



# WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

## From the Pastor

Well, here we are again in the midst of what is sometimes called the summer “doldrums”. That word is an interesting one. Literally, it refers to the belt of calm, light winds just north of the equator, but metaphorically, it speaks of a state of inactivity or stagnation, which can be seasonal. Although things do move a little slower during the summer months in certain areas of church life, ministry continues with gusto in other areas that are anything but stagnant!



Two such areas of high energy and activity in recent weeks are our “Week of Hope” mission for our youth in Kenosha, Wisconsin and our “Stellar” Vacation Bible School for our children the following week. Both of these events were intensive, immersive weeks of spiritual growth and disciple-making, not only for our “more-youthful” disciples here at Wightman, but also for our “more-experienced” disciples who led and participated in them. These events require massive amounts of prayer, time, energy, planning and financing to pull off, and I want to celebrate and thank all those who worked together in Jesus’ name to make them possible.

I’m speaking of our “stellar” church staff, lay volunteers of every age, and those who faithfully support the church financially. Without all of you doing *your* part, we could have never made the impact we made for the Kingdom that was made during these two amazing weeks! Dozens upon dozens of lives were touched and transformed by Jesus through them!

So, I stand to applaud God and God’s helpers for these two impactful ministries, as well as for the many other ministries that take place week after week that are not quite as noticeable but are just as impactful. What a privilege and honor it is to serve as pastor of this happy band of faithful disciples called Wightman Church!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor B

## United Women in Faith

The United Women of Faith will meet at 3:00 p.m. on August 1. Bring #2 pencils and adult socks (sizes small or medium) for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Lynda Counts will have the program and Freda Jones will have the snack.



United Women in Faith

South Carolina Conference

## College and Career

The College and Career class will be going putt putting at Frankie’s Fun Park, Sunday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Mary-Mac Richardson (803-528-7823) if you have any questions about the outing or the College and Career Sunday School class.



## Mission Movers

M&Ms returns on August 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center! This is a low impact fitness program designed for senior adults, but all ages are invited to attend! Fitness levels include strength training, cardio workouts, and coordination. Come receive support, prayers, motivation, encouragement and new friendships that will last a lifetime!



# Administrative Council Highlights

The Administrative Council of Wightman United Methodist Church met Sunday, July 16, 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 a variety of scripture passages “asking God to lead us and show us His will. Jesus’ focus was on doing God’s will.” He then had prayer. The minutes of the March 19, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

A discussion of the disaffiliation issue was held. Church members including Missy Roach, Emily Cope, Traci Bouknight, Chris Butler, Janet Davenport and Chairman Shacker presented their thoughts and concerns. Following much discussion, Pastor Ben Barnett suggested the formation of a task force to collect information to be presented to the church membership so that an informed vote can occur. Chris Butler made the motion that Lay Leadership form a diverse task force to obtain this information including estimated cost to separate from the United Methodist Church. Janet Davenport seconded. The motion was approved.

Trustee Chairman Todd Studer stated that Otis Elevator did a category 1 weight test in 2018 and a Category 5 test is state mandated and needs to be done. They are quoting a cost of \$2,800.00. Gregg Turner has another company to obtain a quote from. The recommendation from Trustees is that the Category 5 weight test be obtained at a cost up to \$2,800.00. The recommendation was approved. Pastor Barnett stretched the hallway carpet in the upstairs children area in the Educational Building. Minor squirrel damage to the internet cable and junction box have been repaired. The required back flow test was done for the sprinkler system. In May it was discovered that the church has a septic system which Brigman’s pumped out and found a combination of roots and baby wipes clogging the pipe. Signs have been placed asking members not to flush baby wipes. In June coils were replaced and recharged on the air conditioning unit #12 which supplies the upstairs CLC Sunday school classrooms at an approximate cost of \$2,500.00. Water damage occurred in the CLC upstairs when air conditioning unit #10’s wiring for the drain pan pump was damaged by a squirrel. The compressor for one of the air conditioning units for the sanctuary is not working. Replacement cost for the part is \$6,000.00 with a new updated energy efficient model costing \$11,500.00. The trustee committee recommended purchasing a new unit which will be installed on July 17, 2023 that will pay for itself in three years. One of the air conditioning units at the Lighthouse is not working and needs to be replaced. A new hot water heater was recently installed at the parsonage.

