



WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

From the Pastor

At our Charge Conference on October 22, in addition to approving our budget, electing our church leadership and setting our goals for 2024, we also celebrated the good things God has done through us so far this year. Among the things we celebrated was how God has blessed Wightman UMC to nurture and send such a large number of persons into the ministry. In the less than four years that I've been pastor here, we have sent forth both Kendell Healy and Vicki Hydrick to serve other United Methodist churches. In addition, another of our very own members, Kenneth Bundrick, is accepting a call to serve two churches right here in our area. I have reserved the space below to let him share his parting thoughts as he departs to heed his calling.

“To my Wightman family:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for all the prayers and support you have shown me over the last 13 years, especially the last few months as I have started my journey in the ministry. It is with a full heart that I announce my last Sunday worshiping with you guys is this Sunday, October 29. I have a full time assignment to Trinity UMC and New Chapel UMC in Newberry. I begin my journey with them on November 1. As most of you know, Wightman has been a huge part of my life. Aubrie and I were married here and Aubrie was baptized here. We have made so many friends here that we will always remember and cherish. Thank you for all you have done for us.

With all our love,
Kenneth and Aubrie”

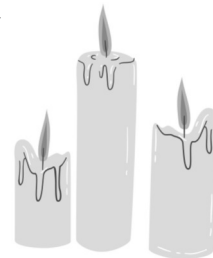
Kenneth has asked for the privilege of preaching here on his last Sunday before taking his new assignment, and I am happy to oblige. Please join us as we worship together and send him and Aubrie forth with joy to serve the Lord.

Pastor B

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 5. This is a special day where the “saints” who have gone before us are remembered. This year, we will light a candle and ring a bell in remembrance of each member of Wightman who has passed away in the previous year.

Join us as we celebrate this cloud of witnesses and the testimony of their faithfulness.



Emmaus Luncheon

The next Emmaus luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 5, at 12:30 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. If you're interested in learning



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM.

more about The Walk to Emmaus, contact Leonard (803-924-5794) or Therry May (803-924-5793).



The Way Forward Committee

To Our Wightman UMC Family,

The following article is offered as a reminder and update to the activities of your committee charged with aiding in discernment of the evolution and changes within the United Methodist denomination. As you will remember from last month's newsletter, 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 the pivotal decision of church affiliation.

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."

By recommendation of this committee and by action of the Administrative Council on October 8th, Wightman United Methodist will offer to the District and Conference of our intent to enter into a **period of discernment** into the issues surrounding affiliation.

Discernment **is**:

- 1) A period, or continuing lifestyle, of intercessory prayer to allow God's will to be shown in and through your life and choices.
- 2) Officially letting the SC Annual Conference know that we, of this congregation, need a time of prayerful consideration of the issues before us.
- 3) That we as Christians allow our decisions to be guided by God's will and we commit, through design and purpose of plan, to seek that wisdom.
- 4) A time to educate ourselves on the issues at hand.

Discernment **is not**:

- 1) A vote to change affiliation or leave a denomination.
- 2) A methodology of forced choices.
- 3) A pathway forward or roadmap in itself.
- 4) A tool to judge others.

"The Way Forward Committee" held its most recent meeting on October 19th. At this session a number of necessary and material items were, and are, being discussed and managed. These issues support and aid in the process of discernment.

At this time, four areas of focus are being diligently worked on:

- 1) Timelines – This local congregational decision-making process will be concluded by March 1, 2024. This timetable is established by the conference. Thus actions, education, and choices will be conducted, to whatever end, by March.
- 2) Intercessory Prayer – No issue should be approached without an absolute leaning of the presence of the Holy Spirit and guidance from our heavenly Father. A group is being organized to help us all in this most important of areas.
- 3) Costs – What are the financial ramifications and alternatives to any affiliation/disaffiliation process? And offering a transparent portrayal of those costs to the congregation. Numerous congregants and committee members are assisting in gathering this information and will be presenting it to you as soon as possible.
- 4) Education – Every member of the congregation bears a personal responsibility to educate themselves about the facts surrounding disaffiliation and current denominational issues. The Committee will try and aid in the dissemination of facts through methods such as a web page focused on the issues, printed material like this newsletter, and direct contact opportunities with speakers considered subject matter experts.

Please know the committee is working diligently to gather necessary information and will provide regular updates to the Administrative Council and our congregation.

During the October 22nd Charge Conference, our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Stephen Love, charged the attendees to "hold one another in love and prayer" and that "God is still in charge." May this be our central thought as we seek God's will in this process.

