

BY OUR SERVICE

	January 26	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
GREETERS/USHERS	TBA	The Smiths	Laura Block & Family	The Shirleys	The Youth
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER	Nathalie Boron Nicholas Boron	Ashlynn Reynolds Jacob Rabon	Ryan Matney Morgan Matney	Caroline Williams Lauren Boron	Luke Shirley Cole Shirley
NURSERY WORKERS	Laura Barton Colby Christofaro	Colby Christofaro	Susan Thomas Tomie Christofaro	Wanda Cooke Colby Christofaro	Laura Barton Colby Christofaro
TRUSTEE OF THE DAY	Joe Boron	Jim Ray	Steve Roller	Pascal Brock	Janet Groubert
FELLOWSHIP	Coffee Only	Life Skills (Darrel Cooke)	Coffee Only	Coffee Only	Coffee Only
FLOWERS	Billy & Sandra Wardlaw Joe & Lisa Boron	Tom & Chris Haff Harry & Janet Smith	Tana Simmons Keith & Melisa Blankenship	Pascal & Judy Brock Forest & Susan Thomas	Bruce & Millie Bryant Alton & Mildred Campbell
FINANCE TELLERS	Dennis Nichols Sharon Lezak	Ann Roberts Perry Hill	Jean Dixon Betty Reynolds	Pat Norris Sandra Wardlaw	Dennis Nichols Sharon Lezak
LITURGIST	Kristie Alvey	1st Sunday	Perry Hill	Dennis Nichols	Youth

Thank you for agreeing to serve. If you are unable to attend on your assigned date, please contact the individual in charge of the area to which you are assigned or arrange to change dates with someone else on the calendar.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Angie Alvey	Renee C. Newman
Dennis Atkinson	D. J. Rivers
Douglas Dorman	Billy Smith
Julia Halford	Janet Smith
Noah Hill	George Stone

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church. Your request will be posted for 4 weeks. If you would like it to remain longer, please contact the church.

Quilts blessed for 2020:

Dan & Toodie Mackey

and

Nita Brown - mother of Pat Norris

UP-COMING MEETINGS

2020 General Conference Listening Session,
Irmo, SC - January 26th

Leadership Roundtable Meeting – February 4th –
6:00 PM – in the Conference Room

Prayers & Squares – February 6th – 10:00 AM
in the Metal Building

2020 General Conference Listening Session,
Florence, SC – February 9th

Trustees Meeting – February 11th – 5:30 PM
In the Conference Room

Christian Education Committee Meeting
February 17th – 5:30 PM – in the Sanctuary

Finance Committee – February 18th – 6:30 pm
In the Conference Room

2020 General Conference Online Listening Session
February 23rd

St. John's United
Methodist Church
45 Roseborough Rd.
PO Box 218
Lugoff, SC 29078

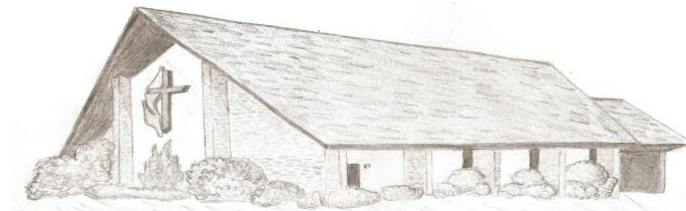
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CARRIER ROUTE
U.S. POSTAGE
P-A-I-D
LUGOFF, SC 29078

Address Service Requested

SERVICE AREA	CONTACT
Greeters/Ushers	Lynn Smith
Crucifers/Acolytes	Church Office Admin Asst.
Nursery Workers	Colby Christofaro
Trustee of the Day	Dennis Weatherford
Fellowship Family	Committee Chair/Church Office
Flowers	Margaret Hawkins
Finance / Tellers	Susan Weatherford /Ann Roberts
Lay Readers	Church Office Admin. Asst.

St. John's United Methodist Church

Open hearts, open minds, open doors



45 Roseborough Road, PO Box 218, Lugoff, SC 29078

January/February 2020

LENT

Lent is a season of the Christian year during which Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It is an invitation to draw closer to God – and to be known by God through repentance, reflection, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a journey to the place where death and resurrection meet.

In the United Methodist Church we celebrate Lent as the 40 days leading up to Easter - excluding Sundays (because as resurrection people, every Sunday is a mini Easter). Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is the day after Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday. This year Ash Wednesday is February 26, 2020.

