



# WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

## From the Pastor

When you get this newsletter, I expect we will already be in the New Year of 2024. The New Year is a good time to let bygones be bygones and to begin the year ahead with a clean slate. The Word of God has a lot to say about New Beginnings, and there is even a hymn in our hymnal whose first verse is: "This is the day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone."

Remembering . . . Moving on . . . These are important first steps to a bright future, and we must do both. So, let's remember the blessings God has brought into our lives and to our church in the last year and give thanks for God's goodness and faithfulness through it all! And let's also move on, which means forgiving and forgetting, laying to rest the pain that can make us a prisoner of our past wounds or mistakes.

Moving on is a choice—a decision that takes courage to make, and with God's help we can do it! I KNOW we can do it, because God's promises tell us so. We CAN move on, and we CAN move forward in a positive direction and with a good attitude whatever comes our way because, "We CAN DO ALL THINGS through Christ who strengthens us!"

So, as we move through this New Year and prepare to take a vote in February on disaffiliation, a vote that could leave some of us disappointed, hurt or angry, let's decide now, as we begin a New Year, that we are going to trust that God is working "all things together for the good" (for us and our church), whatever the future may hold. And let's pray and believe that, however the vote may go, the plans God has for us as a congregation are good plans that will bring a new beginning to us here at Wightman as we move into an unknown future but are led by a God who knows us, is known by us, and loves us!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor B

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Walk to Emmaus

Do you seek . . .

- Spiritual Renewal?
- A new understanding of God's grace and love?
- Worship & 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: March 7-10, 2024
- Women's Walk: March 14-17, 2024



*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.*

# The Way Forward Committee

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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 previous newsletters, the Wightman UMC Administrative Council 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.

The Way Forward Committee wishes to offer a number of processes and opportunities to aid on your personal discernment on affiliation issues.

1. The Intercessory prayer group continues to seek God's wisdom and all members are encouraged to include prayer as a central part of this process.
2. A web page has been developed and is available to help guide you through the process and aid in resources which you may find helpful in your discernment.  
<http://www.wightmanumc.org/the-way-forward/> Please take the time to visit this site and familiarize yourself with the process.
3. Three face to face sessions will be held in the sanctuary in January to allow interaction with subject matter experts to further your discernment.

**January 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** – Rev. Michael Turner will present the issues surrounding disaffiliation.

**January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** – Rev. Cathy Jamieson will present the issues surrounding United Methodist Church affiliation.

**January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** – The Administrative Council and Finance Committee will present options and thoughts on the financial implications of disaffiliation.

The questions, which members provided in December, will be distributed to these three groups for incorporation into their presentations.

4. A congregational meeting will be scheduled for February 2024; led by the District Superintendent, at which an affiliation vote will be held. The specifics of this meeting are still in development but best knowledge to date states that this will be a church member only, written ballot, process.

Additionally, many members are seeking guidance on where Wightman will land denominationally/congregationally if disaffiliation occurs. The Way Forward Committee, at this point, can only provide the vision that another discernment period will exist after the February 2024 vote, to weigh options on the stance of Global Methodist affiliation, Independent, or other options. This will certainly have a role into your discernment, but only your personal research can play into that consideration at this point as the fundamental issue of disaffiliation must be first addressed. As The Way Forward Committee has seen first-hand and has addressed in our meetings, much rumor and disinformation exists and discernment must incorporate your personal research to seek the truth in God's direction.

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

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

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## Monthly Financial Summary

General Funds (total)	\$ 122,751.27
Designated Funds	54,898.57
General Funds Available	67,861.70
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>188,372.88</u>
Total Funds	\$311,124.15

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## Avg. Attendance for December

9:00 Worship	- 167
11:15 Worship	- 86
Combined Worship	- 253
Church School	- 79

# 2024 Wightman Committees and Officers

## OFFICERS

Chairperson - Jeff Shacker  
Vice-Chairperson - Daniel Floyd  
Secretary - Martha Waller

Jennifer Amick	Children's Representative
Ben Barnett	Pastor
Jennifer Boozer	Children's Ministry Director (Staff)
Rosemary Bowers	President of UWF, Older Adult Representative
Chris Butler	Youth Director (Staff)
Emily Cope	Chair of SPRC
Lynda Counts	Church Treasurer
Janet Davenport	Worship Team Leader
Kristin Defreese	Nursery Director (Staff)
Henry Dominick	Discipleship Team Leader
Amanda Finley	Evangelism Team Leader
Daniel Floyd	Vice-Chairperson of Council
Melissa Freeman	Nursery Representative
Gary Hooker	Lay Member to Annual Conference Representative
Tina/Gary Hooker	Congregational Care & Bereavement Team Leaders
Ellie Kirkland	Youth Representative
Leonard May	Missions Team Leader
David Mitchell	Lay Leader, President of United Methodist Men
Blake Richardson	Young Adult Representative
Eddie Rivers	Organist/Choirmaster (Staff)
Julia Roach	Church Secretary (Staff)
Jeff Shacker	Chairperson of Council/Adult Representative
Hunter Shaw	Security Team Leader
Heather Studer	Communications Team Leader
(To Be Elected)	Chairperson of Trustees
Gregg Turner	Chairperson of Finance Committee
Zack Waites	Contemporary Service Director (Staff)
Martha Waller	Church Historian

