



WIGHTMAN ALERT

Issued to Alert You to Church Matters

From the Pastor

I heard about a recent Facebook post, which said something like this: **“When we get to heaven, God isn’t going to ask us about the two men down the street who got married. He won’t ask us about the girl who had an abortion. He won’t ask us about the atheist that lives on the corner. He won’t ask us about the woman who felt more comfortable as a man. He WILL ask us how we loved those people as He called us to do—and how some didn’t.”** The post got several “likes”.

On one hand, I would have “liked” the post myself, because the LORD may indeed ask us one day how we did in keeping His commandment to “Love one another.” But I did not feel comfortable doing so, because the post leaves the impression that if we hold a view that a certain person’s behavior is *not* in keeping with God’s will—as we best understand it in light of His Word—then we must not *love* them. And *that* is simply not the truth.

Most Christians from time-to-time have concerns about the behavior or lifestyle of someone they know very well or may hardly know at all. With good reason they may believe that what that person is doing or how they are living is, well . . . *misguided* at best, or simply *wrong*. This could apply to a whole host of behaviors the Bible says are “sinful”.

So, what do we do in such instances? We love them anyway. However, loving them in spite of their actions is *not* the same as excusing, condoning or affirming their behavior. For many followers of Jesus such as myself, it is our attempt to love others “as God calls us to do” that leads us to pray fervently for, and if led by the Holy Spirit, to speak with the person about their behavior, hoping they will see the light and amend their ways. (See Galatians 6:1-2) We do this, of course, in a spirit of “meekness”, not “condemnation”, with an eye to our own faults and frailties, rather than in a self-righteous, “I’m better than you” attitude.

In the course of our lives, we are likely to face many situations in which we are called to *love* others, while not agreeing with or blessing a behavior that we deem to be contrary to God’s expressed will. If we’re honest, we all do this at times on a variety of issues. And if you read the Gospels carefully, you will find that Jesus did this as well! Led by the Spirit, He *spoke the truth in love* and forthrightly addressed difficult, controversial issues and sinful behavior as well.

So, let’s not fall for a false and misleading idea that in order to *love* someone, we must always agree with, or indiscriminately bless, a person’s behavior or how they may choose to live their lives; and let’s not pretend that God is unconcerned with such matters as gay marriage, abortion, atheism or gender dysphoria, as the Facebook post above insinuates. It may be that we have to walk on a knife’s edge—and it won’t satisfy everyone—but I believe it’s possible to *walk in love* and *hold fast to the truth* at the same time. In my humble opinion, this is how we truly love God, others, and ourselves, as God calls us to do.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor B

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will meet on Tuesday, April 2, at 3:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. The program speaker will be Tammy Linn from the Abbeville Faith Home. This is a treatment facility for those who have drug and alcohol addictions. The clients can experience a successful recovery from their addictions by receiving a high level of quality services in a nurturing environment. Sue Hiller will provide the snack.



United
Women
in Faith

South Carolina Conference



Newberry Camp
July 14-19, 2024

Salkehatchie Summer Service is a servant ministry where youth and adults from different walks of life come together to serve our community by repairing homes for those who cannot afford to or are not physically able to do it themselves. Our goal is to make these homes warm, dry, safe, and more comfortable for the families living there while doing so with a Christian attitude and sharing the love and caring of Jesus with these families and their neighbors, many of whom may never have been exposed to His example.

Volunteers are provided opportunities for personal growth and service, as well as spiritual enrichment through evening programs held at the camp. Youth, ages 14 and up, live together for a week. Supervised by adults, they eat, sleep, work, sweat, worship, and play together. Most return home realizing that they have received much more than they have given, and many have made life-changing decisions in regard to their faith, family relations, or career goals. *Salkehatchie is for everyone. You do not have to be a member of or affiliated with the United Methodist Church to register and participate or support this ministry.*

Many ask ... “What can I do?”

