

The Disciple's Connection

A Word from Pastor Keith



Observing a Holy Lent

The word *lent* comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning, “lengthen.” In this season, the days are lengthening and the Christian Church prepares for an annual celebration of Christ’s death and resurrection. Historically, Lent was a season for new converts to the Christian faith to make final preparations for their baptisms. In the early days of the church, nearly everyone was baptized on Easter Day at a service called the Easter Vigil. Lent became a 40-day period (not counting Sundays) for new Christians to intentionally pray, fast, care for the poor and sick, and participate in the worship life of the church. Much like Jesus’ own 40-day period in the wilderness before beginning his adult ministry, Lent served as a kind of final preparation before baptism and full initiation into the body of Christ.

It did not take long for church leaders to realize that all Christians, new and old alike, would benefit from an annual season of repentance, prayer, and faith formation. Soon Lent became a time for all followers of Christ to consider their own lives and examine how they might grow stronger in their practice of Christian faith.

We continue the tradition of Lenten discipline. I invite you to make this season an intentional time of drawing closer to God and others as we reflect on our own commitment to loving God and loving our neighbors in Christ’s name.

Consider these ideas:

† *Giving up something.* You’ve heard of Christians sacrificing something they value during the season of Lent. Giving up something can serve as a reminder of our dependence on God. It can also remind us how many things we have compared to persons living in other parts of the world. We often have daily access to candy, coffee, desserts. By simplifying our lives during this season, we remember those who have no choice but to live simply in our world. Some will even take the money they save by “giving up something” and donate it to a missional cause that provides for persons in need.

† *Taking on something.* Lent can sometimes be a time to take on a new practice. Maybe you need to establish or recommit to a regular practice of prayer or Bible reading. Maybe you want to volunteer at one of our local missions or with the youth or children. Maybe you need to take better care of the body God has given you. Maybe you want to increase your participation in Sunday worship. Maybe you have friends and neighbors who have no church home and you are ready to invite them to ours. Lent is not just a time for giving up things. It is also a season to take on those things that draw us closer to God and one another.

Clemson United Methodist Church will begin the Lenten journey with two special events. First, we will celebrate the day before Lent with a time of feasting. This year our feasting will be at Columbo’s Pizza on Tuesday, February 21, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Our youth will be working at the restaurant and a portion of the proceeds will go toward the mission trip to Eleuthera. It is customary to have a day of feasting before the season of Lent begins,

when the church focuses on sacrifice, denial, and fasting. We will gather for an Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. where we will remember that we are dust, fully dependent upon the gift of God’s grace and love. We will NOT have dinner on this night as a reminder that we have moved into a new season. You might consider eating a simple meal (or even fasting) and contributing the money you would have spent on a meal to a mission program.

I pray that we will have a meaningful Lenten season. And I look forward to sharing this journey with you as we gather week by week for worship. As we walk the journey with Jesus, may God teach us more and more how to live as Christ’s representatives in the world.

Blessings to you all,

Keith +

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Children's Ministry



☺ Kids Club at CUMC is held each Wednesday from 5:30-6:15pm for children age 3-1st grade, and from 6:15-6:45pm for children in 1st-5th grade.

♥ On **Wednesday, February 8**, the Kids Club will be making Valentine's cards to send to children at Epworth Children's Home in Columbia, SC. Come help us put together "Love Kits" for these special children.

♥ All children and families are invited to a special Valentine's Day themed family potluck supper at CUMC on **Thursday, February 16**, at 5:30pm.

February Birthdays

Laina Rebholz (3rd)
 Maddy Diersing (3rd)
 Gibson Yoder (10th)
 Hailey Anderson (13th)
 Edward Ratliff (15th)
 Christopher Porter (17th)
 Griff Bates (19th)
 Douglas Reeves (21st)
 Simon Morris (22nd)
 Taylor Heller (24th)
 Riley Shaw (25th)



🎵 Children's Music News

Wednesday Night Choir Rehearsals:

🎵 Cherub Choir, 6:15 - 6:45pm
 🎵 Children's Choir, 6:45 - 7:30pm
We are now meeting in room 115!