Celebrate the holy season of Lent at St. John's United Methodist Church this year as we journey to the empty cross of Easter in order that we might prepare our hearts to receive the risen Savior.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Burning of Ashes
February 25th beginning at 6pm



Worship and Imposition of Ashes
February 26th at 12pm and 6pm

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday:
8:00am – 4:00pm

Phone Numbers:

Church Office: 803-438-1335
Fax Line: 803-438-0335

Website:

www.stjohnslugoff.com
Church Email Address:
s.j.umc@truvista.net

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Angela Marshall
ahmarshall@umcsc.org

Youth Director

Jason Rabon

Childcare Director:

Lisa Wilson

Music Director:

Jerome Ogburn

Pianist:

Sylvia Stone

Organist:

Jose Soler

Audio/Visual Coordinator:

Chuck Horton

Administrative Assistant:

Kay Lott

klott@truvista.net

Financial Secretary:

Casie Anderson
canderson@truvista.net

Sexton:

Catherine Swinton

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship Service

GOLDEN HEARTS

Golden Hearts is a wonderful weekly fellowship opportunity created for all adults age 50 and up – as well as anyone younger than 50 who enjoys spending time with others!

Tuesday, January 28th

10:00 AM – Movie at Sandhills and out to lunch (Dutch treat) – meet at the church at 10:00am.

Tuesday, February 4th

10:00 AM - Bible Study with Rev. Barbee Parsons followed by a covered dish lunch

Tuesday, February 11th

10:00 AM – Valentine’s party. Games/prizes/pizza and ice cream!

Tuesday, February 18th

10:00 AM – In-house movie and out to lunch. (Dutch Treat)

Tuesday, February 25th

10:00 AM – Movie at Sandhills and out to lunch (Dutch treat) – meet at the church at 10:00am.

The movie selection will be determined on the morning of our trip.

Ministries for Youth

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR - January 26 – February 29, 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26 NO UMYF	27	28	29	30	31 6:45am Bible Breakfast	1
8 5:00pm UMYF	9	10	11	12	13 6:45am Bible Breakfast	14 Volunteer at The Ronald McDonald House
15 5:00pm UMYF	16	17	18	19	20 6:45am Bible Breakfast	21
22 5:00pm UMYF	23	24	25	26	27 6:45am Bible Breakfast	28
29 Youth Sunday Surge or Frankies	30	31				



The Youth would like to thank Betty Reynolds, Mark & Susan Pyritz, and Darrel & Wanda Cooke for providing delicious meals during MYF. Also, thank you to Melisa Blankenship for providing a very special MYF devotion about hope and perseverance as well as a pizza dinner. All of our youth volunteers are truly appreciated!

Ministries for Children

Children's Church: Every Sunday in January & February

Mark your calendars - EdVenture Children's Museum (including the Snowville exhibit) on Saturday, February 22

More details to follow



ST. John's UMC EASTER EGG HUNT – Saturday, April 11th – 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – June 8 – 12, 2020 – 5:45 PM – 8:00 PM Restricted Funds – Brought to you by St. John's Finance Committee:

Beginning in the August 2019 newsletter we shared with you that St. John's United Methodist Church provides an opportunity for you to provide monetary support for ministries that go above and beyond your weekly giving and yearly tithe. These opportunities are designated for special missions and ministries done by, with, and for the members and friends of St. John's throughout our world and community as well as missions and projects done within our church and are not part of the general budget. We refer to these accounts as "Restricted Funds".

Each month we will highlight one or more of the Restricted Fund accounts as we offer you information and understanding about these special accounts that already exist at St. John's UMC.

Restricted Local Missions: a restricted account that can be used to support various local missions within our community.

Restricted Metal Building/Trustee Maintenance Fund: a restricted account that will be used to continue various projects for the Metal Building and other Capital Improvements for St. John's. (awnings, painting, parking lot, roof, security system, etc.)

If you would like to give to any of these restricted funds, please designate on your offering envelope which restricted funds you would like to make a contribution to.



Please continue to save your drink cans and pet food cans, if they are aluminum. Sale of the cans will again be used to buy items for the meal of the Kershaw County Salkehatchie summer workers. After Hurricane Hugo the Methodist Church saw a need to repair homes of people that needed that free kindness. We encourage our youth (must be 14) and adults to consider spending a week this summer working for this wonderful Mission Project. There are large cans at the Day Care entrance for you bagged cans.



Boxes of Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the Narthex. If you have any questions please call the church office.

Thank You!

Dear Members of St. John's UMC,

Thank you for your continued support of Christian Community Ministries. By joining other congregations in Kershaw County and contributing \$166.67 each month, St. John's UMC is helping to serve those in need in our community.

We appreciate your participation in this ministry of making a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,
Frances Guy, CCM Correspondence

Thank You!

St. John's UMC Family,

Thank you each and everyone for your prayers, gifts, phone calls, visits and transportation for Audrey. You as a church family have shown us so much love and care and we feel very blessed.