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

November Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

CROSS BEARERS

Nov. 5 - Madison Graham
12 - Melissa Freeman
19 - Charlotte Hargreaves
26 - Betty Graham

ACOLYTES

Nov. 5 - Kyle Graham
12 - Bristol Freeman
19 - Ethan Counts-Wohnig
26 - Jayden Kinard

USHERS

Kirk Atwood, Joe Miller,
Ted Graham, Robbie Amick

TRUSTEE FOR NOVEMBER

Todd Studer

GREETERS

Charlotte Hargreaves and Tina Hooker

LAY READERS

Nov. 5 - Gary Hooker
12 - Devonna Summer
19 - Hudson Defreese
26 - Lewis Shuler

November Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

GREETER

Todd and Heather Studer

USHERS

Kyle Kneece, Chris Butler,
Josh Meetze, Nick Counts

LAY READERS

Nov. 5 - Will Morse
12 - Wightman Youth
19 - Jeff Shacker
26 - Brittany Hazel

Operation Christmas Child

It's time to start packing your shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes are available in the narthex and at the exit in the CLC. If you would like to pack boxes with gifts that have already been purchased, visit the shoebox room upstairs in the CLC. Contact Cecilia Odum (803-924-1222) with questions.



Celebrating Our Golden Agers - October 8, 2023

First row (l to r): Freda Jones, Mollie Graham, Bennie Sue Hiller
Second row: Rosemary Bowers, Emily Graham, Jane Shuler, Joan Mills, Margie Moore, Martha Waller, Elizabeth Skinner, Marcelle Ackerman, Wylene Smith, Shirley Atwood, Kirk Atwood, Jackie Bowers, Dewey Earwood
Third row: Lewis Shuler, Ron Wood, Ed Skinner, Carol Charette, Tommy Bowers
Last row: Bert Dixon, Ron Charette, John Hargreaves

A Note to Wightman



To the Wightman UMC Community:

How can we even begin to express our thanks to everyone who has reached out to us since July 26th when we lost our loved one, Lt. Mike Wood. The overwhelming outpouring of love and response has touched us deeply and is giving us the strength to try to carry on. And a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the funeral reception and for the most beautiful prayer shawl. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and thank you again.

Jennifer, Brandon and Alex Wood

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Nov. 1 - Becky Davis
- 3 - Bill Joiner
- 4 - Bobby Martin, Sue Theriot
- 5 - Selena Kinard
- 6 - Trinity Rivers
- 7 - Bert Dixon
- 8 - Mary Smith
- 9 - Janet Davenport
- 10 - Kristen Shacker
- 11 - Kaysen Floyd, Jensen Floyd
- 12 - Jackie Harris, Melissa Howe, Mike Perez, Chad Thomason
- 13 - Trent Fowler, Kelly Johnson, Kelby Myers, Hayden Shaw, Austin Sease
- 16 - Cameron Stutts
- 17 - Jim Ridlen
- 18 - Belinda Rhodes
- 19 - Ron Abrams, Jim Atkison, Amie Morse, Blair Williams
- 20 - Ed Farr
- 21 - Brandon Hensley, Mike Mills, Jeff Murray
- 22 - Dewey Earwood, Amy Wise
- 23 - Chance Butler, Betty Graham, Andrew Guy, Hunter Sanders, Kelly Warren

- 25 - Jack Hamm
- 27 - Shirley Atwood, Dianne Cotney, Emma Johnson, Jimmy Jones, Sean Silvestri
- 28 - Mimi Rogers
- 29 - Donna Franklin, Sandy Horne, Ashlyn Kinard, David Mitchell
- 30 - Marie B. Johnson, Sami Pitts, Toni Simei

Happy Anniversary!

- Nov. 2 - Gregg and Tracie Turner
- 4 - Barney and Judy Joiner
- 5 - David and Marilyn Sease
- 9 - Eric and Jentry Bickley
- 11 - Dewayne and Nancy Blackburn
- 14 - Eric and JonAnn Lemoine Phillip and Kendall Trotter
- 15 - Harold and Jane Broughton
- 17 - Hu and Rachel Mills
- 20 - Jimmy and Lynda Counts
- 23 - Darrell and Kinley Beckham
- 27 - Ed and June Farr

Avg. Attendance for November

9:00 Worship -	117
11:15 Worship -	71
Combined Worship -	188
Church School -	100

Monthly Financial Summary

General Funds (total)	\$ 148,640.00
Designated Funds	56,115.41
General Funds Available	92,524.59
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>185,506.73</u>
Total Funds	\$334,146.73

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, November 7, at 3:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. Joan Mills will lead the



United Women in Faith

South Carolina Conference

program titled "World Thank Offering". This is a special offering. Cecilia Odum will speak on the "Shoebbox Challenge." Sue Hiller will provide the snack. All women of the church are invited to attend! If you have any questions about the UWF, contact Rosemary Bowers (803-924-1574).