February Performance Date:

🎵 Cherubs, February 12 at the 11:00 service
 🎵 Children's Choir, February 12 at the 8:30 service

Youth Ministry

Revolution Middle School Retreat

We're excited for Revolution Middle School Retreat from **March 16-18**. We'll gather in Columbia with youth from all over to worship and experience a weekend of fun and retreat. Any and all are welcome to join. The cost of the trip (\$75) covers everything for the weekend. Deadline to sign up and bring your payment is Sunday, **February 12**.

Support Our Bahamas Mission Team

For more information, please visit www.clemsonumc.org/bahamas

Treat Yourself at our Valentine's Dinner

On Friday, **February 10**, there will be a wonderful dinner complete with entertainment and a silent auction. Childcare will be provided. Tickets are available now. Contact jadtaylor@clemsonumc.org with any questions.

Play and Sponsor for Golf Tournament

With a 1:00pm shotgun start on Saturday, **March 17** at Pickens Country Club, cost is \$60/ player (includes lunch before and prizes).
 Hole sponsorship is \$100.
 Contact Russ Roark (rwroark@bellsouth.net) with questions or to sign up.

Strong Youth for Hire!

Need help with odd jobs around the house? We can rake leaves, mulch, move furniture, haul, carry, clean, paint, and more!
 Contact jadtaylor@clemsonumc.org to hire a youth or crew.

Eat Columbo's Pizza Buffet

From 5-8:00pm on **February 21** and **March 13**, come enjoy Columbo's Pizza Buffet. Enjoy being served by trip participants!

Eat at 3 Spoons

From 12-2:00pm on Saturdays, **January 28** and **February 11**, go to Clemson 3 Spoons and mention CUMC Youth to the cashier.

Our Church Family

Memorials

Thank you for your contributions
to the ministries of CUMC
(received December 16 - January 15)

In Memory of Chris Alley

Altra Industrial Motion
Martin & Virginia Beck
Joel Brawley
Jo & Janice Flatt
Warren & Maude Garner
Tom & Mary Ann Hayden
Mr. & Mrs. Marion Holt
Mike & Margaret Hubbard
Myrna Johnson
Joe Jones
Jack McCormac
Walton Owens
Mitch Reynolds
Ab & Sarah Lou Snell
Eric & Anne Snider
Kathryn Stapleton
Lucy Tinsley
Edna Todd
Sam Willis

In Memory of Frank & Mary Inabnit

Catherine Inabnit

In Memory of Neal Pyatt

Tim & Jan McFall

*Clemson United Methodist Church,
Thank you for all the support and encouragement I
have received throughout the years. Without the
willingness and flexibility of my dad's schedule, he
would not have been able to do half the things he
was able to do in regards to my golf. I am forever
grateful for your kindness and love during my time
at CUMC. You all have a very special spot in my
heart.*

*With love,
Grace Glaze*

Get Involved

Donate Items For a New Pickens County Habitat for Humanity ReStore!

Clear out your attics, basements and garages,
and donate all that unused stuff to a GREAT
cause! A brand new Habitat ReStore will open in
Easley with a Grand Opening on **March 10!**
The ReStore needs lots of donations, including
furniture, appliances, dishes, jewelry, bric-a-brac,
linens, books, games, garden items, tools and
toys. No clothes, please. Items can be dropped
off at the store Tuesday through Saturday, 10am
to 5pm, and we will be glad to arrange pick-up of
large items.

The store is located on SC 93 between Liberty
and Easley, (use 807 Liberty Drive for your GPS),
in the old J&L Food store, near the skating rink.

Look for the big "HABITAT RESTORE"
banner on the front of the building.

We also need a drop-off point in Clemson.

Any ideas or suggestions?

We can also use volunteers in the store.

All donations are tax deductible, and funds raised
will help build more houses for needy families in
Pickens County. Call the ReStore HotLine to vol-
unteer or for more information: 864-859-5999.

Feel free to call Bill Dowler at 654-5708
for more information, too!

Tuesday Adult Fellowship Lunch and Program

On **February 21** at noon, the Samaritan Stitchers
will show items made for those who are in need
of extra TLC.

Menu: chicken and rice casserole, salad, rolls,
and chocolate sheet cake.

Set-up team: Garnet & Mary Craddock,
Anne Fletcher and Linda Graham.

