

The Disciple's Connection

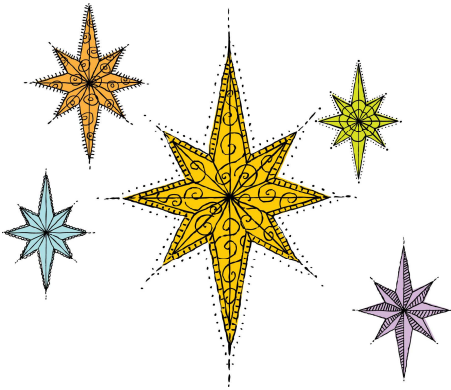
A Word from Pastor Keith



A Light Shines...

Have you had the experience of driving along Highway 123 at night and finding yourself drawn to the light shining on our church campus? The tower is illuminated and the property is marked with the cross, much like those who are baptized into the faith at CUMC are marked with the cross on their foreheads. My children ridicule me for my exclamation each time we pass by the CUMC campus, "That's a beautiful church!" Now I know the church is not a building. Even if all our structures were gone, we would still be a church. But seeing the light shine in the darkness, illuminating a place of worship and Christian fellowship, is a beautiful sight. Perhaps it is so because it connects us to another story of Light, the coming of Christ.

As this newsletter arrives, we are beginning the season of Advent. The word "advent" means simply "coming." During the four weeks of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus:



- Long ago as a baby born to Mary and Joseph;
- In our daily lives, as the One we follow and serve;
- At the end of the age, when God's purposes are accomplished in the mystery of fulfillment and completion.

Advent marks a time to remember:

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined (Isaiah 9:2).*

For the Christian community, that light is Christ. He comes to bring a light of hope, not only to the Church community, but to the entire world. Yes, the beauty of this campus strikes me when I drive by at night as the light is shining. But the Light that shines throughout the body of CUMC also moves me. Each week we are blessed to see the Light of Christ, as children and youth are loved and told the stories of our faith, as college students are fed well, not just with dishes from our kitchen, but with the brightness of the gospel that calls us to consider our faith as we make decisions about vocation and study. We see the Light as we bury our dead and walk with one another in grief. We see the Light in hospital rooms and homes as people deal with sickness. We see the Light as utility bills are paid and as canned goods are dropped off for the hungry. We see the Light shining in the Habitat building during the Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

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Advent means coming. And when I come by the campus of CUMC at night, the beauty of the light is striking. But even more, the true Light that illumines this place of ministry is shining brightly. Come, Lord Jesus, and continue to shine!

Advent Blessings to you!

Keith +

Get Involved



Columbo's Night Benefits the Youth Group

Eat dinner at Columbo's Pizza from 5:00-8:00pm on Tuesday, **December 13**, and Columbo's will donate 20% to the CUMC youth group for its mission trip to the Bahamas in April 2012. From now until the trip, Columbo's Night will take place on the second Tuesday of every month.

Tuesday Adult Fellowship Lunch and Program

This month's program will take place on **December 13** (please note that this is the second Tuesday of the month).

We are excited to have "Matt Man and Billy Big Show."

Matt Phillips will accompany Billy Boggs, storyteller.

Lunch menu: baked ham, sweet potato casserole, green beans, rolls, and sour cream apple pie.

Make your reservation by noon on Monday, December 12, by marking an "L" next to your name on the attendance pad or by calling the office at 654-5547. Cost is \$7.

Set-up team: Becky Epting, Robbye Mauldin, Buddy Fairey, and Louie & Tanner Senn.

New Members at CUMC



From left: Danny Weathers and Jimmy and Betty Dean were welcomed into membership at the 11:00 service on November 13.



Eric and Ellen Breazel were welcomed into membership at the 8:30 service on November 20. Eric was also baptized.