B. J. & Audrey Livingston

Thank You!

St. John's UMC Family,

Thank you so much for the prayer quilt; it means so much to know how many prayers are lifted up on my behalf.

Much Love,
Jan Satcher



PRAYERS AND SQUARES

Prayers & Squares' funds are currently very low. If you can contribute, please write checks payable to UMW and note P&S's in the memo line. All checks and cash should be placed in an envelope marked "P&S's,"

I think we all agree that this is a great mission of St. John's that we all need to support.

Now You Know...

United Methodist Church Apportionments. One thing is certain, St. John's United Methodist Church has been faithful through the years in giving 100% of our apportionments regardless of the hardships or crisis we have experienced as a family of faith. What a gift!

Yet, while many of us have heard the term "apportionment," there are still several of us who do not fully understand the purpose of apportionments our responsibility and privilege as a church to offer our this financial gift to the glory of God. For the next several months, the "Now You Know" portion of our newsletter will be dedicated to providing information surrounding the apportionments of the UMC and our role as a local congregation who is faithful to participate in our giving.

Apportionments is another term for "connectional giving" and is the system by which The United Methodist Church funds many of its joint ministries. It is a reality that when we pool our resources together – like through apportionments – we share our gifts in a way that makes real what would otherwise be impossible. Yet, to be clear, the whole point of apportionment giving is never the money. It is about doing together what no person, congregation, district, or conference can do alone. Through generous giving, we faithfully share in being part of the Body of Christ – doing Christ's work.

In apportionment giving, the local congregations are requested to give a certain dollar amount in that is determined by their annual conference. That amount is determined on the one hand by the budget of the annual conference, including the amount responsible to the general church, and on the other hand by the budget of the local congregation. And yes, larger congregations with larger budgets are often asked to give more, on the principle that those with greater ability should contribute more.

Unfortunately, apportionments are often referred to as "church taxes." This label comes from the fact that the government is the prime example of an organization that collects money from many individual to produce goods that cannot be produced by any individual yet are for the benefit of all individuals.

The system of apportionments evolved in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Prior to apportionments, boards, agencies, and other collective ministries relied upon direct fundraising. The evolution of apportionments was driven by three overlapping desires: Boards and agencies desiring a more reliable source of income than the varying amounts they collected in fundraising attempts. Local churches wanted a simpler approach to giving to the multiple agencies, boards, and causes with which they were bombarded. And General Conference sought better governance over the boards and agencies. The apportionment system achieved all of these goals simultaneously.

As it stands today, the apportionment system in The United Methodist Church has several levels that reflect the broader polity levels of the church: In the US, there are apportionments paid that go to support the work of the district, the annual conference, the jurisdiction, and the general church. And despite the frequent focus on general church apportionments in the UMC, the majority of apportionments actually go to the annual conference. For every dollar United Methodists in the US give to their church, only \$0.02 goes to general church apportionments, whereas \$0.07 goes to district, annual conference, and jurisdictional apportionments, but mostly to the annual conference.

Tune in next month as we look at the seven different funds of the General Conference supported by our apportionments...



January Birthdays



- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Frances Hill | 9. Dot Hilyer | 17. Dru Hugo | 28. Margaret Degroat |
| 1. Mary Rogers | 9. Harriet Rollings | 17. Myron McCaskill | 28. Jordan Edwards |
| 5. Margaret Hawkins | 9. Britton Williams | 20. Tabitha Grigsby | 29. Caitlyn Bennett |
| 6. Tina Dingus | 9. Michael Hiers | 23. Tana Simmons | 29. Brenda Taylor |
| 8. Lauren Boron | 11. Jerome Ogburn | 23. Katherine Rogers | 31. Jean Fields |
| 8. Natalie Boron | 12. Connor Jones | 25. Luke Shirley | 31. Judy Robertson |
| 8. Nicholas Boron | 15. Nicholas Spitzer | 28. Charles Horton | |

February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. David Smith | 12. Betty Reynolds | 20. Amber Moore | 24. Anna Smith |
| 2. Don Stewart | 13. Larry Patrick | 21. Duke Barton | 25. Amanda Geisler |
| 5. Sue Ansley | 13. Andrea Fannin | 21. Sharon Block | 26. Jeannine Weatherford |
| 5. Neal Cope | 14. Calvin McRoy | 21. Hailey Howard | 27. Shelby Brewer |
| 5. Kathy Keith | 14. Marina Wolfe | 22. Daniel Guest | 27. Drew Langmo |
| 7. Gunnar Branham | 17. Cassie Stanton | 23. Dave Leach | 27. Clairis Soler |
| 10. James Jones | 18. Curtis Keith | 23. David Schell | 29. Connie Frith |

Bible Studies

CALLED: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice

by Susan Robb

God calls us to a life that we could never imagine on our own. Samuel, Esther, Jonah...they all lived pretty ordinary lives...until they didn't.

