



WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

From the Pastor

As I write this article, I am reflecting on my 40 years of ministry in United Methodist churches across the state of South Carolina. I am thankful for these years and am especially thankful for the last four years serving as your pastor. They have been some of the most enjoyable, fulfilling years of my ministry.

For this reason, it is with a degree of sadness that I am announcing my plans to retire as of the 2024 Annual Conference. This may not be a surprise to some of you, but to others it might be. Please know that this has *nothing* to do with the issues of separation from the denomination. It has *everything* to do with Laura and I desiring more freedom and time to spend with our children and grandchildren and to enjoy a more leisurely life, doing the things we love while we are still young and healthy enough to do so.

At first thought, this may seem like poor timing, in light of other changes the congregation is currently facing. However, I believe that “God makes all things beautiful in His time,” (Ecclesiastes 3:11) and as best as Laura and I can discern, *this* is God’s time! I have no doubt that the plans God has for Wightman are good, and that any future challenges it faces will be met with a calm trust in God, as it always has. I also know that God will provide it with the leadership it needs to lead it into a new season of vital ministry and growth.

My prayers for this church, and for Laura and myself, are that the Lord will keep shining His guiding light upon us as we embrace the opportunities that attend every change-point of our lives! Please join me in praying that as we navigate these somewhat *murky* waters, we will be led *clearly and noticeably* by God’s righteous, omnipotent hand to a bright and blessed future.



Yours truly in Christ,
Pastor B

United Women in Faith

The United Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, March 5, at 3:00 pm in the Old Fellowship Hall. Mr. Jim Atkison will present the program titled, “A-Choo!: Overview of Allergic Rhinitis”. The snack will be provided by Margaret Boozer and Maryanne Atkison. Everyone is invited to attend.



United Women in Faith

South Carolina Conference

Lenten Breakfast

During the season of Lent, the congregation is invited to gather in the Christian Life Center at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and a short devotion each Sunday morning. The breakfasts will continue through Palm Sunday, March 24.



Easter Eggstravaganza

The Easter Eggstravaganza will be Saturday, March 30th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the Easter story and egg hunt to follow. Many people are needed to help with this big outreach event! Please contact Amanda Finley to volunteer (803-940-7279)!





H O L Y · W E E K

Please mark your calendars for our Holy Week activities culminating in the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, March 31.

March 24 Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, the children will process into church waving palm branches at each service. All children need to meet in the fellowship hall at 8:45 on March 24 to prepare for the procession at the 9:00 service. Meet in the CLC at 11:00 for the 11:15 service.



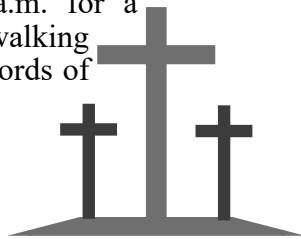
March 28 Maundy Thursday

Wightman will observe Maundy Thursday with a service of Holy Communion at the chancel rail. This will be a time to prepare our hearts for Good Friday and the glorious Easter resurrection. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m.



March 29 Good Friday

The Friday before Easter is known as "Good Friday." The term comes from a derivation of the phrase, "God's Friday." It commemorates the day Jesus spent on the cross, dying for the sins of the world. Please be mindful of this as you go about your day on Good Friday and, if you have time, join us from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. for a meditative walk at the walking track on the "Seven Last Words of Christ" from the cross.



March 31 Easter Sunrise Service

There will be a community Easter Sunrise Service to celebrate our risen Lord at Wightman's parking lot on Easter Sunday morning at 7:00 (in case of rain, the service will be held in Wightman's sanctuary). Reverend Ben Barnett will be preaching. Following the service, all are invited to the Grace Lutheran Church for breakfast.



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunrise Service	7:00 a.m.
Traditional Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:15 a.m.
Contemp. Service	11:15 a.m.