CACIT 2012 Lay Academy

Three sessions will take place at CUMC on
January 26, February 2 and **February 9** at
7:00pm, focusing on the theme of Acceptance in
an Intolerant World: Embracing the Charter for
Compassion. For more information, please
contact Alex Holt (revalexholt@earthlink.net or
864-508-6836) or Bob Fennell
(rsfennell2b@gmail.com or 864-654-5961).

February 2012 Calendar

Each Week at Clemson UMC

Additional Meetings and Events

Sunday 8:00am: Coffee in Narthex
 8:30am: Worship
 9:45am: Sunday School
 11:00am: Worship
 5-7:30pm: Sunday Night Youth
 5:30pm: Adult Children of Alcoholics
 6:30-8pm: Evensong Worship & Meal

Monday 7:30am-5:30pm: Little Lights
 9:00am-12:00pm: Mothers Morning Out
 9:00am-5:00pm: Office Hours
 1:30pm: Staff Meeting
 7:30pm: Mon. Night Discussion
 8:00pm: Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday 7:30am-5:30pm: Little Lights Child Care
 9:00am-12:00pm: Mothers Morning Out
 9:00am-5:00pm: Church Office Hours

Wednesday 7:30am-5:30pm: Little Lights Child Care
 9:00am-12:00pm: Mothers Morning Out
 9:00am-5:00pm: Church Office Hours
 5:30pm: The Gathering (except for 2/22)
 6:15-6:45pm: Cherub Choir
 6:15-7:15pm: Celebration Ringers
 6:30-7:30pm: Youth Room Open
 6:45-7:30pm: Children's Choir
 7:30-8:30pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 7:30am-5:30pm: Little Lights Child Care
 9:00am-12:00pm: Mothers Morning Out
 9:00am-5:00pm: Church Office Hours
 6:30pm: Singles Dinner
(see next column for locations!)

Friday 7:30am-5:30pm: Little Lights Child Care
 9:00am-12:00pm: Mothers Morning Out
 9:00am-5:00pm: Church Office Hours
 8:00pm: Alcoholics Anonymous

Thurs., Feb. 2 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Olive Garden, Anderson
 7:00pm CACIT Lay Academy, room 308

Sun., Feb. 5 6:00pm Youth Super Bowl Party

Mon., Feb 6 3:00-7:30pm Blood Drive, Worship Center
 7:00pm Children's Ministry Team

Wed., Feb 8 9:00am Wesley Partners, room 106
 3:00pm Communion at Sterling House

Thurs., Feb. 9 4:00pm Communion at Clemson Downs
 6:30pm Singles Dinner, House of Leung, Clemson
 7:00pm CACIT Lay Academy, room 308

Fri., Feb. 10 7:00pm Valentine's Dinner Bahamas Fundraiser

Sat., Feb. 11 12:00-2:00pm 3 Spoons Bahamas Fundraiser

Mon., Feb. 13 5:30pm Stewardship Ministry Team, room 106
 7:00pm Church Council Meeting, room 308

Tues., Feb. 14 2:00pm Samaritan Stitchers, room 106
 7:00pm Abigail-Dorcas Circle at home of Carolyn Briscoe, 108 E. Brookwood Drive

Thurs., Feb. 16 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Copper River, Seneca

Mon., Feb. 20 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting, room 106
 7:00pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee, rm 106

Tues., Feb. 21 12pm Tuesday Adult Fellowship Lunch & Program
 5-8:00pm Columbo's Pizza Bahamas Fundraiser

Wed., Feb. 22 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
No Gathering Meal

Thurs., Feb. 23 2:00pm Samaritan Stitchers, room 106
 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Monk's Corner, Central

Tues., Feb. 28 4:30pm UMW Agape Feast



Celebrating the Past, Moving Into the Future

A message from the Stewardship Committee:

Thanks to everyone's concerted effort and an amazing congregation, we received a large number of responses to our Every Member in Ministry card campaign. We appreciate those who took time to fill out the card to indicate how they wished to give of their time and talents in CUMC ministry. The Stewardship Committee has compiled all of the responses and will be providing the information to appropriate groups and persons at CUMC so that they may follow-up with each respondent regarding how they can serve CUMC. We are truly blessed to have such an active, giving congregation and look forward to a fantastic year in ministry together in 2012!