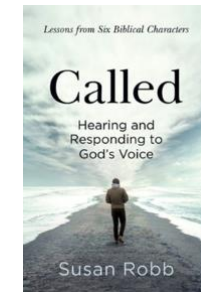
In *Called*, author Susan Robb shows us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women calling and empowering them to lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. And she shows us that the same God who called six of the Bible's most iconic characters calls us, too, to bring hope and transformation to the world.

Join us for this study as we discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on our lives.

If you would like to participate in this study, please contact the church office. You will need to purchase your own book by using the ISBN-13 number which is: 978-1501879746. The cost of the book is \$14.

This study will be led by Pastor Angela and will be held on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00pm on January 16, 2020

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| January 16: | Father Abraham (Abraham) |
| January 23: | NO BIBLE STUDY (Church Council Meeting) |
| January 30: | Here I Am! (Samuel) |
| February 6: | A Time Such as This (Esther) |
| February 13: | A Most Reluctant Prophet (Jonah) |
| February 20: | I Have Seen the Lord (Mary Magdalene) |
| February 27: | Leaning In (The Beloved Disciple) |



Safe Sanctuary

In April of 1996, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church.

This resolution was made with the belief that God has called us to make our ministries safe, protecting our children, youth and vulnerable adults from abuse and exploitation. We also believe that God has called us to create communities of faith where children, youth and vulnerable adults can be safe and grow strong.

And at each child's baptism, we affirm our responsibility to their safety by our congregational response, pledging:

"With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal."

(From the Book of Worship, Baptismal Covenant, Congregational Pledge II)

We acknowledge that religious organizations are not immune to incidents of abuse and misconduct; however, St. John's United Methodist Church is committed to the protection of **all** people participating in its ministries. One way that we embrace a "safe sanctuary" environment at St. John's is to equip our volunteers with the education and training required to work with our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. By participating in the Safe Sanctuary training session, our volunteers are protected as well as held accountable for their actions. All volunteers of St. John's UMC must attend a Safe Sanctuary training session once a year (every year). We are in the process of updating our Safe Sanctuary policy to ensure that it can effectively guide our interactions with one another in ministry; therefore, once the updated policy has been created, all ministry volunteers will be expected to attend a training offered at the church. Stay tuned for details of when the trainings will take place.

Leadership Roundtable

Beginning in February of 2020 the chairpersons team leaders for the committees and ministry teams of the church will be invited to attend Roundtable discussions with Pastor Angela on the first Tuesday of each month. The Leadership Roundtable discussions are designed as an opportunity to facilitate connectional conversation between our ministry areas and the many ways that St. John's United Methodist Church is making and equipping disciples of Jesus Christ through the ministries represented by each chairperson and team leader. The Leadership Roundtable will meet for one hour (or less) depending on the topics for discussion. Our first Roundtable will be held in the Conference Room of the church on February 4th at 6:00pm.

2020 General Conference
Listening Sessions



The South Carolina Conference Delegation to the 2020 General Conference wants to hear from you in advance of the United Methodist Church's next international meeting in May.

The delegation has scheduled four tri-district "Listening Sessions" around the conference in January and February, and a fifth that will be live online.

Pastor Angela is planning to attend the sessions on January 26th at Union UMC in Irmo and the February 9th at Central UMC in Florence. If you would like to carpool or make plans to attend with her please contact the church office and make sure to register online for the Listening Session you wish to attend.

Each Listening Session will begin at 3 p.m. The remaining sessions are scheduled for:

- **Jan. 26** – Union UMC, 7582 Woodrow St., Irmo (Columbia, Greenwood and Rock Hill districts)
- **Feb. 9** – Central UMC, 167 S. Irby St., Florence (Florence, Hartsville and Marion districts)
- **Feb. 16** – Mauldin UMC, 100 E. Butler Ave., Mauldin, (Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg districts)
- **Feb. 23** – If you can't make it to one of the tri-district sessions, please join us for this live, online session at [umcsc.org/gc2020](https://www.umcsc.org/gc2020).

Registration is strongly encouraged, to ensure we have the appropriate arrangements. To register, please go visit the following webpage: <https://www.umcsc.org/2020generalconferencelisteningsessionsregistration/>

Thank You!!

I find that I often express myself best through my writing and yet as I sit down to compose a message that would convey the gratitude and overwhelming love that Lee and I have experienced since arriving at St. John's United Methodist Church - especially over the past two months - I am having difficulty finding words that adequately express the feelings that flood our hearts and lift our spirits. A simple "Thank you," seems undeniably inadequate...and yet I can't help myself. Thank you. The love and generosity that is found among you, the faith family of St. John's United Methodist Church, continues to bless us day after day in ways that you can't even begin to imagine!