Advent/Christmas Schedule

November 26	Advent/Christmas Decorating	During Sunday School
December 3	Hanging of the Greens & Children's Christmas Program	9:00 am & 11:15 am 9:00 am & 11:15 am
December 10	Christmas Cantata Special Christmas Music, Praise Band	9:00 am, Sanctuary 11:15 am, Christian Life Center
December 17	Youth Christmas Program	9:00 am & 11:15 am
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00 pm

JOY Group

The JOY Group Christmas Party will be Monday, December 11 in the Christian Life Center. Entertainment will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a catered lunch by Bill and Fran's served at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$15.00. Make reservations on any of the sign up sheets in the Sunday School classrooms or in the narthex. Bring your money for the meal to the meeting. Please be aware that if you make a reservation, you are expected to pay! Contact Rosemary Bowers (803-924-1574) with any questions.



Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, messages, and memorials made for the passing of Robbie's mom, Mrs. Dianne. We are so grateful for our church family.

Love, Robbie, Jennifer, Nolan, and Eli Amick

Special Gifts to Wightman

UMKids

In memory of Diane Amick by Tommy & Jackie Bowers

Operating Budget

In memory of Ellis Dowd by Larry & Emily Graham

Advent/Christmas Decorating



The church will be decorating for the Advent and Christmas season during the Sunday School hour (10:15-11:15 a.m.) on November 26. Many hands make light work, so please let Janet Davenport (803-940-7325), chair of our worship committee, know if you can help.

Hanging of the Greens

The First Sunday of Advent comes on December 3. In celebration, we will have a special "Hanging of the Greens" in our two worship services that Sunday. It is our hope that you will join us for this and all of our special Advent/Christmas services. The schedule of these services may be found above.



Serving in Worship

If you would like to be added to the lists to be a lay reader, children's sermon volunteer, greeter or nursery worker, please contact Janet Davenport (803-940-7325) or email janetfdavenport@gmail.com. Also, please notify Janet if you served in any of these capacities this year and would no longer like to serve. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for the 9:00 service, please also let Janet know.

If you would like to be an acolyte or cross bearer (ages 9 years and up) at the 9:00 service, please notify Charlotte Hargreaves (803-730-8494).



UMKIDS

Children's Sermons

November 5 Communion
12 Rosemary Bowers
19 Henry Dominick
26 Madison Graham



Children's Church

November 5 Practice What You Preach
12 Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids
19 The Parable of the Talents
26 Thanks Living

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

We will have Christmas practice every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Our Christmas program will be Sunday, December 3, in both services (9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.). More details to come about the dress rehearsal which will be on Saturday, December 2.

We will practice some in Sunday School and during Children's Church. Please listen with your children at home when you can!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child are available in the narthex and Christian Life Center. Please consider filling a box with gifts (soccer ball, stuffed animal, coloring books, school supplies, small toys, hygiene products, etc.) to share God's love with children all over the world. Don't forget about the \$10.00 to ship your box!



FALL FUN AT LEVER FARMS

We had a blast on Saturday, October 21, at Lever Farms! Thanks to all who joined us!



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	2	3	4
5 All Saints Sunday Holy Communion Emmaus Luncheon - 12:30 pm Youth Activities - 4:00-6:00 pm Children's Practice - 4:00 pm	6	7 UWF - 3:00 pm	8 Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	9	10	11 Youth Bonfire and Game Night
12 Youth Activities - 4:00-6:00 pm Children's Practice - 4:00 pm	13	14	15 Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	16	17	18
19 Committees - 12:30 pm Admin. Council - 1:30 pm Youth Activities - 4:00-6:00 pm Children's Practice 4:00 pm	20 UMMen -7:00 pm SOS - 7:00 pm	21	22 Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am M&Ms—11:00 am Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	23 Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed	24	25
26 Advent Decorating - 10:15 am Children's Practice - 4:00 pm	27 Newsletter Deadline - 12:00 Loaves & Fishes - 5:30-7:00 pm	28	29 Men's Bible Study- 6:30 am M&Ms—11:00 am Newsletter Staff - 2:30 pm Chancel Choir- 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata - 7:15 pm	30		

**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
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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