Children's Ministry

Children's Christmas Concert



December 14 at 6:30pm

Cherub Choir News

- *Rehearsals every Wednesday from 6:15-6:45pm
- *December 11th performance at the 8:30 service

Children's Choir News

- *Rehearsals every Wednesday from 6:45-7:30pm
- *December 11th performance at the 11:00 service

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2011 Operation Christmas Child Packing Party a success! A total of 33 children, parents, and volunteers enjoyed a pizza lunch and worked together to pack 42 full boxes of art supplies, hygiene items, toys, and other goodies for the church's Operation Christmas Child mission. We are very proud of our children and pray their gifts bring joy and reach many with the love of Christ in the coming months!

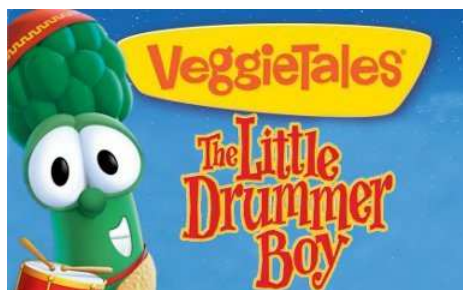


On Sunday, **December 11**, the children are invited to attend a special "Happy Birthday Jesus" party during the Sunday school hour. Please join your class in your regular classroom and the party will come to you. We will also bring the children out of their classrooms to create luminaries for the Christmas Eve service during this time of preparation for Jesus' birth!

"When it seems you have nothing to bring... what gift can you give the King?"

All children are invited to a Veggie Tales movie event!

Date: Wednesday, December 7
Time: 5:15-6:15pm
Place: multi-purpose room in CUMC Children's building



December Birthdays

Rosalie McCracken (1st)
Eric Thompson-Vazquez (5th)
Jackson Howell (7th)
Abby Newton (8th)
Blakely Branyon (23rd)
Ethan Richard (31st)

***We will not hold Children's Church on Sunday, December 25.**



Our Church Family

Memorials

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

In Memory of John L. Moore, Jr.

L. Curtis Arnold
George & Anne Fletcher
Dave & Carol Layton
Kingfisher Capital, LLC

In Memory of Mot Willis

Charles R. Gibson

The Clemson UMC Celebration Ringers
handbell & chime ensemble,
under the direction of Steve Cottingham,
will present their 2011 Christmas concert,
On This Day Earth Shall Ring, on Wednesday
December 7, 6:15pm, at Clemson United
Methodist Church, and on Sunday December 11, 5:30pm,
at Saint Luke United Methodist Church
(603 East Main St., Walhalla).

These are free events that are presented in support of our local
food banks. Attendees are asked to bring a canned good or other
non-perishable food item for those in our
communities who are in need.

Baptisms



Arthur, Kaydee, and Angela Campbell with Pastor Keith Ray. Angela and Kaydee were baptized at the 8:30 service on November 13.



Mike, Greyson, Christina and Camden Davis with Pastor Keith Ray. Camden was baptized at the 11:00 service on November 27.

Outreach Ministry

A Community of Generosity

Because of your generosity, 146 shoe boxes are on the way to bless children around the world. Thank you to everyone who packed a box or donated to the children's packing party or to shipping costs. Your involvement shows your love in action!



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Party
November 13, 2011

ReWiGo Workday

Elderly, disabled, and impoverished people throughout Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson Counties are in desperate need of home repairs, wheel chair ramps, and other safety improvements to their homes. Join ReWiGo on Saturday, **December 3**, for a day of service to help in our community. The workday will begin at 10:00am and conclude by 5:00pm. Volunteers of all ages welcome, though minors need adults with them. No skill level required (sites will range from construction to minor repairs), but if you do have building skills please let us know! Learn more and sign-up at www.rewigo.org or by calling 653-3482.

Blood Drive

Donate blood on Monday, **December 5**, from 3:00-8:00pm in the church narthex. We are especially in need of younger members! There will be a sign up table in the narthex before and after both services. ALL are invited to participate - so come out and make a difference!