You have showered Lee and I with so many gifts – from the delightful "Pounding" at the end of November to the incredible overflow of Christmas goodies and gifts that you have so generously poured out upon us! I can honestly say we haven't received so many wonderful, delicious, and thoughtful gifts since our childhood! We want you to know that as we unwrapped each gift, tasted each scrumptious treat, and found the perfect resting place to display each thoughtful gift, we gave God thanks for you and the way that you bless us.

It was a true joy to share the parsonage with you for the "Pounding" in November and again in December for the Christmas Open House. We look forward to more opportunities of fellowship at the parsonage as it is a beautiful house and Lee and I have had such a wonderful time making it our home.

Again, thank you. It truly is our joy and privilege to be able to serve God through the ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church while serving in ministry alongside each one of you. From the bottom of our hearts and with the deepest of gratitude, thank you! Thank you for your generosity, your thoughtfulness, your encouragement, your support, and your witness to the faith!

Overwhelmed with gratitude,
 Angela and Lee Marshall

Good News Club

The *Good News Club*® is a ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship* in which trained teachers meet with groups of children in schools, homes, community centers, churches, apartment complexes, just about anywhere the children can easily and safely meet with their parent's permission. Each week the teacher presents an exciting Bible lesson using colorful materials from CEF Press in addition to songs, Scripture memory, a missions story and games or other activities focused on the lesson's theme.

The purpose of *Good News Club* is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.

Did you know there was a Good News Club offering in Lugoff? It is a wonderful ministry and they are looking for individuals that would be willing to share it with our community. Our local Good News Club is looking for new team members that would be willing to help with music, memory verses, as well as volunteers to serve as grade shepherds. If you would like to participate or if you

would like more information, please contact Wanda Campbell by email wcampbell316@yahoo.com .

Volunteers Needed

You might be surprised at the number of amazing people that help to make worship at St. John's United Methodist Church the incredibly meaningful experience it is for those who enter her doors. And, lucky for you, we are looking for more wonderful volunteers to join the team that helps to prepare our beautiful sanctuary for worship each week! We are seeking at least 4 volunteers (1 person for each week of the month) that would be willing to give an hour of your time once a month as part of our worship hospitality ministry. A brief training would be provided to equip those who volunteer. Responsibilities for this ministry opportunity include:

- Inspect the friendship rosters (attendance pew pads) in each pew to make sure that they have the necessary materials needed to gather information on Sunday mornings while also making sure that they are stationed in each pew, on the pew, closest to the center aisle;
- Make sure that the candles on the altar are filled with oil and replace the wicks when necessary;
- Fill the envelope holders on the back of each pew with envelopes, visitor cards, online giving cards, and pens;
- Contact one of the other worship hospitality team members to switch weeks with you if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities the week you have chosen to volunteer.

We would love for you to be a part of this ministry team. If you would like to join, please contact the church office.

Pictorial Directory

It is time for an updated pictorial directory of St. John's United Methodist Church! We are planning to work with Universal Church Directories in order to create an up-to-date booklet that would include recent photos of the members and friends of St. John's as well as a directory that offers updated contact information. Universal Church Directories will do the "heavy lifting" on this project but we need someone(s) who would be willing to be our contact person(s). This volunteer(s) would serve as a bridge between the representative from Universal and the church. If you are interested in assisting the church in updating our directory, please contact the office.

A Message From Johnnie Shirley – 2019 Chairman of Trustees at St. John's UMC

Dear Church Family, it has been a pleasure to be Trustee Chairman for 2019. I want to thank all of the trustees for all the hard work they have done this past year and the service to God that you have applied to our church and community. You truly have made my job easier. Thanks to the congregation for bearing with us and being patient when you have asked for something to be done. Thanks to the childcare for letting me help them when needed. As I depart from the position of Trustee Chair, I would like to tell everyone a little about our 5-year plan going forward. We have already begun the plan for the first year.

YEAR ONE included the metal building. It is almost finished on the interior. There will still be some improvements made to the outside of the metal building, such as pressure washing, painting, and awnings. If you have not seen the inside, please take a moment to walk through it.

YEAR TWO includes the following items: the educational wing flooring needs to be replaced and painting needs to be done asap for safety reasons, repairing of the sanctuary ceiling, readjusting the HVAC preventative maintenance program, upgrading the sound system, upgrading security, and landscaping around the church.

YEAR THREE includes a new roof on the Sanctuary and educational wing, and a water heater and roofing for the parsonage.