Special Gifts to Wightman

Operating Budget

In memory of Lynn Waller
 By: Larry and Emily Graham
 Jimmy and Lynda Counts
 Green Acres Farm & Construction Co. Inc
 Kevin and Johnette Kinard
 Lonnie and Amanda Finley
 Bill and Renee Joiner
 Kirk and Shirley Atwood
 Mollie Graham
 Christy Bouknight
 Joan Mills
 Leonard and Therry May
 Ted and Madison Graham
 McSwain-Evans Funeral Home
 Newberry Pistol Club
 Lynn K. Waller
 Raymond and Vicki Ruff
 Robert and Alice Davis
 Henry B. Summer and Co. Inc
 David and Marilynn Sease
 Marcelle Ackerman
 Rosemary Bowers
 Wylene Smith
 Karen Bowers
 Terry and Susan Fellers
 Zadean Bouknight
 Ron and Jan Wood
 John and Charlotte Hargreaves
 Gary and Tina Hooker

In memory of Melvin Dominick
 By: Ladison and Paula Hamm
 Christy Bouknight
 Kevin and Johnette Kinard

In memory of Caroline Cockrell by Henry B. Summer and Co. Inc
 In memory of Voris Bowers by Wylene Smith

Capital Improvement

In memory of Lynn Waller
 By: Elijah and Olivia Abrams
 Chuck and Debra Weatherly

Music Fund

In memory of Lynn Waller by Sue Hiller

UMKids

In memory of Lynn Waller by Traci Bouknight



In loving memory of

*Melvin Ray
 Dominick*

8.28.1941 - 2.17.2024

Avg. Attendance for February

9:00 Worship - 113
 11:15 Worship - 68
 Combined Worship - 181
 Church School - 96

Monthly Financial Summary

General Funds (total)	\$ 140,902.02
Designated Funds	54,394.12
General Funds Available	86,507.95
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>189,060.07</u>
Total Funds	\$329,962.14

Contemporary Band

Wightman Contemporary Band is faithfully searching for permanent and fill in musicians to play guitar and piano during contemporary service! If you are interested in playing with the contemporary band, please text/call Zack Waites at 803-210-7774!



Operation Christmas Child

Did you hear the news? There's a new workshop for Operation Christmas Child! Come visit the new room for OCC upstairs in the Christian Life Center. It's right across from the stairwell as you come up from the CLC. You can't miss it!

When you stop by, consider leaving a gift. Currently, the needs are: crayons, colored pencils, red and blue ink pens, copy paper, washcloths, mild soap (Ivory or Dial), and high quality soccer balls. Thank you for your continued support in this ministry!



Welcoming New Members

Wightman happily received Tom and Donna Bumgardner and their two children Christen and Tres on Sunday, January 14. Tom, Donna and Tres come to us by transfer from Hollywood Hills UMC in Hollywood, FL and Christen from Coral Springs UMC in Coral Springs, FL. Tom is a retired electrical engineer and Donna is a retired attorney and corporate personnel director, who continues to do some litigation and mediation work. Christen works for AAA as a claims adjuster and customer service representative, and Tres works with Tom in their rental property business. (Pictured right)



On Sunday, February 4, Sharon and John Rodriguez joined Wightman by reaffirmation of faith! John and Sharon are semi-retired—John from the food services and real estate business, and Sharon from the fashion industry. (Pictured left)

On Sunday, February 11, Sandra Brown joined Wightman by reaffirmation of faith from the Free Methodist Church in Barstow, CA, where she was once a member. Sandra attends the 11:15 AM Service. Sandra has 4 grown children, Michael, Trish, Donna and John, and a Maltese dog named Charlie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 2 - Elizabeth Skinner, Alicia Overstreet
4 - Melinda Sease
5 - Brady Sease
7 - Jewel Garner, Missy Roach,
Kenley Beckham, Logan Friar
8 - Luke Meetze, Michael Ward
9 - Arthur Guy, Robbie Kinard
11 - Linda Clevenger, Cam Farr
15 - Donna Eustace, Austin Guy
16 - Margaret Boozer, Pam Smith,
Jeanne Riggs, Chris Ringer,
Asher LeCompte
17 - Leah McCullough, Dillon Hamilton
18 - Hunter Shaw, Emily Metts, Tina York
20 - Kelly Hamilton
22 - Renee Joiner
23 - Paula Stewart, Lena Dickert
24 - Dante Meade, Zack Sherman
25 - Joe Miller, Blake Bickley,
Jackson Cannon, Coleman Cannon
26 - Brittany Hazel
27 - James Hazel, Alex Wood, Cole Allred

28 - Agatha Cook
29 - Lynn Thacker, Brian LeCompte
30 - Sam Floyd
31 - Pete McLain, Maria Chandler,
Billy Parnell, Dennis Knight,
Tim Ringer, Billy Gallman Jr.