- **Join us!** Youth (at least age 14+ by start of camp) and adult volunteers are needed! Skilled adults are especially needed! Online registration opened March 1. The cost is \$250 and helps to cover the cost of supplies and materials to repair homes during camp.
- **Volunteer!** Local churches and groups help feed us during the week. Can't provide a meal? Monetary donations go a long way to help with a meal.
- **Spread the word!** Take information back to your churches and friends. Salkehatchie is for everyone. You do not have to be a member or affiliated with the UMC to participate or support our ministry.
- **Donate!** We rely on monetary donations from local churches, businesses, and groups to help with the cost of building supplies. Registration fees only cover a part of what we do, especially with the increase in cost of supplies and materials.
- **Collect!** Bottled water, Gatorade, Powerade, and snacks are important to keep volunteers hydrated and energized during the work week. Donations can be dropped off at the Central UMC Family Life Center the week before and during camp.
- **Most importantly... PRAY!** Please pray for our camp, community, and volunteers as we endeavor to carry out our mission.

————— Please contact us with questions or for more information about Salkehatchie Summer Service. —————

Gary and Samantha Graham
803-597-2333
director@newberrysalkehatchie.org

Steve and Joyce Barrow
803-276-0976
salkehatchie@wctel.net

Join us this summer to help others in our community!

Check out the links below for pictures and more information.

Facebook



facebook.com/newberrysalkehatchie

Instagram



instagram.com/newberrysalkehatchie

Website



www.newberrysalkehatchie.org

Administrative Council Report

The Administrative Council of Wightman United Methodist Church met Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Educational Building Fellowship Hall. Vice-Chairman Daniel Floyd called the meeting to order, read John 8: 31-32 and opened with prayer. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2024 meeting. This was seconded and the minutes were approved as presented. There was no old business.

Under new business, The Way Forward Committee Chairman Joe Palmer presented information to council members. Wightman was required by March 1, 2024 to submit a new legal business entity name. The new name is Wightman Methodist Church of Prosperity.

Mr. Palmer submitted a large group of required documents to the Methodist conference on March 8, 2024 that were due by March 10, 2024. He was unable to take the original disaffiliation voting documents as they are at the district office. We have only copies.

On Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Wightman will have an information gathering session for the congregation in the sanctuary to learn about the two options to consider should separation from the United Methodist Church be finalized in June. Speakers will be present to present information for the Global Methodist Church and the Foundry Network. Mr. Palmer stated that digital records of Administrative Council minutes, marriages, deaths and births must be submitted by April 30, 2024. By that date we will have the official specific dollar amount required for the escrow account which must be funded by May 31, 2024.

Following much discussion, David Mitchell made the motion that on March 24, 2024 an information gathering session will be held; the April newsletter will have a QR code to the voting process; on Easter Sunday, March 31, an announcement will be made regarding the voting process; April 1 through April 5 voting by email or in person at church office and Sunday, April 7, 2024 in-person voting during both worship services. This was seconded and the motion was approved. The voting ballots will require a signature and will be counted before the special Administrative Council meeting on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. where a decision will be made by Council using the input from church attendees. Pastor Ben Barnett expressed thanks to Joe Palmer for the excellent leadership he has shown through this process.

David Mitchell reported for the Finance Committee that he has talked to Richie Miller, Vice-President at First Community Bank, regarding a loan to cover the cost of separating from the United Methodist Church. Mr. Miller suggested that Wightman secure a 20-year 7.6% loan with no prepayment penalty for the approximate \$281,000.00 needed by May 31, 2024 for the escrow account. The recommendation from the Finance Committee is that Wightman accept the proposal by Richie Miller. The recommendation was approved. A letter of resolution showing the approval by Administrative Council is needed.

Youth Minister Chris Butler stated that there will not be youth on Easter Sunday so that they can spend time with their families. There will be an event in April on a Friday or Saturday night.

Children's Minister Jennifer Boozer said that volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School which will be held June 23-27. April 21 the UMKids will hike the Palmetto Trail.

Worship Chairman Janet Davenport reported that Easter Sunday there will be 2 large Easter lilies in the sanctuary and will then be used in the contemporary service. She did not have church members ordering flowers as the order must be turned in 6-8 weeks in advance. Palm branches have been ordered for Palm Sunday. In the fall she will recruit more cross bearers and acolytes.

Evangelism Chairman Amanda Finley asked for more volunteers for the Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 30 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Easter story will be told along with an egg hunt and free hot dogs and popcorn.