YEAR FOUR includes a new HVAC system on the educational wing, parsonage, and metal building.

YEAR FIVE includes a roof on the Metal building, fencing on the large playground, long- term repaving of the parking lot, and the purchase of a new bus. Please note that the five-year plan could be adjusted at any time due to unexpected expenses or monies being available.

I want to Thank Pastor Angela for the many hours of listening to me and coming through for me and our church when it was needed. It has been my pleasure to serve the people of St. John's UMC.

With much Christian Love,
 Johnnie Shirley



NEW MEMBERS

Latasha Renee Scott & Maleea Hannah Scott

They joined our church family on January 12, 2020.

Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday?

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Ash Wednesday. In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meats, and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast by making sweet breads before the Lent season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Today, some people celebrate this time as Mardi Gras, but in the church, we celebrate Shrove Tuesday – Shrove meaning: "to gain absolution of sins by confession and repentance." And what better way to celebrate Shrove Tuesday than with a Pancake Supper!

So...The Real Beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday?

Yes, Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras, is often remembered or celebrated with a worship service in which we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and recognize life as a precious gift from God; therefore, turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. In an Ash Wednesday worship service, it is customary to have a minister mark the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and forgiveness. It's a powerful, and yet non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Maundy Thursday, April 9th, St. John's United Methodist Church will host a Passover Seder Meal in the Fellowship Hall. Spaces will be limited so make sure to sign up once the reservations have opened in later February and early March. If you have any questions, please contact John or Terry Reed.



Connie McLeod (Grammy Mac) would like to announce the birth of her grandson.
Phillip Jackson McLeod
Born on December 16, 2019 – 7 lb. 12 oz.
son of Bryan and Renee McLeod



Keith and Melisa Blankenship would like to announce the birth of their grandson.
Emmett Chase Black
Born on December 18, 2019 - 6 lb. 12 oz. – 20.5 inches long
son of Jordan and Morgan (Blankenship) Black from Morristown, TN

Christian Education Committee

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

The ministry of Christian education is a teaching ministry with the goal of *transforming* people into Christian disciples for the *transformation* of the world. What an awesome opportunity and responsibility to forge values and behaviors that are biblically based, theologically sound and faithfully lived out. As the Chair of the Christian Education Committee, I would like to personally thank our Sunday School teachers, Ministry leaders, Superintendents and Coordinators for your commitment to sharing your knowledge and experiences to grow others into the likeness of Christ. I'm looking forward to learning and supporting you all this year. The Christian Education Committee will have our first meeting Monday, February 17th @ 5:30pm in the Sanctuary. Prior to this meeting, prayerfully consider *how we will promote spiritual growth and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?*

Kristie Alvey, Christian Education Committee Chairperson

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to:

Connie Frith and family in the passing of her father, Thomas "Mac" McCaskill, Jr. He passed away on December 21, 2019.
and
The family of Earl Branham. He passed away on December 28, 2019.
and
Johnnie Shirley and family in the passing of his mother, Jean Coker Shirley. She passed away on December 29, 2019.
and

Nancy Atkinson and family in the passing of her father, Ernest Ralph Anderson. He passed away on January 10, 2020.

A Little Dash of S.A.L.T.

Serving And Learning Together

January/February 2020

Embracing Our Identity

With the General Conference of the United Methodist Church set to take place in Minneapolis during May of this year, the voices of groups and individuals on opposing sides of topics that will be discussed are growing louder and a bit more frantic. Opinions are being shared, scriptures are being quoted to support each end of the spectrum, and in the midst of it all, fear seems to be a driving force which has the potential to cause us to lose sight of what really matters.

While there is a genuine concern for the unity and future of the global Church, conversations I've shared with individuals typically come back around to how the decisions made in May will affect the local church – specifically their local church. I have been asked by several of you what I believe will happen and how it will come to pass; yet, while I've thought long and hard about how General Conference will affect St. John's United Methodist Church in Lugoff, South Carolina, I have prayed even longer and even harder but I cannot (nor will I try to) predict the future. I also refuse to live in fear. The seventh verse of the first chapter in 2 Timothy is clear that as children of God fear is not what God desires of us: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." We must not live in fear, but we must also recognize that there is change on the horizon for our denomination.

So, with the opinions that are being shared, scriptures being quoted, and the fear that seems to be growing, how do we as a local church – a family of faith - keep from losing sight of what *really* matters? How do I fix this? These questions have been something I ponder daily, and when I came the following article written by Bishop Gary E. Mueller, Bishop of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the UMC, an article where he also wondered how to fix the UMC. You can find the entire article at https://arumc.org/2020/01/its-still-about-your-church/?fbclid=IwAR0waNYcpq-QqA63wepRY2PdZQ9rA8sYYoiXsMYC8fp_QZzLMPvaZDnuWc# but here are a few highlights:

"I am ready to admit something I've been in denial about for a long time. Even though I've invested a great deal of blood, sweat and tears trying, I simply cannot fix what's broken in the United Methodist Church. I can't fix the polarization that now imprisons us. I can't fix the outcome of this May's General Conference. And I can't fix the uncertainty we face as a church.