UMW News

☀ Thank you to everyone that baked or bought items at the UMW Fall Bake Sale. It was a great success. We raised \$600 for local area missions. Special thanks to Carolyn Stone for organizing the event.
☀ December UMW General Meeting: on **December 4**, the UMW will have a covered-dish luncheon following the 11:00 service. It will be held in the overflow room in the worship center. All women of the church are invited to attend.

December 2011 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
 9am-5pm: 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-5:00pm: Church Office Hours

Wednesday 7:30am-5:30pm: Little Lights Child Care
 9:00am-5:00pm: Church Office Hours
 5:30pm: The Gathering
 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-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-5:00pm: Church Office Hours
 8:00pm: Alcoholics Anonymous

Thurs., Dec. 1 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Ruby Tuesday, Clemson

Sun., Dec. 4 12:15pm UMW General Meeting/Covered-Dish Luncheon, room 308

Mon., Dec. 5 Blood Drive at CUMC, 3:00-7:30pm in Narthex
 5:30pm Little Lights Board Meeting, room 124
 7:00pm Children's Ministry Team, room 105

Wed., Dec. 7 12:00pm Trustee Meeting, room 106
 3:00pm Communion at Sterling House

Thurs., Dec. 8 4:00pm Communion at Clemson Downs
 6:30pm Singles Dinner, The Galley, Anderson

Sun., Dec. 11 4:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee
 5:00pm Youth Christmas Party

Mon., Dec. 12 5:30pm Stewardship Ministry Team, room 106

Tues., Dec. 13 Tuesday Adult Fellowship Lunch/Program, Noon
 2:00pm Samaritan Stitchers, room 106
 (only meeting in December)

Wed., Dec. 14 9:00am Wesley Partners, room 106
 6:30pm Children's Christmas Concert

Thurs., Dec. 15 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Christmas Potluck at Linda Cocke's

Fri., Dec. 16 4:00pm Little Lights Christmas Program

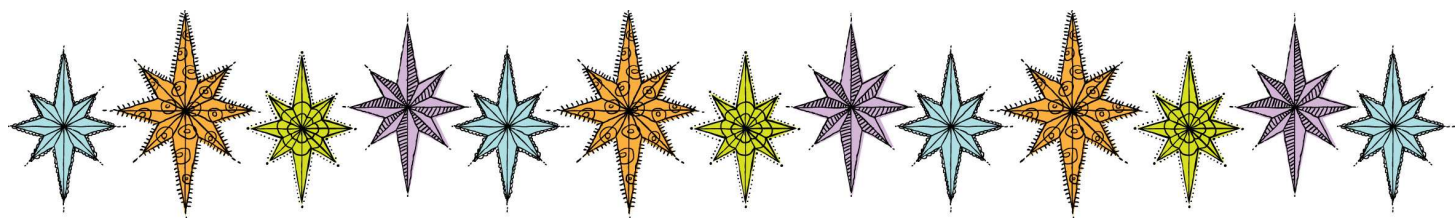
Mon., Dec. 19 5:30pm Finance Committee Meeting, room 106

Thurs., Dec. 22 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Pizza Hut, Clemson

Sat., Dec 24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sun., Dec 25 11:00am Worship Service (one service only)
 Merry Christmas!

Thurs., Dec. 29 6:30pm Singles Dinner, Paesano's, Seneca



Dr. Chris Hena



Clemson United Methodist welcomed Dr. Chris Hena for a visit in November. Chris, a native of Liberia, has served in many countries and is truly a citizen of the world. For the last ten years she has been located in Asia and will soon move to Africa where she hopes to be involved in public health service. Chris shared with church members the story of the doctor in Liberia who encouraged her as a ninth grade student to become a physician and introduced her to Christ. She described that support as love in action. Chris considers her opportunities to help the sick as love in action and encouraged all of us to also make our love visible to those around us.