Discipleship Chairman Henry Dominick reported that the 4-week Tuesday night Bible study is going well but has been moved from the sanctuary to the old fellowship hall. He would like information on support groups in the area as well as church small groups.

Congregational Care Co-Chairman Gary Hooker said that they did not meet today but since the last meeting have had one bereavement meal and sent lots of cards and made many phone calls.

P/SPRC Chairman Emily Cope stated that their next meeting is April 8 when the committee will use the information from the April 7 vote. She is confident that Wightman will obtain a qualified pastor no matter the vote decision. The committee will plan an appropriate sending forth event for Pastor Ben Barnett's retirement. Youth Minister Chris Butler has decided to stepdown after the July youth mission trip. She thanked him for all that he has done working with the youth.

Safety Team leader Hunter Shaw reported that they are working to get all team members CPR and ADE certified. Janet Davenport is a certified CPR instructor.

Contemporary Music Director Zack Waites said that he is settling in with the Praise band.

Pastor Ben Barnett said he is grateful for his 4 years at Wightman. "This is an exciting time for the church. Change can be a great thing, a new birth, regeneration. This is a time to be in prayer for this church. Thank you for who you are - good leadership doing the work of the church." There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Ben Barnett.

There will be a special Administrative Council meeting Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 12:30 pm. The next scheduled council meeting is Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. with committees meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- April
- 1 - Jentry Bickley
 - 2 - Hubert Kinard, Nolan Amick
 - 3 - Jordan Buster, Robbie Amick
Michael Meetze
 - 5 - Sandra Brown, Lucy Thompson
Scott Johnson
 - 7 - Victoria Knuckles
 - 8 - Ann Burch, Martin Friar, Blaire Brown
 - 9 - Charlotte Hargreaves, London Poirot
 - 10 - Olivia Dominick
 - 11 - Kirksey Koon
 - 13 - Kelly Perry, Jillian Wise
Kingsley Franklin
 - 14 - Leonard May, Kyle Kneece
 - 15 - Brooks Buster
 - 16 - Reese Sheppard
 - 17 - Troy Meetze, Khloe Mrozinski
 - 18 - Mark Kirkland, Nathan Graham,
Aaron Overstreet
 - 19 - Jimmy Cook, April Peel, Chad Senn
Nicki Hudnall
 - 20 - Russell Moore
 - 21 - Riley Odum, Chuck Lathrop
Jeffrey DeVall
 - 22 - Reagan Peel, Braxton Edens
 - 24 - Raelyn Cannady, Karoline Kneece
Aleta Jolly, Jennie Hendricks
Joanne Trefsgar
 - 25 - Cody Caldwell, Diane Lathrop
Zoie Franklin, Bristol Freeman
 - 27 - Skyla Thompson

- 28 - Amy Kirkland, Maddie Shacker
Raymond Ruff
- 29 - Andy Shull
- 30 - Evie Scofield

Happy Anniversary!

- April
- 3 - Blake and Sarah Longshore
 - 4 - Chris and Madison Butler
 - 6 - Mike and Darly Bernardo
Lee and Jennifer Boozer
 - 7 - Stevie and Marcie Lawrence
Patrick and Leslie McDuffie
 - 8 - Jack and Vicki Hamm
 - 10 - Nick and Mandy Counts
Daniel and Rosemary Floyd
 - 12 - Joe and Marquerite Palmer
 - 13 - Eddie and Myrna Killian
Michael and Anita McCullough
 - 14 - Leonard and Paulette Halfacre
 - 16 - Alan and Lori Longshore
 - 17 - Kevin and Johnette Kinard
 - 20 - Lewis and Linda Clevenger
 - 22 - Ladison and Paula Hamm
Mark and Lucy Thompson
 - 24 - Zachary and Danielle Bannister
 - 28 - Jim and Maryanne Atkinson
 - 29 - Arthur and Audra Guy

Monthly Financial Summary

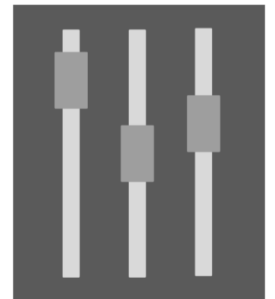
General Funds (total)	\$ 155,430.85
Designated Funds	58,423.12
General Funds Available	97,007.73
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>189,797.19</u>
Total Funds	\$345,228.04

Avg. Attendance for March

9:00 Worship	- 124
11:15 Worship	- 85
Combined Worship	- 209
Church School	- 105

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!