Even more significantly, the Holy Spirit has helped me realize I don't have to fix the church. It belongs to Jesus, and he's got it covered. This doesn't mean I'm stepping back, shrugging my shoulders and saying, 'It's going to be what it's going to be.' Rather, I will be focusing on what Jesus is calling every United Methodist congregation to do – **become the most Jesus loving, disciple-making and sharing Jesus' love church you can be.**"

"...local congregations matter more than denominations – even our beloved United Methodist denomination. People need your local church, not a denomination. Your community needs your local church, not a denomination. And most importantly, Jesus needs your local church, not a denomination."

"This means the single most pressing task is enabling your church...to become the church Jesus wants you to be – a vital congregation that makes disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world."

"Embrace your identity. Your church is literally the Body of Christ. So act like it! Love Jesus, follow Jesus, grow in Jesus, be transformed in Jesus and share Jesus in ways that make it clear whose you are."

"Live out your purpose... Help people discover their spiritual gifts, bless them and then unleash them in your congregation and into the mission field that begins right outside the doors of your sanctuary."

"Demonstrate the difference Jesus makes. Almost every congregation has figured out how to thrive with a diverse group of people who have perspectives that are diametrically opposed. Don't see this as a problem; see it as a wonderful opportunity to show how Jesus brings together people who normally wouldn't give each other the time of day. Keep people worshiping together on the same pew, praying together, studying together, serving together and caring for each other."

"The future of your church is not dependent upon what happens in the United Methodist Church...Your church will still be part of the Body of Christ...."

Embrace...Live...Demonstrate.

It is all about Jesus and to make it about anything else is to worship an issue rather than the Son of God. Over the next couple of months as preparations are made for General Conference, I invite you to join me in prayer and action – prayers for the United Methodist Church, for our St. John's faith family, for the delegates that represent *every* view (not just our own), to listen for God's voice in the most obvious places but also in the least obvious, and take time to engage in Christ-centered conversations. Seek to be informed with facts rather than opinions and above all, do not lose sight of what really matters. Jesus Christ is our Savior and God is still on the throne. There is no issue, division, nor outcome that the United Methodist Church will face that will ever change

this truth; therefore, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." ~ Joshua 1:9

Embracing...living...demonstrating with God's peace,

Angela

St. John's United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Millie Bryant with 14 members and guests present. A devotion on Advent was delivered by Sharon Lezak.

Millie began the meeting by welcoming everyone and expressing appreciation for their flexibility in the date change in order to have the 2020 Budget Request finalized prior to this meeting. Visitors were welcomed and everyone who has served on Administrative Council and may be rolling off at year end thanked for their service. Minutes not available from previous meeting but will be available by the January meeting.

Committee Reports

1. TREASURER - Paula Costello

Treasurer's Report dated September/October 2019 - In depth presentation of the current financial picture presented. Treasurer's Report attached.

2. YOUTH AND CHILDREN - Jason Rabon

The youth report covered activities since the last Administrative Council Meeting attended on September 26, 2019. Highlights of youth activities include a service project at Epworth, Plex HiWire, Mercy Me Concert, Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child and a visit to Sease Farms Corn Maze. Attendance at both UMYF and Bible Breakfast averages 10-12 youth. Youth continue to serve the last Sunday of the month during worship. A summary of upcoming activities was also provided.

3. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Morgan Rabon

Activities since September 26th Council meeting were also reported and included Plex Hiwire, Fall Festival, Sease Farms, and the movie Frozen. A summary of upcoming activities also provided.

4. LIGHTS OF LUGOFF PARADE - Millie Bryant -

SJUMC Lights of Lugoff parade float preparations being made. Walkers needed to hand out flyers and candy canes. Pastor Angela reiterated how important it is that we support the church through this valuable outreach ministry with our participation - a chance to express our love and support our church, the community and God.

5. TRUSTEES - Dennis Weatherford

Trustees continue working on a five year plan for immediate as well as projected needs within the church including financing for these improvements. A complete package (Capital Improvements Listing and Priority 2019 Budget/5 Year Plan) was presented to Council Members. The list details the project, location, priority, estimated cost and immediate action plan as well as details on projects completed and paid for by donations. It was noted that as these improvements were being considered (particularly those in the metal building) church members were approached for input and the need for additional improvements became obvious. As ideas for improvements were priced out they were frequently met with funding from member donations. Trustees were surprised and pleased with the way members got involved and stepped up to fund these projects. Trustees ask that the list of improvements be shared amongst church members as they welcome ideas for additional improvements.