From the Church Council...

On Wednesday night, November 16, we "experienced" our 2011 Charge Conference with our District Supervisor, the Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray presiding. For our congregation, this Charge Conference was a celebration of a wonderful year. Under the loving and effective guidance of our Senior Pastor, Dr. Keith Ray, we have experienced a clearer picture of who we are as a church family; through his preaching and leading us during our Wednesday night faith study gatherings we have experienced a maturing in our faith; and, he has brought warmth to, and within, CUMC. Energies formerly expended on internal concerns were redirected to higher purposes.

During the year a "working document" has been developed. Through prayer and discernment we wish to clarify and state our Mission, Values, and Vision as the Body of Christ at CUMC. Our Children and Youth Ministries are having a very meaningful impact on the faith maturity of our children, tweens, and teen-agers. Our Outreach Ministry Team has provided excellent guidance as we have reached out to those in need. The Senior Adult Ministry has continued to grow and Sunday School classes have been added during the year. The Little Lights Child Care Center has had another successful year and continues to have a waiting list of interested parents with small children. The Mother's Morning Out program for the mothers of toddlers in the church and community continues to provide warm and experienced support for over 40 different youngsters each and every week during the school year. And, among other ministries and programs, our very close association with The Wesley Foundation has had a positive influence on college students at Clemson University and other area institutions. At the present level of activities, the Foundation leadership, staff, and members will most likely have connected with over 900 students this year.

Our Body of Christ at CUMC continues to grow in membership, and our tithes and offerings for the year fully funded the financial support requested by all of our ministries and programs.

God has blessed, and continues to bless, Clemson United Methodist Church and all of our members.

No Need to Confess Pumpkin Mousse Recipe

(adapted from holiday recipe in
Diabetes Forecast magazine)

6 servings

Serving size: 1/2 cup

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Chilling time: 1 hour

INGREDIENTS

1 (1 oz.) package sugar-free, fat-free vanilla pudding mix
(try also French vanilla or banana)

1 tsp. ground cinnamon

1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

1 1/2 cups cold 1% milk

1 cup pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)

1 cup fat-free whipped topping

3 gingersnap cookies, crushed into crumbs

PREPARATION

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the dry vanilla pudding mix with the cinnamon and nutmeg. Slowly whisk in the milk, whisking for two minutes. Add in the pumpkin, and continue to whisk until mixture begins to set. Fold in the whipped topping. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour.

2. For each serving, put 1/4 cup of the pumpkin mousse in a dessert cup or dish. Top with gingerbread snap crumbs.



Congratulations to Lilburne Senn, who decorated Pastor Keith's table at the Safe Harbor II Ministers' Cookoff. Pastor Keith received "The Heavenly Design Award" for the best decorated table at the event.

Clemson United Methodist Church
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DID YOU KNOW?



Cub Scout Events in December

12/4: Pack 161 scouts will be meeting at the Boy Scout hut at 2:00pm to construct their float for the Clemson Christmas Parade.

12/6: Look for Pack 161 scouts in the Clemson Christmas parade! They'll be the ones riding on the float that depicts many of the traditional activities that the scouts enjoy while camping in the outdoors, including fishing, tenting, and roasting marshmallows!

12/10: Pack 161 scouts will be providing service to the community at the Helping Hands Christmas Party at the Clemson Central Recreation facility at 1:00pm. Scouts will be serving beverages and helping with games.

Congratulations to Larry Williams on the publication of his first book, which he co-authored with fellow former Charleston Post & Courier reporter, Travis Haney. Published by History Press out of Charleston, "Classic Clashes of the Carolina-Clemson Football Rivalry: A State of Disunion," is a work of nonfiction detailing the 20 defining stories that have taken place during the 100-year-history of this matchup. For more information, please visit www.stateofdisunionbook.com.

CLEMSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ; WWW.CLEMSONUMC.ORG

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