An update from the Finance Committee:

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Clemson United Methodist Church, we can announce that we are free of debt! The buildings are paid off and we give thanks and praise to God! Pastor Keith has extended an invitation to the bishop to join us for a mortgage-burning celebration and we will share those details when available. The Finance Committee and the Church Council have approved a permanent building fund so that we can prepare for our next phase of building. A Study Committee is looking at our current space as well as our future needs and will soon bring a proposal for our next phase of development. In the meantime, you are invited to continue to support our future building needs by making contributions to the building fund. How blessed we are to be a part of a vital place of mission and ministry for all ages!

An update from the Church Council:

Doug Richardson, Chairperson

On Saturday morning, January 21, our Church Council met at CUMC for a retreat to prepare for 2012 and recall highlights from 2011.

Recalling and celebrating highlights of 2011 included:

- Membership growth and increased average worship attendance.
- Extensive outreach ministries in all age levels, including hands-on work through Salkehatchie, Eleuthera, aide to tornado victims, other mission trips, Clemson Community Care, Clemson Free Medical Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, ReWiGo, Micah Ministry, and others.
- Our financial giving which exceeded expenses by over \$110,000 for the year. We paid in full all debts and obligations that remained from our Building Program; all operating reserves were fully funded; and our new permanent building fund was established.
- The continued growth of our Children and Youth programs, including a strong Vacation Bible School.
- The inspirational messages from the pulpit, special worship services throughout the year, and the Wednesday night Bible Studies.

As we turned to the New Year, we celebrated our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and focused on our vision for ministry in 2012, including:

- A continuing emphasis on reaching out to others both locally and globally through our financial and hands-on support of missional causes, including looking for new opportunities of service (for example, an outreach to schools and students in our area).
- A continuing focus on strong ministries with youth and young adults (including college students).
- A continuing focus on strong ministries with children and their families.
- Expansion of small group opportunities for adults in the congregation.
- Expanding our ministry with older adults, particularly those who face challenges that keep them from regular participation in our programming.

We also anticipate further exploration of building expansion in the coming months.

As the meeting concluded with a very meaningful communion message and service led by Pastor Lane, we left with loving thanks to God for the blessings he bestowed on us during 2011 and added prayers for His guidance as we renew and grow in our faith journey during 2012.

Clemson United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 590
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DID YOU KNOW?



Cub Scout Events in February

2/3: Cub Scout Pack 161 will hold its annual Blue and Gold Banquet at CUMC from 6:30-9:00pm. Highlights of the Banquet program include an awards ceremony, the annual Friends of Scouting presentation, skits and a fun activity for the scouts.

2/4 & 2/5: Cub Scout Pack 161 will be participating in the Boy Scout's of America (BSA) annual food drive called "Scouting for Food." Our pack will be distributing grocery bags in a local neighborhood on Saturday (2/4) and then returning on Sunday (2/5) to collect them and bring them to Clemson Community Care.

2/25: Cub Scout Pack 161 will send four scouts to Clemson University to enjoy a day with the coaches and athletes. These scouts sold \$600 or more of popcorn and will be rewarded for their outstanding sales efforts!

2/26: Cub Scout Pack 161 will host its annual Pinewood Derby Build Day from 2:00-4:00pm at CUMC. Leaders will setup tools and scouts will bring their nifty designs to the Breezeway in order to start building their car for this year's Pinewood Derby.

Scout Sunday plans are in-the-works and will be finalized shortly.

Retired Bishop Ken Carder will speak at Evensong on March 4.
All are welcome!

CLEMSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ; WWW.CLEMSONUMC.ORG

300 Frontage Rd, P.O. Box 590, Clemson, SC 29633; Phone: 864-654-5547; Fax: 864-654-6540; cumc@clemsonumc.org

The Rev. Dr. Keith Ray, Senior Minister

722-9095(H); 508-1530(M); keithr@clemsonumc.org

The Rev. Patrick Kelley, Associate Minister

868-5454(H); 508-6337(M); patk@clemsonumc.org

The Rev. Lane Glaze, Campus Minister

654-7005(H); 207-9135(M); lglaze@clemsonumc.org