6. FINANCE - Susan Weatherford

A completed Proposed 2020 Budget prepared by the Finance Committee was presented for review, questions and approval. Comparison of the 2019 Budget (\$387,642) and the 2020 Budget (\$423,928.51) as well as details on budget changes were presented and discussion/questions ensued. Specific budget increases were discussed at length and questions regarding same answered.

Pastor Angela offered commentary via an article she summarized regarding financial generosity and how we, as disciples of Christ, are called to live as people of hope, promise and faith. We give because God has given us a spirit of generosity, and it is easy to become paralyzed by fear that the church may be costing us too much. In summary, if the church is alive, it is going to cost, and St. John's is very much alive! If we want to watch it die, we stop with our generosity, whether it be our money, our prayers, our presence, our gifts our service or our witness. No doubt, if God calls us to spend every cent we have accounted for in this budget, He will provide.

There was an additional commentary and questions amongst the council regarding apportionments and how the amounts are determined. Information and clarification will be provided in the Newsletter beginning this month.

A vote for approval of the 2020 Budget (\$423,928.51) was called for and unanimously passed.

Pastor Angela closed with a prayer to bless the budget followed by commentary on upcoming church events for December.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pyritz

The 2020 Budget for St. John's United Methodist Church

On December 5, 2019, a Church Council meeting was held in the Sanctuary of St. John's UMC at which time the Finance Committee recommended a proposed budget for 2020 in the amount of \$423,928.51 – an increase of \$36,286.51 from the 2019 budget of \$387,642. The budget proposal was passed unanimously by the Church Council.

New additions to the 2020 budget as well as significant increases include:

- \$12,000 was added to cover the \$1000 a month that the Trustees will contribute to the capital improvement restricted fund account. In an agreement with the Child Care Ministry, the Trustees and the Child Care Ministry will both contribute \$1000 a month to this restricted fund for the purpose of capital improvements to the St. John's UMC campus as the subcommittee sees fit;
- \$13,000 was added to the Trustees budget in preparation of repairs or replacement of the current air conditioning system which is beginning to show its age and to cover monthly payments for the new security system once it is installed;
- \$3,600 for the upstart of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Ministry will be a ministry for members and friends of St. John's UMC as well as members of the community in which we are able to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting;
- \$4,500 was added to the Pastor Parish Relations Committee budget for needed parsonage repairs;
- \$480 was added for additional payroll fees that will be required in the new year;
- \$1,600 was added to pay for our youth and adults to attend and participate in a Salkehatchie Mission Camp during the summer.

St. John's United Methodist Church is very much alive which means that as we offer our tithes to God, the church is working to make sure every penny is used to glorify God as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank you to everyone who chose to make St. John's United Methodist Church the recipient of your tithes and offerings in 2019! As we move forward in God's will for our church, we hope that you will continue to support the ministries of St. John's UMC with your prayers, your presence, your service, your witness, and yes...your gifts. Together we can do more!



The Valentine Banquet will be held Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 6:00pm. The dinner will consist of steak or chicken breast, salad, bread, drink and dessert. The cost will be \$25 for all men, and women will eat free.

Please fill out the form below or the form in the Sunday Bulletin and return it to Chris Matney or the church office as soon as possible.

Valentine Banquet - February 15th - 6:00PM

Name: _____ # People _____

Choose your choice of food

Steak _____ Chicken _____



Prayers & Squares Quilts for 2019

Keith & Jane Cannon
Larry & Paula Boller
Hebron Leyell
Larry & Donnie Hodges
Dillion Bryant
Andrew "Frosty" McNabb
Eric and Melissa Hagemeyer
Denny and Barb Greer
Evelyn Pickering

Kenneth & Elaine Hemingway
Jim Burr
Miteva Hard
Rev. Dr. Robin Dease
Eddie & Robyn Galloway
Shirley Watford
Sarah Cox
Pam Anderson
B. J. Livingston

Deb & Brian Lizotte
Jan Satcher
Evan Ulsh
Kristie Shuler-Scott
Kinsley Dent
Margaret Cox
Linda Caggiano
Mac & Marian McCaskill
Sissy & Larry Oppal

Dale Conyers
Donald & Louise Hemingway
David Baker
Betty Reynolds
Ray Rivera
Danny O'Donnell

Jean Shirley
Charles & Louise Ives
Linky Tanner
Scott & Laurie Griffis
Jim & Pam Brandon
Ron & Beverly Smith

George Stone
Jerry Carter