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

### Nominations and Leadership Development

Chairperson - Pastor		
Secretary - (To Be Elected)		
Lay Leader - David Mitchell		
Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Emily Cope	Jared Jones (YA)	Hubert Kinard
Mark Kirkland	Hudson Defreese (Y)	Renee Joiner

### Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chairperson - Emily Cope		
Lay Member to Annual Conference - Kirk Atwood		
Lay Leader - David Mitchell		
Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Jackie Bowers	Levi Joiner	Darrell Beckham
Chuck Weatherly	Maria Chandler	Kim Hamm
Lonnie Finley	Kristina Cannon	Emily Cope

Trustees

Chairperson - (To Be Elected)  
Vice-Chairperson - (To Be Elected)  
Secretary - (To Be Elected)

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Rusty Farmer	Ken Cope	Ron Wood
Kelli Fowler	Mitch Lowder	Nick Dudek
Todd Studer	Dianne Cotney	Jenny Harris

Finance

Chairperson - Gregg Turner  
Vice-Chairperson - Lynda Counts  
Secretary - Martha Waller

Jeff Shacker, Lynda Counts, David Mitchell, Martha Waller, (Trustee Chair - To Be Elected)

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Carla Dudek	Gregg Turner	Larry Wadsworth
Arthur Guy	Kenneth Bundrick	Ruby Miller

**MINISTRY TEAMS**

Worship

Chair Person - Janet Davenport  
Ushers - Larry Graham

9:00 a.m. Service

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Karen Bowers	Mike Smith	Amy Kirkland
Janet Davenport	Tim Chandler	Trent Fowler

11:15 a.m. Service

Chairperson - Rosemary Floyd

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Madison Butler	Jessica Jones	Marquerite Palmer
Rosemary Floyd	Laurie Shacker	Josh Meetze

Evangelism

Chairperson - Amanda Finley

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Bryson Counts	Allie Compton	Joe Miller
Amanda Finley	Lee Boozer	Beverly Heinly

Discipleship

Chairperson - Henry Dominick

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Rhonda Johnson	Henry Dominick	Freda Jones
Laurie Shacker	Missy Roach	Devonna Summer

Missions

Chairperson - Leonard May

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Jenny Harris	Lewis Shuler	Leonard May
Linda Richardson	Ron Charette	Belinda Rhodes

Communications

Chairperson - Heather Studer

Class of '24	Class of '25	Class of '26
Heather Studer	Chuck Weatherly	Mary-Mac Richardson

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Jan. 1 - Darly Bernardo<br/>         2 - Camryn Butler<br/>         3 - Colie Kinard, Rhonda Koon,<br/>         Rebecca Meyers<br/>         4 - Travis Ray, Anna Wicker<br/>         5 - Nick Dudek, Sam Gause, Jeff Shacker,<br/>         Autumn Gallman<br/>         6 - Marie A. Johnson, Peggy Shuler<br/>         9 - Mandy Counts<br/>         10 - Beverly Heinly, Joan Mills,<br/>         Wayne Perry<br/>         11 - Will Stewart<br/>         14 - Barney Joiner, Betty Walker,<br/>         John Garner, Chloe Kirkland,<br/>         Kylie York<br/>         15 - Patti Suber<br/>         16 - Jessica Ringer<br/>         17 - Blake Richardson, Peyton Butler<br/>         18 - Laura Barnett, Lynda Counts,<br/>         Jennifer Boozer, Candice Kingsmore,<br/>         Brooks Cannady<br/>         19 - Marvin Smith, Brayden Pressley<br/>         21 - Jamie Freeman, Bowen Hamm<br/>         22 - Jenny Sanchez, Maloree Grimsley,<br/>         Elijah Abrams</p> | <p>24 - Patrick McDuffie<br/>         25 - Finley Garvin, Michelle Drumm,<br/>         Rebekah Smith<br/>         26 - Therry May, Tina Brown, Jimmy Hazel,<br/>         Nancy Gause, Molly Dennis,<br/>         Brent Caldwell<br/>         27 - Gary Hooker<br/>         28 - Celie Kempson, Alan Longshore,<br/>         Josh Meetze, Jacob Shealy, J.C. Hazel<br/>         30 - Emily Cope, Becky Rude, Braxton Kinard,<br/>         Bowen Davis<br/>         31 - Brenda Clapp, Hannah Davenport</p> |
|---|---|

## Happy Anniversary!

- |  |
|--|
| <p>Jan . 1 - Jesse and Mimi Rogers<br/>         12 - Jimmy and Freda Jones<br/>         19 - Kenneth and Aubrie Bundrick<br/>         24 - Larry and Emily Graham<br/>         26 - Jimmy and Karon Hazel<br/>         28 - Travis and Marianna Ray<br/>         John and Rebecca Meyers</p> |
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## December Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