Happy Anniversary!

March 2 - Kirk and Shirley Atwood
John and Betty Walker
5 - Mitch and Susan Lowder
6 - Jon and Missy Roach
7 - Will and Tristan Lever
John and Jordan Butler
19 - Daniel and Elyssa Haven
21 - Jackie and Jenny Harris
Daniel and Rosemary Floyd
26 - Bobby and Pam Martin
27 - Brent and Amanda Jones

Mystery Dinner Theater

Wightman's second Mystery Dinner production will be held May 18th at 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.! While watching the play, "The Fifth Gospel," the audience will be served a delicious dinner and dessert. Tables of 6 will work together in an effort to solve the mystery and win a prize. The tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children twelve years and younger. They must be purchased in advance from Lucy Thompson, Donna Eustace, or the church office. Make checks out to Wightman UMC, marked "Mystery Dinner." All proceeds will benefit our summer Youth mission trip. Please note that there is a need for two additional people to help sell tickets. Additionally, help is needed to set up tables and chairs on May 16. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lucy Thompson (603-748-1202).



Administrative Council Report

The Administrative Council of Wightman United Methodist Church met Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Educational Building Fellowship Hall following the called charge conference where Kenneth Bundrick was recommended as a Licensed Local Pastor to the United Methodist Ministry.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Floyd called the meeting to order, read verses from Isaiah 40 and opened with prayer. The minutes of the November 19, 2023 meeting were approved. There was no old business.

Under new business, Finance Chairman Gregg Turner presented information on the disaffiliation financing. The original cost to disaffiliate was projected to be \$415,524.00. However, the paperwork was unclear and according to the attorney we will not have to pay an additional year of the pastor's salary for a savings of \$134,300.00 making the cost to leave approximately \$280,000.00. The Finance committee recommends a fundraising campaign where Chairman Turner will present a chart with the number of families and amounts in each group needed to fund this cost. He will present this information to each worship service on Sunday, March 3, with the goal to raise the funds by May 15, 2024. Finance formed 2 subcommittees (1) to talk to financial institutions regarding a loan should the funds not be raised and (2) the fundraising campaign. Wightman ended 2023 with spending only \$381,000.00 of the \$408,000.00 budget. Income received was \$388,000.00 leaving a \$7,700.00 surplus for the year.

Under committee reports, Missions Chairman Leonard May said that the committee would like to do more local mission work in our community.

Trustee Chairman Ken Cope stated that Todd Studer had resigned as chairman and he was moved up from vice-chairman. Ron Wood is the new vice-chairman. HVAC coils and copper tubing must be replaced in the sanctuary at a cost of \$5,378.00. Finance recommends that the cost come from the Trustee budgeted line-item Improvement and Maintenance. The budget will have to be revised after June 30, 2024.

Joe Palmer noted that by the end of June all references to the United Methodist Church (all signs, accounts, websites) must be removed. Ken Cope made the motion that these costs come from the Trustee general budget Improvement and Maintenance line-item. Chris Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

Youth Minister Chris Butler reported that Souper Bowl Sunday was slow as many youth chose to spend the day with their families. Currently no events are planned as he would like input from the youth as to what they would like to do. The youth mission trip this year is to Pittsburg, PA July 7-12, 2024.

Children's Minister Jennifer Boozer said that movie night was cancelled due to illness. In April the UMKids are taking a hike on the Palmetto Trail. Vacation Bible School is June 23-27.

Evangelism Chairman Amanda Finley stated that their two main outreaches are the Easter Eggstravaganza and Pumpkin Palooza. The Easter event is Saturday, March 30 where there will be a reenactment of the Easter story, games, bouncy houses, an egg hunt on the Mike Mills Field, food and possible tractor/train rides.

Discipleship Chairman Henry Dominick said that they would like to have a list of small groups and Sunday school classes scrolling with the announcements on the screens before each worship service. He will consult with Julia. Beginning in March each Tuesday night for 4 weeks, a Bible study is being planned in the sanctuary.

Since the Congregational Care co-chairmen were ill, Pastor Ben Barnett requested that the former Asbury Bedenbaugh Sunday School classroom be used as a workshop for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The request was approved.