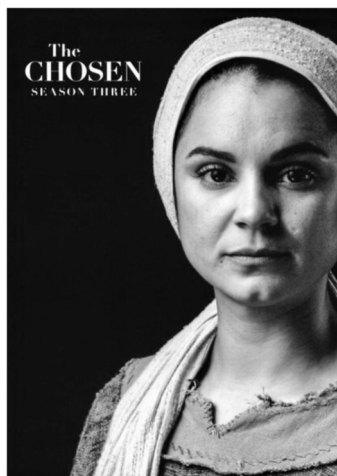
Finance Chairman Gregg Turner updated the financial status. The budgeted amount through the first six months of 2023 was \$203,895.00 with actual expenses of \$191,048.71. The actual amount received for the time period was \$185,590.00 leaving a deficit of \$7,459.00. Chairman Turner will monitor the situation.

SPRC Chairman Jeff Murray reported that Kenneth Bundrick has been approved to begin the process to become certified as a local church pastor and a letter has been sent to the Greenwood District. The search continues for a contemporary music leader.

Pastor Ben Barnett said that Wightman should celebrate and praise God for the Week of Hope just completed by the youth, a great Vacation Bible School, the approval of Kenneth for the ministry and other events that have happened at Wightman. He closed the meeting with prayer. The next scheduled council meeting is September 17, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. with committees meeting at 12:30 p.m.

## The Chosen Bible Study

Season 3 of “The Chosen” is out! Anyone interested is invited to join on Sunday afternoons at 3:30pm from September 10th through October 29th in the fellowship hall



to watch each episode followed by a short discussion and Bible study related to it. Arrive by the kitchen door. Please let Laura Barnett (843-274-0977) know if you’re coming or have any questions. You do not have to have watched previous seasons in order to enjoy this amazing portrayal of Jesus and those who encountered Him. Come and encounter Him in a new way!

## JOY Group

Save the date! On September 11, the JOY Group will honor Wightman’s first responders. Join them at 11:00 a.m. to hear from the speaker, Joe Palmer, and to enjoy special music. Lunch will be served at noon.



## Fireflies Game

The next Fireflies game is on Friday, August 18th, at 7:00 p.m. The fan experience this time is “Field of Dreams”. The kids get to run out on the field with a player and have their name announced! We are limited to 12-15 kids, so first-come, first-served! Tickets are \$10. Let Heather Studer (803-727-3685) know before August 13th if you want to reserve your spot!



# The Walk to Emmaus

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## Do you seek . . .

- Spiritual Renewal
- A new understanding of God's grace and love?
- Worship and community with other believers?
- Answers to questions about your faith?
- A new dedication of your everyday life to God?

## If you do, then the Walk to Emmaus is for you!

The Walk to Emmaus seeks to inspire, challenge, and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and communities. On an Emmaus weekend you will sing, reflect, pray, learn, share Holy Communion, participate in small groups, experience God's grace in community and in the world, and understand Christian love in action.

The Walk to Emmaus is based on Luke 24:13-35.

### Upcoming spring weekends are:

- **Men's Walk: October 5-8, 2023**
- **Women's Walk: October 12-15, 2023**

*For information contact Leonard (803-924-5794) or Therry May (803-924-5793). There are many other Emmaus members in our congregation who will also be glad to answer any questions you may have.*



## Average Attendance for July

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9:00 Worship - 119  
11:15 Worship - 84  
Combined Worship - 203  
Church School - 99

## Youth Meetings

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The youth weekly meetings will resume on Sunday, August 6. Meetings are from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse is located behind the Prosperity Fire Department at 110 McNeary Street. Anyone in grades 6-12 are welcome to join the youth group.



## Special Gifts to Wightman

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### WARM Project

In honor of the UMMen by Larry & Emily Graham

## Monthly Financial Summary

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General Funds (total)	\$ 150,464.98
Designated Funds	60,942.92
General Funds Available	89,522.06
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>198,902.25</u>
Total Funds	\$349,367.23

## August Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

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### ACOLYTES

August 6 - Kayleb Graham  
13 - Jayden Kinard  
20 - Brantley Counts-Wohnig  
27 - Hudson Defreese

### CROSS BEARERS

August 6 - Kim Graham  
13 - Betty Graham  
20 - Charlotte Hargreaves  
27 - Linda Richardson

### USHERS

Mark Kirkland, Tommy Bowers,  
Tom Eustace, Larry Graham

### GREETERS

Eddy and Linda Richardson

### TRUSTEE

Mitch Lowder

### LAY READERS

August 6 - Lewis Shuler  
13 - John Hargreaves  
20 - Bill Joiner  
27 - Dianne Cotney

## August Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

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### GREETER

Connie Johnson

### USHERS

Kyle Kneece, Larry Graham,  
Daniel Floyd, Todd Studer

### LAY READERS

August 6 - Jared Jones  
13 - Madison Butler  
20 - Will Lever  
27 - Wightman Youth

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

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- August 1 - Nate Bernardo, Chris Butler, McKenzie Nelson, Todd Studer
- 2 - Tina Hooker, Bethany Friar, Tyler Turner
- 3 - Brenton Jones, Campbell Nolting
- 4 - Andy Amicucci
- 5 - Terry Brown, Bennett Garner, Ellie Kirkland
- 6 - Larry Wadsworth, Talen Senn
- 7 - Jerry Birchfield, Jasmin Davis
- 9 - Melonie Senn, Jozie Greenwood
- 10 - Paula Hamm
- 11 - Emily Graham, Wylene Smith
- 13 - Brittin Friar, Laura Beth Shealy
- 14 - Carla Dudek, Cameron Sease, Samantha Shaw
- 15 - Karen Craven, Ashtyn Perry
- 17 - Jimmy Counts
- 18 - Dalton Rude
- 20 - Tom Eustace, Tracie Turner
- 21 - Dewayne Blackburn, Jenny Harris, Keitt Kunkle, Eddy Richardson
- 22 - Marilyn Sease
- 24 - Amanda Jones, Ed Skinner, Chuck Weatherly

- 25 - Christel Allred, Angie Garner, Collin Merchant
- 27 - Voris Bowers, Kelli Fowler, Vicki Ruff
- 28 - John Butler, Melvin Dominick
- 29 - Jared Jones, Joe Palmer, Candace Nolting
- 30 - River Lever
- 31 - Kendall Trotter, Ruby Miller

## Happy Anniversary!

- August 2 - Ronnie and Devonna Summer
- 5 - Lynn and Martha Waller
- 8 - Bob and Kelly Hamilton
- 11 - Blane and Jody Garmon
- 14 - Randy and Viki Hydrick
- 19 - Lewis and Jane Shuler
- 20 - Andy and Rose Shull  
Mike and Jennifer Wood
- 21 - Hubert and Edith Kinard
- 22 - Charlie and Melinda Sease
- 28 - Keitt and Beth Kunkle
- 31 - Jared and Jessica Jones



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### Children's Sermons

- August 6 Communion
- 13 Ruby Point Miller
- 20 Christy Bouknight
- 27 Anna Farmer



### Children's Church

- August 6 Jacob Wrestles With God
- 13 Joseph's Brothers are Jealous
- 20 Joseph forgives his Brothers
- 27 Baby Moses by the River

### Promotion Sunday

Wightman will celebrate Promotion Sunday on August 6. During both worship services, rising 1st graders and rising 6th graders will receive Bibles. Children entering kindergarten, first grade and fourth grade will move to their new Sunday school classes on that day. Rising sixth graders will begin attending the Youth Sunday School.



### Let's Celebrate!

We registered 100 children for VBS, 52 adult volunteers and 14 youth volunteers. We had a great week at Stellar VBS, singing songs, learning Bible stories and playing games all while we Shined Jesus' Light!!!! As part of our mission project, we brought in donations for the We Care food pantry. We were able to donate a total of 169 items! Thank you for all your help with another successful year at VBS!!



### Backyard Games

On Sunday August 27th, we will enjoy lunch following the second service and then travel to Mike Mills field to play games. Please let Jennifer Boozer (803-924-5460) know if you plan to attend so that she can prepare enough food. Hope to see you there!



# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 United Women in Faith - 3:00 pm	2 Choir - 6:30 pm	3 Staff Meeting - 7:00 pm	4	5
6 Promotion Sunday Holy Communion - 9:00 & 11:15 am Youth - 4:00-6:00 pm CNC Putt Putt - 7:00 pm	7	8	9 M&Ms - 11:00 am  Choir - 6:30 pm	10	11	12
13  Youth - 4:00-6:00 pm	14	15	16 M&Ms - 11:00 am  Choir - 6:30 pm	17	18 Fireflies Game - 7:00 pm	19
20  Youth - 4:00-6:00 pm	21	22	23 M&Ms - 11:00 am  Choir - 6:30 pm	24 Friends of God - 5:30 pm	25	26
27 UMKids Backyard Games - 12:30 pm Youth - 4:00-6:00 pm	28 Newsletter Deadline - 12:00 pm  Loaves and Fishes 5:30-7:00 pm	29	30 M&Ms - 11:00 am  Newsletter Staff - 2:30 pm Choir - 6:30 pm	31		

**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.



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## Christmas Cantata Preview

The Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata preview will be in August with the date announced later in the bulletin. All singers are invited to participate! More information to come.

## Build A Shoebox Online

Through this online service provided by Samaritan's Purse, you can now build a shoebox online! Choose the gender, age range, & pick your gifts from a variety of different options. Wightman has a goal of 100 shoeboxes to be built online by November 19! Scan the QR code to be taken to our goal page and to begin building your shoebox online for Operation Christmas Child!

