



## From the Pastor

I love this time of year when we move into Autumn. The cooler temperatures are a welcome respite from the summer heat and humidity, and the crispness in the air is invigorating. The changing of the leaves with an intriguing palette of colors is a sight to behold, and football, hunting, and a variety of Fall festivals add to the charm of the season for me.

When it comes to church life, I look forward to the season as well, as attendance and giving tick up and events such as Pumpkin Palooza, Trunk or Treat, and the celebration of Thanksgiving are right around the corner. These seasonal events bring us closer together in fellowship and service as we engage folks in the community, inviting them to come to take part in, and be a part of our church family.

This season will also bring with it a vote on October 8 by our Administrative Council on whether we want to ask for a Time of Discernment to prayerfully consider the issue of whether to remain with, or separate from, the United Methodist Denomination. It will also include our Charge Conference on Sunday October 22 as our District Superintendent leads us in this annual business meeting where we celebrate what God has done through us so far this year and plan for next year's ministry.

As you can see, there are important "next faithful steps" we need to take as a congregation, so keep the church in your prayers as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the glory of God and the transformation of the world. And remember, let us seek to have the attitude of Christ and the love of God in all we say and do as we contemplate our future together as a church family.

Yours truly in Christ,  
Pastor B

## Pumpkin Palooza

Mark your calendars for Pumpkin Palooza on October 14 from 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. at Wightman UMC! Come join us for some fall fun as we reach out to the community and share all that Wightman has to offer! Please contact Heather Studer (803-727-3685) to ask questions & volunteer!

### Helpers Needed

- Photos
- Greeters
- Popcorn
- Hay Ride
- Inflatables
- Coffee Bar
- Kids' Games
- Face Painting
- Pie-Eating Contest
- Set Up (Tables, Chairs, Canopies)
- Tear Down



### Materials Needed

- Tractor, Trailer, Hay
- Face Paint
- Golf Carts

## Take 5 to Exercise

Upon request, a new seated exercise program is being offered. This program is designed to improve total body balance, flexibility, strength, maintenance, and posture. There is no fee for this program. It was designed by Kelly Ward, fitness trainer. Paulette Halfacre is the instructor for this program! It will begin on September 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. Please contact Paulette at (803-767-0084) or the church office (803-364-2340) with any questions about this new program at Wightman!

## Birth Announcement

Cole and Tori Harper welcomed their first child, Eden Ellice, on Tuesday, September 12, at 7lbs 9oz and 20.5 inches long. Congratulations to the Harper family!



# The Way Forward Committee

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To Our Wightman UMC Family,

We live in a time of debate and decision within United Methodist Churches across America, as congregations consider whether to separate from or remain with the United Methodist Church. Recognizing the gravity of this issue and to address the many questions and concerns regarding such a sensitive and prevalent topic in our Church, the Wightman UMC Administrative Council has established "The Way Forward Committee," a group charged with providing clear, transparent, and factual information to the congregation of Wightman United Methodist Church regarding this pivotal decision.

## The Way Forward Committee Mission Statement

"The Way Forward Committee is committed to providing transparency, factual information, and clarity to the Wightman Church congregation regarding the pivotal decision of separating from or remaining with the United Methodist Church. Guided by Christian love, we aim to present a comprehensive roadmap of options and their implications, empowering our congregation to make an informed and collective decision for the future of our church."

"The Way Forward Committee" held its first meeting on September 11, 2023, where we reached a unanimous consensus of members present: Wightman Church is more than a congregation; it's a family. Additionally, the committee noted a shared desire that the discussions and actions to come regarding our church's future be compassionate, loving, informed and faith-driven dialogues among our members as we navigate the road ahead.

The role of the committee is to serve as a guide where we will outline various scenarios and their potential outcomes, supporting the congregation in making an informed decision. While the committee does not possess the power to make choices for the church, we are committed to offering a clear roadmap to assist the congregation in understanding the implications of each option as the congregation prepares to make the decision on the path Wightman Church will choose.

We also unanimously selected Joe Palmer as our committee chair. Joe is respected by all members of the committee and has incredible leadership skills to guide us through this process. Please know the committee is working diligently to gather necessary information and will provide regular updates to the Administrative Council and our congregation.

We look forward to your support, prayers, and participation as we navigate these important discussions.

In Christ's Love,  
The Way Forward Committee  
Wightman United Methodist Church

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## Fundraiser

The United Women in Faith are sponsoring a fundraiser for postage for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes Wightman is packing. Frozen meals will be available after both worship services in the Christian Life Center on Sunday, October 22. You can adopt a shoebox for \$10.00 each. These boxes have been packed, but they need to have their postage covered!

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## Thank You Note

To the friends and family of Wightman United Methodist Church:

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. Every time I put it on I feel the prayers for me and my healing. Thank you again. Dot Lester

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## Youth Outing

The youth group will be going to a haunted house and out to eat on the evening of October 14. If you would like to come or would like more information please contact Chris Butler (803-924-9646) or Madison Butler (803-924-0195).

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## Trunk or Treat

Everyone is encouraged and invited to participate in trunk or treat on October 31 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. One way to help is to donate bags of candy (baskets will be in the narthex and Christian Life Center). Also please decorate your trunk and come help us pass out candy.



# Administrative Council Minutes

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The Administrative Council of Wightman United Methodist Church met Sunday, September 17, 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 James 1:5 “asking God to lead us in the decision-making process.” He then had prayer. The minutes of the July 16, 2023 meeting were approved with the addition of Heather Studer being present. There was no old business.



Under new business, Pastor Ben Barnett announced that Jeff Murray had resigned as SPRC chairman and that Vice-Chairman Kirk Atwood is now the acting chairman.

For charge conference preparation, attendees received as information from the Lay Leadership Committee the 2024 Wightman Administrative Council and Administrative Committees members and the Ministerial Support for the Pastor for Calendar Year 2024 form. These will be voted on at charge conference, Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 2:00 pm. The Pastor’s Accountable Reimbursement Policy for \$8,000.00 was a recommendation from SPRC and was approved.

Joe Palmer, Chairman of The Way Forward Committee, informed council about the committee. Members of this new committee are Chris Butler, Emily Cope, Amanda Finley, Glenn Hamm, Jessica Jones, Ellie Kirkland, Joe Palmer, Todd Studer, Mary Wilkie. Ex-officio members are Pastor Ben Barnett, Jeff Shacker, David Mitchell, Gregg Turner and Kristina Cannon. The motion was made to ratify The Way Forward Committee members. It was seconded and approved.

The Way Forward Committee had an organizational meeting on September 11, 2023. Their daunting task is to educate, communicate and aid in the discernment of the disaffiliation process. The group will not make a decision about separation from the United Methodist Church. Chairman Palmer gave a time-table of events that need to occur. The committee is authorized immediately to begin working to educate the congregation with a letter to households; information during the worship services, in the newsletter, in the bulletin and web site; and speakers to give as much factual information as possible. Chairman Palmer said that discernment starts today with all church members in prayer.

Finance Chairman Gregg Turner made the motion that the Finance Committee be authorized to move forward with obtaining an appraisal of all church properties through an approved certified appraiser if the church enters into a period of discernment without another council meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Under committee reports, Trustee Chairman Todd Studer reported that the church is up to code with the elevator. The sprinkler system has been inspected and September 23 is the walk through of the parsonage.

Finance Chairman Gregg Turner reminded committee chairmen that proposed budget requested are due in the church office by Friday, September 22. Please present an accurate budget providing documentation for new increases. The Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6:30 pm to prepare the 2024 proposed church budget.

Youth Minister Chris Butler stated that the pumpkins will arrive Thursday, September 28 at 5:00 pm and lots of help will be needed to unload them. Volunteers are needed to help sell the pumpkins. There has been an increase in attendance at youth. Chris would like to have the church cleaning crew also clean the Lighthouse. He thanked the church for their support.

Children’s Minister Jennifer Boozer said that the Christmas program will be different this year. More volunteers are always needed in the children’s department.

Worship Chairman Janet Davenport reported that October 8 is Golden Age Sunday, November 5 is All Saints Sunday and the church will be decorated for Christmas on Sunday, November 26. She is reaching out to the contemporary worship service since the contemporary worship committee is not active.

Evangelism Chairman Amanda Finley said that some of the committee funds could be used for Pumpkin Palooza. The committee would like to distribute flyers about the church at the event.

Congregational Care Co-Chairmen Gary and Tina Hooker stated that the committee has identified some congregational members with needs and has contacted them with phone calls, cards, meals, visits, etc. They would like to have someone on the committee from the contemporary service. Pastor Barnett said that it is the responsibility of every church member to let the committee know what is needed. In the 2024 church budget the bereavement budgeted line-item needs to be included under this committee.

Pastor Ben Barnett reported that SPRC has completed the evaluation of the pastor form.

Communications Team Chairman Heather Studer said that Pumpkin Palooza is Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to set up, tear down and help at the event. This is a great interaction event with the community and helps identify Wightman. Trunk or Treat is Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Pastor Ben Barnett reminded everyone that “everything should be done in love with a Christ-like atmosphere during this time. Where we will go, no one knows. It is a matter of trusting God.” His hope is that “the fallout will be minimal with the church remaining intact as much as possible.”

Over 100 dozen cookies were donated by the Wightman congregation for the Kairos Prison ministry.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned with prayer. The next scheduled council meeting is Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. with committees meeting at 12:30 p.m.

## Avg. Attendance for September

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9:00 Worship - 114  
11:15 Worship - 80  
Combined Worship - 194  
Church School - 105

## October Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

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### **CROSS BEARERS**

Oct. 1 - Kim Graham  
8 - Betty Graham  
15 - Charlotte Hargreaves  
22 - Linda Richardson  
29 - Jennifer Amick

### **ACOLYTES**

Oct. 1 - Kayleb Graham  
8 - Jayden Kinard  
15 - Brantley Counts-Wohnig  
22 - Hudson Defreese  
29 - Nolan Amick

### **USHERS**

Kenneth Bundrick, Ken Cope,  
David Mitchell, Tom Eustace

### **TRUSTEE FOR OCTOBER**

Todd Studer

### **GREETERS**

Joe Miller and David Mitchell

### **LAY READERS**

Oct. 1 - Jackie Bowers  
8 - Sandy Horne  
15 - Christy Bouknight  
22 - Lonnie Finley  
29 - Hubert Kinard

## October Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

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### **GREETER**

Tim and Jessica Ringer

### **USHERS**

Joe Palmer, Larry Graham,  
Jared Jones, Todd Studer

### **LAY READERS**

Oct. 1 - Josh Meetze  
8 - Tristan Lever  
15 - Laura Kneece  
22 - Daniel Floyd  
29 - Wightman Youth

## Special Gifts to Wightman

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### **UMKids**

In memory of Diane Amick

By: Lynn and Martha Waller  
Cody and Neva Caldwell  
Christy Bouknight

### **General Budget**

In memory of Dianne Amick by Joan Mills

## Monthly Financial Summary

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General Funds (total)	\$ 139,735.08
Designated Funds	64,577.00
General Funds Available	75,158.08
Capital Improvement Fund	185,127.28
Total Funds	\$324,862.36

## Birth Announcement

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Tristan and Will Lever welcomed their second child on August 23. Their daughter, Chandler June, was born at 8lbs 5.5oz and 20 & 3/4 inches long. Congratulations to the Lever family!



## Sewing Kits for Shoeboxes

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If you have sewing supplies, such as “like new” buttons, fabric, trim, needles, thread, etc., consider donating them to be used for packing sewing kits for the shoeboxes. You may place them in the boxes as you enter the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Whitney Wadsworth (803-271-8907, [itswhit@reagan.com](mailto:itswhit@reagan.com)). Thank you for your contribution!



## Pumpkin Patch

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Pumpkins for the pumpkin patch will arrive on Thursday, September 28 at 5:00 p.m. Lots of help will be needed to unload them! Additionally, volunteers are needed to help sell the pumpkins. Come and buy a pumpkin (or two or three) and support our youth. All proceeds from pumpkin sales will go toward their 2024 mission trip, so they are very appreciative of your help in making this year’s patch a success! If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Chris Butler (803-924-9646) or Madison Butler (803-924-0195).



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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- Oct. 1 - Landen Lawrence, Konner Myers  
2 - Rhese DeVall, Rita Stone, Brantley and Ethan Counts-Wohnig  
3 - John Weston Finley, Tori Harper, Jon Roach, Jim Stewart  
4 - Cole Kneece  
5 - Alex Fields  
6 - Bob Burch, Glenn Hamm, Lexi Sease  
7 - Renita Bowers, Larry Bundrick, Emily Cannady, Mickey Compton  
8 - Gerald Johnson, Tyler Johnson  
9 - Anita McCullough, Russell Peel, Wyatt Hazel  
10 - Liam Dominick, Steve Furstenberg, Reed Studer  
11 - Kyle Graham, Jack Owens, Melinda Rhodes  
12 - Lonnie Finley, Rileigh Davis  
13 - Jamie Johnson, Ethan McCullough, Charlie Sease  
14 - Gregg Turner  
15 - Traci Bouknight, Ladison Hamm, Audrey Kunkle  
16 - Marie Earwood, Linda Richardson, Susan Saunders

- 17 - Marcie Lawrence  
19 - Catie Rooney, Jeanette Shirey  
20 - Bennie Sue Hiller, Channing Cannady  
25 - Jeff Davis, Heather Nelson, Mason Ringer  
26 - Jody Garmon, Will Summer  
27 - Tom Saunders, James Turner, Mark Thompson  
28 - Camille Dixon, Chris Johnson, Judy Livingston, Nolan Rogers  
29 - Jon Lawson Cope, Margie Moore  
30 - Logan Mrozinski, Jessica Northcutt

### *Happy Anniversary!*

- Oct. 4 - Luke and Jessica Meetze  
5 - Larry and Dianne Bundrick  
6 - Cody and Neva Caldwell Blake and Aubrey Hamm  
7 - Bill and Renee Joiner  
12 - Marvin and Pam Smith  
14 - Jeff and Rita DeVall  
15 - Hunter and Samantha Shaw  
16 - Eddy and Linda Richardson  
18 - Tyler and Kelly Johnson  
20 - Steven and Alice Douglas Blake and McKensy Cantrell

## Charge Conference

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Our church's annual charge conference will be on October 22 at 2:00 p.m. This is the meeting where we set the budget and elect officers for next year. All members are welcome to attend; however, Administrative Council members are the only ones allowed to vote. Our District Superintendent will lead us in this annual business meeting where we celebrate what God has done through us so far this year and as we prepare for ministry next year.



## Brunch and Bonding

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Join us in the CLC during the Sunday School hour on October 29 for Brunch and Bonding! It's a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and fun!

## Golden Age Sunday

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Wightman will celebrate Golden Age Sunday on October 8. All Golden Agers (age 75+) are invited to attend and bring their families to worship with them as we celebrate those who have given so much in service to Wightman and to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ over the years. You are truly a blessing!



## United Women in Faith

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United Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, October 3 at 3:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. The speaker, a friend of Freda Jones, is a missionary in Haiti. She will speak on Facetime. The snack will be provided by Bebe Way. Each member is encouraged to bring a frozen meal to place in the freezer for the postage fundraiser.



# UMKIDS

## Children's Sermons

- October 1 Communion
- 8 Ruby Point-Miller
- 15 Christy Bouknight
- 22 Anna Farmer
- 29 Madison Graham



## Children's Church

- October 1 Moses Gets Water from a Rock
- 8 The Ten Commandments
- 15 The Golden Calf
- 22 Pharisees Plot Against Jesus
- 29 Love God and Others

## OCTOBER 14

Pumpkin Palooza is from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on October 14! Join us for games, face painting, bouncy house, food and lots of fun! Please invite your friends!



## OCTOBER 21

We are going to Lever Farms! We will meet at the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Plan on having lots of fall fun! Please let Jennifer Boozer (803-924-5460) know if you and your family plan on attending.



## OCTOBER 31

Be sure to visit the walking track on Halloween when you're out trick-or-treating! Trunk or Treat is from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. We cannot wait to see your costumes!



## CHRISTMAS

Christmas is right around the corner! On Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m. we will meet and look at our Christmas program. The Christmas program will be on December 3 at both services, 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Contact Jennifer Boozer (803-924-5460) if you are interested in participating or helping out!



# October 2023

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

<b>1</b> <u>World Communion Sunday</u> Holy Communion - 9:00 & 11:15 am Emmaus Luncheon - 12:30 pm "The Chosen" Bible Study - 3:30 pm Youth Activities - 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> United Women in Faith - 3:00 pm	<b>4</b> Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am Take 5 to Exercise - 10:00 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <u>Golden Age Sunday</u> Called Admin. Council Meeting - 12:30 pm "The Chosen" Bible Study - 3:30 pm Youth Activities - 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Finance Committee - 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am Take 5 to Exercise - 10:00 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pumpkin Palooza- 11:00 am-1:00 pm Youth @ Haunted House
<b>15</b> "The Chosen" Bible Study - 3:30 pm Youth Activities - 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>16</b> UMMen - 7:00 pm SOS - 7:00 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am Take 5 to Exercise - 10:00 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> UMKids Lever Farms - 10:00 am
<b>22</b> Charge Conf. 2:00 "The Chosen" 3:30 Youth 4:00-6:00	<b>23</b> Newsletter Deadline 12:00 pm Loaves and Fishes 5:30-7:00 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am Take 5 to Exercise - 10:00 am M&Ms—11:00 am Newsletter Staff 2:30 pm Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	<b>26</b> Friends of God - 5:30 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> B&B 10:15 am "The Chosen" 3:30 Youth 4:00-6:00 Prayer Serv. 5:30	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Trunk or Treat 5:30 - 7:00 pm				

**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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