P/SPRC Chairman Emily Cope reported that the committee met January 30 where members were given an overview of their role on the committee. Each committee member was assigned a staff member to check in with. Chairman Cope would like a copy of staff position descriptions. Their next meeting is April 8. Darrell Beckham will write a short job description for a possible new church treasurer as current treasurer Lynda Counts would like to retire.

Security Team Chairman Hunter Shaw said that the committee is building the program to keep everyone safe. He would like to change the committee's name to safety team instead of security team.

Communications Chairman Julia Roach will gladly publish information that is submitted. Wightman will have to purchase a new domain name for the website and rebuild it since the vote was to leave the United Methodist Church.

Contemporary Worship leader Zack Waites would like to list information on Wightman's Facebook page. More musicians are needed to backup the current group including guitarists, piano players and drummers. He is networking with fellow musicians in the area.

Missy Roach spoke on reviving the Stephen Ministry program. She would like to spend \$180.00 to secure the rewritten curriculum for this ministry so new Stephen Ministers can be trained. This cost can come from the designated fund for this program.

Pastor Ben Barnett thanked everyone for attending and the fine work that is being done. He stated that "Christian love and understanding are needed during this time. Continue to remember Wightman Church. Trust in God and move forward. During this season of Lent, seek to bring healing and peace." He is open to a call or conversation.

The Way Forward Committee has lost 5 of its members changing the demographics of the committee.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Ben Barnett.

The next scheduled council meeting is Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. with committees meeting at 12:30 p.m.

March Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

CROSS BEARERS

March 3 - Helen Mitchell
10 - Melissa Freeman
17 - Charlotte Hargreaves
24 - Linda Richardson
31 - Madison Graham

ACOLYTES

March 3 - Jackson Jones
10 - Bristol Freeman
17 - Ethan Counts-Wohnig
24 - Hudson Defreese
31 - Kayleb Graham

USHERS

Levi Joiner, Larry Graham,
Tommy Bowers, Lonnie Finley

TRUSTEE FOR MARCH

Jenny Harris

GREETERS

Leonard and Therry May

LAY READERS

March 3 - Christy Bouknight
10 - Lonnie Finley
17 - Hubert Kinard
24 - Gary Hooker
31 - Devonna Summer

March Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

GREETERS

Will and Tristan Lever

USHERS

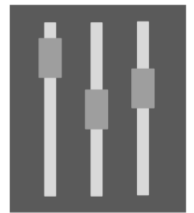
Josh Meetze, Blake Cantrell,
Nick Counts, Chris Butler

LAY READERS

March 3 - Jared Jones
10 - Madison Butler
17 - Will Lever
24 - Amanda Finley
31 - Chris Johnson

Tech Team

The Tech Team is in need of volunteers to help with Sunday services. No experience is required! You will be trained by the current volunteers on how to handle your position on a typical Sunday. People to operate the sound board, ProPresenter (slides), and Switcher (live streaming) are urgently needed. Please see a member of the tech team if you are interested in volunteering!



UMKIDS



Children's Sermons

March 3 Communion
10 Christy Bouknight
17 Anna Farmer
24 Rosemary Bowers
31 Madison Graham



Children's Church

March 3 Jesus Cleans the Temple
10 Measuring God's Love
17 The Power of God's Love
24 The King is Coming
31 Doubting Thomas Believes

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



The Easter Eggstravaganza is on Saturday, March 30 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Easter story and egg hunt will follow all of the fun and games!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Vacation Bible School will be June 23-27 this year! Our theme is SCUBA!



March 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 & 11:15 am Emmaus Luncheon 12:30 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	4	5 United Women in Faith 3:00 pm	6 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	7	8	9
10 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 am Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	11	12	13 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	14	15	16
17 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 am Committees 12:30 pm Admin. Council 1:30 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	18 UMMen 7:00 pm SOS 7:00 pm	19	20 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	21	22	23
24 Palm Sun. Lenten Breakfast 8:00 am Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	25 April Newsletter Deadline 12:00 pm	26	27 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Take 5 10:00 am M&Ms 11:00 am Intercessory Prayer 11:00 am Newsletter Staff 2:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm	28 Friends of God 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm	29 Good Friday at the Walking Track 11:15 am	30 The Easter Eggstravaganza 11-1:00 pm
31 Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am	Loaves and Fishes 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
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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