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### **CROSS BEARERS**

- Jan. 7 - Betty Graham  
 14 - Melissa Freeman  
 21 - Charlotte Hargreaves  
 28 - Linda Richardson

### **ACOLYTES**

- Jan. 7 - Jayden Kinard  
 14 - Bristol Freeman  
 21 - Ethan Counts-Wohnig  
 28 - Hudson Defreese

### **USHERS**

Lonnie Finley, Ken Cope,  
 Ron Charette, Jeff Murray

### **TRUSTEE FOR JANUARY**

Todd Studer

### **GREETERS**

Neva Caldwell and Dianne Cotney

### **LAY READERS**

- Jan. 7 - David Mitchell  
 14 - Camille Dixon  
 21 - Jackie Bowers  
 28 - Sandy Horne

## December Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

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### **GREETERS**

Jared and Jessica Jones

### **USHERS**

Blake Cantrell, Larry Graham,  
 Lee Boozer, Todd Studer

### **LAY READERS**

- Jan. 7 - Jared Jones  
 14 - Madison Butler  
 21 - Heather Studer  
 28 - Will Lever



In loving memory of  
*Caroline Cook*  
*Cockrell*

12.11.1936 - 12.20.2023

## Special Gifts to Wightman

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### Operating Budget

In memory of Eddie Graham by Karl and Georgie  
Fay Fulmer and Nathan Graham

In memory of Rev. Jim Williams by Mollie Graham

In memory of Voris Bowers

By: Ladison and Paula Hamm

Keith and Roxanne Kibler

Lee and Elaine Bedenbaugh

SCDOT Newberry Maintenance Employee

Joe, Kim, and Hunter Werts

Stanley and Christine Boland, Mary Shealy

Joe and Peggy Boozer

Henry B. Summer and Co. Inc

Tommy and Jackie Bowers

Gary and Tina Hooker

Robert and Alice Davis

Jimmy and Lynda Counts

Ted and Madison Graham

Marcelle Ackerman

Christy Bouknight

Bill and Renee Joiner

Lonnie and Amanda Finley

John and Charlotte Hargreaves

In memory of Caroline Cockrell

By: Ted Graham Family

Mollie D. Graham

Christy Bouknight

### United Women in Faith

In memory of Voris Bowers by Rosemary Bowers

### Capital Improvement Fund

In honor of Todd Studer and Julia Roach by Lynn  
and Martha Waller

In memory of Voris Bowers by Chuck and Debra  
Weatherly

### ABC Fund

In memory of Ellis Dowd by the ABC Class

### UMKids

In memory of Voris Bowers by Cody & Neva  
Caldwell

## Update Your Information!

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If your mailing address, email address or phone  
number changed during 2023,  
please notify the church office by  
Monday, January 8, so we can  
include the correct information in  
the 2024 yearbook. Thank you!



# UMKIDS

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### Children's Sermons

January 7 Communion  
14 Christy Bouknight  
21 Madison Graham  
28 Rosemary Bowers



### Children's Church

January 7 Is Christmas Really Over?  
14 God Calls Samuel  
21 Jonah Runs From God  
28 Who's In Control?

Sunday School lessons vary from class to class.

### PARENTS

I NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!! Parents please give  
me suggestions on activities/service projects  
that we can do in 2024. I'm also going to ask  
the children for their feedback. We are  
looking at activities every other month along  
with a few service projects. The following  
are just a few we have done in the past but  
definitely not limited to: bowling, roller  
skating, splash pad, backyard games, pumpkin  
patch, movie night.

### GREAT JOB!

Shout out to the children for a job well done  
sharing Jesus is Born! A True Story.

## YEARBOOK DEADLINE



# January 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Take 5 10:00 am M&Ms 11:00 am Intercessory Prayer 11:00 am Choir 6:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Holy Communion 9:00 & 11:15 am Emmaus Luncheon 12:30 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>8</b> 2024 Yearbook Deadline 12:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Take 5 10:00 am M&Ms 11:00 am Intercessory Prayer 11:00 am Choir 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Presentation by Rev. Michael Turner 4:00 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>15</b> UMMen 7:00 pm SOS 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Take 5 10:00 am M&Ms 11:00 am Intercessory Prayer 11:00 am Choir 6:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Committees 12:30 pm Admin. Council 1:30 pm Presentation by Rev. Cathy Jamieson 4:00 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>22</b> Loaves and Fishes 5:30 - 7:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Take 5 10:00 am M&Ms 11:00 am Intercessory Prayer 11:00 am Choir 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> Friends of God 5:30 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Financial Implications Discussion 4:00 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>29</b> Feb. Newsletter Deadline 12:00 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Take 5 10:00 am M&Ms 11:00 am Intercessory Prayer 11:00 am News./Yearbook Staff 12:30 pm Choir 6:30 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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