April Assistants Traditional Service (9:00)

CROSS BEARERS

April 7 - Jennifer Amick
14 - Betty Graham
21 - Charlotte Hargreaves
28 - Melissa Freeman

ACOLYTES

April 7 - Nolan Amick
14 - Janet Davenport
21 - Brantley Counts-Wohnig
28 - Bristol Freeman

USHERS

Robbie Amick, Kevin Kinard,
David Mitchell, Ted Graham

TRUSTEE FOR APRIL

Ken Cope

GREETERS

Jordan Buster Family

LAY READERS

April 7 - Hudson Defreese
14 - Lewis Shuler
21 - John Hargreaves
28 - Bill Joiner

Special Gifts to Wightman

Operating Budget

In memory of Melvin Dominick

By: Wylene Smith

Ted and Madison Graham
Betty and W. Oliver Dominick
Tobie and Steve Shealy, Jennylee Lominick,
Nevada Folk, and families
Emily and Larry Graham
Bebe Way
Mollie Graham
Kevin and Johnette Kinard

In memory of Lynn Waller

By: Vic and Margaret Terrana
David and Lisa Waller
Jackie and Tommy Bowers

In memory of Eddie Graham by Karl, Georgie Faye,
and Nathan Fulmer

In memory of Caroline Cockrell by Shirley C.
Weaver

Capital Improvement Fund

In memory of Melvin Dominick by Chuck and
Debra Weatherly

UMKids

In memory of Melvin Dominick by Cody and Neva
Caldwell

April Assistants Contemporary Service (11:15)

GREETERS

Gregg and Tracie Turner

USHERS

Lee Boozer, Darrell Beckham
Jimmy Hazel, Larry Graham

LAY READERS

April 7 - Josh Meetze
14 - Tristan Lever
21 - Daniel Floyd
28 - Wightman Youth

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).



Voting Opportunity

Your input is needed on Wightman's future affiliation/alignment. There are several ways that you can cast your vote which you can find below!

1. Scan the QR code (to the right) with your smartphone camera and fill out an online ballot
2. Stop by the church office during office hours (M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Monday, April 1, through Friday, April 5, and complete a physical ballot
3. Complete the physical ballot included in the bulletins on Sunday, April 7



If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office at secretary@wightmanumc.org or call 803-364-2340.

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!



**“REJOICE ALWAYS,
PRAY CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES;
FOR THIS IS GOD’S
WILL FOR YOU IN
CHRIST JESUS.”**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Infant Baptism

On Sunday, March 17, Chandler June Lever, daughter of Will and Tristan Lever was baptized in the 11:15 a.m. contemporary service!



UMKIDS



Children's Sermons

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| April 7 | Communion |
| 14 | Henry Dominick |
| 21 | Ruby Point-Miller |
| 28 | Christy Bouknight |



Children's Church

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| April 7 | Seeing is Believing |
| 14 | Jesus Appears to the Disciples |
| 21 | The Good Shepherd |
| 28 | The True Vine |

PICNIC AT PALMETTO TRAIL

We will go to the Palmetto Trail after we enjoy a picnic lunch. Pack your favorite picnic lunch and join us!!! We will leave following the second service on April 21.



SCUBA VBS

Vacation Bible School will be June 23-27 this year! Register early to guarantee your spot and your t-shirt. Volunteers this means you too!



April 2024

SUN.

MON.

TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

	1	2 United Women in Faith 3:00 pm	3 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	4	5	6
7 Holy Communion 9:00 & 11:15 am Emmaus Luncheon 12:30 pm Special Admin. Council Mtg. 12:30 Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	8	9	10 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	11	12	13
14 Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	15 UMMen 7:00 pm SOS 7:00 pm	16	17 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	18	19	20
21 UMKids at the Palmetto Trail 12:30 pm Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	22 May Newsletter Deadline 12:00 pm Loaves and Fishes 5:30 - 7:00 pm	23	24 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	25 Friends of God 5:30 pm	26	27
28 Youth 4:00-6:00 pm	29	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.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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***RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED***