Blake and Mary-Mac Richardson, meets upstairs in the Christian Life Center beside the stairwell.

There are also Sunday School classes for children (ages 3 and up), middle school, and high school aged children. For children younger than 3, the nursery is available!



Children's Sermons

July	2	Communion
	9	Anna Farmer
	16	Madison Graham
	23	Rosemary Bowers
	30	Henry Dominick



Children's Church

July	2	Abraham and Isaac
	9	A Bride for Isaac
	16	Esau sells his Birthright
	23	Jacob's Ladder
	30	Jacob and Rachel

There will be no Sunday School on July 30. Come join the fun at Brunch and Bonding in the CLC!

Celebration Sunday for VBS will be July 16 during both services followed by lunch. Hope to see you there!

IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME!

**VBS JULY
9-13**

6:00-8:30 p.m.

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



July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 College and Career Class Pool Party - 5:00 pm
2 Holy Communion - 9:00 & 1:15 am	3	4 Independence Day - Church Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 VBS Celebration Church Wide Lunch - 12:30 pm Committees/Council - 12:30 & 1:30 pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30 Brunch & Bonding- 10:15 am Prayer Service- 5:30pm	24 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm Loaves & Fishes - 5:30-7:00 pm 31	25	26 Newsletter Staff - 2:30 pm	27 Friends of God - 5:30 pm	28	29

**WIGHTMAN UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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

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

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



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